



## **Board Briefs**

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[March 4, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting](#)

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#### **Approval of Agenda**

The Board voted to approve the March 4 agenda as amended.

#### **Board Reports**

Board President Anne Neumann did not have a report.

#### **Administration Information Reports**

##### ***Superintendent***

Superintendent Dr. Chala Holland provided the following updates in her report:

##### *News Surrounding the Department of Education*

While the educational landscape is evolving with new accountability measures on sex and race discrimination, Dr. Holland assured that she is keeping District administrators informed as to what these changes mean for the District. While no additional state measures have been announced, the District remains committed to our policies that protect staff and students from discrimination. Open dialogue is encouraged as well as the use of established procedures to address concerns. Dr. Holland assured that with support from the Board, the District will navigate these changes while prioritizing the dignity, respect and well-being of students and staff.

##### *Deerfield High School Principal and Chief Operations Officer Search*

Dr. Holland confirmed that the plan to announce the next DHS Principal at the March 18 meeting remains on track. She thanked everyone involved in the process and noted that while the COO hiring process is still ongoing, she intends to present a recommendation for that position at the same meeting.

##### *Assistant Superintendent Openings*

Dr. Holland spoke about two new Cabinet vacancies for the 2025-2026 school year: Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment and Assistant Superintendent of

Student Services. She thanked Dr. Lisa Dallacqua and Dr. Tiffany Rowe for their service, noting Dr. Rowe's 10-year tenure at D113. Job postings were posted and stakeholders will receive information on the hiring process and ways to participate. Alongside these leadership changes, Dr. Holland noted that the District is engaged in Strategic Planning to shape a strong leadership team aligned with the District's shared vision. While transitions bring uncertainty, a commitment to supporting students, staff and the District's future remains steadfast.

### *Strategic Planning*

The District's first in-person full-group Strategic Planning meeting took place on February 26, where stakeholders reviewed data presentations on three areas:

1. Finance, Facilities, Technology and Communication
2. Student Learning
3. Culture and Climate

After a Q&A, participants conducted a SWOT analysis, with insights gathered by Catalyst for Educational Change (CEC) facilitators. CEC will draft the analysis and send it to stakeholders for feedback [via a survey](#), open until 5:00 p.m. on March 12, and in-person sessions on March 10 at Highland Park High School and March 11 at Deerfield High School. This feedback will refine the analysis for discussion at the next Strategic Planning meeting on March 19 at Deerfield High School. A Strategic Planning page, where additional information can be found, has also been launched on the [District website](#).

### **FOIA**

Dr. Holland reported that no FOIA requests have been processed since the last board meeting.

### **School Reports**

#### *Student Liaison Reports*

DHS Senior Lila Peck reported that one of Deerfield's robotics teams, 10415 Warbots, competed in the FIRST Robotics State Competition. The team advanced to the finals and won the state championship while also obtaining the sixth-highest score in the world. The team will now move on to the Worlds Competition in Houston this April. The computer science team invited DHS alum and CEO/co-founder of CodeHS Jeremy Keeshin to speak to current computer science students. The students learned about his experience in the field and were able to ask questions. The theater production of *9 to 5* had a successful run in February.

HPHS Senior Miles Walker reported that the debate team won the 2025 State Championship. HPHS had its Black History Month celebration in February featuring different experiences that included speeches and musical performances as well as a specially curated menu put together by Quest Foods and the Black Student Union. In mid-March, this year's dance concert, *Luminosity*, will be performed and tickets are available now.

## **Discussion**

### ***2025-2026 FTE Recommendation for All Staff (Licensed and Non-Licensed)***

The Board reviewed the proposed 2025-2026 FTE Recommendation for All Staff (Licensed and Non-Licensed). The staffing recommendation will come back to the March 18 meeting for action.

## **Action**

### ***Resolution Approving One-Year Administrative Contracts***

The Board voted to approve a resolution approving one-year administrative contracts.

### ***Approve Multi Year Contract for Chief Communications Officer***

The Board voted to approve a multi-year contract with Karen Warner to serve as the Chief Communications Officer through June 30, 2027.

### ***Approve Multi Year Contract for Assistant Superintendent/Chief School Business Official***

The Board voted to approve a multi-year contract with Ali Mehanti to serve as the Assistant Superintendent/Chief School Business Official through June 30, 2027.

### ***Approve Multi Year Contract for Chief Information Officer***

The Board voted to approve a multi-year contract with Ron Kasbohm to serve as the Chief Information Officer through June 30, 2027.

### ***Approve Multi Year Contract for Executive Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion***

The Board voted to approve a multi-year contract for Mirah Anti to serve as the Executive Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion through June 30, 2027.

### ***Approve Amendment to Employment Contract of Highland Park High School Principal***

The Board voted to approve an amendment to the Employment Contract of the Highland Park High School Principal Holly Fleischer.

### ***Approve Amendment to Employment Contract of Chief Human Resources Officer/Deputy Superintendent***

The Board voted to approve an Amendment to the Employment Contract of the Chief Human Resources Officer/Deputy Superintendent Dr. Kathryn Anderson.

### ***Approve Separation Agreement for Licensed Staff Member***

The Board voted to approve a separation agreement for a Licensed Staff Member.

## **Consent Agenda**

The Board approved [the consent agenda](#) as presented. The consent agenda includes meeting minutes and personnel.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

**Upcoming Meetings**

***March 18, 2025***

Regular Action Meeting

6:00 p.m. Closed, 7:00 p.m. Open

Administration Building

***April 8, 2025***

Committee of the Whole Meeting

6:00 p.m. Closed, 7:00 p.m. Open

Administration Building