

December 17, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

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District 157-C December 16, 2015 Board of Education Meeting Recap

The regular Frankfort School District 157-C Board of Education meeting of December 16 was called to order by Board President Gina Briese at 7:00 p.m. The roll call was taken and a quorum was present. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board approved the open and closed session minutes of the regular meeting of November 18, 2015 and the minutes of the work session meeting of November 18, 2015.

No one signed up to address the Board during the Public Forum portion of the meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon presented information and provided a brief update on the proposed/finalized 2015 Tax Levy.

At 7:06 p.m., the Board held the public hearing on the tax levy. No one addressed the Board and the hearing was closed at 7:07 p.m.

The Board approved and ratified the Levy Resolution and Certificate of Levy, and the associated Truth in Taxation and Minutes Certification forms. The Board also directed the Administration to file said documents, along with any other necessary certifications, forms, documents, resolutions or other such information, as needed, with the County Clerks for Will County and Cook County, the Will County Regional Office of Education, the Illinois State Board of Education and any other related entities or organizations requesting said documentation, as required by law and our existing bond covenants.

The Board saw a presentation from Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence, the Special Services Director, and Building Principals regarding District 157-C student achievement on the TerraNova and Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments. Mrs. McClarence explained that the TerraNova achievement test is given in two parts, ability and achievement. She reported that the staff is working with the test data to develop additional methods to see that each child is achieving to his or her potential. During the PARCC portion of the presentation, Mrs. McClarence reported that the new test was administered for the first time to students in grades three to eight in English Language Arts and Mathematics. She reported that in every grade District 157-C students performed above the state average but that she knows they can do better. Superintendent Dr. Maura Zinni stated, "We are recognized as a high achieving district but we are digging down into the data during this baseline year and we have some work to do. Our team is focusing on students reaching their potential." Director of Special Services and Principals Eileen Nelson, Sharon Paver-

Nepote and William Seidelmann also reported on procedures used at each of their schools to help each child reach his or her potential. District 157-C will host a special workshop for parents and guardians on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. at Grand Prairie Elementary School, 10480 West Nebraska Street. The workshop is intended to help parents understand their child's assessment reports from TerraNova and PARCC along with some strategies to use at home. Parents are encouraged to bring along their child's reports to refer to during the workshop.

In a written report, Grand Prairie Elementary School Principal Eileen Nelson reported that the School Leadership Team has been working with the TerraNova data and analyzing specific questions where students demonstrated confusion. The staff articulated impacts of minor tweaks to instruction for better student understanding. She reported that analyzation of the data will continue over the next few months to identify any trends and their implications on instruction.

In a written report, Chelsea Intermediate School Principal Dr. Sharon Paver-Nepote reported that English Language Arts advanced teachers Melissa Adamow and Melissa Simek presented a strategy to all teachers called "Sticky Note Discussions." This strategy encourages meaningful annotation of tests and the development of comprehensive conversations. The strategy will be revised and further professional development provided at a January 20 faculty meeting.

In his written report, Hickory Creek Middle School Principal Will Seidelmann reported that the school is seeking to apply for its own chapter of the National Junior Society. This will be a way to recognize the school's student leaders and honor them for the service that they provide in their years at Hickory Creek. The National Junior Honor Society prides itself on Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Citizenship and Character.

In her written report, Director of Special Services Jen Bajda reported that in November a Social Work Steering Committee was initiated. A social worker representative and an administrator from each building will meet regularly to review social work procedures, develop a social work manual, identify areas of professional development for building staff and work to develop a unified system for social-emotional Response to Intervention.

In a written report, Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence reported that the Science Committee continues to meet twice per quarter to understand the new science standards. The committee is also creating the new K-8 science curriculum for the District to be implemented by teachers in the fall of 2016. The committee will continue to meet to discuss how teachers will be instructed and parents will be informed of results and score reports.

Director of Technology Jake Nelson reported on a number of technology projects that have been successfully installed including new switches for the wireless project at Hickory Creek and the new core switch in the Grand Prairie server room.

The Board heard reports from liaisons of the Family School Partnership (FSP) and the Education Foundation.

The Board heard a report from Board Secretary Edie Adamski on the Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 Governing Board meeting of November 24, 2015.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Maura J. Zinni reported on a gift for the Sensory Room at Chelsea Intermediate School. She provided a report on the Illinois School Report Card. She reported on the December 17 release of the PARCC student reports to parents. She also provided the Board with a mid-year update on the District Charitable Giving Committee.

Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with the Treasurer's Report. The District paid out about \$2.255M in expenses during November and that is at the high end of its normal, expected range of \$2.0M - \$2.25M. He reported that the District collected only about \$420K in revenues for the month with most of the receipts coming from property tax collections (\$254K.) Board Bills for the December meeting were \$6,022,437.98 and included almost \$4 million in principal and interest payments on outstanding bonds.

There were three Freedom of Information requests.

In discussion, Dr. Zinni provided the Board with a report on the Parent Satisfaction Survey results. The District had approximately a 33 percent participation rate, which is a very good response rate. She stated, "We had a phenomenal response of 95 percent of those who were somewhat or very satisfied with District 157-C." The areas that indicated some trends, albeit not significantly, in parent responses included implementing more extra-curricular opportunities at Grand Prairie and Chelsea, instructional technology across all three schools, facility updates to Chelsea, rigorous curriculum, and stability within the District's administrative team. The discussion will inform the action plans for the updated District Continuous Improvement Plan.

In discussion, the Board heard a report from Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon regarding the recommendation for a Temporary Loan from the Working Cash Fund to the Debt Services Fund.

In discussion, the Board reviewed the draft of the 2016-2017 Parent and Student Handbook.

The Board held the first reading of the following Board of Education policies: 5:100 General Personnel: Staff Development Program, 6:160 Instruction: English Learners, 7:100 Students: Health, Eye, and Dental Examination; and Exclusion of Students, 7:130 Students: Student Rights and Responsibilities, 7:140 Students: Search and Seizure, 7:290 Students: Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention, 7:340 Students:

Student Records, and a request the Administration to update all policies to replace certificate, certified or certificated with license, licensed or licensure to reflect legislation and School Code.

The Board took action to approve the bills as presented.

The Board approved the employment of Angela VanderKooi as a Long Term Substitute ELL Teacher at Grand Prairie Elementary School and Chelsea Intermediate School tentatively commencing on January 31, 2016 and will continue for twelve weeks or until assignment ends whichever is sooner contingent upon the receipt and evaluation of employment documentation required by District 157-C and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Board approved the employment of Jeanne Demma as a Long Term Substitute Teacher at Chelsea Intermediate School tentatively commencing on January 31, 2016 and will continue through twelve weeks or until assignment ends whichever is sooner contingent upon the receipt and evaluation of employment documentation required by District 157-C and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Board of Education approved the employment of Melinda Schimmel as a Full-Time Paraprofessional at Hickory Creek Middle School commencing on January 4, 2016 at an hourly rate of \$12.95 an hour contingent upon the receipt and evaluation of employment documentation required by District 157-C and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Board of Education approved the employment of Elizabeth Calombaris as a Long Term Substitute Paraprofessional at Chelsea Intermediate School commencing on January 4, 2016 and will continue until assignment ends or the last day of the 2015-2016 school year whichever is sooner contingent upon the receipt and evaluation of employment documentation required by District 157-C and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Board approved the resolution transferring funds from the Educational Fund and the Operations and Maintenance Fund of Community Consolidated School District 157-C, Will and Cook Counties, Illinois to the Refunding Bond and Interest Sinking Fund Account of 2013 and 2014 of said School District for the payment of principal and of interest on the General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2013 and 2014, of said School District, and abating taxes in the amount of \$600,000 levied for the year 2015 to pay debt service on said bonds.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

The next regular District 157-C Board of Education meeting will be held on January 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Chelsea Intermediate School, 22264 S. 80th Avenue in Frankfort, Illinois.