



**Board Briefs** - [Para español, por favor haga click aquí.](#)  
[August 24, 2020 Regular Meeting](#)

### ***Annual Budget Public Hearing***

The Board held its annual budget public hearing which adjourned at 7:05. Each year by September 30 the Board is required to adopt a budget for the current fiscal year and as part of the budget adoption process must hold a public hearing on the budget before voting to adopt it.

### ***Approval of Regular Board Meeting Agenda***

The Board voted to approve the August 24, 2020 Regular Meeting agenda as presented.

### ***Reports***

#### ***Board President***

Board President Jodi Shapira shared that the 2020-21 school year is off to a great start, thanking teachers, students and families. She said everyone survived the national Zoom outage from earlier in the day and said it was really a shining moment to see how District 113 rises to the occasion when these difficulties occur. She reported that the weekly meetings with DEA leadership are continuing and she thanked all of the committee members for their work as they continue to meet to move items ahead to the full Board.

#### ***HR Committee Report***

HR Committee Chair Elizabeth Garlovsky reported on the August 20 HR Committee meeting. The committee reviewed Administration's recommendation that Highland Park High School's 10-month assistant principal position become a 12-month position and recommended that the Board approve this change. The committee also reviewed Administration's recommendation that the 10-month Director of Equity and Inclusion position become a 12-month position and recommended that the Board approve this change. Both items are on the agenda tonight for action. Provided that the Board approves these changes, the next step will be approval of contracts for individuals currently in these positions.

Ms. Garlovsky also reported on a discussion with the committee regarding communications needs in District 113. A communications audit completed in 2017 indicated areas for improvement in district communications, and extra demands from the pandemic have shone a light on needs in the Communications Department. At the next HR Committee meeting, Administration will report back if there are others in the District who have the skills and time in their schedule to fill certain needs before the District looks for outside support. Ms. Garlovsky expressed concern that the support should not be limited to the pandemic as that may limit the quality of applicants, noting that District 113 wants to attract the right talent for a long-term partnership.

### *Superintendent*

In his report, Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law said he echoed the sentiments of Board President Shapira saying that the first week of school was a good start and he thanked teachers for their hard work since last spring to plan for remote learning. He said students are engaged, teachers are working well, and he is very appreciative of how well the year has started.

Dr. Law then shared news of an update from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) on August 18 that identified “priority standards.” Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Dr. Michael Lach has been in several meetings with ISBE since the update. Dr. Law emphasized that he wanted to let everyone know that in District 113 all the learning standards are a priority this school year, not just a few of them.

Dr. Law reported that Director of Equity and Inclusion Mirah Anti has launched for staff a “21 Day Equity and Inclusion Challenge,” a three-week program of videos and articles to read to learn more. Board members also expressed interest in taking the challenge.

As with many things during the pandemic, this year Open House will be held virtually. Teachers will record videos for their classes and parents can watch as their schedule allows. Parents will still have the opportunity to follow up with individual teachers to make appointments and ask questions.

In other news, Dr. Law shared that Moody's Investors Service has assigned the highest bond rating Aaa rating to District 113.

Following up from the August 10 meeting when the Board indicated they wanted to discuss changing the name of the school holiday in October from Columbus Day, Dr. Law asked the Board how it would like to proceed. Noting that this topic was previously discussed by the 2015 Board in 2016, Board members indicated that the purpose in changing the name is to be as inclusive as possible. The Board requested that input and feedback be gathered from students and staff and that this topic could be addressed by the Equity and Inclusion Committee.

### *Athletics Update*

Athletic Directors Gayle Luehr from Deerfield High School and Jon Rowley from Highland Park High School along with members of their departments provided [an update](#) to the Board on athletics since March 2020 and their plans and offerings for the current school year. Highlights of the presentation included all the ways athletics has been working to provide students at both schools with the opportunity for connection, to help them continue to train as student athletes and to stay active. Despite the pandemic, the Athletic Directors reported an increase in student participation in athletics.

### *Hybrid Services Update*

Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law recommended to the Board that this topic should be a regular agenda item while District 113 is in Remote Learning Plus Services and the Board agreed. Dr. Law said the District has been working on [a Health and Safety Plan](#), which will be released following the completion of the document's translation into Spanish. The release of the Health and Safety Plan has been delayed several times to due continued changes in guidance, the latest of which was an update from the Illinois Department of Public Health on August 20. In addition to the comprehensive Health and Safety Plan, each service will also develop a supplemental plan to address the specific needs and spaces of a particular

service, and a checklist will be completed to ensure all things are in place and all safety precautions align. The District continues to work on adding services and information will be shared as it is developed.

***Action***

***Accept Correct Digital Displays Bid for Deerfield High School Adams Field Scoreboard***

The Board voted to approve the bid from Correct Digital Displays discussed at the July 6 Facilities Committee meeting and at the July 13 Board meeting for replacing the Deerfield High School scoreboard on Adams Field.

***Approve FGM Architectural Services Contract***

The Board voted to approve the FGM Architectural Services Contract as presented.

***Engage Advanced Clean to Provide Supplemental Cleaning Services***

The Board voted to engage supplemental cleaning services firm Advanced Clean to prepare for increased cleaning needs that will only begin when 50 percent of students are onsite for instruction in the rotational model. The contract was originally presented at the July 13 meeting.

***Approve a Change Order for Cotter Consulting***

The Board voted to approve as presented a change order for Cotter Consulting relating to the Health Services Offices expansion for time and materials in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.

***Quest FY21 MOU***

The Board voted to approve as amended a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Quest Food Management Services, the District's food service provider. The MOU was originally presented at the August 10 meeting.

***Adopt 2020-21 Budget***

The Board voted to adopt the annual budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year. The tentative budget and supporting detail were discussed at the June 1 Special Meeting. Assistant Superintendent for Finance Ali Mehanti said that included in this year's presentation are changes to the budget due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has brought many unforeseen, additional costs to the District. Mr. Mehanti shared that in ordinary years, a budget is a plan for revenues and expenditures that is actively managed, and actual revenues and expenditures are regularly reported to the Board. This year, there will be more variability in the budget, and because of that variability pandemic expenditures will be reported monthly separately in addition to the regular financial reporting.

***Approve Settlement Agreement for Student 2020-08***

The Board voted to approve as presented a settlement agreement with student 2020-08.

***Approve All Assistant Principal Positions to be 12-Month Positions***

Following the recommendation from the HR Committee at its August 20 meeting, the Board voted to approve all Assistant Principal positions to be 12-month positions.

***Approve Director of Equity and Inclusion Position as a 12-Month Position***

Following the recommendation from the HR Committee at its August 20 meeting, the Board voted to approve the Director of Equity and Inclusion position as a 12-month position.

***Consent Agenda***

The Board approved the consent agenda as listed and revised. 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 8.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

**Upcoming Meetings**

September 8, 2020 – Policy Committee Meeting  
4:00 p.m.

September 14, 2020 - Regular Board of Education Meeting  
6:00 p.m. Closed Session, 7:00 p.m. Open Session