

Lexington Community Unit #7 School District  
Lexington, Illinois  
Special Board Meeting  
“State of the District Meeting”  
January 27, 2018

President Jason Thomas called the special meeting to order in the high school gymnasium at 1:00 p.m. Roll was called with the following members present: Karin Atkins, Mike Beard, Jamie Farrell, Andy Killian, Andrea McBurney, Chris Olson, and Jason Thomas. Also present were: Dwight Stricklin, Superintendent/ High School Principal; Paul Deters, Elementary / Junior High School Principal and Patti Thomas, recording secretary and several members of the community.

There was no Public Participation

Mr. Stricklin started out the presentation with thanking the entire staff here at Lexington for all their hard work and accomplishments. “Everything we have accomplished, we have accomplished together”. We will always do what’s best for the students. He also thanked the community for all the support they have given to the district.

Superintendent Dwight Stricklin updated the community on where the district currently stands as far as the finances. Financial progress continues to be demonstrated by the Education Fund surplus over the past two years. The 2016-17 school year marks the second consecutive year Lexington Schools achieved Financial Recognition (3.7). We are projecting a \$300,000 surplus again this year.

Reducing an administrator at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year has had the financial impact expected. By the end of this current school year, the district will have saved approximately \$426,000. However, with the amount of time required, Mr. Deters and I have found ourselves spread too thin. In an effort to help us be more efficient, Mrs. Strating has been added to the administration staff. She already was half-time athletic director and now the other half of the day she is assisting both Mr. Deters and myself. With Mrs. Strating in her new role, we are still one-half position less in administration than prior to the passage of the referendum. Being a lifetime resident of Lexington and a graduate of Lexington High School, Mrs. Strating brings her vast knowledge of our school and students to this new role that makes her an even more valuable asset to the district.

Another great addition to our district has been our replacement for guidance counselor. Mrs. King comes to our district with ten years of experience in assisting students with what they need to know and how to prepare for college. In addition, Mrs. King spent one year as a financial advisor at a four- year university and brings that knowledge base to our students.

The passage of the referendum last March enabled the district to make some much needed curriculum updates. A new K-6 math curriculum was adopted and implemented for the 2017-18 school year. A new 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> science curriculum was also adopted for the current school year. We are currently in the process of reviewing a new K-12 English curriculum that is aligned with the Common Core Standards which are used for PARCC and SAT testing. We are pleased to announce that beginning this semester we are able to reinstate all day preschool that was cut to half-time prior to the 2015-16 school year due to financial restraints.

Several improvements have been made to the district over the past few years. This past year the old locker room across from the old gym has been made into a multi-purpose room and the number of parking spaces have been increased. An overall beautification of the facility has been emphasized.

Mr. Stricklin also wanted to address the community on our recent PARCC scores from last year's junior class that has been reported on [IllinoisReportCard.com](http://IllinoisReportCard.com). Lexington scored the highest of all the HOIC Schools again this year. The foundation of our school is academics.

Mr. Stricklin also spoke on the Evidence-Based Funding that has passed this year with the State. At the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, the State had not yet adopted a budget and schools were in jeopardy of not receiving any funding. While some schools were concerned about how long they would be able to keep their doors open, Lexington Schools was in position to go two years without state funding. After a long contentious battle, legislators finally approved a state budget. Next on the agenda was changing how schools were funded which had been a top priority. Again, after many years a new formula was created- Evidence- Based Funding. Evidenced-Based Funding uses a formula that recognizes individual student needs, accounts for differences in local resources, closes funding gaps, and attempts to provide for a stable system that will get all districts to adequacy over time. Each district is given a Local Capacity Target that reflects local tax resources that are available to support education. Each school district is treated individually, with an Adequacy Target based on the needs of its student body. New dollars go to the neediest districts first- those furthest from their Adequacy Target. School funding is tied to those evidence-based practices in which the research shows it best enhances the students' achievement in the classroom. A Base Funding Minimum is set for each district intended to ensure that no district receives less State funding because of the change in formula. Every district receives at least the amount of State funding received in FY 2017 in the first year. In subsequent years, no district will receive less State funding than it did in prior years.

Mr. Stricklin also addressed the current coops with Ridgeview. We are currently cooping for Football, Competitive Cheerleading, Golf, Track, Softball and Junior High Wrestling. The support from the communities have been wonderful.

Jason Thomas wanted to thank Dwight Stricklin for everything that he has done for the district over the past three years.

Mike Beard moved to adjourn at 1:35p.m. Seconded by Chris Olson.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Jason Thomas, President

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Andrea McBurney, Secretary