MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Education, Forest Ridge School District 142, held Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at Hille Middle School, 5800 West 151st Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452 from 7:00 – 7:35 PM

MEMBERS
PRESENT
Mary Derman, President
Sarah Doff, Vice-President
Jack Hille, Secretary
Tina Banialis
Nancy Hullinger
Rebekah Mensing

OTHERS PRESENT
Dr. Paul McDermott, Superintendent
Susan Arvesen, Board Recording Secretary

ABSENT
Karly Senesac

I. Call to Order
President Mary Derman called the meeting to order.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call
President Derman asked for a Roll Call and Members responded as follows: PRESENT: Members Derman, Doff, Hille, Banialis, Hullinger, and mensing ABSENT: Senesac

IV. Audience Participation
President Derman asked if anyone present would like to come forward to address the Board. No one from the public came forward to speak.

V. Destination Excellence Award
The Destination Excellence Award recipient for October, 2019, Joy Latka, was unable to attend the Board Meeting. It was determined that Mrs. Latka would be awarded the Destination Excellence Award at the November, 2019 Board Meeting.

VI. Principal Appreciation Week – Dr. Paul McDermott
Dr. McDermott stated that since 1990, the Governor of Illinois has designated the third full week of October as Principal Appreciation Week. Dr. McDermott stated that the week is set aside to commemorate all of the hard work that principals conduct in an effort to help education make a difference for students. Dr. McDermott asked for District 142 Principals John Orth, Ryan Nagle, Curt Beringer, Kathy Davis (not present), and Jeff Kulik stand to be recognized for their commitment to District 142 students, families, and staff. Dr. McDermott stated that in addition to leading their school buildings, each Principal is also a member of the District’s Administrative Council, which helps inform, steer, and determine the direction the District is heading. Dr. McDermott thanked the Principals for their amazing work.

VII. District/Committee Reports

Bremen Trustees of School Board Meeting – October 7, 2019 @ 5:30 PM
Member Hullinger stated that the Bremen Township Trustees’ completed the fiscal year under budget. Mrs. Hullinger stated that a bond returned at $5,000 less than budgeted; monies would be divided among the member school districts.
VIII. Parent Teacher Association Representative
Forest Ridge District 142 PTA President Tracy Zerinskis stated that the PTA’s recent craft and vendor fair was a great success with 63 vendors participating and a large community attendance. Mrs. Zerinskis stated that the PTA was preparing for Boo-Ingo, which will include a Trunk and Treat as part of the evening. Mrs. Zerinskis stated that Scholastic Book Fairs were scheduled at each school during November.

IX. Teacher Representation
FREA Co-President Stacey Curtis stated that after-school activities are now in full swing at all school buildings. Mrs. Curtis stated it was good to see the students’ excitement at taking part in various clubs and activities. Mrs. Curtis stated that the District’s first SIP (School Improvement Plan) Day was a success, with teacher collaboration across all buildings. Mrs. Curtis stated that Grade Level Coordinators conducted an EL Education walk-through, which proved to be very beneficial to see how the program is being implemented across the District.

X. Consent Agenda – District 142
President Derman asked if there were any items to be pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion. No additional items were identified to be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

President Derman then asked for a Motion to Approve the October 15, 2019 Consent Agenda, as printed and publicly posted in the Board Meeting Agenda.

A. Minutes
   1. Approval of the Minutes of Regular Meeting held September 17, 2019

B. Finance
   1. Approval of the Listed Bills in the following Amounts
      - Education Fund $166,688.84
      - Operations and Maintenance Fund $107,101.35
      - Transportation $29,218.17
      - TORT Immunity $900.00
      Total All Funds $303,908.36
   2. Approval of the Automatic Payroll
   3. Treasurer’s Report

C. Personnel
   1. Approval of an Intermittent FMLA Leave for Kristin Vargas, Math Specialist at Kerkstra and Foster Elementary Schools, effective September 23, 2019
   2. Approval of an FMLA Leave for Rebecca Troike, 2nd Grade Teacher at Foster Elementary School, effective November 1, 2019
   3. Acceptance of the Intent to Retire of Gloria Mallo, Paraprofessional at Hille Middle School, effective January 17, 2020
   4. Acceptance of the resignation of Patrick James, School Psychologist Foster Elementary School and Ridge Early Childhood Center, effective September 27, 2019

D. Policy
   1. Second Reading – Board Policies
      - 2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct
         - 2:80 E Exhibit – Board Member Code of Conduct
      - 2:82 Board Agreements
         - 2:82 E Exhibit – Board of Education Misconduct Consequences
Motion: Member Hullinger moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as printed and publicly posted in the Board Meeting Agenda.
Seconded: The motion was seconded by Member Hille.
Discussion: No discussion.

Vote: The motion was declared carried on the following roll call: AYES: Members Hullinger, Hille, Doff, Banialis, Mensing, and Derman NAYS: None ABSENT: Senesac

XI. Consent Agenda – Ratification of the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association
President Derman asked for a Motion to Ratify the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association’s regularly scheduled Board Meeting of October 9, 2019.

First Motion: Member Doff
Seconded: The motion was seconded by Member Banialis.

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote: The motion was declared carried on the following roll call: AYES: Doff, Banialis, Hille, Hullinger, Mensing, and Derman NAYS: None ABSENT: Senesac

XV. Board Action

1. Approval of the Intent to Levy for Tax Year 2019
   President Derman asked for a Motion to Approve the Adoption of the Resolution of Intent to Levy the Total Sum of $8,626,842 for Tax Year 2019. This levy represents an increase of 4.99% over the 2018 levy extension.

First Motion: Member Hille
Seconded: The motion was seconded by Member Hullinger.

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote: The motion was declared carried on the following roll call: AYES: Hille, Hullinger, Banialis, Mensing, Derman, and Doff NAYS: None ABSENT: Senesac

2. Approval of Demolition of the District Office
   President Derman asked for a Motion to Approve the Demolition of the District Office at 15000 Laramie Avenue, Oak Forest, IL 60452, including bidding and selecting the bidder.

First Motion: Member Doff
Seconded: The motion was seconded by Member Hille.

Discussion: Member Hullinger asked what the time frame would be. Dr. McDermott stated that Legat Architects was putting together the bid documents/specs. Dr. McDermott stated that Legat should oversee the bidding process and they will be able to provide a timeline, once the scope of the project is defined for bidders. Member Hullinger asked if any asbestos was to be removed and how much it would cost. Dr. McDermott stated that based only on one estimate, the cost to remove the asbestos before demolition was approximately $10,000 to $15,000. Dr. McDermott stated that the project is complex in terms of issues like asbestos abatement, as well as different costs for providing different dumpsters for various types of scrap, and a myriad of permits required for each step of the demolition. Dr. McDermott stated that once everything is in place, the process should move forward quickly.
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Vote: The motion was declared carried on the following roll call: AYES: Members Doff, Hille, Hullinger, Mensing, Derman, and Banialis NAYS: None ABSENT: Senesac

XVI. Superintendent’s Report
Dr. McDermott asked if any Board Members had questions about Administrator’s Reports. No questions were raised.

Dr. McDermott reviewed the current enrollment for the District remains steady with a change of only one student. Dr. McDermott reviewed the various class sizes across the district and commended the Board for being proactive with staffing adjustments where needed, which has kept class sizes small.

Dr. McDermott stated at the November Board Meeting, he planned to include a finalized Blueprint Strategic Plan 2015-2020 for the Board’s review. Dr. McDermott stated that at the next Administrative Council meeting, all the administrators were going to review the Blueprint to assess what has been completed and make any changes or updates.

Dr. McDermott stated that the District responded to one FOIA, from SmartProcure, regarding purchasing records for a specific time period.

XVII. New/Old/Unfinished Business

1. Community Calendar
   Member Hille reviewed several upcoming community activities, including: an Oak Forest Trunk or Treat on October 31, a Fall Craft Show at Bremen High School on October 19, an upcoming Senior Health Fair at the Oak Forest Park District, and an Open House for the Village of Midlothian.

2. Draft Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Oak Forest – Discussion
   President Derman stated that a Draft Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Oak Forest was included in the Board Packet and was now up for Board discussion. Mrs. Derman stated that the Board would not be voting on this Agreement at this Board Meeting. Mrs. Derman stated that the Agreement dealt with the possible water run-off from Ridge field. Mrs. Derman stated that Dr. McDermott had a meeting with the City of Oak Forest, and the City put together a Draft Intergovernmental Agreement for the Board’s consideration. Mrs. Derman stated that the District received the draft document and in addition to Board discussion, the Board Attorney was currently reviewing the Agreement.

   Member Hullinger stated that she felt the City spent a lot of time on creating the Agreement, providing a lot of specifics on dollar amounts, equipment and hours needed to compete the work. Mrs. Hullinger stated that on a recent Friday when there was a torrential downpour, that Rich from Oak Forest Public Works was in the affected area of the neighborhood for many hours. Mrs. Hullinger stated that Rich was on 151st Street and also in her backyard, talking with other neighbors as well. President Derman stated that she was aware that this was something that the City was doing — observing homeowners’ properties and speaking with homeowners directly. Mrs. Hullinger stated that Rich did a water study and showed her several maps, documenting where the water flows and pools. Mrs. Hullinger stated she felt the City had fulfilled their part of what they said they would do.
New/Old Unfinished Business (cont.)

President Derman stated that it is still the Board’s wish to be good neighbors; she wanted to make sure the Board was moving forward in the best way of protecting the District. Mrs. Derman stated that the Board Attorney may have some opinions that the Draft Agreement is very one-sided for the City. Mrs. Derman stated the Board Attorney would want to make sure there is enough language in the Agreement that protects the District now and in the future.

Member Hullinger stated that time was running out to do the actual work on the property. Mrs. Derman stated that the Board Attorney needs time to review the document, then the Board would need to review and discuss and come to an agreement on the Attorney’s recommendations, and then send the document back to the City for its review. Mrs. Derman stated she could not predict how much time this would all take. Mrs. Hullinger stated the City was aware it was running out of time as well in terms of beginning the physical work on the property before winter and the ground freezing.

Mrs. Hullinger asked if this was something the Board was going to vote on and approve, given the cost was only $2,500. Member Hille stated that the Board needed to wait for the Attorney review. Mrs. Hullinger asked for clarifications of the next steps, wanting to know when the Agreement would be voted on and put into action. Mrs. Hullinger stated that the Agreement didn’t require bidding because it was only $2,500.

Member Mensing stated that part of the reason the Board was having this discussion was because there were no records of previous discussions of work being done in the area many years ago. Mrs. Mensing stated that when everything has been reviewed and agreed upon by all parties, there should absolutely be a vote so that there is a record of the Board’s action.

Member Banialis asked Dr. McDermott, based on the meeting he had with City officials, if this was the City’s recommendation. Mrs. Banialis asked if what the City is recommending in the Draft Agreement would solve the issue; did the City’s studies show that the proposed work in the Draft Agreement was based on its studies? Dr. McDermott stated that the District pressed for some type of document to be provided to the Board for their consideration and this Draft Agreement was that document. Member Hullinger stated that she was asking about the vote because waiting until the November meeting would not give enough time for the work to get done because of possible winter weather coming. Member Hullinger stated it would be a shame to not get the work done now because this issue has been going on since May.

President Derman stated that whatever changes the Board Attorney suggested would have to then be considered by the City. Mrs. Derman stated that there was a place for her to sign the Agreement; if she does not feel comfortable with the Agreement in its final form, she would not sign her name to it. Additionally, Mrs. Derman stated that she didn’t know how fast the city was going to return the amended Agreement, so it was not possible to create a specific timeline.

Member Hille stated that he read the Draft Agreement as more a contract for the City to do the work for payment, versus a traditional “agreement.” Mr. Hille stated that the only agreement was that the District would pay the City to fix a problem that may or may not be the District’s responsibility.
Mr. Smith, an audience member, asked if he could speak to the Board regarding this issue. The Board agreed to listen to public comments outside of the Audience Participation portion of the meeting that had already taken place. Mr. Smith asked what the timeline for the attorney review of the Draft Agreement. President Derman stated she anticipated the amended Agreement to be given to the City within the next week, but that she couldn’t provide a specific date. Mrs. Derman stated that the October 15th Board Meeting was the first time the Board could sit and discuss the initial Draft Agreement. Mr. Smith stated that he felt the City had done its part; completed what they said they would do. Mr. Smith stated he felt the City had done the work to provide a solution to the flooding problem. Mr. Smith referred to the Draft Agreement, stating that it was written in the Agreement that creating a berm and reconstructing the swale is a potential solution to the flooding. Mr. Smith stated that the City believes this to be the solution. Mr. Smith stated that the City inspected the drains in the area and determined there was no maintenance needed to be done on them. Mr. Smith mentioned a pipe going into the drain into the Hullinger’s yard. Mr. Smith stated City identified this pipe as capped and determined this was not the cause of any flooding issues. Mr. Smith stated that the grades on the plans showed a clear drop in elevation on the east side, where the flooding is problematic and there is no swale. Mr. Smith stated he felt he City offered the District a relatively affordable solution to reconstruct the swale that has not been maintained. Mr. Smith stated everyone is tired of talking about this and this should be a quick and easy solution. Mr. Smith stated that flooding is continuing, even in yards that have done improvement themselves. Mr. Smith stated that the neighbors realize they may have to do personal work on their yards, but he would like the root cause to be solved first. Mr. Smith stated that the Board has stated that they want to be a good neighbor; this is a shared responsibility and he feels the City has done its part.

President Derman stated that when using District monies to pay for this, it is actually taxpayer dollars that are being used. Mrs. Derman stated that the Board is taking things very seriously. Mrs. Derman stated that one of the issues she saw with the Draft Agreement was language regarding reconstructing a swale. Mrs. Derman stated that there is no documentation that the said swale ever existed. That said, Mrs. Derman stated that everyone is working toward a solution. Mr. Smith thanked the Board for allowing him to speak on behalf of some concerned people.

President Derman asked if there were any additional comments. A gentleman recognized as Rick (no last name given) asked if the cost was going to be $2,500. Mrs. Derman stated the City would be charging the District $2,500 to do the work. Rick stated that he has lived in his home for 20 years and he has never asked for anything. Rick stated that if this flooding was impacting Board Members’ yards, he felt more would be done. Rick stated that he planted bushes along his fence and one by one the bushes are dying because of the flooding. Rick invited anyone to come to his backyard after a rainy to see what he is experiencing. Rick stated that in 20 years, adjacent to the baseball fields, the flooding has never been like this. Rick stated that the water depletes the grass and fells trees. Rick stated that, as Mrs. Hullinger stated, if we wait until November, by April it will be horrible. Rick stated for $2,500 it should be done to get it right. Rick stated that this issue is discussed at every Board meeting and meanwhile more and more damage occurs. Rick stated he felt they needed to crack the whip on whoever it is because we are neighbors who have been complaining about something; let’s pitch in and get it right.
New/Old/Unfinished Business (cont.)

Mrs. Derman stated that there was a Board Member whose backyard was affected by flooding; this is not a political issue. Mrs. Derman stated she personally has walked through the yards when they’ve been flooded to see things firsthand. Mrs. Derman stated that the reason the District is in this situation is because there has not been proper documentation before. Mrs. Derman stated that she and other seated Board Members refuse to put future Boards in the same position. Mrs. Derman stated it was about being good stewards of every dollar and that includes making the right decision now so that there is not another issue 10 or 20 years down the line.

Rick stated whether there was or was not a swale previously, he felt the easiest and cheapest fix would be to put a swale in now. Mrs. Derman stated that it was still very important to ensure the language was very clear; this was not a financial issue. A woman identified as Rick’s wife (no name given) asked the Board if they ever address issues as a top priority and have a special meeting to do that business. Mrs. Derman stated that Special Board Meetings happen in very rare circumstances. Mrs. Derman stated the next step was to return the amended Agreement to the City and they couldn’t predict the City’s timeline. Mrs. Derman stated that residents are welcome to address the City once the amended Agreement has been returned to them. Rick’s wife asked about the expediency of the Board’s attorney. Mrs. Derman stated that the amended document had been received back from the Board Attorney. Rick’s wife asked Mrs. Derman to share the changes the Attorney recommended. Mrs. Derman declined to review the amended Agreement and stated that the purpose of this meeting was for the Board to review the initial document. Additionally, Mrs. Derman stated that the amended Agreement would have to be shared with all Board Members for consideration as well. Rick’s wife asked what day the amended Agreement would be given to the City. Mrs. Derman stated that the Board could not give a specific date at this time. Mrs. Mensing stated that the District waited weeks to get the Draft Agreement from the City and the Board is turning things around in a quick fashion. Member Banialis stated Board Books are completed the Friday before a Board Meeting. Member Mensing stated that there are certain mandated guidelines the Board must follow, including the posting of a Board Agenda 48 hours before a meeting.

Member Hullinger asked President Derman to let her know when the amended Agreement was sent to the City, so that could let everyone know so that they could call the City.

Rick stated that he observed smirking and laughing from some of the Board Members. Rick stated as a homeowner this is not a funny situation. President Derman stated no Board Member was smirking or laughing, but rather is taking the situation very seriously.
XVIII. Adjournment
President Derman asked for a Motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of District 142 for October 15, 2019.

First Motion: Member Doff
Seconded: The motion was seconded by Member Hille.
Discussion: No discussion.

Vote: The motion was declared carried on the following roll call: AYES: Members Doff, Hille, Mensing, Derman, Banialis, and Hullinger  NAYS: None  ABSENT: Senesac

Time: 7:35 PM

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President Derman                                Secretary Hille