

# BOARD BRIEFS



Lake Park High School District 108, Roselle, IL

June 2, 2016

## Special Meeting: Action Item

During a special meeting today, the Lake Park Board of Education approved a recommendation from administration, Performance Services Inc. (PSI) and legal counsel to pursue a solar energy initiative for next school year. The decision reduces the reliance on electricity, provides at least five years of incentive dollars to offset the cost of installing the system, and provides a green footprint.

This innovative opportunity was made possible through the Illinois Power Agency when Lake Park applied for and was selected in April 2016 as a recipient for Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs), thereby making it one of the largest school district installations in Illinois. The school leader in this arena is Libertyville School District 70 in Lake County with several other districts statewide considering similar initiatives.

The installation of approximately 2,900 roof-top solar panel racks at East Campus and 3,400 roof-top solar panel racks at West Campus will commence this summer. This initiative has been carefully reviewed by the Village of Roselle administration, who ensured that Village Code allows Lake Park to safely utilize the high school roofs for solar panels. In fact, the District may potentially extend the longevity of the roofs due to the reduced exposure to the elements.

Lake Park's Board of Education Finance Committee spent considerable time reviewing the financing options and significant return on investment (39 percent of current electric usage) for solar energy. The projected \$4.4 million budget reflects an anticipated savings of \$400,000 effective in Year 1 based on conservative calculations. Financing options for the project will be voted on during the Board of Education's meeting on **Monday, June 27**.

In addition to the financial benefits, this green initiative models energy stewardship and reduces carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Furthermore, the opportunity provides a unique connection to teaching and learning. The onsite learning tool offers instructional lessons aligned to the curricular areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The District is enthusiastic to undertake this endeavor that creates sustainable, natural energy while offsetting utility costs and making a global environmental difference. More information is available in the [solar power fact sheet](#).



### Board of Education

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*The next meeting of the Lake Park High School District 108 Board of Education will be held on Monday, June 27, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the East Campus Community Room, 600 S. Medinah Road.*