



Board Briefs

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[May 14, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting](#)

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Approval of Agenda

The Board voted to approve the May 14 agenda as amended.

Board Reports

President

Board President Anne Neumann began her remarks by expressing deep sadness over the loss of a Glenbrook South senior killed in a car accident on Sunday, May 12. Ms. Neumann offered condolences to the families and community members affected. She reminded all that students in need of support are encouraged to reach out to school counseling departments or use the [D113 Tip Line](#) if they are concerned about a classmate or friend.

Ms. Neumann then acknowledged Teacher Appreciation Week which was recognized from May 6 to May 10, highlighting the contributions of over 350 licensed staff members and professional staff. She also shared that School Nurse Appreciation Day was recognized on May 8, emphasizing the essential role of school nurses in managing student health and well-being. Ms. Neumann urged ongoing gratitude for staff throughout the school year.

In closing, Ms. Neumann said that the Illinois Association of School Board (IASB) is now accepting resolutions that it will be evaluated for the Joint Annual Conference in November. She asked District 113 Board members to provide any proposed resolutions by June 4 for discussion at the June 11 meeting in order to make the submission deadline of June 26 to IASB.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

DEI Committee Chair Dr. Jody Elliott-Schrimmer provided a report from the committee meeting held earlier that evening. Dr. Elliott-Schrimmer said the committee discussed an ongoing data analysis initiative led by Assistant Superintendent of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Mirah Anti to determine if discrimination on the basis of sex contributed to any enrollment disparities in classes. Dr. Elliott-Schrimmer said the analysis is in early stages but with the help of staff in the buildings the analysis will now delve into why any identified disparities exist.

Facilities Committee

Facilities Committee Chair Rick Heineman provided a report from the committee meeting held earlier that evening. Mr. Heineman said the committee discussed stormwater management as well as the life safety study that the State of Illinois requires school districts to complete every 10

years. He said that the District is in the process of looking into which architectural firm it will use to conduct the study.

Recognition

Student Artists

Ms. Neumann thanked the talented student artists who loaned their awe-inspiring work to the Administration Building and Board Room for display this year. She also thanked Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law for beginning this program. The artists who had their work featured this year are Emily Beall, Ella Bernstein, Sofi Contreras, Paul Feinmehl, Ella Friedman, Will Holtz, Olivia Huwe, Olivia Kalish, Liv Knapp, Sam Levi, Austin Levinson, Marlow (Sky) Litowitz, Alyssa Lockard, William Love, Evelyn Meehan, Hannah Murphy, Sade Muscarella, Fatima Parra Garcia, Laura Rodriguez-Rios and Emma Spiegel.

Student Liaisons to the Board

The Board of Education thanked the four students who served as student liaisons to the Board during the 2023-24 school year/fiscal year 2024: DHS students Jada Harris and Lillian Dowlatshahi, and HPHS students Stephanie Diaz and Miles Walker. Beginning this year, the graduating senior liaisons will wear a purple cord as part of their graduation regalia as a visible sign of appreciation for all the invaluable guidance and student perspective they provided to the Board.

Highland Park Community Foundation Golden Apple Award

The Board welcomed Highland Park Community Foundation (HPCF) Golden Apple Selection Committee Chairperson Sara Sher to honor the HPCF Golden Apple Finalist HPHS teacher Remington Clark and 2024 Golden Apple Recipient and HPHS teacher Sarah Douglas. The HPCF Golden Apple Award demonstrates the community's commitment to excellence in helping young people reach their potential by honoring exceptional educators.

Retiring Staff

As the 2023-24 school year draws to a close, the Board honored 25 staff members across multiple departments for their service as well as their positive impact on students and their learning experiences within DHS and HPHS. The [retirees](#) represent a combined total of 589 years of service to District 113.

College Bound Opportunities (CBO)

The Board welcomed College Bound Opportunities Executive Director Susan Bell to recognize the names and post-secondary plans of the five graduating seniors who participated in the CBO program during their high school experience at Deerfield and Highland Park High Schools. CBO currently supports 57 students attending DHS, HPHS, and other Lake County high schools.

Schuler Scholars

The Board welcomed Schuler Scholar Site Director at HPHS Cheryl Smith to honor HPHS Schuler Scholar graduating seniors. Although the Schuler Scholar Program has announced that it is winding down, the current Schuler Scholars in college will continue to receive financial support. The District as well as other organizations are looking into ways to support current high school students in the Schuler Scholar Program.

Administration Information Reports

Superintendent

Superintendent Dr. Law said all are looking forward to graduation next week and he reminded everyone to arrive in plenty of time to be seated for the festivities. He said that just like last year, District 113 will be following Ravinia's standard security procedures, which include Ravinia's K-9 teams patrolling the grounds and requiring all who enter to go through metal detectors. District 113 security and school resource officers will also be there.

He reiterated the District's gratitude for teachers, nurses and staff recognized during Teacher Appreciation Week and Nurse Appreciation Day held last week. He then noted that the Board was given a copy of DHS art and literary magazine *Troubadour*. Led by sponsors Neil Rigler and Tim Bleck, Dr. Law said it is spectacular and those thumbing through it will need to remind themselves that it is a high school publication.

In closing, Dr. Law thanked Chief Information Officer Ron Kasbohm and the entire IT Department for the work that they do to keep all of the IT running as seamlessly as possible. Dr. Law said that an outage on April 29 caused by a state fiber being accidentally cut had minimal impact on District 113 students and staff while causing major problems in other Districts.

Consolidated District Plan

A consolidated district plan is required from each school district annually in order to be eligible to access federal and state grant funds. The 2024-25 plan was presented to the Board for review. Although ISBE does not require Board approval for the plan when no substantial changes are made, it was presented to the Board for review.

FOIA

Dr. Law reported the FOIA requests received since the last meeting and their disposition. The report is posted in BoardDocs online.

School Reports

Student Liaison Reports

HPHS Student Liaison Stephanie Diaz and DHS Student Liaison Jada Harris provided reports on the latest happenings at their respective schools to the Board in their final report for the school year.

Discussion

Resolution Authorizing Driver Education Fee

Administration presented to the Board a resolution authorizing the driver education fee. In compliance with Illinois School Code, a public hearing will be held at the May 28 meeting for the Board to formally adopt this annually required resolution. District 113 is charging \$240 for driver education in the 2024-25 school year, the same fee it has charged since 2019-20. No waiver from the Illinois State Board of Education is required as long as driver education fees do not exceed \$250.

Physical Security Review

As part of the District's commitment to the ongoing improvement of student and staff safety, Administration provided a report to update the Board on recent and planned security enhancements. Chief Operations Officer Brian Ahmer stated that the installation of security film on all first-floor windows has been completed. He also said that the distributed antenna system upgrades that facilitate first responder communication while inside District 113 schools had also been completed. Items slated for installation over the summer include corridor access controls, classroom door card readers, ingress-egress exterior door control, and security operations centers at both schools.

As part of the discussion, Mr. Ahmer also provided the Board with a recommendation to pilot K-9 gun/explosive detection dogs during a week of summer school as a possible additional mitigation layer. He cited the facts that K-9 gun detection has a proven track record of success, is not invasive, and provides continuous surveillance during the time that the K-9 team is working. He also emphasized that the dogs go through rigorous training and certification. The dogs do not bark, they are not trained to detect drugs, and they are not trained to attack. He added that the breed of dogs District 113 would use look more like floppy-eared pets, not like pointed-ear breeds. While working, the dogs do not interact with people other than the dog's human partner. When the dogs are off-duty or resting, they can interact with smaller groups on a limited basis.

Mr. Ahmer explained that after interviewing firms, a pilot in summer school would provide an opportunity to test the program with a smaller group of students and staff. The Board concurred, and all agreed that a pilot also provides an opportunity to gather student and staff input during the experience. The Board said that this process enables the Board to solicit feedback that will inform their decision and also promote a thoughtful, deliberate rollout if they decide to move ahead after the pilot.

As a reminder, stakeholder feedback and input on security can be sent to the active email address devoted to security: D113secure@dist113.org.

Action

Textbook Adoptions for 2024-25

The Board approved as presented new textbooks recommended for adoption. Additional adoption requests may come to the Board over the summer after teams complete summer curricular projects.

Authorize Payment of Invoices to Avoid Late Finance Charges

The Board voted to authorize payment of invoices to avoid late charges from certain vendors when Board approval of the invoices comes after the due date. The checks will be released but still appear on all reports and could be pulled for auditing purposes. The list of companies for fiscal year 2025 can be found on BoardDocs.

Resolution Designating Depositories for School District Funds

As it does each year, the Board voted to adopt a resolution to authorize signatories and depositories for the following fiscal year.

Approve One-Year Employment Contract for Director of Outplacement Services

The Board voted to approve as presented a one-year employment contract with Elizabeth Burgess as Director of Outplacement Services beginning July 1, 2024.

Approve Resolution Authorizing Reduction in Force of Educational Support Personnel

The Board approved as presented a resolution authorizing a reduction in force of educational support personnel.

Approve Resolution Authorizing Notice of Non-Renewal of Administrative Contract

The Board approved as presented a resolution authorizing a reduction in force of a teaching position

Consent Agenda

The Board approved [the consent agenda](#) as presented. The consent agenda includes personnel, stipends, and board bills.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

May 28, 2024

Regular Action Meeting

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

Administration Building

June 4, 2024

Finance Committee

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Administration Building

June 11, 2024

Committee of the Whole Meeting

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

Administration Building