

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS™ OAK PARK / RIVER FOREST



**Forest Park District 91 Board of Education
September 8, 2011, 6:30 pm**

Johan Walsh, Observer

In attendance: President Frank Mott, Vice President Sean Blaylock, Secretary Mary Turek, and Board Members Lois Bogajsky, MaryWin Connor, John Tricoci and Joan White. Also in attendance: Superintendent Dr. Louis Cavallo; Assistant Superintendent of Operations Edward Brophy; Challenge Program Instructors Grace Finn and Katherine Valleau; Assistant Principal Michelle Gossett, Forest Park Middle School; and Director of Student Services Rose Gronko. Also in the audience were Forest Park Review Editor Nick Moroni and League of Women Voters Observer Johan Walsh.

Roll call was taken at 6:30 p.m. A public hearing on the proposed 2012 budget was called to order, as provided by prior legal notice, and public testimony was invited. No testimony was forthcoming and the hearing was closed.

The pledge of allegiance was then recited and mission and vision statements read.

Regular minutes and executive session minutes were approved for August 11. Payrolls for September were approved, along with financial data supplied by the Township Treasurer. Destruction of February 2010 executive session minutes was authorized. A letter from the Illinois Association of School Boards was read into the record announcing that Board member Connor was named a LeaderShop Academy Member.

The Assistant Superintendent reported the 2011 audit has gone smoothly and is almost completed. Funds are healthy and debt service will be paid in two years. He also indicated that all school districts are required to complete an annual report on administrative compensation for submittal to the State. That report was in the Board's packet as an information item and covered nine employees in three administrative categories.

As authorized by the Illinois School Code, temporary space at Betsy Ross School (1315 Marengo) has been utilized in the past for special education, office administration, and interventions. On a vote of 6-1 (nay Blaylock), an application to the State was approved to seek use of the temporary space for an additional two-year period.

A total 2012 budget of \$18,122,557 was approved unanimously by resolution.

Over the next two hours, faculty members presented profiles and assessment data on five student service programs: special education, transitional program instruction (TPI), and gifted education which includes three courses--a challenge program, Latin program, and push-in program. A report on summer school was also reviewed.

Enrollment for September stands at 905 and class sizes are small which assures good learning environments. A report on highly qualified teachers, mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act, was reviewed as prepared by the Assistant Superintendent and will be filed by the District.

The fiscal impact of the six goals of the District's strategic plan was explained by the Assistant Superintendent. Chief among them was goal #1, continuous improvement for each child, which is directly supported by the Education Fund's budget of \$8.5 million (82%) in salaries and \$1.7 million (15%) in benefits. Future replacement of school buses was briefly discussed. In response to a question, the Superintendent indicated the winning bidder in any District 91 bid process is determined by lowest price, and not by geographic location of the bidder.

The Board authorized submittal of the District's annual application for recognition to the State Regional Office of Education. Approval of the application will acknowledge District 91's compliance with State-approved accountability standards.

The Board approved the following personnel actions by separate vote:

Resignation	Instructional Assistant	Middle School (eff. 8-12-11)
Retirement	Instructional Assistant	Betsy Ross School (eff. 6-30-12)
Employment	Transitional Program	
	Instruction Teacher	Garfield School and Grant-White School
Employment	Instructional Assistant	Betsy Ross School
Employment	Support Services Assist	Betsy Ross School
Employment	3 Instructional Assists	Garfield School

A head teacher was appointed for each of the five schools: Garfield, Grant-White, Betsy Ross, and Field-Stevenson Schools, and Forest Park Middle School. A stipend of \$1,700 per year will be added to each teacher's compensation for increased responsibilities.

The Superintendent reported he met with three parent organizations to explain the purpose and function of the Advisory Council. The Council will conduct its first meeting of the new school year October 19. The Gaining/Concerns Committee will also meet October 19. The Illinois Association of School Boards/West Cook Division will meet September 29 at Elmcrest Banquet Hall in Elmwood Park.

The Superintendent reported that ISAT scores are available and will be presented at the October Board meeting. Instruction policies will also be discussed that night. Start-up time for the new industrial technology room was under-estimated but the equipment is working and has been favorably received. On-line registration for the Triple I (Illinois Association of School Boards, Illinois Association of School Administrators and the Illinois Association of School Business Officials) Conference is now being taken. Board members Sean Blaylock and John Tricoci will represent the Board in Forest Park Teacher Association negotiations. The new food service is popular with students and less waste is being generated.

The Board will meet in closed session in October to review a self-evaluation tool. Other items for October's agenda include quarterly financials and fall benchmark reports. Some discussion ensued on trying to limit students to the public sidewalks when walking to and from school, and discouraging them from walking in the streets.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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