

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
September 18, 2006**

**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 September 18, 2006 and called to order at 7:19 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

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

Mary Ritter, Secretary	Marilyn Harlow, Member
Sharon Golan, Member	Jim Carey
Dick Block, Member	Tom Neri, Vice President
Janet Nelson, President	

Administration

Present:

Dr. Harry Griffith, Superintendent  
Jay Hoffmann, Principal  
Allen Albus, Deputy Superintendent for Finance and Operations

Jennifer Hermes, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services  
Gary Pickens, Director of Technology  
Dr. Merry Quinn, Director of Counseling and Student Services  
Dr. Julie Cooley, Executive Director of Special Services, K-12

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Janet Nelson welcomed Student Council President Sarah Quon and thanked her for her participation in the upcoming Board meetings.

Janet noted that October Community Forums that have been scheduled (see lfhs.org for complete schedule under referendum/meetings) for the public to learn more about the upcoming referendum. She encouraged residents to attend.

Bill Jackson was recognized for his 16 years of service to Lake Forest High School. In honor of his retirement, a resolution was read and the Board dedicated a seat in the auditorium to him.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Harry Griffith announced that Lake Forest High School had earned the distinction of a 2005 Academic Excellence Award for exemplary academic performance on the Illinois Learning Standards.

He reported the 6-day enrollment was 1,781 students and noted that the incoming freshmen class has 469 students and last year's graduating class was comprised of 432 students. Dr. Griffith thanked faculty and staff for a great start to the school year. He also

welcomed Deputy Superintendent Allen Albus and Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Jennifer Hermes to the district. Both of these individuals will serve in a share services capacity with District 67. Principal Jay Hoffmann was introduced.

Mr. Hoffmann welcomed Student Council Representative Sarah Quon. Sarah reported on this year's Student Council leadership and projects. She announced that Council's goal was to increase school spirit and named a number of initiatives being organized to achieve this goal. Sarah also noted a focus on service opportunities.

Mr. Hoffmann reported on a number of faculty and staff accomplishments. Science teacher Mary Beth Nawor was the recipient of the Golden Apple award and Business Ed. teacher Jim Matheson was awarded Coach of the Year. He also reported that the 14 new teachers were off to a great start. He commented that shared services had brought many advantages to the high school, including an improved recruiting process

Principal Hoffmann expressed gratitude for Mr. Jackson's many years of service to the Lake Forest High School community. He thanked the Board of Education and Board Committees for their dedication to providing a quality education for our students. Dr. Griffith agreed that Mr. Jackson would be missed and closed by offering his thanks to the teachers and staff for a successful start of the 2006-07 school year.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Robin Ford announced that she and Sally Burns were co-chairs of the "Vote Yes for LFHS Committee." She stated that this is a citizens committee that has formed to support the referendum. Robin noted that all promotional materials must be privately funded. She encouraged residents to get involved and encouraged interested parties to visit the committee's website [VoteYESforLFHS.org](http://VoteYESforLFHS.org) that will be active in the near future.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Board Education Committee

Mary Ritter welcomed new Board member Dick Block to the Education Committee. She announced that the committee had reviewed the Grade Weighting Changes being presented to the Board at this meeting. The committee unanimously agreed to recommend bringing the value of the grade points assigned to letter grades into line with current definitions of the grades. This change will take effect beginning with the freshmen class of 2011. The point values for A+ College Prep will be adjusted from 5.5 to 5.33, A+ Honors will be adjusted from 6.0 to 5.83, D- College Prep will be adjusted from 1.0 to 1.67, and D- Honors will be adjusted from 1.0 to 2.17

Mary stated that the committee would review the pass-no pass policy this year. She also stated ACT score averages were up to 25.4%, a .3 increase over previous scores, and noted that a full report on testing would be presented to the Board and community soon.

### Board Operations Committee

Marilyn Harlow announced that the committee was continuing to review the proposed facility plans. They endorsed a request for a performance contract to study possible energy efficiency measures for the proposed renovated portions of the West Campus building. The committee discussed the current cell phone tower, its possible relocation, and ways to increase revenues. Marilyn noted the committee was looking for ways to phase the proposed referendum project to be the least disruptive to students. She concluded with information about the process the Board has initiated to monitor that the referendum project is completed on time and on budget.

### Board Finance Committee

Tom Neri announced that the Finance Committee reviewed and recommends the proposed balanced budget for the 2006-07 school year. The budget incorporates anticipated reductions in administrative costs due to shared service reductions in expenditures, increases in new teaching staff, and modest increases for professional development and teacher course work development.

The proposed budget anticipates a property tax increase of 3.3% for CPI and 2.49% from new construction. The overall increase of 5.25% is adjusted for a small reduction in taxes for the Bond and Interest Fund. The proposed fund balance for the end of the year is \$3,316,514 for an overall balance that exceeds the 10% identified by the Strategic Plan as a preferred minimum for fund balances.

### Joint Shared Service Committee

Sharon Golan announced that the JSSC had reviewed amendments to the Shared Services agreement. She reported that there is an evaluation of Shared Services underway and preliminary cost savings due to Shared Services were presented to the Board. It was noted that in addition to the financial benefits articulation measures have been improved and there have been numerous enhancements to the overall education program. The Board will conduct a formal evaluation of these benefits to be presented in the near future.

### Policy Committee

Mary Ritter reported that the Policy Committee will meet in October. She also thanked Bill Jackson for his many years of service.

## **REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

### Student Services Departmental Report

Dr. Julie Cooley and Dr. Merry Quinn gave an overview of the goals and programs offered by the Student Services and Special Services Departments. This detailed report showed the success of the 2005-06 initiatives and introduced the 2006-07 goals. Highlights included the acquisition of new technology to measure student progress and how the faculty is able to meet student needs.

Shared Service Agreement

Dr. Griffith presented a brief overview of the Intergovernmental Agreement. He reported that the Agreement would allow Lake Bluff to participate in staff or service savings. The revised agreement would extend Shared Services until 2011. Any district could terminate involvement with 6 months notice prior to the end of the fiscal year. All three Boards will take action on the proposed amended agreement over the next few months.

Mrs. Nelson noted that the agreement states the three districts will remain separate and independent. They will not surrender their separate governance.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Approval of Grade Weighting Changes

Dr. Griffith summarized the shift in philosophy of standards related to bringing the value of points assigned to letter grades into line with current definitions of the grades. The Board Education Committee endorsed the following grade weighting changes: point values for A+ College Prep will be adjusted from 5.5 to 5.33, A+ Honors will be adjusted from 6.0 to 5.83, D- College Prep will be adjusted from 1.0 to 1.67, and D- Honors will be adjusted from 1.0 to 2.17. The change would take effect beginning with the freshmen class of 2011.

**MOTION:** Mr. Block moved and Mrs. Golan seconded that the Board of Education approve the grade weighting changes as presented.

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

On Voice Vote the Motion Carried

Adoption of the 2006-2007 Budget

Dr. Griffith and the Board of Education again complimented Bill Jackson and Ed Tivador for their work in creating a balanced budget for the 2006-2007 school year. He reviewed the reductions in administration costs due to shared services reductions in capital expenditures and explained that those funds will be put back into education.

**MOTION:** Mr. Neri moved and Mr. Carey seconded that the Board of Education adopt the 2006-2007 Budgets as presented.

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

ROLL CALL:                   Aye:     Ritter, Block, Harlow, Neri, Carey, Golan, Nelson  
                                      Nay:     None  
                                      Absent: None

Motion Carried

Approval of Personnel Report

Dr. Morgan gave a brief overview of the Personnel Report.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Golan moved and Mr. Neri seconded that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Report as presented.

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

ROLL CALL:	Aye: Block, Harlow, Neri, Carey, Golan, Ritter, Nelson
	Nay: None
	Absent: None

Motion Carried

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Nelson reported that the Consent Agenda includes:

Approval of Deputy Superintendent Allen Albus as Treasurer.

Approval of the 2006-07 Application for Recognition of Schools.

Minutes of the August 14, 2006 Regular Business meeting and of the July 17, 2006 Executive Sessions.

Destruction of audio recording of the Executive Sessions from February 16<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Financial Reports:

Financial Reports: The List of Checks Written and Direct Deposit Payroll for August 11,, 2006 to September 13, 2006 as follows:

Education Fund	\$ 1,094,776.78
Building and Maintenance Fund	333,967.34
Transportation Fund	42,154.76
Direct Deposit Payroll & Taxes	<u>1,183,528.07</u>
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,654,426.95

The Treasurer's Report, Revenue/Expense Reports dated September 13, 2006 as presented.

The Financial Report for the period ending August 31, 2006.

**MOTION:** Mr. Carey and Mrs. Harlow 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: Harlow, Neri, Carey, Golan, Ritter, Block, Nelson  
Nay: None  
Absent: None

Motion Carried

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Mrs. Nelson announced the next Regular Business Meeting will be on Monday, October 23, 2006 in the Library at Lake Forest High School at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved by Mr. Carey and seconded by Mr. Neri and approved by unanimous voice vote of all members present that the meeting be adjourned.

Mrs. Nelson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.