

# LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS™ OAK PARK / RIVER FOREST



## **Forest Park District 91 Board of Education January 12, 2012, 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 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 December 8 minutes, January payrolls, financial data supplied by the Township Treasurer, and destruction of June 2010 executive session minutes. Executive session minutes will remain closed for July 2011 through December 2011. A thank you letter was read into the record.

The second quarter (Oct/Nov/Dec) financial report was presented. Expenses are on target and revenues are higher than this time in 2011 due to the timely receipt of property taxes. First installment tax bills will go out from the County in March.

Staff recommended the purchase of a 2012 Ford F-250 Truck from Currie Motors of Forest Park for \$27,615.00. Two bids were received. While Currie was the high bidder by \$600, staff recommended an award to Currie to support Forest Park's economy, since Currie is a Forest Park taxpayer and sales tax generator. After some discussion, the President called the Board's attention to Board Operations Policy 4:060 which states that purchases will be awarded to the low bidder. He recommended the Board award the purchase to the low bidder, or rewrite its policy. Staff noted that Currie's price is lower than the State bid, that the Board has the latitude to consider service, reliability and delivery factors in its decision, and that if the purchase is not awarded tonight, a second bid letting may be required, delaying the purchase and hampering snow removal. The bid award to Currie was then approved on a 5-2 vote (nay Mott and White). A future review of policy 4:060 was suggested by some.

A mid-year report on the strategic plan was then reviewed in a new color-coded dashboard format. The District is on target with many of its programs and strategies, but test scores are not where the administration wants them to be. The new format was generally well received and may be used in the Board's summer retreat.

A new self-assessment for school boards was presented at the recent Triple I Conference. The Board spent some time tonight comparing the Triple I assessment to the assessment District 91 has used in the past. Some sections of the Triple I assessment were approved for inclusion in the District 91 assessment and the Superintendent's Office will prepare the revised document.

The Advisory Council and the Gaining/Concerns Committee did not convene in December and will meet next on January 18. No activities were reported for the Illinois Association of School Boards/West Cook Division. The next legislative dinner for ED-RED (Educational Research Development) is set for Monday, February 6, 2012 at the Marriott O'Hare. Keynote speaker will be Charlotte Danielson, author of "A Framework for Teaching."

The Superintendent provided an explanation for the delayed launch of the new website. He also updated the Board on the recruitment process for the Field Stevenson School Principal. A post-holiday party for faculty and staff is set for January 20 at a Forest Park location. Staff will attend a law seminar on January 28.

A Forest Park Little League fundraiser was announced for Sunday, January 15, at the Park District.

The President summarized a letter he received from the Illinois Attorney General that calls for all elected and appointed persons to receive electronic training on the Freedom of Information Act/Open Meetings Act in 2012.

The Board voted to meet in special closed session Wednesday, February 1, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of evaluating its Superintendent.

Parent Hiral Patel asked how to obtain a copy of tonight's mid-year report on the strategic plan, and was instructed to email the Superintendent or his secretary for any and all agenda items. She also verified that Board members may be emailed directly.

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:35 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

For official minutes

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