



Board Briefs - [Para español, por favor haga click aquí.](#)
[November 18, 2019 Regular Meeting](#)

Tax Levy Public Hearing

Tax Levy

Although no levy hearing was required under the Truth in Taxation law because the estimated 2019 levy does not exceed 105 percent of the 2018 levy amount, a levy hearing was held at the November 18 meeting.

Approval of Regular Board Meeting Agenda

The Board voted to approve the November 18, 2019 Regular Meeting agenda.

June 30, 2019 Audit Presentation and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Every November the District's auditors present the audit and the Comprehensive Annual Report (CAFR). Nick Cavaliere from Baker Tilly presented the fiscal year 2019 audit and 2019 CAFR. Mr. Cavaliere noted that District 113 is operating well within its means and received the highest rating on the annual audit as well as a clean opinion on the federal compliance audit.

School Board Member Appreciation

In honor of School Board Members Day November 15, Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law read a resolution thanking Board members for their service.

Reports

Board President

As part of her report, Board President Elizabeth Garlovsky said that posts made on private or non-District 113 social media accounts have not been verified by the District. President Garlovsky observed that District 113 communicates directly with families if a situation requires it and encouraged people to follow District 113 and school pages for official information.

President Garlovsky reviewed with the Board each resolution for the delegate assembly at the upcoming Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) annual conference November 21. As the representative of the Board, she asked that the Board give her direction in voting to adopt or not adopt various resolutions that IASB is considering. The Board took particular interest in safety-related resolutions, and directed the Board President to support the state providing grants to districts to hire their own school resource officers, supporting background checks on substitute teachers and increasing traffic-calming measures in front of schools. The Board directed the Board President not to support allowing teachers to carry guns in the classroom, not to support creating a school district police force and not to support compensating board members for their service.

Student Liaisons

Matthew Dawson and Amy Weiner from Deerfield High School and Marley Alexander from Highland Park High School shared highlights from recent and upcoming events at their respective schools.

Superintendent

In his report, Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law commented on how beneficial the request for proposal (RFP) and request for qualifications (RFQ) processes are for getting the best services for the best price. There is a RFP out for health insurance broker and a request for qualifications (RFQ) for design services. Dr. Law thanked two Board liaisons for helping Administration with the RFP for the insurance broker and asked the Board to think about the composition of the committee for reviewing the qualifications of submittals.

Dr. Law told the Board that conversations with groups affected by changes to Policy 8-25 are ongoing. In the meantime, Dr. Law requested authority from the Board to execute advertising contracts.

Dr. Law asked the Board whether Administration should go out for bids to finish the HPHS black box theater. The shell of the theater was completed in 2016 using referendum funds but the interior space remains empty and unfinished. Once the bids come back, the Board will review them and then determine by a vote at a future meeting whether to accept a bid for the work.

Discussion

Addition to the 2020-21 Program of Studies

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction & Assessment Dr. Michael Lach presented the additions to the Program of Studies for the 2020-21 school year. The additions are the result of the curriculum review process that includes Department Chairpersons, teachers, building curriculum committees, building administrative teams, and Cabinet. The agenda item will come back for a vote at the December meeting.

Proposal to Purchase Two Used Wheelchair Passenger Buses

Administration presented a proposal to purchase two used wheelchair passenger buses for a total cost of \$64,916. By purchasing its own buses and using its own drivers, the District will be able to provide more reliable transportation to students who require the use of a wheelchair. District 113 estimates it will be able to save \$25,000 annually by bringing this transportation in house. The agenda item will come back for a vote at the December meeting.

Action Items

2019 Tax Levy

The Board voted to adopt the resolution to approve the 2019 tax levy as presented at the October 21 meeting. The 2019 levy totals \$100,548,827. As required by law, the Board estimated the 2019 levy amount at least 20 days before adoption, (35 ILCS 200/18-60). The 2019 levy adopted in November 2019 will fund the 2020-21 school year.

Supplemental Levy Resolution

The Board also voted to adopt a Supplemental Levy Resolution that will allow the Board to increase the levy for the 2015B non-referendum series bonds by the amount of the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Legal Firm for Property Tax Appeals

The Board voted to approve Administration's recommendation to continue to use the firm of Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn (HLERK) to provide legal representation on behalf of Township High School District 113 for property tax appeals. Representation would be for appeals seeking reduction of \$500,000 equalized assessed valuation (EAV) or more. An EAV in the amount of \$500,000 represents a market value of \$1.5 million.

June 30, 2019 Audit Report

The Board voted to accept the annual audit for the year ending June 30, 2019 as submitted by the District's auditors Baker Tilly.

ROM Construction Projects for 2021

As part of its facility planning process, Administration recommended and the Board approved rough order of magnitude (ROM) projects for construction in summer of 2021. The next step in the process is to assemble "functional teams" who will develop options that will meet each project's design objectives. Each functional team will present a report to the Board toward the end of the school year for the Board to determine final scope and design before detailed drawings are created. For summer 2021, the Board voted to work on the Deerfield High School auditorium and the Highland Park High School library.

Approve HPHS Cafeteria Bids

Perkins & Will reviewed the design and scope of the cafeteria presented to the Board in the summer. Before voting on the bids, the Board asked several questions and went over the alternate projects that could be completed along with the cafeteria. The Board then voted to approve the bid to renovate the HPHS cafeteria in the amount of \$6,771,653 and to renovate the PE offices in the amount of \$427,460.

Bid to Fix DHS Auditorium Rigging

The Board voted to approve a contract with Protolight, Inc., in the amount of \$44,522 to fix the rigging in the Deerfield High School auditorium. The work is scheduled to begin in December and is scheduled to be completed in January.

Approve 7.5 Month Contract for Interim Student Assistance Provider at Highland Park High School

The Board voted to approve a contract with Ronald Strong to serve as the Student Assistance Provider at Highland Park High School through June 30, 2019.

2019-20 School Calendar Amendment

The Board voted to approve two changes to the 2019-20 school calendar that at the end of each semester extends the final exam time frame from three days to four. The proposed amendment designates Monday, December 16, 2019, as the first day of finals at the end of first semester and designates Thursday, June 4, 2020, as a student attendance day and the last day of finals at the end of second semester.

Note that student non-attendance days during the school year that could be designated as emergency make-up days remain as follows:

Friday, December 20
Friday, February 14
Monday, February 17
Monday, March 2
Monday, April 13

2020-2021 School Calendar

The Board approved as presented at the October meeting the 2020-21 school year calendar.

Extending Engagement with Cotter Consulting

Due to the increased need for consulting services on facilities projects as well as consulting on the RFQ for architectural services, the Board voted to extend the engagement with Cotter Consulting as the District's Owner's Representative in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

Policies for Second Read

The Board voted to approve the following policies as presented:

- 6-190 School Organizations/Student Clubs
- 7-150 Agency and Police Interviews

Consent Agenda

The Board approved the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda includes personnel, stipends, and board bills. Click on the link to access the meeting agenda and then scroll down to see consent agenda items beginning under number 15.

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

December 16, 2019 - 6:00 p.m. Closed Session, 7:00 p.m. Open Session
Administration Building 1040 Park Ave W, Highland Park, IL 60035