

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING AND WORKSHOP
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CITY OF LAKE FOREST SCHOOL DISTRICT 67
JANUARY 26, 2021**

Governor Pritzker recently extended the disaster declaration related to the COVID-19 pandemic for all Illinois counties to February 7, 2021. Based on the current public health concerns, the Board President of Lake Forest School District 67, as head of the public body, has determined that it is neither practical nor prudent to hold an in-person meeting of the Board of Education on January 26, 2021. The Board President has further determined that it is not feasible for the public to be present at the public body's regular meeting location due to the health concerns related to COVID-19. This Board meeting will be remote and comply with the procedures set forth in Public Act 101-640 that Governor Pritzker signed on January 8, 2021.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held virtually and called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Mr. Engelland.

Board members present at roll call were:

Jeff Folker, Member	Carl Kirar, Member
Alice LeVert, Secretary	Justin Engelland, President
Richard Chun, Member	Suzanne Sands, Member
Rob Lemke, Vice President	

Absent: None

Administration Present:

Mr. Michael Simeck, Superintendent
Mrs. Melissa Oakley, Chief Communications Officer
Mr. Jordan Salus, Chief Technology Officer

Also Present: Julia Polszakiewicz, Board Clerk

Guests: John Noble, District 115 Board Member

Public Participation:

There was no public participation.

Recess Regular Meeting:

Mr. Engelland asked for a motion to recess the regular meeting until the close of the Board Workshop.

Motion: Mr. Folker moved, seconded by Mrs. LeVert that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, recess the regular meeting until the close of the Board Workshop.

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

Ayes: Engelland, LeVert, Sands, Lemke, Folker, Chun, Kirar

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Workshop:

Mr. Noble and Mrs. LeVert discussed proposed legislative changes regarding school district employment record disclosure and answered questions from the Board regarding resources, timelines, who would potentially oppose such legislation, the role of the Superintendent in such work, and whether the Board Policy committee could be involved. The Board determined that next steps would be for Mrs. LeVert to write and vote on a resolution.

Mr. Engelland stated that the purpose of discussing communications during the Workshop was to follow up on a Board development workshop in December where the Board highlighted opportunities to improve community engagement and communication. The District was also embarking on a superintendent search where community engagement would be critical and offer an opportunity to provide greater engagement.

Ms. Oakley discussed communications in the context of schools, the definition of community engagement, prioritizing communications work, measuring progress, what success would look like, and engagement through the superintendent search.

Adjourn Workshop:

Motion: Mrs. Levert moved, seconded by Dr. Lemke, that the Board of Education, Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest Illinois, adjourn the Workshop at 6:55 p.m.

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

Ayes: LeVert, Lemke, Sands, Folker, Kirar, Chun, Engelland

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Re-Open Regular Meeting:

Mr. Engelland called back to order the regular meeting of the Lake Forest School District 67 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois at 7:02 p.m.

Board members present at roll call were:

Suzanne Sands, Member
Rob Lemke, Vice President
Alice LeVert, Secretary
Justin Engelland, President

Carl Kirar, Member
Richard Chun, Member
Jeff Folker, Member

Absent: None

Administration Present:

Mr. Michael Simeck, Superintendent
Ms. Jennifer Hermes, Chief Operating Officer/CSBO
Mrs. Melissa Oakley, Chief Communications Officer
Mr. Jordan Salus, Chief Technology Officer
Ms. Susan Milsch, Principal, Sheridan School
Dr. Michelle Shinn, Director of Student Services and School Improvement
Dr. Jeff McHugh, Director of Teaching and Learning

Staff Present: Julia Polszakiewicz, Board Clerk

Guests: Dr. Scott Morcott, Medical Director, Passport Health

Guests who signed in: None

President's Report:

Mr. Engelland stated that with the first regular meeting of the new year, it was good to turn the page on 2020 and look forward to 2021.

The Board meeting would include an update from Superintendent Simeck on how the return to learning following winter break was going in addition to the District's approach to testing and vaccines. A few months ago, testing options were limited and timelines on vaccine availability were unclear, having clear timelines and options in both of these areas were reasons to be optimistic about 2021.

Mr. Engelland provided an update on the search for a new Superintendent and stated that significant progress had been made since the last meeting in December. The Board worked closely with the District 115 Board of Education to analyze the Shared Services organizational model and identify opportunities to better support the talented District staff. The Boards also aligned on maintaining a single Superintendent spanning District 67 and District 115.

Both Boards created an Ad-Hoc Joint Subcommittee to research, vet, and recommend an executive search firm to assist in identifying and evaluating qualified candidates. The firm would be voted on at the Board meeting. Upon engaging the search firm, the Boards would establish a more detailed timeline for the search. There would also be opportunities for significant community input and engagement. The Boards would be transparent and post recordings of meetings to the Boards' websites. Mr. Engelland encouraged the community to anticipate upcoming surveys for feedback as the Board would need the community's help and engagement throughout the process.

Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Simeck would cover many topics during the reopening reports.

Public Participation:

Patrick Patt, a community member, thanked the Board and staff for the work that had been done and asked that final candidates be excellent communicators, with ethics.

Marybeth O'Shea, a parent of Cherokee and DPM students, stated that Illinois had moved into Phase 1B of vaccinations and teachers and staff were now eligible. Neighboring school districts had partnered with local pharmacies and businesses to enable this process and strived to find solutions leveraging their community. She stated that the community had heard about the many challenges through the COVID-19 pandemic and that solely relying on the LCHD was not the best solution to ease immediate difficulties on staff and schools. Thus far, there had been no communication on vaccine efforts within the District. She implored the Board to work with the community to keep the teachers safe and students in school and not lag behind other local school districts.

Superintendent Reopening Reports:

Return to School

Mr. Simeck reported on IDPH news, Lake County data, zip code data, the updated COVID-19 Dashboard, clarifications on expectations, budgetary changes, and reopening costs to date.

He stated that all eleven regions in Illinois were out of Tier 3 mitigations and the District's region moved to Tier 2 on January 18 and Tier 1 on January 26. The state of Illinois overall appeared to be heading in a better direction than during the summer, which meant the District must continue to take precautions. IDPH announced test positivity would continue to be closely monitored, along with hospital capacity and ICU bed availability.

Illinois Tier 1 mitigations would go into effect if a region met three specific metrics: a test positivity rate between 6.5 and 8 percent for three consecutive days (measured with the 7-day rolling average), a staffed intensive care (ICU) bed availability greater than or equal to twenty percent, and no sustained increase in the number of COVID-19 patients in hospitals. The overall trendline continued downward, the local zip code data was even more promising and revealed seven days below the 14 per 100,000 threshold even though the County data had been above that.

While some incidents had occurred that had a significant impact, with the return to school, there had been fewer incidences of COVID-19 overall compared to before the adaptive pause.

The District Dashboard had been updated and was live on the District website. This was as a result of the work of the District 67 COVID-19 Metrics Advisory Council. Dr. Shinn explained the three sections of the Dashboard including school-specific metrics, external core indicators, and internal core indicators. School-specific metrics were live numbers that were updated every time an incident was reported and included the number of staff in quarantine, known staff COVID-19 cases, the number of students in quarantine, and the number of known student COVID-19 cases. Dr. Shinn stated that the numbers were trending positively. The middle section of the Dashboard showed the external core indicators which were pulled from Lake County data, reported in ranges. The shaded categories reflected the present status of data. The values

column represented the actual number posted on the County's website. The final portion was the internal core indicators and reflected answers to questions asked of various stakeholders. These included the capacity to staff the schools, the number of outbreaks, the assessment of environmental mitigation, and the assessment of risk mitigation strategies implemented.

Dr. Shinn stated that the goal of the District was to open and to stay open. Reopening required continued vigilance and staying open would require even more while remaining true to existing protocols. The District was already using a screener, employing masks, encouraging frequent hand washing, limiting gatherings, increasing hygiene, and practicing six-feet physical distancing. Increased protocols would include recommending quarantine for fourteen days following travel that would not adhere to IDPH health and safety guidance, refraining from participating in activities (including athletics) that would not follow IDPH guidelines, cooperating with contact tracers as needed through the balance of the school year, and keeping a close eye on new variants of COVID-19.

Mr. Simeck stated that the pandemic year was a marathon, not a sprint and that the District had passed the halfway mark and was proud of the shared effort that had brought the District thus far. The District needed to continue its commitment to mitigation efforts. He also reported that the District was in the process of planning for the upcoming summer and beyond.

Board members asked questions regarding whether the District was considering a full time return to school and about the fourteen day quarantine recommendation.

District Approach to Testing

Mr. Simeck reported on the protocol for positive test results, COVID-19 testing participation to date, antigen test results, the BinaxNOW efficacy and cost, voluntary COVID-19 testing survey results, working with Passport Health, and what was next for the District.

Mr. Simeck stated that the testing program was intended to identify asymptomatic students and staff. If an individual tested positive, Passport health would recommend a second test which would be an Abbott BinaxNOW or IDNow rapid antigen test. If the individual tested positive again, the individual would be considered COVID-19 positive. If the second test was negative, a confirmatory RT-PCR test would be recommended to ensure against a "false positive."

As the vaccine rolled out, the WHO stated that "initially, health workers, older people, and other at-risk groups would be prioritized for vaccination. That would still leave the virus with a lot of room to move, and testing would remain a vital tool for controlling the pandemic.

Mr. Simeck reported that voluntary testing was conducted for staff in August, September, November, and January and students participated in gateway re-entry testing in September and January where asymptomatic students were identified. The District would like to see more participation. The BinaxNow Antigen test was the gold standard among the tests, with a cost of roughly twenty five dollars per test.

The District was the first in the region to offer staff and student testing and other districts were now catching up. Access to the BinaxNow rapid antigen test allowed the District to test more efficiently and at a better price. The reduced cost would make it possible for the District to move to a weekly testing program which Mr. Simeck strongly recommended. Mr. Simeck stated that 71.1% of students and staff indicated via survey that they would plan to participate in weekly testing for COVID-19 at school.

Mr. Simeck stated that Passport Health had extensive and highly respected healthcare and testing expertise. They were experienced in reintroducing workforces to workplaces and were recognized, local, and trusted by the staff and community. Passport Health went above and beyond in service to the District at all levels. Mr Simeck stated that no legal conflict existed with either the District 67 or District 115 Boards of Education however, District 115 Board members rescued themselves out of an abundance of transparency.

Dr. Morcott stated that regarding recurrent viral surveillance testing, the number of positive cases to be identified would be low and this was a risk mitigation strategy, it would not take risk away .Rapid antigen tests were not EUA-approved for screening they were however good at finding people who had a high viral load while PCR tests would find those with low viral loads. Because of this it was likely that more positive cases would be found. By doing the tests recurrently, they would be hoping to find someone early on in their infectious period so when they isolated they would be less likely to spread the virus.

The Board asked questions regarding the cost of testing, the rate of participation, whether testing and vaccinations for employees could be made mandatory, the intent behind testing, the duration of the test offering and when the District could terminate the contract.

Vaccine Availability and Impact on Spring

Mr. Simeck reported that during the past week's meeting with the Lake County Health Department (LCHD), it was confirmed that there would be two education-specific locations, Round Lake High School and Stevenson High School, that would be open Monday through Friday from 2:00-9:00 p.m. plus weekend hours. Staff would be notified in the next week to change their vaccination location and would receive an appointment time. Hospitals would begin vaccinations for people age 65 and older and the Lake County Fairgrounds would also be used. In time, large manufacturing sites, pharmacies, and pods would pop up throughout the county. The most problematic issues were staffing and the availability of the vaccine.

District staff would be in Phase 1B. Phase 1A was almost complete in the region. Many of the District healthcare professionals had already received the first round of vaccines. The 1A group was expanded to include additional professions including occupational therapists, physical therapists and social workers. Phase 1B would include roughly 3.2 million Illinois residents including people age 65 or older as well as "frontline essential workers" including pre-k through grade twelve staff, teaching assistants, paraprofessionals, food service staff, custodial staff, bus drivers, technology staff, administrators, and others. Lake County was expected to notify staff by email in the following week regarding updating their statuses in the AllVax Portal.

The District would receive the Moderna vaccine that consisted of two injections, four weeks apart. The Moderna vaccine was 95% effective and storage was much less complicated than the Pfizer vaccine. Most people in Phase 1B would be vaccinated throughout February and March.

Availability of the vaccine was limited and affected the LCHD's ability to scale the distribution in a way they would like. Phase 1A was taking longer because Lake County had a disproportionately higher number of healthcare workers living and working in the county. For schools, the most sensible way to organize vaccinations might be by district or by building. The District expected to begin scheduling staff in early February.

Some symptoms from the vaccine included tiredness, pain or swelling at the injection site, fever or chills, and headache. In most cases, discomfort from fever or pain was normal but people should contact their doctor or healthcare provider if the redness or tenderness from the injection site increased after twenty four hours or if the side effects were worrying or not going away after several days. The vaccine would consist of two doses. The first dose would build immunity up to 60% and the second dose could be accompanied by some symptoms in the days following the vaccination, indicating the appropriate immune response. The vaccine would be 94.5% effective.

Some of the healthcare staff had already received the vaccines and staff was eagerly awaiting vaccination opportunities. The District wanted to get as many staff vaccinated as quickly as possible. The vaccinations would also help protect against new variants of the virus. As staff were being scheduled, there could be a greater number of substitutes in the buildings during the vaccination period depending on how many people chose to get vaccinated and when they would be scheduled. The District would continue to mask, distance, and follow other protocols in the schools. Providing access to the vaccine for employees would be a crucial step toward a return to a level of normalcy for everyone.

Regarding mandating the vaccine, employers could mandate that, however, Mr. Simeck did not recommend it. There would be a significant set of downsides, including costs, a need to bargain, ADA eligibility for accommodations, and unpredictable changes in classroom staffing or supports.

Two significant issues with a mid-year change to full-time in-person learning would include administrative capacity and unpredictable changes to classroom capacity as well as a great deal of study to consider its feasibility.

Hawthorn, Highland Park/Deerfield, and Deerfield had district-wide vaccination programs which are run through Walgreens. Initially, the County planned to vaccinate by district but logistically, due to vaccine supply shortage, that was not workable. Like the rest of the districts in Lake County, District staff would be about a week behind in the schedule and would begin receiving vaccinations during the first week of February on a supply/demand basis as the vaccine became available.

Board members asked questions regarding why some Districts had relationships with Walgreens, whether the District had reached out to Walgreens to ask about a partnership, what efforts the District had made regarding a vaccine partnership, how to engage the community, and what would need to happen to make it successful.

Assessment Report

Dr. Jeff McHugh reported on a follow up to the previous month's report regarding the annual Assessment. He highlighted a winter MAP update and shared that this was the first time the MAP test had been taken remotely so some differences should be noted. District students performed well above the national average. Students scored around the 75th percentile which was typically where previous scores averaged so the District was trending similarly. A concern was how the District was measuring against itself regarding math and reading and whether students were behind.

District students overall performed well above the national average in both reading and math. Students exhibited more learning loss in math than in reading, which mirrored the national trend. Some grades showed similar or higher achievement compared to the previous year. School data teams (administrators, teachers, and specialists) would use the data to identify specific gaps and guide them in developing plans to address those gaps.

Board members asked questions regarding the definition of what the percentages indicated, what a lower comparative percentage indicated in reality, how would a parent be informed about specific action plans for their student(s), and at what level the learning would occur.

Board Committees:

Education Committee - Suzanne Sands, Rob Lemke, Richard Chun

Mrs. Sands reported that the Education Committee met on Thursday, January 7 and discussed social emotional learning including assessments and tools and coaches throughout the District. The next committee meeting was scheduled for February 11, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

Board Finance and Operations Committee – Rob Lemke, Alice LeVert, Justin Engelland

Dr. Lemke reported that the Finance and Operations Committee met on January 21, 2021 and discussed the 2019-2020 audit, the auditors unmodified clean opinion, and student fees. The next committee meeting was scheduled for April 2, 2021.

Board Policy Committee – Jeff Folker, Richard Chun, Justin Engelland

Mr. Folker reported that the Policy Committee met twice in joint session with the District 115 Policy Committee on January 12 and 20. The meetings covered outstanding PRESS Issue 106 policies which the committee voted to approve as well as Policy 2:140 Communications to and From the Board, specifically emails from the public to the Board that would be discussed at a future Board Workshop. Policy 2:240 was also discussed and was on the agenda for approval at the Board meeting.

Compensation Committee - Jeff Folker, Suzanne Sands, Justin Engelland

Mr. Folker reported that the Joint Compensation Committee met on January 6 and January 14. The committee discussed changing the name to the Shared Services Optimization Committee, a new charter to align with the new committee name, and reviewed the recommendation from Eklund Consulting. The committee presented the recommendation to both Boards on January 14 where the Boards voted to keep the Shared Services organizational structure in place but optimize the relationship. The committee's primary work was completed with the delivery of that decision. Mr. Engelland and Mrs. Sands stated that they would like the work of the committee to be discussed with new future Board members.

District Committees:

NSSSED - Suzanne Sands

Mrs. Sands reported that the NSSSED Leadership Council met on January 13 and discussed the financial status of NSSSED and a future conference presentation by Mrs. Sands and Dr. Schneider. Four districts in the Northfield Township region had decided to take over the management of NSSSED's early childhood program. The impact could be over one million dollars in revenue and the loss of staff. NSSSED was also working on new Board member orientation and onboarding. The next Leadership Council meeting was scheduled for February 10.

Legislative Liaison – Alice LeVert

Mrs. LeVert reported on the legislative work conducted by John Noble, a member of the District 115 Board of Education. The next step would be to create a resolution where District 67 would support the legislative efforts begun by District 115 that could benefit both Districts.

Spirit of 67 Foundation – Richard Chun

Mr. Chun reported that the Spirit of 67 Foundation was preparing to start the review process of their annual grants. The deadline for grant submissions for teachers and students was January 28 at 3 p.m.

APT Executive Board – Suzanne Sands

Mrs. Sands reported that the APT Executive Board continued to plan and execute activities around the District. Virtual winter fest events and end of year celebrations were being planned. Elections would be held at the annual meeting on March 10.

Public Participation:

There was no public participation.

Action Items:

Approval of Quest Food Service Contract Amendment

Motion: Mr. Folker moved, seconded by Mr. Kirar, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, approve the Quest Food Service Contract Amendment.

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

Ayes: Lemke, Kirar, Chun, LeVert, Engelland, Sands, Folker

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Passport Health Testing Contract

Motion: Mrs. Sands moved, seconded by Dr. Lemke, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, approve the Amendment to the Passport Health Testing Contract.

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

Ayes: Engelland, Chun, LeVert, Sands, Lemke, Kirar, Folker

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Elementary Tent Rentals through the End of 2020-2021 School Year

Motion: Mrs. Sands moved, seconded by Dr. Lemke, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, approve the Elementary Tent Rentals through the End of the 2020-2021 School Year.

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

Ayes: Sands, Lemke, Engelland, Folker, Kirar, Chun

Nays: LeVert

Absent:

The motion carried.

Approval of Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates Letter of Agreement

Motion: Mrs. Sands moved, seconded by Mr. Kirar, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, approve the Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates Letter of Agreement.

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

Ayes: Chun, Lemke, LeVert, Kirar, Sands, Engelland, Folker

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of PRESS Issue 106 - First Reading

Motion: Mr. Folker moved, seconded by Mr. Chun, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, approve the First Reading of PRESS Issue 106.

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

Ayes: Folker, Chun, LeVert, Sands, Lemke, Engelland, Kirar

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Updated Policy 2:230 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board

Motion: Mr. Folker moved, seconded by Mr. Chun, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, approve the Updated Policy 2:230 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board

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

Ayes: Chun, Lemke, Engelland, Kirar, Folker, LeVert, Sands

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Human Resources Items

Motion: Mrs. LeVert moved, seconded by Dr. Lemke that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, approve the Human Resources Items, as presented.

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

Ayes: Kirar, Folker, LeVert, Chun, Sands, Engelland, Lemke

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

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

Minutes of a Regular Session and Workshop, December 15, 2020

Minutes of an Executive Session, December 15, 2020

Minutes of a Joint Special Meeting, January 14, 2021

Minutes of an Executive Session, January 14, 2021

Motion: Mr. Folker moved, seconded by Mrs. LeVert, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, approve the Consent Agenda items, as presented

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

Ayes: Folker, LeVert, Engelland, Sands, Lemke, Kirar, Chun

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA):

Jonah Meadows, Status Complete

Elena Daniel, Status Complete

Elena Daniel, Status Complete

Announcements:

Monday, February 15, 2021

No School - Presidents' Day

Tuesday, February 23, 2020

Board of Education Meeting -

**7:00 p.m. West Campus Board Room or
Virtual**

Adjournment:

Motion: Mrs. Sands moved, seconded by Mr. Folker, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, adjourn the regular meeting.

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

Ayes: LeVert, Engelland, Chun, Sands, Kirar, Folker, Lemke

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

The regular meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Justin Engelland, President Date

Alice LeVert, Secretary Date