

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 11, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

A Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Education of Lake Forest Community High School District #115, County of Lake, State of Illinois, was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 and called to order at 7:00 p.m. at West Campus in the Boardroom.

On Roll Call the following Members were found to be present:

Dick Block, Secretary
Nicki Snoblin, Member
John Scribner, Member
Jim Carey, Vice President
Todd Burgener, Member
Monty Edson, Member
Sharon Golan, President

Administration Present:

Dr. Harry Griffith, Superintendent
Allen Albus, Deputy Superintendent for Finance and Operations
Jennifer Hermes, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
Dr. Julie Cooley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Cornelius DuBose, IT Director
Jennifer Knight, Director of Personnel and Instruction
Jay Hoffmann, Principal

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Golan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She congratulated all concerned in planning and executing the spectacular Homecoming festivities.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Griffith thanked the faculty members in the audience for attending.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Linda Rich, President of the Lake Forest Educators Association (LFEA), read a statement concerning the on-going contract negotiations between the Union and the Board of Education. She noted that during the last decade and a half, LFHS teachers have never started a year with a settled contract during a negotiation cycle. She said that each collective bargaining process has necessitated multiple LFEA job actions and federal mediation and all but one have necessitated a strike vote, unlike other local schools who have settled their contracts without any job actions. Ms. Rich stated that while they understand the uncertain economic times, they also believe that the faculty has earned a contract that doesn't take away benefits without the context of continuing outstanding performance. She advocated settling the contract.

Mrs. Golan thanked the faculty for attending the meeting. She said that the Board is proud of the teachers, students and families who are all a part of the success of Lake Forest High School. She noted that negotiations began in the spring and that the Board had made themselves available to meet all summer. She said that the Board would also like to get things resolved for the good of the students, teachers and families. The Board wants to retain and attract the best faculty members and keep educational standards high but also must be mindful that they serve as stewards of taxpayer dollars. She commented that so far there has been a good working relationship between the teams and that there is a lot of respect on both sides.

Mr. Scribner pointed out that LFHS teachers are the highest paid teachers in the state and that the Board recognizes and is proud of their accomplishments. The Board has come to the end of 3 years of economic crisis during which they have tried to reduce expenses with the least impact on the academic programs. Cost cutting measures including reducing non-essential support staff and reevaluating vendor contracts have been implemented, but the economic reality is that people in the community have also been effected, experiencing foreclosures or short sales and loss of jobs. The District has run deficits in the last 3 years. Teachers received a 6% increase last year in the final year of their contract even though the revenue to the District was only increased by a CPI of only 1/10 of 1%. Fund balances have declined from 10% of operating expenses to less than 6% of operating expenses. He noted that the Board feels that the teachers are doing an outstanding job. He stated that he believes that even with the changes in current contracts at schools who have already settled their new contracts, LFHS teachers continue to be second or third highest paid in the state. He said there is no attempt to take anything away from anybody but rather an attempt to live within our means.

Mr. Carey said that to be good fiscal stewards, the Board needs to maintain reserves of 10% of operating expenses. We have run at a deficit for the past 3 years. The Board's key goal and commitment to the taxpayers is to get back to black over the next few years. He noted that he respects the fact that the faculty attended the meeting to represent their case, but also reported that five months ago a similar sized crowd of community members representing the taxpayer's case voiced their concerns about on-going deficits in the school district. The Board shared their plans on how they planned to address the situation with the community which included honoring contracts signed in a very different economic climate. He also noted that D115 is not in the financial condition of New Trier, Stevenson and other high schools cited in comparisons this evening. Those districts have larger fund balances. He said the Board must also be concerned about staying off the State watch list and maintaining its credit rating. He added that he felt this was a good opportunity to have dialogue on this subject because it's more than just salaries, it's the total financial condition of the District, where we want to be and how we're going to get there.

Mrs. Golan thanked faculty member for attending the meeting and for the service they continue to provide to the children of the district.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Student Services - College Matriculation Report

Dr. Griffith introduced the newly appointed head of the Student Services Department, Assistant Principal, Jim Thiel who gave an update on last year's progress. Mr. Thiel reported that the Post High School Report for the Class of 2011 was developed with information that was self-reported on Naviance. He said that 60% of the Class of 2011 matriculated to Midwestern schools, 19%

went to Western schools, 12% went to Northeastern schools, and 8% went to Southeastern schools, which is consistent with the 5-year comparison by geographic distribution. The top 5 accepted public schools are the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Indiana University Bloomington, University of Iowa, Miami University, Oxford and the University of Missouri, Columbia. The top 5 attended public schools are University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Miami University, Oxford, Indiana University Bloomington, University of Michigan, University of Iowa. The top 5 private schools are Marquette University, University of Dayton, DePaul University, University of Denver and St. Louis University. The top 5 attended private schools are Northwestern University, Santa Clara University, DePaul University, University of Denver and the University of Southern California. Mr. Thiel noted that when surveyed about which resources they found helpful in the college process, the Class of 2011 reported that they used the internet (87%), Naviance (83%) and their counselor (72%).

Counselor, Megan Miles, reported on the increased use of the Naviance program for electronic transcripts and paperless applications. Lunch and Learn sessions have been offered to teachers to teach them to upload letters of recommendations for students as an extension of the paperless application.

Counselor, Brad Naughton, reported on the increase of college visits by counselors during the past year. Counselors get the opportunity to get first-hand knowledge of the schools our students might be interested in visiting and attending and share this information as they report back to all other counselors on their visits.

Counselor, David Brandes reported on improved communication between students, parents and colleges. For the first time this year counselors went to the Jr. Highs to meet 8th grade students and parents and register them in the high school. They also revised the schedule change process to allow all counselors to review the approximate 500 change requests and communicate with students and parents. Counselors hosted a meet and greet for freshman parents the night of Open House.

Dr. Griffith thanked Mr. Thiel and the counselors noting that there seems to be a renewed sense of energy in the department.

BOARD COMMITTEES

Education Committee

Mrs. Snoblin reported that the committee met on October 3rd and received a report from English Department Head, Diane Clark, on how English teachers grade writing and on how the rubric for grading writing has been redeveloped. Mrs. Clark also reported that English teachers will be offering afternoon sessions on college essay writing. Jim Thiel provided a report on Student Services. The committee discussed 2011-2012 goals and heard about the process used by the Principal's leadership team for developing objectives to facilitate the goals. The committee talked about the school's website and the District Dashboard. Mr. Edson added that they discussed the Lake County Tech Campus where 16 of our students are enrolled this year. They discussed and received feedback from the Youth Summit that was held at Lake Forest Hospital and received an update on NSSSED. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 2nd at East Campus at 1:30 pm.

Operations Committee

Mr. Block reported that the committee met today and welcomed new community members, Sue Roen and Fred Fellows and thanked retiring community member, Ralph Huszagh for 4 years of service. The committee discussed their proposed revised charter, received an update on outstanding security issues at West Campus and discussed the Booster Club Diamond Campaign. Mr. Block said that Carol White and her team have done a great job of prioritizing capital projects that need to be completed and which can be deferred. As the committee puts together the total financial picture, they will have to keep in mind that some maintenance and replacement projects cannot be postponed indefinitely and these impending expenses will have to be taken into consideration. They also discussed having a central pick-up and drop off at West Campus for high school students who would be transported to and from East Campus in an effort to relieve traffic congestion at the high school and keep students from having to take a school bus at 7:00 am. The committee also received updates from Carol White on facilities and from Cornelius DuBose on Information Technology and the 5-year capital plan and reviewed goals, objectives and activities. Two meeting dates have been set for November, one on November 7th at 8:00 am at the Wedge Café and the other on November 22nd at 8:00 am at the Wedge Café.

Finance Committee

Mr. Carey reported that the committee did not meet. Mr. Carey announced that they will be making presentations at the City of Lake Forest and the Village of Lake Bluff meetings to update them on the high school's financial condition.

LIAISON REPORTS

There were no Liaison Reports.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of the 2011 – 2012 Long-term Disability Policy

MOTION: Mr. Carey moved and Mr. Scribner seconded that the Board approve the 2011-2012 Long-Term Disability Policy as presented.

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

ROLL CALL: Aye: Carey, Burgener, Block, Edson, Scribner, Snoblin, Golan
 Nay: None

Motion Carried

Approval of Allied Administrative Services Agreement

This contract is for administration of the District's self-funding dental plan.

MOTION: Mr. Scribner moved and Mr. Carey seconded that the Board of Education approve the contract with Allied Administrative Services.

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

ROLL CALL: Aye: Carey, Edson, Burgener, Scribner, Block, Snoblin, Golan
 Nay: None

Motion Carried

Approval of the Human Resources Report

MOTION: Mr. Block moved and Mr. Carey seconded that the Board approve the Human Resources Report as presented.

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

ROLL CALL: Aye: Block, Snoblin, Burgener, Scribner, Carey, Edson, Golan
 Nay: None

Motion Carried

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mrs. Golan reported that the Consent Agenda includes:

Approval of Financial Reports and Schedule of Checks Written

Approval of Financial Reports:

Financial Reports: The List of Checks Written and Direct Deposit Payroll

From September 8, 2011 to October 5, 2011:

Education Fund	\$	534,697.27
Building and Maintenance Fund		328,337.37
Debt Service Fund		--
Transportation Fund		34,466.41
Capital Projects Fund/ General		12,791.87
Procurement Card Expenses		62,899.34
Direct Deposit Payroll & Taxes		<u>1,873,323.52</u>
Total Expenditures	\$	2,846,515.78

Approval of Minutes: Including minutes of a Joint Board Workshop on September 6, 2011, Regular Meeting on September 12, 2011, and an Executive Session on September 12, 2011, a Special Meeting, September 13, 2011 and a Budget Hearing on September 13, 2011.

Destruction of audio recordings: September 21, 2009

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

MOTION: Mrs. Snoblin moved and Mr. Scribner seconded that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

ROLL CALL: Aye: Carey, Edson, Burgener, Scribner, Block, Snoblin, Golan
 Nay: None

Motion Carried

FOIA REQUESTS:

There were no FOIA requests.

