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PRESS RELEASE

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District 157-C October 21, 2015 Board of Education Meeting Recap

The regular Frankfort School District 157-C Board of Education meeting of October 21 was called to order by Board President Gina Briese at 7:05 p.m. The roll call was taken and a quorum was present. Board Secretary Edie Adamski was not in attendance and the Board approved Board member Edith Lutz by voice vote to serve as Secretary Pro Tem. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board approved the open and closed session minutes of the regular meeting of September 16, 2015.

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

Chelsea Intermediate School Principal Dr. Sharon Paver-Nepote introduced the members of the new "Rise and Shine" committee of Kay Elam, Mary DeFrank, Randy Klosowski, Kim Donaghue, Dr. Elizabeth Rizki and Matt Dykema. Dr. Paver-Nepote reported that this new fitness club where students, staff and parents run or walk on the track two days a week before school is a tremendous success. She stated, "We are seeing some 200 to 300 students participating and this is excellence in education with physical activity to support it." She also reported that this is the first year that the third graders have been part of the Lucy Calkins writing program since kindergarten and stated that they are the best writers that have ever come to Chelsea. This program is in full effect now which will expand good writing throughout the schools.

Grand Prairie Elementary School Principal Eileen Nelson reported that they also are seeing a great turnout for their new "Tiger Running Club." Physical education teacher Lori McCurdy initiated the program at Grand Prairie. Mrs. Nelson stated, "We are seeing energy channeled by the students every morning." She also reported that the staff has started a kick ball program to get their energy out as well. She stated, "We are working towards fitness at Grand Prairie." She reported that the staff development for reading implemented three years ago is seeing a huge difference now. She stated, "Our Reading Recovery teachers deal with the lowest twenty percent of students and this year ideas are flowing due to the writing programs in kindergarten and first grade."

Hickory Creek Middle School Principal Will Seidelmann reported that it has been a very successful first quarter, with all sports teams doing very well including some participating at state events. He reported that intramurals are beginning and that they are being opened up so sixth graders can also try out with the seventh and eighth grade students. A "Pink" unity game to support breast cancer will be held on October 27 with all

three schools invited to attend to pack the bleachers. Mr. Seidelmann also reported that he spent time observing Language Arts classes and that it is exciting to see students combining writing with technology. He also invited parents to attend the upcoming social media safety program "Safe, Smart & Social" on Thursday, October 29, at Hickory Creek Middle School from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. featuring Josh Ochs, author of "Light, Bright and Polite." During the day this speaker will also work with students to provide them with social media safety awareness tips.

In her report, Director of Special Services Jen Bajda called attention to the unified Special Education Department that is now using the same routines across the district. She reported that the social workers put together child abuse information, worked on At Risk forms and provided a bullying presentation for staff. The psychologists created an ADHD presentation and the speech and language pathologists created a procedure manual. She stated, "These are the hardest working people I've ever come in contact with." She also reported that Chelsea Occupational Therapist Dr. Elizabeth Rizki created a presentation for the paraprofessionals in the classroom and that a Grand Prairie sensory presentation on Institute Day got good feedback from staff. She stated, "We are making sure all staff across the district get this professional development."

Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence reported that the vertical articulation with Lincoln-Way District 210 and the feeder districts is very beneficial. She stated, "We like to get feedback on how our kids are doing after they leave us and it seems to be working very well." She reported that Lincoln-Way East hosted its first Vertical Team meeting for 157-C and Summit Hill teachers since they will feed into Lincoln-Way East next year.

Director of Technology Jake Nelson reported that the district is transitioning to the new SchoolMessenger notification system. For school closing notifications or other parent alerts, it gives the district the ability to call parents on their home phone, cell phone and/or contact by email. Later this year a new phase will be implemented which will enable parents to opt in to receive text messages if they desire.

The Board heard a report from Kris McGuire of the Family School Partnership (FSP) and Board President Gina Briese highlighted information in a written report from the Education Foundation.

The Board heard a report from Board member Tom Reidy on the Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 Governing Board meeting of September 22, 2015 and the Advisory Committee meeting of September 8, 2015.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Maura J. Zinni reported on the implementation of the Tiger University. This is a new opportunity for Lincoln-Way area parents that is being offered by Frankfort School District 157-C in collaboration with its Family School Partnership (FSP) organization. The new Tiger University will offer parent nights to provide information on a variety of topics that can empower parents to raise confident, educated

children. A number of topics will be presented throughout the year, beginning with the social media safety program on October 29 at Hickory Creek Middle School at 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Zinni reported that she has instituted a District Charitable Giving Committee to provide a formal process to address requests for District 157-C to support a charity. This committee will serve as the oversight group to review requests for giving and then choose which campaigns the district and schools will participate in on a yearly basis. The committee is comprised of teacher and administrator representatives from each school and a parent representative. The committee has met three times and has developed a formal process to review requests for giving and have identified the charitable campaigns our district and schools will participate in this year. The committee has determined the following criteria for charitable giving consideration: They must align with one or more of the Character Counts Pillars, must have a personal connection to a student, staff member or family/community member, must directly benefit an organization or individuals in the Frankfort/ Lincoln-Way District 843 area, and must have a teachable component that will raise awareness and promote social responsibility among the students, staff and families. In addition, the charity is encouraged to have a service component. The committee has identified the following events as the charitable giving campaigns the district will participate in this school year: supporting our troops and veterans, supporting our local food pantry, and supporting the Lincoln-Way Area Special Recreation Association. Each school will also participate in one to three other charity campaigns throughout the year with the same criteria being used to determine what campaigns will be supported. Special attention will be given to the timing of requests for giving, the amount of money being requested from families and staff, and potential instructional impact.

Dr. Zinni reported that she is disappointed with the lack of information provided by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) with regard to test scores from assessments given this past year. District 157-C has not seen its students' test results because only state results for online testing have been released. She stated, "We have not heard yet if we are getting school results. We hope we do as we spent a significant amount of time preparing for the tests. We needed the new standards, they are outstanding, but we are disappointed in the lack of information we are receiving from the state regarding test results. The good news is that we use the Terra Nova assessment and we dig deep into those results. We feel good that we have something to measure achievement and it is aligned to the common core." Dr. Zinni reported that the Illinois State Report Card is to be launched on October 31 and a Webinar is to be held on November 3 which may provide more information. Dr. Zinni also reported that Chelsea Intermediate School has been selected as the "Jump Rope for Heart School of the Year" by the Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance. Chelsea raised \$62,000 last year and will be recognized during the state convention on November 19 at

the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles. Chelsea is number one in the Midwest region and fifth in the nation for the Jump Rope for Heart program.

Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with the Treasurer's Report. The District paid out about \$2.1M in expenses during September which is at the normal expected monthly range for the year of \$2.0 M - \$2.25M. The District collected about \$10.5M in revenues for the month with most of the receipts coming from property tax collections (\$10.35M.) Board Bills for the October Meeting are \$2,184,803. Mr. Saindon also reported that he conducted a Request for Proposals for electric supply services for 2018. The results show that Constellation New Energy proposes energy supply rates that are 7.1 percent lower than the district currently has and lower future estimated charges (PJM charges) that are better than other providers.

There was one Freedom of Information request.

In discussion, Dr. Zinni shared feedback from various sources regarding the consideration of implementing an orchestra pilot program and the costs associated with it. A parent survey of 230 responses yielded a majority of positive remarks encouraging such a program. The principals and teachers stated that they would welcome and support an orchestra program to compliment the outstanding band program. However, they requested that students choose one program rather than being allowed to join both instrument programs due to missing instructional time. The current band directors stated that an orchestra program would be beneficial and that they do not believe it would negatively impact the band program. They worked out a practice schedule that would allow both programs to run without conflict to the other programs. Dr. Zinni recommended piloting an orchestra program exclusively in fifth grade for the 2016-2017 school year with student participation in one instrumental program at a cost of \$7,300 and then review the program to determine if it should continue into the middle school.

In discussion, Director of Technology Jacob Nelson outlined the need for the purchase of a new Cisco 3850 Core Switch for Grand Prairie School. Mr. Nelson recommended having Sentinel Technology, the District's current technology consultants, configure, set up, test and install this Core Switch over Winter Break. The cost for the entire project would be \$39,636 and would be paid for out of the Education Fund Capital Projects Technology Budget.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with a report of the District's annual audit. He reported that the auditors gave the District an unqualified opinion (no major findings or exceptions.) He reported they were very complimentary regarding the District's internal controls, processes and procedures, segregation of duties, control of assets, financial and accounting records, the overall accounting, financial reporting system and staff. The District's auditors filed the Annual Financial Report with the Illinois

State Board of Education and Mr. Saindon filed all of this information with the Regional Office of Education as required by the Illinois School Code.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with a report on the renewal recommendations for employee insurance benefits plan and program enhancements.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with an update on tax appeals and the Frankfort Area Taxing Body Coalition.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with information on the preliminary tax levy, particularly with regard to potential changes in general state aid, property tax limits and pension cost shift. Mr. Saindon is following legislation closely and will provide updates to the Board as the State makes them available. Tentative levy discussions will occur in November and then the Tax Levy Hearing and Final Tax Levy Presentation will take place in December.

The Board took action to approve the bills as presented.

The Board took action to approve the Special Education District 843 Articles of Agreement as presented.

The Board took action to approve the purchase of the District core switch as presented.

The Board held the first reading of Board of Education policies 2:160 School Board: Board Attorney, 2:260 School Board: Uniform Grievance Procedure, 4:110 Operational Services: Transportation, 4:50 Operational Services: Payment Procedures, 5:50 General Personnel: Drug-and Alcohol-Free Workplace; Tobacco Prohibition, 5:170 General Personnel: Copyright, 6:140 Instruction: Education of Homeless Children, 7:10 Students: Equal Educational Opportunities, 7:20 Students: Harassment of Students Prohibited, 7:40 Students: Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students, 7:260 Students: Exemption from Physical Activity, 7:310 Students: Restrictions on Publications, 7:325 Students: Student Fundraising Activities, 8:10 Community Relations: Connection with the Community, 8:80 Community Relations: Gifts to the District, and 4:170-AP6,E1 Operational Services: Exhibit.

The Board waived the second reading and approved Board of Education policy 4:110 Operational Services: Transportation.

The Board took action to approve the employment of Candace Juricek as a Full-Time Library Clerk at Chelsea Intermediate School at an hourly rate of \$12.65 for the 2015-2016 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 approved the employment of Sadie Chrismer as a Long Term Band/Music Substitute Teacher at Hickory Creek Middle School tentatively commencing on October 6th and continuing until the 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 following four Consent Agenda items:

The Board took action to accept the FY 2015 Audit Report as presented.

The Board took action to accept the FY 2015 Annual Financial Report as presented.

The Board took action to approve employee benefits plan renewal recommendations and program enhancements as presented.

The Board approved the resolution of the Board of Education for Frankfort 157-C to declare unneeded items as surplus.

The Board went into closed session 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 returned to open session.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

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