

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING AND WORKSHOP  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LAKE FOREST COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 115  
300 SOUTH WAUKEGAN ROAD, LAKE FOREST, IL 60045  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Lake Forest Community High School District 115, County of Lake, State of Illinois, was held on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, and called to order at 5:01 p.m. by President John Noble.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

John Noble, President  
Gail Gamrath, Member  
Jenny Zinser, Member  
Dewey Winebrenner, Member (5:04 p.m.)  
Amy Connell - Donohue, Secretary  
Robert Silvay, Member

**ABSENT:** Anne Geraghty Helms, Vice - President

**STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES/PARTICIPANTS:**

Kosta Vitzilaios  
Ethan Farrell  
Elizabeth Specketer  
Mave Camoletto

**CABINET PRESENT:**

Matthew Montgomery, Superintendent  
Jennifer Hermes, Chief Operating Officer/CSBO  
Melissa Oakley, Chief Communications Officer  
Renee Fitzsimmons, Assistant Superintendent of TLA  
Erin Lenart, Assistant Superintendent/LFHS Principal  
Phil Georgia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

**ADMINISTRATION/STAFF PRESENT:**

Tiana Tolver, Board Clerk  
Brittany Tjardes, Director of Fiscal Services  
Frank Lesniak, Assistant Principal of Student Operations  
Patrick Sassen, Associate Principal  
Steve Douglass, New Media Department Chair  
Ryan Abrams, Instructional Director of MYSS and Science  
David Hain, RTI/MTSS Coordinator  
Michelle Lawrenz, LFHS Teacher  
Thomas Jacob, LFHS Teacher

**GUESTS:** Tom Andreesen, Community Member  
Gavin Stakes, Spotlight Recipient

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Gamrath provided an introduction for the Education Committee discussion that will take place this evening.

### **Report Card**

Dr. Lenart gave an update on the report card results. The District received an exemplary rating. Student representatives provided insight and feedback on experience as students. Mr. Andreesen also provided feedback as a former member of the Education Committee and community member. Members of the Board asked questions and discussion ensued.

### **ACT Update**

Mr. Hain, Mr. Lesniak, and Mr. Abrams presented the ACT updates and changes for the year. Members of the Board asked questions and discussion ensued. There is an updated presentation on the District's website.

### **Dual Credit and Career Pathways**

Mr. Douglass and Dr. Sassen presented on the Career Pathways program. The focus is expanding the experiential learning approach to build twelve unique Career Pathways. There are seven out of the seven possible endorsement areas available, four different LFHS departments, and over fifty seniors are on track to receive career endorsements. These endorsements validate students' deep engagement in a career exploration, dual credit coursework, and real-world experiences.

## **WORKSHOP**

### **Financial Update**

Mrs. Tjardes presented the tentative tax levy that will be voted on this evening. Dr. Hermes provided data from peer districts. The five-year projections will be covered during the Finance and Operations Committee meeting next month. Members of the Board asked questions and discussion ensued.

Dr. Hermes provided an update on the RMA Refresh that will be voted on this evening. Members of the Board asked questions and discussion ensued. The action that the Board will take this evening will be to pay what is currently owed to vendors. Project bids will not take place until after a financial discussion with the Board.

Discussion held on transition within the athletics department.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Board and members of the community recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**LFHS UPDATES: STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**

The student spotlight recognizes a student that exhibits exemplary behavior aligning to the District’s mission, vision, and values; this month’s spotlight recipient is Gavin Stakes. He was nominated by Michelle Lawrenz and Thomas Jacob, who also had the honor of presenting the award.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Noble provided an update from Vice President Helms, she was unable to attend the meeting this evening due to a work obligation. She is in support of the tentative tax levy that will be voted on later in the evening after discussion with administration.

President Noble acknowledged Veteran’s Day and discussed the meaningful assembly that was held early in the day in collaboration with Lake Forest and Lake Bluff Legion Post 264. To all Veterans and their families, thank you!

A report will be given this evening on the exemplary designation the District has received. It is the commitment of the teachers, staff and administrators that makes this an exceptional place for the students and community. He provided an update on the status of the referendum and construction work; an updated financial outlook will be provided.

The Portrait of a Learner planning group will be reconvened in March to determine how we are progressing; while gathering meaningful feedback to refine strategies on the path forward.

**DISTRICT LEADERSHIP REPORT**

Dr. Montgomery, in collaboration with Drs. Fitzsimmons and Lenart presented the District Leadership report. Topics covered include 2025 State Report Card, Veteran’s Day, Project FULL Update, Beyond the Budget, Book Talk: Dream School, Joint Board Coffee, Illinois School Board Members’ Day, and Upcoming Events.

Ethan Farrell spoke on his experience with the ACT.

The full presentation can be found on the District website.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**LIAISON REPORTS**

Ed Red and Legislative Update

Illinois Association of School Boards bi-laws/constitution is being updated; there is one resolution being presented at the annual conference. There will be more updates available in December.

TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804

Dr. Montgomery discussed an upcoming meeting being held next Wednesday to approve the second reading of the articles of incorporation. Districts will then decide if they will remain in the cooperative; final decision will be in December.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Adoption of 2025 Tentative Tax Levy

Motion: Ms. Zinser moved, seconded by Mrs. Gamrath that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois adopt the 2025 Tentative Tax Levy.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Winebrenner, Noble, Silvay, Gamrath, Connell-Donohue, Zinser

Nay:

Absent: Helms

The motion was carried unanimously.

Approval of Architectural Services Proposal for Referendum Phase II

Motion: Ms. Connell-Donohue moved, seconded by Mrs. Gamrath that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the Architectural Services Proposal for Referendum Phase II.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Zinser, Connell-Donohue, Silvay, Winebrenner, Gamrath, Noble

Nay:

Absent: Helms

The motion was carried unanimously.

Approval To Waive First Reading of Policy 4:30 Revenue & Investments

Motion: Ms. Connell-Donohue, seconded by Ms. Zinser that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the waiving of the First Reading of Policy 4:30 Revenue & Investments.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Gamrath, Winebrenner, Noble, Zinser, Connell-Donohue, Silvay

Nay:

Absent: Helms

The motion was carried unanimously.

Approval of Policy 4:30 Revenue & Investments - Second Reading

Motion: Mr. Silvay moved, seconded by Mrs. Gamrath that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the second reading of Policy 4:30 Revenue & Investments.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Silvay, Winebrenner, Zinser, Connell-Donohue, Noble, Gamrath

Nay:

Absent: Helms

The motion was carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA\***

*\*Any item may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of a Board Member.*

The work that was previously done on the RMA is being approved for payment this evening; this does not mean the commencement of future work. The Board will have further discussion in a future meeting before proceeding with the project; the original timeline has been paused.

1. Approval of IASB Recommendation to ADOPT Resolution on School Bus Safety Funding at 2025 IASB Delegate Assembly
2. Approval of IASB Recommendation to ADOPT Constitutional Amendments at 2025 IASB Delegate Assembly:
  - Item 1, Article II Membership, Sections 1-6 - REWRITTEN
  - Item 2, Article III Delegate Assembly, Section 2 - Delegate Assembly
  - Item 3, Article IV Elections, Section 1 - Nominations
  - Item 4, Article IV Elections, Section 2 - Terms of Office
  - Item 5, Article V Board of Directors, Section 2 - Composition
  - Item 6, Article VII Committee, Section 3 - Nominating Committee
  - Item 7, Article VIII: Divisions, Section 4 - Officers
  - Item 8, Article IX Resolutions, Sections 2-7 - REWRITTEN
  - Item 9, Article XI Miscellaneous, Section, 7 - Declared Emergencies
  - Item 10, Article XII: Amendments, Section 2 - Proposals
3. Approval of FY26 ISBE School Maintenance Project Grant
4. Approval of Architectural Services Fee Alignment Proposal for Exterior Drainage Project
5. Approval of Architectural Services Fee Alignment Proposal- RMA Lobby Refresh Project
6. Approval of Monthly Financial Report October 2025
7. Approval of Human Resources Report
  - Hires
  - Resignations
  - Retirements
  - Leaves of Absence
  - Changes of Assignments
  - Stipends | Activities | Additional Assignments
8. Minutes of a Regular Meeting and Workshop, October 14, 2025
9. Minutes of an Executive Session, October 14, 2025

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**Motion:** Ms. Zinser moved, seconded by Ms. Connell-Donohue that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Aye: Connell-Donohue, Zinser, Gamrath, Noble, Silvay, Winebrenner

Nay:

Absent: Helms

The motion was carried unanimously.

