

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LAKE FOREST COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
DISTRICT 115
June 9, 2015**

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, June 9, 2015 and called to order at 7:00 pm at West Campus in the Gymnasium.

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

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

Absent: None

Administration Present:

Michael Simeck, Superintendent
Allen Albus, Deputy Superintendent for Finance and Operations
Lauren Fagel, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction,
Technology & Assessment
Lori Wilcox, Assistant Superintendent of Growth, Talent, and Human Relations
Barry Rodgers, Principal

Others: Michael J. Hernandez, Franczek Radelet

Guests Who Signed In: Thomas Kienzle, Cindy Kienzle, Stephanie and John Bjork, Liz Mitchell, Diane Gregg, Patrick Berlich, Sharon Sunderland, Khris Condon, Nancy Diveris, Amelia Bartholomew, Amy Hill, Marlin and Donna Reed, Carrie Ford, Cheryl Anderson, Byron Ford, Aristeidie Diveris, Robert C. Von Ohlen, Amy Giannelli, Steve Reimer, Don McKiernan, Reenee Gotta, Paul Gotta, Paul Dorling, Jim Bauer, Greg Straus, Brad Seaman, Thomas Buccelli, Jim Carey, Joy McGrevy, Mike McGowan, Phil Hansen, Suzanne Maloney, Tal M. Fegan, Madeleine and Hank Slingerland, Steve Lee, Patricia M. Kammerer, Rebeca Cottum, Taylor Cottum, Tom Freund, Laura Elliott, Carolann Stickler, Carolyn Bielski, Mark and Margaret Brennan, Peggy Siebert, Ilse Sidles, B. Lacart, Rich Martin, Tim Watts, Korie Trevino, Richard Benson, Craig Sopko, Glenn Arnold, Dan Cy, Ida Fiore, Marty Turk, Rebecca Jernow, Steven Goldman, Sara Goldman, Daniel Uhl, Rydie Grabemann, Janine Lancoua, Heather and Douglas Piremalic, Shawn Martens, Elisa Allan, Bertel Olson, Charles Notarus, Bravetta Hassel, Richard Jones, Bridgette Doheny, Nancy Thorner, Ron Russ, William Russell, Christine Heller, C. Raymond, P. Handley, William Maines, Connie Maines, Terry Desmond, Becky Freeman Murray, Robin

Gongh, Edward Sachs, Jr, Scott and Eileen Fleming, Diane Eckland, Mia Walegora, Betsey Thurman, Scott Gray, Jennifer Neubauer, Dave Shimp, Kris Shimp, Missy Burger, Jacqueline Berkshire, Mat Marquart, Gail Dristle, Carole LeMay, James Kelly, Christie Chakoian, Barbara Stephens, Gary Finley, Thomas Patella, Kimberly Vlies, Alan James, Laura Luce, Geoffrey Luce, Mary Ann Blendonoly, Tim Quinn, Margaret Stuber, Sean Gilmore, Dale Miller, Navice Davares, Paul Hamann, Amy Giannelli, Jeff Giannelli, Vana Krause, Doug Green, Shawn Trevino, Patrick Canning, Hilary F. Till, Liz Olsen, Patricia Sheridan, Colleen Nicholas, K. Wiler, Suzanne Selzwedl, Jill D'Alessandro, Gary Rapport, Larson, Greer, Christina Rourke, Maureen Schabel, Dick Block, Steven Paxton, Susie Anthenson, Rob Rourke, Karen Schmid, Henry Kleeman, Marti and Grant Hill, Patrick Hoover, David G. Mueller, Elizabeth J. Guscott Mueller, Ivan Bracic, Mary Anne Fowler, Henry Slingerland, Terry Darrough, Kristin and Darren Wersberg, Sheila Cavatans, John and Mary Jo Kallergis, Glenn and Gail Heidbreder, Michael Waud, Michael Waligora, Ozlem Yandimi, Karen Van Hyfte, J. Eghite, Chris McDonnell, Jim Sullivan, Tom Freber, Veronica Pett, Susan Rolander, Terry Neri, Todd Burgener, Gail Gamrath, Sue and Bill Beaubessant, Jennifer Durburg, Jennifer Kingley, Jenny Zinzer, Jim Perkins, Peg Determann, Ed Zarek, Kebra Kerry, P.J. O'Neil, Susan K. Duffy, Laurie Rose, Dan and Cheryl Camardo, Wiebke Droege, Eric Holder, I. Mienville, Sarah Younger Kienzle, Megan and Brian Stockton, Pamela McDonne, David Barkhausen, Patrick Kammerer, Janet Page, Sean Jones, Christie Theis.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Marcusson thanked everyone for coming. He announced that the Board met earlier in closed session to discuss matters related to the appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1); Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(2) The Meeting is now in open session. He stated that all of the elected Board Members are devoted representatives of the community and that he's confident that every member volunteered for Board service for the same reasons they live here. He said they highly value our great schools and love this community. They take their responsibilities very seriously and are doing what they were elected to do, which is to ensure that the tradition continues.

Mr. Marcusson noted that he is aware that the process is frustrating to all because Board Members have been unable to discuss, clarify or debate the issues raised. He asked that the community please be assured that the Board has read, studied and analyzed everything. The Board is comprised of seven very thoughtful independent thinkers with the best interest of the community and the school at heart.

Mr. Marcusson reported that the meeting will proceed beginning with Mr. Simeck's Superintendent Report. Following his report, there will be time for public comment. Then the Board will move into Executive Session where by law, all personnel matters are discussed. Executive Session may take an hour but the Board needs to devote this time to thoughtful discussion. After Executive Session the Board will return to the gymnasium to Open Session.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Simeck provided an overview of AP programs. He said that students now have increased access to high level classes. There was a 32% increase in AP Science participation from fall of 2013 to fall of 2014. Enrollment in AP English has increased by 400% from spring 2014 – spring 2015. There has also been a corresponding increase in student success with more students taking challenging courses. Junior enrollment in calculus classes grew by 44% and senior enrollment has grown by 23% from 2013-2015. Four below grade level sections were eliminated in Math, English and World Civ. This year, 14.87% of our students leveled up to a more challenging course and we saw a reduction of 21% in students dropping to a lower level class. Overall, AP enrollment went from 1117 courses to 1441, a 29% overall increase. We have added four AP course offerings, a Robotics class and Innovation Incubator class to expand the curriculum in areas of student interest. We're looking at more personalized, more individualized, more challenging opportunities for every single individual child in the district. The District is committed to finding more opportunities for more kids and providing a high level of support for kids whether they are high, middle and low.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Tom Kienzle, Cindy Kienzle, Aristeidie Diveris, Don Russ, Rob Von Ohlen, Dale Miller, Jennifer Neubauer, Tom Freever, Mary Eileen, Nancy Thorner, Colleen Von Ohlen, Amelia Bartholomew Anne Brennan, Rob Rourke, Jim Wagner, Brad Seaman, Glen Arnold, Pat Kammerer, Chris Munns, Becky Freeman Murray and David Fontana shared their concerns with the Board regarding the candidate's qualifications, cultural fit, track record, agenda, credentials, alignment with the goals of the community, extreme views and public comments, lack of supervisory and budgetary experience, the lack of accountability, transparency and full disclosure in the hiring process, the lack of community involvement in the process, the removal of the website, the introduction of a political agenda in the decision, the decision not to hire a search firm, the views expressed on the website. It was noted that this choice is bringing down the morale of kids. The Board was urged to hire the best, listen to their conscience and represent the citizens. It was also noted that the results of the principal attribute survey were never shared.

Amy Hill, Mary Anne Fowler, Elizabeth J. Guscott Mueller, David G. Mueller, Joe Flanagan and shared their opinions regarding the candidate and education. They stated that the candidate is dedicated to education, is hard working, an amazing community leader and role model. She wants to support all students not just those who have difficulties. She has the character to lead in this community. It is essential for students of all ages to be in a learning environment where they are challenged to achieve. It is also important for them to be where they have a chance of understanding and succeeding. To do both each students capacities and interests must be determined and considered for class placement. The Board was urged to do the best for the students of Lake Forest High School. Concern about arguments that attempt to discredit and cast aspersions on a professional by cobbling together statements and historical facts that are taken out of context were expressed.

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Dick Block said he felt there has been an open dialogue and everyone who had something to say had the opportunity to express their feelings either at a Board meeting or through social media. He thanked the Board for serving and noted that they are the most knowledgeable people about this decision. He said whatever the Board decides, he will trust it, support it and do everything he can to give it the best chance to work and that he hopes that everyone in the community will have the same attitude.

Mr. Marcusson asked for a motion to adjourn to Executive Session.

MOTION: Mr. Schreiber moved, seconded by Dr. Eliot that the Board adjourn to Executive session.

On voice vote, the motion carried

The Board returned to Open session.

Mr. Marcusson asked Mr. Simeck to make a recommendation.

Mr. Simeck reviewed the extensive process that is characteristic of processes in this community and other communities. It began with an international posting in Ed Week. Twenty applications were received and 8 were chosen to proceed in the process for a first interview. The field was narrowed to 3 candidates and an interview team comprised of a representative from each department in the school, administrators and parent representatives met with them. One finalist was chosen and a confidential site visit was scheduled for students, parents, administrators and Board Members at Oak Park River Forest High School. Our interview team is bound by confidentiality rules, as is the candidate, so they are unable to discuss the process. Reference checks were conducted and the overall theme is that she is an exemplary educator who is bright, has an incredible work ethic and we are lucky to find her. The survey results revealed that those who took the survey believed that someone with warm people skills, who is visible and active in the community and the school, and knowledgeable about curriculum and instruction, possesses a deep understanding of how students learn would be the ideal candidate. The survey results are not released until after the interview process so that candidates are not able to read the survey results and model their responses to our questions. The candidate's website created a disturbance and was taken down as it contributed to distractions. There was no content on the website that has not been seen. As far as being a good fit in the community, Dr. Holland was attracted to Lake Forest because of the emphasis we have on social emotional wellness in our high school. She is an extremely effective listener. She has exemplary teaching experience, currently has two administration roles and has held numerous administrative positions of various types. She is an assistant principal at a high school that is twice as large as our high school, currently supervises all department heads, writes department head, faculty and staff evaluations. She is over the academic learning center, supervises the literacy coaches, the reading and math programs and the Response to Intervention (RTI) program. He recommended approval noting that Dr. Holland's interviews, resume and accomplishment make her the best candidate.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Multi-year Principal Contract

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Eliot, seconded by Mr. Schreiber that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education approve a 3 year contract as Principal for Chala Holland for a salary of \$160,000 per year as presented.

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

ROLL CALL: Aye: Schreiber, Powers, Eliot, Kreiling, Lane, Marcusson
Nay: Moorman

Motion Carried

Board Members commented that the Board and administration spend time with data and facts prior to Board meetings to prepare for the meetings and provide transparency and efficient meetings. Decisions are made in a collaborative way with checks and balances in place and are focused on what's best for students and safety. The Board appreciates the comments, phone calls, emails and community discussions. The Board will be evaluating the process. They found Dr. Holland to be professional, courageous and a strong believer in the social emotional wellbeing of all students and insuring that all students have the best education. This has been an extremely challenging process for the Board, especially those who have just been elected in the past 2 months. Board members take their responsibilities very seriously and have done their due diligence. They have had an opportunity to meet with Dr. Holland individually. The question of Dr. Holland's ability to succeed in what is already a contentious atmosphere was raised. They noted that Dr. Holland wrote on her website, that she never met a student who doesn't want to be successful and she never met a parent who doesn't want their child to be successful. After thorough consideration and discussion, the Board believes that review of her entire body of work experiences, accomplishments and personal references and testimonials best reflect her education beliefs, professional expertise and how she will serve LFHS. Her belief that all students should be valued and achieve at their highest level, directly aligns with our district mission.

Mr. Schreiber announced that he will be resigning later this summer from the Board and moving out of state which will leave a vacancy on the Board.

Approval of Human Resource Report

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Lane, seconded by Dr. Eliot that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education approve the Human Resources Report as presented.

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

ROLL CALL: Aye: Schreiber, Powers, Eliot, Kreiling, Lane, Moorman, Marcusson
Nay: None

Motion Carried Unanimously

Approval of Consent Agenda

The approval of disbursements, payrolls and financial statements for May 2015 will be tabled until the next Board Meeting.

Mr. Marcusson reported that the Consent Agenda includes:

Minutes of a Regular Meeting, May 12, 2015
Minutes of an Executive Session, May 12, 2015
Minutes of a Special Meeting , May 26, 2015
Minutes of an Executive Session, May 26, 2015
Disposal of Audio recordings : November 5, 2013

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Lane, seconded by Mrs. Kreiling that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

ROLL CALL: Aye: Schreiber, Powers, Eliot, Kreiling, Lane, Moorman, Marcusson
 Nay: None

Motion Carried Unanimously

FOIA Requests

J.O. Matisse, non-resident
Charlene Roche, Commercial

Pending FIOA Requests

In addition to the above FOIA Requests, the District has pending FOIA requests:

Dale T. Miller Two requests submitted on May 27 and 28 for 14 categories of records related to the Principal interviews and superintendent's contract. The District responded that the request was voluminous which grants the School District additional time to respond.

John Diefenbach Two requests submitted re: Minutes of the May 26, 2015 Special Meeting and the Minutes of the May 12, 2015 and May 26, 2015 Executive Session Minutes. Public meeting minutes will be posted 10 days after approval by the Board. Executive Session Minutes are released twice per year as required by the Open Meetings Act.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Monday, June 22, 2015

Special Board of Education Meeting
7:00 pm LFHS West Campus Board
Room

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Board of Education Meeting 7:00 pm
LFHS West Campus Board Room

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Mr. Moorman moved, seconded by Mrs. Kreiling, that the meeting be adjourned.
On voice vote, the motion carried

Mr. Marcusson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm.

Ted Moorman, Secretary

Date

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