

# LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS™ OAK PARK / RIVER FOREST



**Forest Park District 91 Board of Education  
June 9, 2011, 7:00 pm**

*Johan Walsh, Observer*

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

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

Regular minutes and executive session minutes for May 12, 2011 were approved, and payrolls for June. Financial data supplied by the Township Treasurer was approved. Destruction of executive session minutes for November 2009, and minutes for the May 12 closed session, were also approved.

Audience members were introduced: Field Stevenson Principal Robert Giovannoni, Director of Student Services Rose Gronko, Betsy Ross Elementary Principal William Milnamow, Forest Park Middle School Principal Karen Bukowski, Grant White Principal Wendy Trotter, Grant White Teacher Sherri Rodriguez, Parent Teacher Organization Representative Carol Patel, Parent Raphael Rosa, and League of Women Voters Observer Johan Walsh.

A thank you letter was read into the record. A resolution establishing and publicizing annual prevailing wages was approved. Two agreements were approved for Garfield Elementary School: A contract with Universal Asbestos Removal, Inc. in the amount of \$29,000 for asbestos abatement, and a contract with Shamrock Flooring for \$50,580 for floor replacement.

Employment of ten summer custodial assistants was approved to cover vacation schedules. Medical and dental insurance rates were approved with United Health Care. The annual Federation of District Special Education (FDSE) operating budget was approved for submission to Administrative District No. 98.

The Superintendent reported on progress made towards the district's goals, noting that faculty members are working hard on assessments. The new technology director will implement website improvements. Three newsletters and a community survey are planned for next year to enhance communications. The Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) continues to identify and address problematic student behaviors. Building improvements are being undertaken a few projects at a time. The budget is balanced and all funds are in good shape. The administration and teachers alike hope to start negotiations soon on a 2012 contract.

Detailed benchmark data on student performance was reviewed over the next hour for the primary, intermediate and Middle School grade levels. Progress is being achieved at all three levels. RIGBY

Literacy standards are in use through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. All institute days in the next school year will target math.

An amended school calendar was approved to reflect the usage of school facilities for the U.S. presidential primary election on March 20, 2012.

The Board's policy manual will undergo review for possible revisions, additions and amendments. A committee of the Board will meet to formulate recommendations to the full Board for a first reading on the agenda.

The contractual employment of a student services program coordinator was approved for 120 days in the next school year. The coordinator is a retired District 91 employee.

The following personnel actions were approved as reviewed earlier tonight in executive session: an employment contract with the Assistant Superintendent of Operations; the retirement of the Field Stevenson School Principal effective 6/30/12 and an amendment to his employment agreement increasing earned retirement benefits; the resignation of a Grant White elementary teacher effective 5/25/11; and the resignation of the Field-Stevenson School Assistant Principal effective 6/30/11.

The Superintendent identified which high schools District 91 students will attend in the fall. He also reported on a school route safety meeting conducted with Village of Forest Park officials. Discussion points included one-way streets, transportation modes, and repairs to the Circle Avenue bridge. Public Works will host a workshop to demonstrate back-to-school safety practices. Bicycle usage is being encouraged by the Healthy Kids/Healthy Communities Grant Program and safe biking will be covered in the workshop.

On-line registration is open for the Triple I (Illinois Association of School Boards/Illinois Association of School Administrators/Illinois Association of School Business Officials) Conference in Chicago this November. While no formal policy exists on overnight accommodations, it was the Board's consensus that any Board member requiring lodging must pay his or her own way.

Updates were provided on recent meetings of the Community Advisory Council and Gaining/Concerns Committee. The Board Orientation Committee will meet with newly elected Board Member John Tricoci as soon as his schedule allows. The Illinois Association of School Boards/West Cook meets in two weeks and a report of proceedings will be available in July.

The formation of a public relations or communications committee will be considered by the Board at its summer retreat. Senate Bill 7/Education Reform will be signed by the Governor at Lexington School in Maywood on June 13. The Board was reminded to complete and return forms for its annual self-evaluation. Tentative dates were proposed for a meeting of the Policy Evaluation Committee, the annual Board retreat in open session, and the annual Board evaluation in closed session.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

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