

April 5, 2018

PRESS RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Nancy J. Neuzil, Frankfort School District 157-C Public Relations Coordinator, 815-469-9235, njneuzil@aol.com

District 157-C April 4, 2018 Board of Education Meeting Recap

The regular Frankfort School District 157-C Board of Education meeting of April 4, 2018 was called to order by Board President Gina Briese at 7:01 p.m. The roll call was taken and a quorum was present. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was no correspondence.

The Board approved the Open and Closed Session minutes of the regular meeting of February 21, 2018 and the minutes of the Work Session of the Board of Education Meeting of March 14, 2018.

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

Hickory Creek Middle School Principal Will Seidelmann reported that the recent eighth grade class trip to Washington, D.C. was a great success. He reported that the students were exposed to many different parts of D.C. and enjoyed exploring it. He said that plans are already in the works for next year's trip which will be one day shorter to provide the families with more time to spend together on Spring Break and lower the cost for everyone if more students participate. Board President Gina Briese stated, "I'm glad the trip went well and we are looking for more in the future."

Grand Prairie Elementary School Principal Eileen Nelson reported that she continues to be amazed at the great resources District 157-C offers for students. She said that when she first came to the district seven years ago she was shocked that the district has its own STARLAB portable planetarium and doesn't have to rent one. She reported that last week Grand Prairie students used it and enjoyed studying the night sky to learn about constellations. Mrs. Nelson stated, "I value the resources we have as a district."

Chelsea Intermediate School Principal Dr. Sharon Paver-Nepote reported that Chelsea students have been expanding their growth mindset by demonstrating the power of perseverance through a variety of themes.

Director of Special Services Jen Bajda reported that she and her team have been preparing for Extended School Year, which is summer school for students with disabilities. Eligibility is based on Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings. She reported that as of today there are 30 students eligible to participate and four teachers will need to be hired for the summer program.

Director of Human Resources Craig Schoppe reported that the building administrators have begun to screen candidates for the teaching vacancies in their respective buildings. For each vacancy the administrators are reviewing all applications on Applitrack, screening candidates, bringing in finalists to interview with the school committee, and then observing the top candidate teach a mock lesson or complete a site visit. Before any candidate is recommended to the School Board, District Superintendent Dr. Maura Zinni sits down and completes a final interview as well as discussing district expectations and goals. He reported that the process is extremely thorough to ensure that the best candidate is identified and hired. District 157-C had a large number of candidates apply for all of its vacancies.

Director of Technology Jake Nelson reported that over Spring Break his team spent a lot of time focused on preparing the student computers in grades 3 through 8 for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) testing. He thanked Technology Team members Alex Popek, Dawn Davis, Kathy Graf and Bill Fath for their hard work in setting up the computers. He also thanked Director of Building & Grounds Rodney Davis and his team for their work changing out the security cameras.

Director of Building & Grounds Rodney Davis reported that the Health/Life Safety walk through was completed. He stated, "All in all we did very well." He reported that the team took care of some small issues over Spring Break.

Board member Edith Lutz reported that the next District Insurance Committee meeting will be held on April 19 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

The Board heard a report from Board Secretary Edie Adamski on the Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 Advisory Committee meeting of February 12, 2018 and the Governing Board meeting of February 27, 2018.

Dr. Zinni provided an update from Athletic Booster President Monica Meseck about their organization. The group needs five or six new board members to continue as a booster organization next school year. Interested parents are asked to contact Monica Meseck at meseck.five@gmail.com. Dr. Zinni stated, "We appreciate what they do and the benefits they return to the athletic program. Hopefully it will continue next year."

In the Superintendent's report, Dr. Zinni recognized outgoing Chelsea Principal Dr. Sharon Paver-Nepote. On behalf of the district she publicly thanked Dr. Paver-Nepote for her time and commitment to District 157-C through her service as a Grand Prairie teacher and Assistant Principal, Teachers Union President and most recently as Principal of Chelsea Elementary. Dr. Zinni stated, "Sharon is leaving Chelsea in a great place with 21st Century learning, technology and embracing instrumental music. We can't thank her enough." Board President Gina Briese agreed, stating, "We appreciate all her time and effort at that school and will miss her calmness."

Dr. Zinni also reported that kindergarten registration is ongoing, with 170 registered to date. Finally, she reported on the Education Foundation grant process, stating, "It is really quite remarkable as they are looking at a grant range of approximately \$130,000. Every year the organization does even better."

Director of Business and Operational Services Kate Ambrosini provided the Board with the March 2018 Treasurer's Report and Graphs. The total fund balance decreased by \$1,590,485 (from \$44,368,231 to \$42,777,746) primarily due to reduced revenues. Monthly revenue receipts totaled \$609,721 primarily due to general state aid and transportation receipts. Monthly expense disbursements totaled \$2,200,206 primarily due to payroll of \$1,534,080 and accounts payable of \$663,689.

There were three Freedom of Information requests and they were responded to in a timely manner.

In discussion, Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence provided information on a new six year proposal for the sixth through eighth grade Social Studies curriculum. The Discovery Education Social Studies online techbook is a standards-aligned core digital resource that brings historical events and social studies concepts to life. The Discovery Education Streaming Plus is a collection of digital resources such as downloadable and editable videos, audio, images, and digital interactives. Instructional Coach Tricia Dotson and Hickory Creek Social Studies teacher Tonia Gatsios provided a presentation on the resource, highlighting the many ways it expands the curriculum for students. It also aligns the curriculum to the Illinois standards and offers different ways to explain content choice and opportunities. Ms. Gatsios stated, "We are excited about it. It is something

new and we are excited about using it as a main resource.” Mrs. McClarence explained that this curriculum is completely online and new content is always being added and updated. The district piloted three different resources and this one offered many more possibilities for students. She stated, “Everything we needed was interactive for kids. Our survey to the teachers after the pilot was overwhelmingly positive and they could see themselves using it.” The cost for the new resource is \$65,000 for six years and includes three sessions of professional development, student licenses and one site license. The Board will make a decision as to whether they want to move forward with the new Social Studies resource at a future meeting.

In discussion, Director of Technology Jake Nelson provided the Board with a proposal for phase two of the switch replacement project for Chelsea and Hickory Creek Schools.

In discussion, Director of Business and Operational Services Kate Ambrosini provided the Board with the recommendations for electrical supply and electrical service.

In discussion, Director of Business and Operational Services Kate Ambrosini provided the Board with an update on the preliminary expense projections for the 2018-2019 school year.

The Board took action to approve the employment of Barb Shanahan as Assistant Principal at Grand Prairie Elementary School at an annual salary of \$70,000 for the 2018-2019 school year, contingent upon the receipt and evaluation of employment documentation required by District 157-C and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Board took action to approve the employment of Samantha Mikrut as a full-time Early Childhood/Pre-K Paraprofessional at Grand Prairie Elementary School at an hourly rate of \$11.45 with a start date of March 19, 2018, contingent upon the receipt and evaluation of employment documentation required by District 157-C and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Board took action to approve the employment of Krista Soliunas as a full-time Second Grade Special Education Paraprofessional at Grand Prairie Elementary School at an hourly rate of \$11.75 with a start date of March 19, 2018, contingent upon the receipt and evaluation of employment documentation required by District 157-C and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Board took action to approve the employment of Brittany Campbell as a full-time Long-Term Substitute First Grade Classroom Paraprofessional at Grand Prairie Elementary School at the daily substitute rate of \$100 with a start date of February 28, 2018 and will tentatively end June 1, 2018 or until the assignment ends, contingent upon the receipt and evaluation of employment documentation required by District 157-C and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Board took action to approve the employment of Cynthia Faulkner as a full-time Seventh Grade Mathematics Teacher at Hickory Creek Middle School at an annual salary of \$54,785 for the 2018-2019 school year, contingent upon the receipt and evaluation of employment documentation required by District 157-C and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Board took action to approve the summer employment of Alex Popek as a full-time Summer Technology Assistant at Chelsea Intermediate School at his current hourly rate with a start date of June 5, 2018 and an end date of August 20, 2018, or when assignment is completed.

The Board took action to approve the summer employment of Dawn Davis as a full-time Summer Technology Assistant at Hickory Creek Middle School at her current hourly rate with a start date of June 5, 2018 and an end date of August 20, 2018, or when assignment is completed.

The Board took action to approve the request from Lindsay Kline for a leave of absence for the 2018-2019 school year.

The Board took action to approve the Intent to Retire for Mary Woltkamp, Full-Time Teacher at Chelsea Intermediate School, following the 2018-2019 school year and Cindy Lang, Full-time Teacher at Chelsea Intermediate School, following the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board took action to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Notice of Dismissal of Non-Tenure Teachers Other Than Final-Year Probationary Teachers at the close of the 2017-2018 school year.

The Board took action to approve the three year Capital Improvement Plan for FY18, 19 and 20, as presented.

The Board took action to approve a new three year contract for FY18, 19 and 20 with activity fund internal control audit to be performed by Klein Hall CPA, from Aurora, IL as presented.

The Board took action to approve the payment of bills for February 2018 as presented.

In the Consent Agenda, the Board took action to approve the adoption of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) resources and training at both Chelsea and Hickory Creek Middle School for one year at the cost of \$22,000 for the 2018-19 SY, \$27,600 for the 2019-2020 SY, and \$31,200 for the 2020-2021 SY.

In the Consent Agenda, the Board took action to approve the 2018-2019 5th Grade 1:1 laptops and carts for a cost of \$96,250 and the additional laptops, carts and projectors for Hickory Creek for an additional \$120,000.

In the Consent Agenda, the Board took action to approve the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) resolution to include cash payments related to health insurance as credible earnings.

In the Consent Agenda, the Board took action to approve the Statement of Completion for the 2013 Health/Life Safety Amendment at Chelsea School.

In the Consent Agenda, the Board took action to approve the extension of the milk contract with Krystal Dairy of Homewood, IL for FY 2018-2019 at the same terms and conditions as are currently in place.

In the Consent Agenda, the Board took action to approve the release and acceptance of the electrical supply contract to capture the best rates possible for renewal. The final contract terms will be brought back to the Board after completion. Additionally, the Board approved the release of an electrical services bid to obtain a single contractor for the FY19 school year. A final recommendation will be brought to the Board for approval prior to acceptance.

The Board went into Closed Session at 8:38 p.m. to discuss appointment, employment compensation, discipline, performance and/or dismissal of specific employees; student discipline; student residency; student issue; reclassification of employees; and pending litigation.

The Board adjourned Closed Session at 10:03 p.m. and adjourned the Regular meeting at 10:03 p.m.

The next regular District 157-C Board of Education meeting will be held on April 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office Board Room at Grand Prairie Elementary School, 10482 W. Nebraska Street, in Frankfort, Illinois.