

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 5, 2013**

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, November 5, 2013 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, Vice President
Nicki Snoblin, Secretary
Ted Moorman, Member
John Powers, Member
Dave Schreiber, Member
Todd Burgener, President

Absent: Monty Edson, Member

Administration Present:

Allen Albus, Deputy Superintendent for Finance and Operations
Jennifer Hermes, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
Lauren Fagel, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, Technology & Assessment
Barry Rodgers, Principal

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board President, Todd Burgener, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Burgener announced that prior to this Open Session, the Board met in Closed Session for purposes of discussing matters related to the appointment, employment, compensation, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District. Board action during closed session is prohibited and no action was taken.

Mr. Burgener reported that Superintendent Michael Simeck would not be attending the meeting tonight due to a previous obligation. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Burgener congratulated the Fall Athletes, especially Girls Varsity Tennis Team on the second state championship in a row and the Girls' Varsity Field Hockey team on their second state championship in a row. Girls Varsity Cross Country is participating in the state meet in Peoria and Mark Meyers will be competing as an individual for the Boys' Cross Country Team. The Varsity Football team continues in the playoffs and will be playing this weekend. He thanked the Board and Administration for accommodating tonight's date change. He noted that due to out of the country travel by a majority of the Board Members, tonight's meeting was moved forward a week from the previously scheduled meeting on November 12th. Mr. Schreiber and Mr. Burgener, Board Members from District 67 and faculty members from D115 and D67 will be part of a delegation visiting China. The Confucius Institute, an affiliate of China's Ministry of Education, will host the delegation and is working in partnership

with the College Board in the US to promote a worldwide understanding of the Chinese language and culture. The delegation will visit schools and universities, observe students in classrooms and meet with educators. The vast majority of the cost of the trip is being paid by the Confucius Institute and College Board. Other fees not covered by those organizations will be paid personally by participating Board Members. Mr. Burgener shared that he spent time in the past week with Mr. Simeck and Mr. Rodgers and was taken by the level of genuine optimism and enthusiasm they expressed regarding opportunities to take our school to a new level of excellence. He said the efforts they are undertaking require a great deal of faculty engagement and buy-in as well. Mike and Barry both shared the mindset that we're all in this together and have no desire to act unilaterally and impose their ideas on anyone in the building. The clear desire to work as a team with trust and mutual respect is there. He said that given our resources, environment, strength of community and current and future students, his most sincere hope is that our outstanding faculty realize the potential they have to participate in making our school the best school in the state. They have the Board's support and he is looking forward to working together and moving forward together.

Mr. Rodgers noted that he has finished his 4th month as Principal. It's a team effort to see the excellence going on in the classroom. One of the highlight of his job is to also see them on the playing field, on the volleyball court and performing in plays. Great Things are happening.

Kate Whalley, Student Council President, congratulated the Scout Field Hockey Team on their 9th State Championship since 2000 and the Girl's Tennis Team on their second State Championship in a row.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Rodgers updated the Board on the New School Day Intuitive which focuses on considering new possibilities for a new school day structure. The initiative was spearheaded by the work of teachers and students asking good questions like what is possible in our school day and what is possible for our community. The process is designed to be highly participatory and includes the Administration, LFEA, and students. The timeline has been revised and at this time, the plan is to bring the final product to the Board in January for a vote. The LFEA will have to approve the final product. He said that he is optimistic about his conversations with the LFEA and is looking forward to a great process and a great outcome.

The 21st Century Classroom Initiative, which is the District's 1:1 Computing Initiative is a Board Goal and is in the early phase. Teachers will visit peer schools to do research and see what best practices are now. Many of our peer schools either have a 1:1 initiative underway or planned for the next year. The committee will continue to meet and Mr. Rodgers will report back to the Board in January.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, Technology & Assessment, Lauren Fagel and Mr. Rodgers gave the Board an overview of their recent trip to Rockville, New York. Mrs. Fagel reported that participants included Board Member Dick Block, Superintendent Simeck, Administrators and teachers from District 115 and District 67. Rockville was chosen by Mr. Simeck to give participants a chance to observe another district and to see other educators in action and have the opportunity to engage in conversations. Mr. Rodgers reported that Mr. Simeck had

visited Rockville in the past and that he was impressed with Rockville's commitment and belief that all kids can be successful. They live by their "All means All" mantra throughout the building. He said it was a great opportunity for self reflection and a great forum for robust conversations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

REPORTS/DISCUSSION

Mr. Burgener announced a report pursuant to Board Policy 2-222. Outside Counsel, Michael Hernandez reported that Board Policy 2-222 requires that whenever an employee is involved in any conduct that arises in criminal charges, the Board will engage outside independent counsel to review district staff's response to that and to insure full cooperation with any criminal investigation. In this matter, the Board directed Mr. Hernandez to retain Greg Nikitas, to review the conduct of a previous high school employee and how staff reacted to that situation. Mr. Nikitas reported that he was appointed to investigate a situation involving information regarding Benjamin Davidson that was brought to former Principal Jay Hoffmann by a concerned parent and a former student on March 11, 2013. Though his investigation, it was determined that there was a lack of appropriate response from an individual who is a mandated reporter to share information with the Administration and the Board. There was a follow up meeting with the Principal and a concerned parent on March 19, 2013. The investigation revealed that there was failure to properly advise the Administration and The Board of information that was shared at that time concerning the employee, Benjamin Davidson. The Administrators held a meeting on March 20, 2013 with Benjamin Davidson regarding information that had been provided. On that day, Benjamin Davidson submitted his resignation as a staff member of Lake Forest High School. Simultaneously, a criminal investigation was begun, initially, by the Lake Forest Police Department who conducted interviews, obtained materials, electronic information and conducted an analysis of the interview information they obtain and compared it with the electronic information they were able to secure. Mr. Nikitas said it's important to note, and for the public to understand, that there was absolute cooperation on the part of LFHS administrators, and representatives of the District and that any requests made by law enforcement and subsequently by the States Attorney's Office of Lake County were immediately complied with and in full. Every request for electronic information was complied with, all subpoenas were complied with, and access to district electronic equipment was made in a very timely way. In addition, staff members were made available for interviews as requested by law enforcement or investigators. The States Attorney's Office also conducted an investigation specifically focusing on electronic information that was available to them through subpoena and they were able to obtain quite a bit of electronic information on personal as well as District equipment that verified what they were told during interviews they conducted. This was significant because the electronic data that was obtained from personal devices corroborated and in many cases introduced a lot of information that was useful in the ultimate decision of the State's Attorney's Office of Lake County to pursue criminal charges against Benjamin Davidson. At present, Benjamin Davidson has been indicted on 18 counts of felony criminal conduct. There are a number of Class I felonies that are punishable by 4-15 years in the Department of Corrections, as well as other charges that include Class 2 Felonies, punishable by 3-7 years and Class 4 felonies punishable by 1-3 years all in the Department of Corrections. Each and every offense that is alleged could be considered a consecutive act requiring separate punishment that in total could result in over 100 years of incarceration of this individual.

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Mr. Nikitas reported that part of his responsibilities were to make recommendations as an independent investigator to the Board. Recommendations included insuring that District policy covers texting between staff members and students, campus contact among the same group and specifically oversight of the theatre department, a unique program within the high school that unfortunately allowed Mr. Davidson access, time and the ability to interact with students in an inappropriate way. School security was also an issue. Through discussions with individuals interviewed by law enforcement during the investigation it became a concern that student interaction with law enforcement should be regulated. The Board agrees that access by law officials to students during the school day is a concern and needs to be regulated and it will be. Mr. Nikitas noted that every one of these recommendations was acted on promptly, in some cases, in advance the issuance of his report to the Board. All concerns regarding policies, oversight, school security and student interaction with law enforcement were been taken up the Board immediately. The public can feel safe and rest assured that the Board addressed everything in an incredibly timely, thorough and appropriate manner. Additional recommendations included the training of staff to insure that this type of situation does not recur. The training occurred in the fall for teachers and staff with special training for Administrators so that everyone is clear as to what their responsibilities are if they see, hear or obtain any information regarding any misconduct. Mr. Davidson's case is pending in Lake County Circuit Court and is up for pre-trial on November 13 with a trial date scheduled in December. He has private counsel. It is expected the case will continue to pend for some time before there is a resolution and that until there is a resolution there will be continued cooperation between the Board and prosecutors and law enforcement to ensure that the right information is provided as needed. In his capacity as independent investigator, Mr. Nikitas will continue to follow up to make sure we know what's happening with the case.

The Board thanked Mr. Nikitas for his professional approach, thoroughness and sensitivity to those involved. They also thanked those who had the courage to come forward and make the Board aware of the situation.

Anne Whipple updated the Board on the roll out of the new LFHS Website on November 6th. The shared service website will replace the current website that was developed in 2005. It will provide easy access to information from District 115 and District 67. Cornelius DuBose reported that Staff, Parents and Students will have password protected portals that will contain their personal page. Parents received their password in a recent mailing. Students and Parents will be able to access student class information, news links and a customizable news/events area where they can personalize their page. Mrs. Whipple thanked Mr. DuBose and the Website committee for their hard work and support.

BOARD COMMITTEES

Education Committee

Mrs. Snoblin reported that the Committee will meet on November 6th at noon at East Campus. Agenda items will include updates on the 2014-2015 school day schedule, 1:1 Computing Initiative and how these initiatives are accommodated in the fiscal planning and budget. The Education Committee will vet these initiatives before they go to the Board.

Finance/Operations Committee

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Mr. Block reported that the Finance Operations Committee will meet on November 6th at 7:30 am in the Wedge Café and that the public is welcome. Two main agenda items, the annual Tentative Tax Levy and formal receipt of the external auditors report will be discussed. The Auditor's letter has already been received and states that the books and records of LFHS fairly represent the activities of the District to over the prior year.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Schreiber reported that he attended an EdRed meeting last week and learned that there is a strong anticipation of a proposal of a cost shift of the pension which may come out in January. It is possible that ½ % up to 6 or 7% of the total normal cost of the payroll could be rolled. Mr. Albus noted that they have been building ½% into projections in anticipation of the cost shift.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Tentative Levy

Mr. Albus reported that the District is required to adopt a tentative levy at least 20 days before the adoption of a final levy which must be filed with the County by the last Tuesday in December. The District will satisfy those requirements by adopting a tentative levy on November 5th, a final levy on December 10 and then filing the levy with the County by December 31st. The recommended amount of the levy by fund in the amount exclusive of bond and interest is \$34, 372,250.

MOTION: Mr. Block moved and Mr. Moorman seconded that the Lake Forest High School District 115 Board of Education approve the Tentative Tax Levy as presented.

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

ROLL CALL: Aye: Moorman, Block, Powers, Snoblin, Schreiber, Burgener
Nay: None

Motion Carried

Approval of Human Resources Report

MOTION: Mrs. Snoblin moved and Mr. Block seconded that the Lake Forest High School District 115 Board of Education approve the Human Resources Report as presented.

ROLL CALL: Aye: Snoblin, Block, Moorman, Schreiber, Powers, Burgener
Nay: None

Motion Carried

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mr. Burgener announced that any item may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of a Board Member and asked if any Board Member had questions. Mr. Schreiber asked about the Approval of Bank Resolution Addition of Signer agenda item. Mrs. Hermes reported that the action item refers to the addition of Barry Rodger as a second signature to this account used by the

Business Education Department. The account maintains a small balance and is used by students to deposit payments for products they have sold as part of their Marketing Class. The account requires 2 signatures on every check and is reconciled at the end of the year.

Mr. Albus commented that the Approval of Maintenance Grant amount should be \$50,000 instead of \$37,500 as they have added another project. The State did not fund this grant last year, but we have applied again this year in case they decide to fund.

The Board acknowledged a gift of 800 feet of red oak for the woodworking class from Mr. Cork and thanked him for his generosity.

Mr. Burgener reported that the Consent Agenda includes:

Approval of Disbursements, Payrolls & Financial Statement October 3 to October 31, 2013:
Financial Reports: The List of Checks Written and Direct Deposit Payroll

Education Fund	\$ 614,011.50
Building and Maintenance Fund	219,791.50
Debt Service Fund = Bond/Interest Wire Payments	4,074,975.01
Transportation Fund	118,798.37
Capital Projects Fund/ General	487,180.45
Procurement Card Expenses	447,817.15
Direct Deposit Payroll & Taxes	<u>1,961,936.27</u>
Total Expenditures	\$ 7,924,510.55

Approval of Maintenance Grant in the amount of \$50,000

Approval of Construction Partial Payment #3 in the amount of \$217,668

Approval of Bank Resolution Addition of Signer

Acknowledgement of Mr. Cork's Gift

Approval of Disbursements, Payrolls and Financial Statement October 2013

Minutes of an Executive Session, October 17, 2013

Minutes of a Board Workshop, October 17, 2013

Minutes of a Regular Meeting, October 8, 2013

Minutes of an Executive Session, October 8, 2013

Disposal of Audio Recordings: February 13, 2012

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

MOTION: Mr. Moorman moved and Mrs. Snoblin seconded that the Lake Forest High School District 115 Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Motion Carried

FOIA REQUESTS:

Wesley James, Illinois Department of Labor, Commercial

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ANNOUNCEMENTS: November 7 Parent Teacher Conferences 12:00 – 8:00
November 8 No school
November 27-29 Thanksgiving Break

NEXT MEETING DATE: December 10, 2013 Board of Education Meeting
7:00 pm – West Campus
Board Room

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Mrs. Block moved and Mr. Powers seconded that the meeting be adjourned.
On voice vote, the motion carried

Mr. Burgener declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Nicki Snoblin, Secretary

Date