



**Forest Park District 91 Board of Education
December 9, 2010, 7:00 pm**

Johan Walsh, Observer

In attendance: President Frank Mott, Vice-President Sean Blaylock, Secretary Mary Win Connor, and Board Members Lois Bogajsky, Rafael Rosa, Mary Turek, and Joan White
Also in attendance: Superintendent Louis Cavallo and Assistant Superintendent of Operations Edward Brophy.

The meeting began with roll call and the pledge of allegiance. The District's mission statement and vision statement were read aloud.

Items unanimously approved under the consent agenda included minutes of the November 11, 2010 meeting; payrolls for December 15 and December 21; financial data supplied by the Township Treasurer's Office; and destruction of May 2009 executive session minutes. Minutes of the October 14 and November 11, 2010 executive sessions were moved to the regular agenda and also unanimously approved.

Visitors in the audience included: residents Andrea Blaylock, Brandon Blaylock, Justin Blaylock, Simone Blaylock, Troy Blaylock, and Eric Connor; and Johan Walsh, the League of Women Voters observer. The Board Secretary read several items of correspondence.

The Superintendent announced two District 91 students are award-winners in the STR Architect Annual Holiday Card Contest: third grader Nikita Cole and fifth grader Troy Blaylock, both students at Grant White School. Over 500 students competed statewide. The District congratulated both winners in writing by the District. The Forest Park Review will be contacted.

District finances were reviewed in detail. Property tax receipts have begun arriving with the bulk of funds expected over the next 60 days. Forest Park's Equalized Assessment Valuation (EAV) was presented, as well as Consumer Price Index history and other pertinent financial data. Current reserves are healthy. The Board unanimously approved a 2010 Certificate of Levy. No Truth-in-Taxation hearing is required.

The Forest Park Community Education Council was established some years ago through approval of an intergovernmental agreement among District 91, the Village of Forest Park, and the Park District to develop and administer out-of-school programs for students. The Superintendent plans to convene a meeting with the Mayor and Parks Executive Director to review student usage of current programs and consider revisions to reflect today's needs. Recommendations will be brought to the Board at a future meeting.

Twelve cases of possible non-residency have been reviewed, the majority of which have been cleared. The administration is seeking to reduce the time lapse between referrals

and disposition of investigations.

Several Board members and the Superintendent reported favorably on their recent attendance at the Triple I Conference (Illinois Association of School Boards, Illinois Association of School Administrators, and Illinois Association of School Business Officials). Resident Eric Connor attended independently and reported his findings, as well. Highlights of sessions included strategic plan development, newsletter focus, legal ramifications of email, technical tips for classrooms, utilization of websites and social media, student safety, and introduction of successful alumnae to students.

The District has completed a Model Communities Grant Proposal for submission to the Cook County Department of Public Health for funds to help remedy the rising rate of obesity in students. The goal of the grant program is to increase access to healthy foods, make unhealthy foods less available, and create safe places for physical activity. District 91, the Village of Forest Park, and Park District are partners in the grant process. Past and future intergovernmental collaborations in the community represent an important component in the grant process.

Upon second reading and a 6-1 vote (Bogajsky nay), the Board approved revisions, additions, and amendments to the education policy. Some discussion followed on recess activities, physical education, and distinctions among curriculum content, policy considerations, and the strategic plan.

The Board unanimously approved seven personnel actions: Hiring a 6th grade math teacher at Middle School; amending the employment date for the Betsy Ross School secretary; hiring a kindergarten special education assistant at Garfield School; employing a helpdesk specialist; reducing a secretary's employment term from 12 to 11 months; hiring an instructional assistant at the Middle School; and hiring a support services assistant for Betsy Ross School.

Attention was called to minutes of the November Advisory Council meeting. Among the discussion items were test scores and testing, handwriting instruction, traffic concerns, strategic plan development, boosters, relations with Proviso High School, upcoming curriculum night, and distribution of faculty biography information. The next meeting is December 15. The November 17 proceedings of the Gaining/Concerns Committee were also reviewed. The Superintendent noted that most faculty issues with web filtering have been resolved. The next meeting is January 19.

The Board Orientation Committee and the Illinois Association of School Boards/West Cook did not submit reports.

The Superintendent's Report included updates on science curriculum, the Board's holiday get-together, in-house production of the newsletter, post-holiday faculty get-together in January, and a legislative dinner at the Chicago Marriott on January 31.

The President reminded the Board that an assessment of the Superintendent's performance will be undertaken in January by both the Superintendent and the Board. The Superintendent will prepare and present his self-evaluation in a 6:00 p.m. executive session before the regular meeting January 13. The Board will then set a date for a special meeting/executive session to conduct its own evaluation. The teachers' plan prepared by the Superintendent will also be reviewed.

The League of Women Voters observer was asked for information on the upcoming State-of-the-Villages dinner. Details were not available, but will be provided in follow-up communication.

At 9:35 p.m., the meeting was unanimously adjourned to a nearby restaurant for seasonal observances, with a reminder from the Superintendent that the Board could not discuss District business. There was no further business.

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