

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LAKE FOREST COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 115
May 26, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The special meeting of the Board of Education was held at Lake Forest High School West Campus in Seminar A and called to order at 7:02 a.m. by Reese Marcusson.

Board members present at roll call were:

Diana Kreiling, Member	Ted Moorman, Secretary
David Lane, Member,	Lise Eliot, Member
John Powers, Vice President	Reese Marcusson, President
Dave Schreiber, Member	

Absent: None

Administration Present:

Michael Simeck, Superintendent

Guests Who Signed In: Jennifer Neubauer, Alfred Tomaselli, Michael Rourke, Rob Rourke, The Rev. Alan James, Clarissa Flores, Raphael Stringer, Carole LeMay, Judy Fredes-Craig, Daniel Cohen, Brad Seaman, Jake Peters, Anne Thomas, Don Russ, Alex James, Amelia Barthomomea, Nancy Thorner, Rick Cardis, Matt Walsh, Bill Avery, Hillary F. Till, Robin Gough, Joan Garner, Anne Sorensen, Bridgette Doheny, Tam Long, Josh Seldess, Korie and Shawn Trevino, Philip Emmanuele, Margaret Flanagan, Joseph Flanagan, Charlotte Ahern, Char Shea, Megan Medica, Jenn Goldman, Edward Armstrong, Kristen and Darren Weisberg, Steve Barl, Margaret Braun, Patricia Sweet, Amy Cote, Laura Lindemann, Laura Adams, Kevin Reich, Nicki Snoblin, Tom Frevert, John Collins, D. Thumler, Amy Keaton, Scott Gray, Sean Gilmore, Dave Curry, Stan E. Tozer, Mia Waligora, Sara Pickus, Missy Burger, Meg Barnhart, Tina Young, Kevin Carden, Pam Click, Curt Wang, Paul Lemon

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Marcusson opened the meeting by addressing why the meeting was scheduled for 7:00 a.m., on the Tuesday following a Memorial Day holiday. Mr. Marcusson stated that he wanted the full Board at the meeting and it was challenging to schedule all seven Board members. Mr. Marcusson thanked the Board and community members who had rearranged their schedules to attend. A Board meeting is the only place and time that the Board can legally discuss Board business. Mr. Marcusson stated that the core values under which the Board operates are maximizing student growth, ensuring emotional social, physical and intellectual support, hiring and retaining world class educators, and respect as the cornerstone of the work of the Board. Mr. Marcusson stated that the Board members volunteered for Board service and were elected by the community, they hire and fire and provide financial oversight and do not rubber stamp. All of Mr. Simeck's recommendations are legally reviewed and voted on for all District hires. During Mr. Simeck's tenure

he has had a track record of finding quality educators and has assembled a great team. Mr. Marcusson reiterated the fact that the Board is not thinking about eliminating AP and Honors classes, just the opposite, academic achievement is an integral part of the Board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Simeck reviewed the two-month long process completed for the principal search. The posting began at the end of March and coincided with a parent and staff survey. The posting lasted for three weeks. A total of 20 people applied for the position. A team of administrators interviewed eight(8) from the pool and narrowed the pool to three(3) who were then interviewed by administrators, teachers and parent representatives. One candidate emerged as the clear finalist who then had a 1:1 interview with Mr. Simeck. A team of students, parents, teachers, administrators and two Board members conducted a site visit and spoke with a wide range of parents, teachers, support personnel and various others in the building. In the course of the process a number of background checks were conducted with current and former supervisors, superintendents and others with whom the candidate had worked. Additional conversations were conducted to clarify and explore questions throughout the vetting process. An opportunity was made available for Board members to meet in informal small groups.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Marcusson reviewed the process for public comment and invited members of the public to address the Board.

Tom Matkov, Jennifer Neubauer, Hillary Till, Bill Avery, Charlotte Bern, John Collins, Robert VonOhlen, Brad Seaman, Tom Kinsley, Scott Gray, Gary Finlay, Rebecca Cartin, Deena Perry, Cindy Hinsley, Patrick Burton, Bridgette Doheny shared their concerns with the Board including the candidate's views on academic tracking and AP classes, the views expressed on the website, the removal of the website and Facebook page, a lack of experience and challenged the Board to be transparent. Michael Rourke, a freshman from Lake Forest Community High School, stated that he had initiated an online petition requesting that the candidate not be selected as Principal of Lake Forest High School as he believes the candidate supports eliminating tracking and AP courses, and at the time of the Board meeting had received 546 supporters. Mr. Karl Lambrecht suggested that only one Superintendent was necessary for seven(7) districts.

Steve Tozer, Daniel Cohen, Charlotte Ahern, John Seldess , Avi Lasi, John Flanagan, shared their opinions regarding the candidate and stated that the candidate is a caring, compassionate, world class, educator who is committed to all students. Other community members suggested that all information was not known to the community and that the Board would make a fully informed final decision.

Mr. Marcusson stated that he appreciated the comments from the community.

Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session:

Mr. Marcusson asked the Board for a motion to move to Executive Session.

MOTION:

Mr. Schreiber moved seconded by Mr. Moorman at 8:25 a.m. that the Board of Education adjourn to Executive Session to discuss matters related to the appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body.

On voice vote, motion carried.

**RETURN TO:
OPEN
SESSION:** A motion was made by Mr. Powers and seconded by Mr. Moorman at 9:40 a.m. to return to Open Session to resume the special meeting.

Votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Schreiber, Powers, Moorman, Marcusson, Lane,
Kreiling, Eliot

Nays: None

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Marcusson made a statement that “the Board will continue to consider the matter. For this purpose the Board is scheduling a Special meeting between June 1, 2015 and June 9, 2015. At that time the Board will consider the Principal selection for Lake Forest Community High School and the Principal selection will be on the agenda for consideration by the Board.” Mr. Powers stated that the Board was being diligent and was communicating as respectfully as possible.

An Executive Session took place following public participation. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made by Mrs. Kreiling and seconded by Mr. Marcusson to adjourn the meeting.

On voice vote, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Ted Moorman, Secretary Date