

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**LAKE FOREST SCHOOL DISTRICT 67
March 20, 2012**

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 7:00 p.m. by Julia Wold.

Board members present at roll call were:

Bill Andersen	Rick Schuler
Lesley Fisher	Julia Wold
John Julian	
Jeff Pinderski	

Absent: Laurie Rose

Administration Present:

Dr. Harry Griffith, Superintendent
Jennifer Hermes, Asst. Superintendent
Dr. Julie Cooley, Asst. Superintendent
Dr. Andy Henrikson, Asst. Superintendent

Staff Present: Pam Burke, Board Clerk
Eileen Faller

Guests Who Signed in: Julie Meadows, LFEA President, Karen-Ann Cullotta, Chicago Tribune, Glenn A. Burmeister, LFPD, Courtney Muntean, Cherokee parent, Maureen Knipe, APT Executive Board, Bob Ely, Lake Forest Resident, Michael Beacham, Lake Forest Resident, Jennifer McGregor, Everett Parent, Megan Andress, Sheridan APT, David Balmelli, Cherokee Parent, Mike Moyer, Cherokee Parent, Megan Stockton, Cherokee Board Liaison, Tom Carrabine, Lake Forest, Resident,

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA

MOTION: Mrs. Fisher moved seconded by Mr. Pinderski that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois amend the agenda to move the Mandarin presentation to the Superintendent's Report.

On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Wold welcomed everyone and reported that this has been a very busy month making progress in a number of areas. Mrs. Wold asked Mr. Andersen to update the board on the DPM Principal interview process. Mr. Andersen reported that there had been an extensive process to replace the Principal, starting with a survey of the community. A committee comprised of the Superintendent, Mrs. Fisher, Mr. Pinderski and Dr. Henrikson took part in sessions with teachers where they compiled a list of the characteristics that would be preferred in a new

Principal. Mr. Andersen reported that there was an initial pool of 50 candidates. Of these candidates 10 were interviewed and four (4) finalists were then interviewed by Mr. Andersen, Dr. Griffith, four (4) DPM teachers and two (2) parents. The interview group was very impressed with the quality of the candidates. Mr. Andersen gave kudos to Mr. Joe Malin for coordinating the interviews.

Mrs. Wold reported that the negotiations process has begun. Mrs. Fisher and Mr. Julian are on the negotiations team for the Board-LFEA contract. Mr. Schuler is on the negotiating team for the SEIU contract. Each contract will expire this summer.

Mrs. Wold advised that the faculty will be completing Sexual Harassment training by April 1st, via an online tutorial offered through Global Compliance Network. The Board is exploring the possibility of partnering with the City of Lake Forest for additional training opportunities with Ms. Leigh Jeter the director of Northwestern University Sexual Harassment Prevention Office. Ms. Jeter has responsibility for anti-harassment training, sexual harassment policy development, and claims investigation and resolution for students, faculty and staff at Northwestern University.

Mrs. Wold thanked the APT Board of Ed. Liaisons who met recently with Mrs. Whipple and Dr. Griffith. A special guest, John Maher, Dean, Counselor and Crisis Team member, from LFHS, spoke about LFHS support regarding the recent student tragedies in our community. Other topics discussed included the Mandarin Immersion program, the start of ISAT testing, World Language change in format in 4th grade from five days to three and its effect on foreign language progress in 5th through 8th grades and, finally a question regarding the District filter that will be added to the netbooks over Spring break for home use.

Mrs. Wold reported that the new Superintendent, Mr. Michael Simeck, was in town last week and will be returning to Lake Forest on Tuesday, April 3rd and Wednesday, April 4th. Mr. Simeck will be meeting with school faculty and principals. A community reception will be held on April 4th from 6pm to 7pm after which the Board will have a brief workshop with him from 7pm to 8pm.

Mrs. Wold reported that the Joint Policy Committee met on Wednesday, March 7th to address the Safer report recommended policies. In addition, the group discussed creating new Social Media policies and sample policies from IASB and from other local districts. The committee will meet again on Monday, April 9th at 8:00am.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Griffith welcomed members of the audience to tonight's meeting. He reported that the Kindergarten and First Grade Mandarin Program began this year with 71 students enrolled. Grant funds of \$190,000 have been received to support the program. He commented on the quality of the teachers and noted there are almost 500 students in Kindergarten through 8th grades learning Mandarin.

Dr. Henrikson introduced Mrs. Qiong Jan, Ms. Denise Galatsianos and some of the First grade Mandarin students who gave an interesting glimpse into the Mandarin program. The demonstration included the use of the language and how it is taught. The students performed for the Board and Board members commented on the wonderful presentation.

Dr. Henrikson introduced two parents Mrs. Lena Attar, who will have two children enrolled in Mandarin beginning next year, and Mrs. Martha Zeeman, who has three children in the program. Both parents are very happy with the experience and feel that the cultural exposure is amazing. Dr. Griffith thanked the teachers, students and Dr. Henrikson for the presentation.

Dr. Griffith reported that due to the second recent tragedy at Lake Forest High School there has been lots of activity at the school and also in the community. A small community task force comprised of CROYA, the City of Lake Forest, Lake Forest Hospital and the School Districts, was established. He introduced Deputy Chief Burmeister of the LFPD who is the City of Lake Forest representative on the Lake County Task Force. Deputy Chief Burmeister gave kudos to Dr. Griffith for bringing the group together and stated that the group already had its first meeting. He reported that Lake County has experienced the highest suicide rate since 2003. Deputy Chief Burmeister reported that there is increased police presence near the High School with particular attention being paid to the bike path. In addition, fences have been erected by the railroad and a city parking lot has been opened for students in an effort to keep students safe.

Dr. Griffith reported that Lake Forest High School recently sponsored clinical psychologist Dr. John Jochem, whose presentation to parents, *Promoting Emotional Wellness in Adolescents* discussed managing traumatic events in schools and crisis intervention. Mr. Stedman Graham also gave a presentation to students and faculty at Lake Forest High School on *Identity–Your Passport to Success* which encouraged students to “know yourself, be yourself, stay yourself: find your true identity to gain focus and motivation, develop a vision, and find life’s purpose.”

Dr. Griffith reported that March is Youth Art Month and all 4th graders art is on display at Gallery 300. He asked that people stop by and view the art on their way out.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs. Wold advised that Public Participation should be limited to three (3) minutes. The board will listen to public comments and take them under advisement.

Michael Beachum, 630 Meadowwood Drive.

“Dr. Griffith, we now know from the Safer report that you did indeed know in 2009 that Principal Steinert’s texts were sexual in nature. Why did you lie to the parents and community in 2011 and tell them just the opposite? Do you have a response”? Mrs. Wold advised that a response to Mr. Beachum’s questions would follow. “Mrs. Wold, as you know there is a petition circulating in the community asking you to take a vote on firing Dr. Griffith for his lying and for his failure to uphold the ethics and the standards in the district. There are currently over 100 people in the district, thus far, who have asked you to take a vote on this issue. Why have you ignored their request to vote on this matter? Mr. Pinderski, why did you lie to the parents and community in November of 2011 telling them you did not know Principal Steinert’s texts were sexual? Mrs. Fisher, when the Safer Report disclosed information about the actual content of Mr. Cyrus’s interview with Mr. Steinert and you discovered that Dr. Griffith and the legacy board had lied in 2011 about what they knew in 2009 what was your reaction? What if anything did you do”? Mr. Beachum then asked the same question of Mr. Julian, Mr. Schuler, and Mr. Andersen. Mr. Beachum stated he would like to know from anyone on the board how it is in the best interest of this District to show them that lying pays, that lying is tolerated that lying has no consequences. Mr. Beachum then stated: “Board Members by tolerating, ignoring and sweeping under the rug the lies told by Dr. Griffith, Mrs.

Wold and Mr. Pinderski, you are setting an unacceptable example for the community, you are essentially saying that we condone lying when it serves our purpose. Each one of you, your silence your lack of condemnation for the liars among you, makes you each complicit in the lie and the cover up of what has transpired in the District since 2009. Do you plan to run this District going forward with such gross negligence and complete disregard for the high standard of excellence this community expects and for which Dr. Griffith has been handsomely compensated and which you promised to uphold when you were elected? I cannot believe that any of you could answer yes to that question. I ask you right here, right now, to either publicly condemn Dr. Griffith's actions or to resign your posts. Those of you unwilling to do the right thing are clearly more interested in self-preservation than in doing what is right for the students of this District. Tomorrow I will submit my complaint to the ISBE asking them to remove each of you for gross negligence and I trust that the district will be able to make the minutes of this meeting available to Mr. Koch and to his investigators". Mr. Pinderski advised Mr. Beachum that his three minutes were up.

Mrs. Wold thanked Mr. Beachum for his comments.

Mr. Julian made a statement on behalf of the Board:

Mr. Beachum, as you know, over the past many months, the public has had several opportunities to voice their concerns in regard to the John Steinert matter. The claims made in your petition reveal no new facts. The same facts, as well as many others, were reviewed and evaluated both by the investigative subcommittee, comprising Board members not involved with the Board at the time in question, as well as by a professional, independent investigator with an impeccable national record. The conclusion reached by both parties was that there was no wrongdoing by Dr. Griffith or the Board, and that handling of the matter was undertaken in good faith and in accordance with the guidance available at the time. In addition, it was the determination of both that the judgment utilized and decisions made by Dr. Griffith did not rise to a level of concern, which, would warrant further action. It is apparent that there are those who disagree with the conclusions reached; it is certainly their right to disagree. Nevertheless, these are determinations that have been made following thorough investigation, and these are decisions, which will stand. We believe that the best use of the Board's time and energy is to focus on the future and the many large issues currently facing the District – among them, integration of a new superintendent, teacher contract negotiations, and identification and placement of 2 new principals. It is our opinion that those who continue to insist that attention be paid to actions which occurred over 3 years ago, despite a full-fledged independent investigation finding no reason to do so, are seriously detracting from the efforts of the Board to best serve the interests of the community as a whole. We ask those who would persist in pressing for additional action to carefully weigh the benefit to the community and the District before continuing with their campaign.

BOARD COMMITTEES

Board Education Committee – Lesley Fisher, Bill Andersen

Mrs. Fisher reported that the Board Education Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. A meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 17th.

Board Operations Committee – Laurie Rose, Rick Schuler

Mr. Schuler reported that a special meeting of the Operations Committee took place at Sheridan School on Tuesday, March 6th.

Mrs. White, Building & Grounds Director, presented the Five-Year Building Improvement Plan for Sheridan School. She reported that the roof is in good shape as failed shingles were replaced last summer. Mrs. White provided an overview of past drainage issues and explained the work, which was done to stop/prevent flooding. The group discussed flooring at all of the schools. Dr. Griffith reported that an exterior sewer pipe had collapsed at Sheridan School on March 6th, causing Sheridan School to be closed for a day. He extended kudos to both the City of Lake Forest and District Maintenance Staff for solving the problem and re-opening the school the next day. Mr. Schuler reported that additional work needed to be done including repairing the surface and pitch.

IT Director, Mr. DuBose, presented an overview of the Technology 5-Year Plan. He reported that the six to eight year old laptop computers needed to be replaced. Dr. Griffith explained that the Education Committee is discussing which product will replace the laptops. Mr. DuBose reported that as the district transitions more to wireless, additional wiring will be put in the ceilings for wireless access.

Mr. Albus presented a brief overview of the 10 pass-bus pass program. In November the committee endorsed changing the program and Mr. Albus reported that parents appreciated the more family friendly pass which each student could purchase and which would not expire at the end of the school year. He went on to say the passes are generally used by non-bus riders for after school play dates with their bus rider friends, however, they are also used by families that carpool to after school activities. The committee endorsed allowing families to purchase multiple 10 ride passes.

The group discussed installing security cameras at all schools. Mrs. White reported that she and Mr. DuBose are looking into a way to share the Internet based system the high school has in place. Mrs. White reported that a student with a florescent light sensitivity is enrolling in the district. The group discussed how to accommodate the student. Dr. Griffith reported that he is meeting with the District architect to discuss planning for the new integrated curriculum for DPM which was presented at the February Board of Education meeting.

The meeting ended with a tour of the building and grounds.

Board Finance Committee

Mr. Pinderski reported that the Finance Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 18th, at 7:30 pm. at West Campus, which will focus on the Budget update and what needs to be included in next year's budget. In May/June, a draft budget will be put together and posted in July/August for 30 days, as required by law. Mr. Pinderski said he values constructive input and the committee is always looking for new volunteers.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES

North Suburban Special Education District – Jeff Pinderski

Mr. Pinderski reported that there will be a change in the funding structure of NSSSED. Dr. Cooley made a presentation to the Board, which outlined the process undertaken to review all costs in District 67. Dr. Griffith reported that Lake Forest District 67 had the lowest tax rates in the state but some of the highest test scores. Shared Services has created a savings of millions of dollars. Dr. Cooley reported that the Committee has looked at NSSSED costs and has recommendations that lay out major cost savings for members in the coalition. Lake Forest

High School and District 67 are two (2) of the 18 members. NSSED will shift to a program that is more consultative consistent with bringing home our special needs students. There will be a change in the budgeting structure, which will create a significant savings over five (5) years of \$650,000 or an annual savings of \$120,000, which will be done without a diminishment of services. Dr. Cooley will report further on the recommendations. Dr. Griffith gave kudos to Mr. Pinderski, and Mrs. Rossman, former board member, for all their work. Kudos went out to Anne Dunn, Anne Wirtz and Dr. Griffith for their work that resulted in NSSED taking actions that would mean a big win for our community.

Illinois Association of School Boards/ED-RED – Bill Andersen

Mr. Andersen advised that he had no report at this time.

Professional Development – Rick Schuler

Mr. Schuler reported that so far this school year over 180 of our staff have enhanced their knowledge of teaching and learning by completing a graduate course, attending a conference or workshop, or participating in a district study group. Over 100 of these people have completed at least two such professional development experiences. There is great variety in the learning. Some notable topics include, Differentiated Assessment Strategies, Emergent Literacy, Probability – The Mathematics of Uncertainty, Nurturing Resilient Kids, Real Teenagers Talking About Depression, What Great Teachers Do, and Unpacking Common Core Standards. The teachers and administrators are currently preparing for summer curriculum work. Two of their primary focuses will be, Common Core Standards, and Developing 21st Century Units of Learning.

Curriculum Coordinating Committee – Laurie Rose

The Curriculum Coordinating Committee has not met.

Spirit of 67 Foundation – Julia Wold

Mrs. Wold thanked all the staff who participated in the faculty review held on February 24th. She heard rave reviews from those who attended. Mrs. Wold reported that the Grants committee has completed its work. The presentation of the grants awarded by the Spirit will be held at the Annual Grants Reception on April 25th at Elewa Farms. Mrs. Wold encouraged all Board members to attend. The total donations for the month of February were \$1,706.64 from 15 families. The Home Tour will take place on Thursday, May 3rd and will be previewed in the April issue of Forest and Bluff.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Approval of Continued Membership with NSSED

MOTION: Mr. Pinderski moved seconded by Mr. Andersen that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the Continued Membership with NSSED

Ayes: Wold, Schuler, Pinderski, Julian, Fisher, Andersen

Nays: None

Absent: Rose

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approval of Minutes of A Regular Meeting –February 28, 2012

Approval of Minutes of An Executive Session – February 28, 2012

Adoption of Resolution for Designation of Depositories

Adoption of Resolution authorizing Participation in ISDLAF Plus Fund

Approval of Disbursements, Payrolls, and Financial Statements for February 2012

Approval of Human Resources Items:

Approval of Leave Requests

Approval of New Staff

Approval of Dr. Harry Griffith’s Retirement

Approval of Status Change

Approval of Non-Renewals

Approval of Disposal of Audio Recordings: None

MOTION: Mr. Pinderski moved seconded by Mr. Schuler 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: Andersen, Fisher, Julian, Pinderski, Schuler, Wold

Nays: None

Absent: Rose

Motion carried unanimously.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)

Nancy Thorner, 331 E. Blodgett Ave., Lake Bluff, IL 60044

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Invo HealthCare Associates, Inc. 1780 Kendarbren Drive, Jamison, PA 18929

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was held prior to tonight’s meeting. No action was taken.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday, March 24

Spring Break – begins at End of Day

Monday, April 2

School re-opens

April 9-20

NWEA/MAP Testing (Gr. 2-8)

Tuesday, April 24

Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 pm

LFHS West Campus, Board Room

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mrs. Fisher moved seconded by Mr. Julian that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois adjourn at 8:05 pm.

On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Laurie Rose, Secretary
