

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS™ OAK PARK / RIVER FOREST



Forest Park District 91 Board of Education July 14, 2011, 7:00 pm

Johan Walsh, Observer

In attendance: President Frank Mott, Vice President Sean Blaylock, and Board Members Mary Win Connor, John Tricoci and Joan White. Absent: Secretary Mary Turek and Board Member Lois Bogajsky. Board Member Connor was appointed Secretary Pro Tem. Also in attendance: Superintendent Dr. Louis Cavallo, and Assistant Superintendent of Operations Edward Brophy.

Audience members included Garfield School Principal Jamie Stauder, Middle School Principal Karen Bukowski, and League of Women Voters Observer Johan Walsh.

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

Minutes were approved for the June 9, 2011 regular meeting and June 18, 2011 special meeting. Payrolls for July were approved, along with financial data supplied by the Township Treasurer. Destruction of December 2009 executive session minutes was authorized.

Fourth quarter and year-end finances were reviewed. 109% of anticipated revenues have been captured and expenditures held to 92%. President Frank Mott thanked the administration for its strong financial management.

Food service proposals are being sought. Prospective bidders will tour the kitchens of the school buildings and provide food samples for staff and parents as part of the evaluation process. A recommendation to award a contract will be presented in open session at the special meeting July 27 before the Board's closed self-evaluation session.

Garfield School and Middle School are undergoing significant renovations. While schedules are behind, the work is expected to be finished on time. Minor repairs are being undertaken at the other school buildings.

A budget presentation is scheduled for the August 11 Board meeting with planned adoption in September. Legal notice will be published in the Forest Park Review on August 3 for a public hearing on August 10.

Spring benchmark reports were reviewed in detail for Garfield School primary grade students. Progress is being made, although some kindergarteners' marks were lower than hoped for. Tardiness is being charted and reported weekly to parents as missed learning time. The Lexia

reading program is producing good results. Each student is scheduled twice weekly for lab sessions. Teachers are taking advantage of informal teaching moments in the corridors.

Executive session minutes for January-June 2011 will remain closed upon approval by the Board. Various policy revisions, additions and amendments were unanimously approved as suggested earlier this year by the Illinois Association of School Boards. Tonight's agenda constituted a second reading of the changes, which were introduced on the Board's June 9 agenda.

Board conference expenses were discussed informally at the June 9 meeting. A written revision to Policy 2:125/Board Member Expenses was subsequently prepared for a first reading tonight, specifying that overnight lodging costs not be paid by the District unless the event is 60 miles or more away. The second reading is scheduled for August 11.

The hiring of four new employees was approved: an industrial technology teacher for Forest Park Middle School; a first-grade teacher for Garfield School; instructional assistant for Grant White School, and a temporary assistant principal for Forest Park Middle School. These recruitments were reviewed in executive session earlier tonight.

Summer school is now in session. A total of 140 students were invited to attend. Beginning enrollment was 120 and is now 104.

Updates were provided on the summer newsletter and website. Additional attention to the website's calendar was suggested to achieve consistent postings of individual school events. A community-wide letter to parents is being prepared for delivery before the start of school.

No reports were available for the Advisory Council or Gaining/Concerns Committee; both groups will reconvene October 19. Some discussion followed on Advisory Council composition.

Newly elected Board Member John Tricoci has not met with the Board Orientation Committee yet but indicates he will do so when his schedule opens up.

The governing board of the Illinois Association of School Boards/West Cook Division met June 28 and reviewed pertinent legislation and finance. President Mott is serving as Vice-President. West Cook is seeking suggestions on how to market education in general and West Cook school districts in particular. The next annual meeting is June 11, 2012 at the Elmwood Park High School. Concerns were raised by Board Member Joan White about buses, security and empty planters at Garfield School.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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