

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 16, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held at Lake Forest High School West Campus in the Board Room and called to order at 7:11 p.m. by President Mark Mitter.

Board members present at roll call were:

Sally McDonald	Rick Salzer
Mark Mitter	Julia Wold
Jeff Pinderski	

Absent: Laurie Rose
Chris Rossman (arrived at 7:35 p.m.)

Administration Present:

Dr. Harry Griffith, Superintendent
Allen Albus, Deputy Superintendent
Kyle Schumacher, Asst. Superintendent
Anne Whipple, Director of Communication

Staff Present: Pam Burke, Board Clerk

Guests Who Signed in: Susie Oh, Time Zone Coordinator; Kathy O'Hara, District 115 Science Coordinator; Debby Feeny, Sheridan School Principal; Jim Sullivan, District 115 Science teacher.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Mitter thanked the Brass Choir for performing for the Board this evening. No Executive Session will be held tonight.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Griffith also thanked the Brass Choir and Mr. Nendza for the special holiday music that was performed this evening. Mr. Nendza reported that the group meets before school once a week and some of the musicians perform in the jazz band as well. He thanked the Board of Education, parents and students for the great support that the music department receives throughout the year.

Dr. Griffith noted that due to the snowstorm, some administrators were excused from tonight's meeting since they were not a part of the agenda. The National Certified teachers would be honored in January rather than this evening.

Dr. Griffith presented a brief Brainstormers update. He reported that the program is very robust with a registration of 224 students in August 2008 and 211 registered students in fall 2008. He also briefly reported that the Tregoe Leadership Inservice presented on December 9 & 10 was well attended with 27 participants from the elementary and middle schools in District 65, 67, and 115 as well as central office leadership from District 67 and 115. LFEA leadership also participated. Dr. Griffith noted that two additional training sessions will be presented on February 3 & 4.

District 67's new video magazine, "300 South" will air for the first time on Lake Forest City Cable Channel 17 during the month of December. This monthly show, hosted by Assistant Superintendent Kyle Schumacher, takes viewers on an armchair journey around District 67 and features highlights of activities, curriculum information, and initiatives occurring in District 67 schools. The December program includes a welcome message from Dr. Griffith, a tour of the schools and an overview of the District's Emotional Wellness Initiative. Dr. Griffith noted that the program will soon be available online on the District website.

Dr. Griffith encouraged Board members to attend the Franczek Radelet & Rose, P.C. Fifteenth Annual School Law Conference on Saturday, January 31.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public comment.

BOARD COMMITTEE

Board Education Committee - Chris Rossman, Laurie Rose

Mrs. Rossman did not present a report this evening. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on February 2, 2009 at 8:15 a.m.

Board Operations Committee – Julia Wold, Sally McDonald

Mrs. Wold reported that the Committee met December 15. The majority of the meeting was spent discussing the Wide Area Network (WAN). Given that Board will hear a report on WAN later in the meeting, she deferred her report. The Committee also discussed the need to re-evaluate the fees the District currently charges Lake Forest Recreation Department for the use of District gyms. The fee charged is not recovering the costs incurred. The Committee is also looking at ways to reduce the cost of lawn mowing in the District. Additionally, the Committee reviewed ideas for use of the administrative space at Deer Path Middle School as well as the layout of the cable TV studio. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on February 11 at 7:30 a.m. and will be, in part, a joint meeting with District 115.

Board Finance Committee – Mark Mitter, Rick Salzer

The Finance Committee has not met since the last Board Meeting.

Board Shared Services Committee – Mark Mitter, Rick Salzer

The Board Shared Services Committee has not met since the last meeting. The committee is scheduled to meet January 15, 2009.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES

North Suburban Special Education District – Chris Rossman

Mrs. Rossman reported that the NSSED Board has not met since the last meeting. The Board will meet on Wednesday, December 10. NSSED is still seeking qualified volunteers to serve on their Executive Committee.

Illinois Association of School Boards/ED-RED – Julia Wold

Mrs. Wold highlighted a statement made by NSBA Executive Director Anne L. Bryant regarding President-Elect Obama's choice for Education Secretary, Arne Duncan, who is former Superintendent of Chicago Public Schools. The National School Boards Association stated, "[Arne] Duncan represents the best of what urban school districts have to offer and will likely open doors to continuing conversations around the state of public education." The NSBA is optimistic about the selection.

Professional Development – Rick Salzer

Mr. Salzer introduced Mr. Schumacher who presented an update on Professional Development activities that have taken place in District 67 since the last Board meeting. Mr. Schumacher advised that District staff has started to develop a basic tracking system to monitor and assess professional workshop and conference attendance. Areas that appear to be of the most interest to teachers are special services and gifted. A report similar to what was distributed this evening will be distributed to Board members every two months.

Mr. Schumacher referred to the 2008-09 Professional Development Plan, which focuses on launching new initiatives, strengthening current programs and continuing professional growth in a variety of ways.

Curriculum Coordinating Committee – Laurie Rose

Mrs. Rose reported that CCC has not met since the last Board Meeting.

Spirit of 67 Foundation – Sally McDonald

Mrs. McDonald reported that the Spirit met on December 2 for an abbreviated meeting and a holiday brunch. Mrs. McDonald reminded everyone that the deadline for grant submission is January 29 at 4:00 p.m. and that February 28 is Spirit Appreciation Night at the Adler Planetarium from 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Board will be held on January 6 at 9:00 a.m.

REPORTS

Social Studies Time Zone

Dr. Griffith reported that three reports will be presented this evening. He introduced Mr. Schumacher and Ms. Susie Oh, Social Studies Coordinator, who presented an overview on the Time Zone social studies museum. Ms. Oh announced that the interactive social studies museum opened in its new home at the former administration center at Deer Path

Middle School last October. The Time Zone is an entirely interactive experience, which supports the curriculum. Last year, the museum traveled from class to class and building to building. The permanent location has made it possible to enhance the learning process by offering “hands-on” activities to students, grades one through four. Ms. Oh believes that the museum reaches every child by offering activities that are not offered in the classroom. Ms. Oh showed a slide show highlighting the Mayflower unit, the use of Smart Boards in the classrooms, the Time Zone logo, and the new website.

Elawa Farm

Mrs. Debby Feeney, District 67 Science Director, introduced Jim Sullivan, District 115 Science teacher, and Kathy O’Hara, District 115 Science Coordinator. Mrs. Feeney announced that the Elawa Farm program was designed to develop an interactive, integrated, hands on learning experience for environmental science, which allow students to explore learning experiences that are not available in the classroom. The program represents an effort between Districts 65, 67, and 115 to deliver real life science development to the students and on-going professional development with Dr. Anne Rochelle. What started out as a single classroom has evolved and continues to evolve into a very unique multi district K-16 initiative that includes service learning as well as a social-emotional wellness piece that has emerged from the Elawa Buddies program. The Elawa Buddies program impacts approximately 750 students from the three districts. Every second grade student in Districts 65/67 paired with a District 115 Freshman student for outdoor studies at Elawa.

Mr. Sullivan advised that all of this was made possible because there is now a classroom available at Elawa Farms for use whenever it is needed. It was used for the Buddies program. He explained how the program operates and talked briefly about the strong bonds that were formed between the students. A slide show illustrating the Buddies program was presented.

Wide Area Network (WAN)

Dr. Griffith announced that Lake Forest City Council took action two weeks ago to approve and authorize Wide Area Network Option 3 which is the total wide area network connection for all school sites and city sites within the City of Lake Forest. This is an extraordinarily valuable program for the near term and certainly for the long term. City Council’s action is dependent upon the action of District 67 and District 115.

Cornelius discussed the current issues surrounding the use of T1 line, which is very slow. The new network will bring communication speeds traditionally found in local area networks to the wide area network. This type of speed and interconnectivity between school sites will provide for new and enhanced educational and operational benefits. This will also provide redundancy. Fiber Optic cabling is reliable, scalable and adaptable and provides nearly unlimited capacity. He listed many of the benefits including a more reliable WAN connection that does not require leased lines and consolidation and centralized management of District 67 and 115 data and communications networks. He also demonstrated through the use of a slide, how much faster fiber is compared to other

technologies. Fiber optics provides a limitless ability to communicate all data, whether it's numbers, voice or video.

Dr. Griffith discussed the cost of the wide area network to the District. He advised that there has been an engineering consultant with whom Mr. DuBose has been working. Fiber Optic wires can be instituted in one conduit for approximately \$2.4 million. The City is able to capture \$1.9 million of the TIF, which reduces the cost of the project to a total of \$568,000. The City of Lake Forest has agreed to pay \$370,000, 65% of the cost. District 67 and 115 will pay a total of \$196,861 or 35% of the cost. Dr. Griffith advised that the Cherokee connection is expensive relative to any other site in the District. The cost to District 67 is \$119,260 and the cost to Lake Forest High School would be \$77,602. The City of Lake Forest has agreed to carry the expense until the Lake Forest TIF terminates, whereupon, the schools will then pay their portion of the project.

Dr. Griffith noted that few communities in Illinois have been afforded this opportunity. The Fiber Optic Network will enable District 67 and 115 schools to remain highly competitive in the future. Our opportunity is now. The door will close once the TIF is shut down.

Board members thanked all who presented reports this evening.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Approval of 2008 Levy

Mr. Albus presented an overview of the Tax Levy at the Public Hearing.

MOTION: Mrs. Rossman moved seconded by Mr. Salzer that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois adopt the 2008 Tax Levy as presented.

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

Ayes: McDonald, Mitter, Pinderski, Rossman, Salzer, Wold

Nays:

Absent: Rose

Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were listed as part of the Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of A Regular Meeting – November 18, 2008

Approval of Disbursements, Payrolls, and Financial Statements - November 2008
(Exhibit I)

Approval of Personnel Items (Exhibit II)

Approval of Destruction of Audio Recordings: March 4, 2007

MOTION: Mrs. Wold moved seconded by Mr. Pinderski that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Ayes: McDonald, Mitter, Pinderski, Rossman, Salzer, Wold
Nays:
Absent: Rose

Motion carried.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday, December 19

Monday, January 5, 2009

Monday, January 19

Tuesday, January 27

Winter Break Begins at Close of School Day

School Reopens

Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School

Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

LFHS West Campus Board Room

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mrs. McDonald moved seconded by Mr. Pinderski that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

On voice vote, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Chris Rossman, Secretary
