



**Forest Park District 91 Board of Education  
December 8, 2011, 7:00 pm**

*Johan Walsh, Observer*

In attendance: President Frank Mott, Vice President Sean Blaylock, Secretary Mary Turek, and Board Members Lois Bogajsky, Mary Win Connor, John Tricoci and Joan White. Also in attendance: Superintendent Dr. Louis Cavallo and Assistant Superintendent of Operations Edward Brophy. Audience members included Betsy Ross School Instructor William Hudson, Director of Student Services Rose Gronki, newly appointed Forest Park Review Editor Jean Lotus, parent Hiral Patel, and League of Women Voters Observer Johan Walsh.

The meeting opened with roll call and the pledge of allegiance. The mission and vision statements were read.

Consent agenda items included approval of November 10 minutes, December payrolls, and financial data supplied by the Proviso Township Treasurer. Destruction of May 2010 executive session minutes was authorized. Two items of general correspondence were summarized. The Assistant Superintendent reported that December finances are on-target. December 1 is the school year mid-point and financial dashboard reports will be presented in January. Receipts were punctual for the first time in four years.

The Board unanimously approved that \$380,000 in property taxes be abated in the 2011 tax levy as outlined by the Assistant Superintendent at the November 10 meeting. The abatement results in a 0.00% net tax increase over the prior year, as requested by the Board, and is possible from a transfer of interest earnings from the Working Cash Fund to the Debt Service Fund. The Assistant Superintendent cautioned that some property owners may still see a rise in their tax bills due to the multi-year phase-out of the Cook County Homeowner's Exemption (originally \$26,000 and now \$20,000) and possible increases in Equalized Assessed Valuation. The Board will formally adopt the levy and fund transfer in January.

Board members who attended the recent Triple III (Illinois Association of School Boards/Illinois Association of School Administrators/Illinois Association of School Board Officials) Conference at the Chicago Hyatt Regency reported on what they learned and indicated the sessions were very worthwhile. Some of the suggestions made at the conference will be discussed by District 91 at the next summer retreat. District 91 was a first-presenter at the conference on the topic of Board Member Orientation and the session was well received.

The Superintendent has posted notice to replace the retiring principal at Field Stevenson School and received 30 applications. A hiring committee comprised of two principals, two teachers, and two parents will interview the candidates and score them beginning in January. Three finalists will be recommended to the Superintendent in February or March. The Superintendent will conduct his review of the finalists and forward a recommendation to the Board for approval.

Instructional policy changes were presented as a second reading and unanimously approved.

These changes were introduced on the District's November 10 agenda as suggested by the Illinois Association of School Boards, and were reviewed and approved by the District's policy review committee. While most are routine in nature, one new policy regulates the access of social media and will impact all District personnel. In the past, access has only been filtered. The Advisory Council met November 16 and provided input to the Superintendent on the website. The next meeting set for December 21 will be rescheduled due to holiday conflicts.

The Gaining/Concerns Committee met November 16 and reviewed the start-time for substitute teachers, communications between principals and Board members, electronic paychecks and the upcoming faculty post-holiday party. Communications on contract negotiations must be posted by the end of today.

Agendas will no longer carry a standing report from the Board Orientation Committee, now that the Triple III conference presentation has been made. No report was available on Illinois Association of School Boards/West Cook actions.

The President reported ED-RED (Educational Research Development) will meet December 9 to review finances. The next legislative dinner is Monday, February 6, 2012 at the Marriott O'Hare. Keynote speaker will be Charlotte Danielson, author of "A Framework for Teaching."

The Superintendent updated the Board on legislation matters and the future phase-out of the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) in favor of new common core standards. The publisher of the Forest Park Review telephoned to announce the appointment of new editor Jean Lotus, who was in the audience this evening. A post-holiday party for faculty and staff is set for January 20 from 3-6 p.m. at a Forest Park location.

The Board was reminded to submit evaluations to the Superintendent's secretary before the January 12 meeting. An invitation was extended to the Board by parent Hiral Patel to attend future meetings of the PTO and the Betsy Ross School holiday sing-along December 21.

Instructor William Hudson thanked the Board for its recent visits with teachers and indicated that considerable research is behind the development of the new common core standards and can be reviewed on-line.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. to a Forest Park restaurant for a holiday gathering. The Superintendent reminded the Board that business could not be discussed at this event in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

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