



Board Briefs - [Para español, por favor haga click aquí.](#)
[September 14, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting](#)

Approval of Agenda

The Board voted to approve the September 14 agenda as presented.

Board Reports

President

Board President Jodi Shapira relayed the sad news that Lisa Larson, Administrative Assistant for the Deerfield High School Athletics Department, had passed away. President Shapira shared remembrances from Ms. Larson's colleagues, noting the loss to the entire District.

She closed the report by asking Board members to keep Tuesdays open for Board business and committee meetings.

Finance Committee

Committee Chair Ken Fishbain provided a report from the August 26 Finance Committee meeting noting that Tammie Beckwith Schallmo from the District's municipal advisor PMA presented an update. Ms. Beckwith Schallmo presented information about alternate revenue bonds and refunding opportunities. Mr. Fishbain said that given the lower interest rates it makes sense for the District to refinance bonds. He also said that the October-November timeline to issue \$51 million in alternate revenue bonds to pay for construction remains in line with previous discussions and reiterated that the issuance of alternate revenue bonds would not increase the tax levy.

Policy Committee

Committee Chair Dan Struck provided a report from the August 30 Policy Committee meeting saying that the revisions made by the committee to the three policies later in the agenda for first reading committee made integral updates to align academics to the District's goals and philosophy.

Administration Reports

Superintendent

[School Operations](#)

As has been the case at every regular meeting since the start of the pandemic, Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law provided an update to the Board on school operations. The link to the full presentation with detailed information can be found above.

Dr. Law shared that changes had been made to requirements for providing remote learning by the Illinois State Board of Education and that District 113 is aligning its remote education plan to these changes in a way that most benefits students. Students in isolation or quarantine will continue to receive work at home just as they would for any short-term illness. In addition to receiving work, students in isolation or quarantine will have the opportunity to work directly with teachers for 2.5 hours in the afternoon after school.

Dr. Law provided an update on the District 113 requirement for all staff to be vaccinated as a condition of employment by October 31, 2021. He said the impact to operations makes it necessary for the District to begin preparing now to fill any positions that may be vacated by staff who do not comply with the vaccine requirement. Anticipated vacancies will be posted September 15 for positions held by unvaccinated staff who do not have a religious or medical exemption application in process. Postings will be taken down if the criteria are met by the deadline.

Finally, Dr. Law shared that the District 113 SHIELD screening testing had detected four positive cases Districtwide during the timeframe of August 23 through September 10 but pointed out that there was no evidence that the cases were linked to school, meaning the transmission took place outside of school.

Fire Response Report

Dr. Law expressed his gratitude to the many people who spent so much time reopening Highland Park High School after the August 27 fire. Director of Facilities and Operations Brian Ahmer provided the Board with the recap of events as they unfolded as well as an update on the status of equipment and insurance claims.

FOIA Requests

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

Board Policies for First Reading

The Board reviewed the following policies for first reading.

6-40 Curriculum Development

6-210 Instructional Materials

7-300 Extracurricular Athletics

Discussion

Field Trips 2021-22

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction Dr. Michael Lach said that it is anticipated that an update to *Policy 6-240 Field Trips* will go to the Policy Committee in the coming weeks. Until that update occurs, District 113 will follow the PRESS guidance on field trips, meaning that Administration will bring to the Board for approval any field trip that is 200

miles or more away from school, overnight or both. Administration prepared for Board review a preliminary list of field trips that would occur before February 2022. The list included experiences that could not be replicated outside of a field trip, such as state athletic and music competitions. The item will come back for a vote at the next meeting. Additional field trips will be brought to the Board as appropriate.

Action

Authorization to Purchase Four 2022 Dump Trucks

The Board voted to approve the purchase of four vehicles in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 and delegate authority to Ali Mehanti, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, to review, approve, and execute any purchase documents.

Approve Memorandum of Understanding Between the Board of Education and District 113 Education

The Board voted to approve as presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Board of Education and District 113 Education Association (DEA). The MOU outlines specific criteria for continuity of instruction and learning in the event that licensed staff members are awaiting COVID-19 test results or in quarantine. President Shapira extended her thanks to DEA President Jerry Lavin for his continued work in the MOU group.

Consent Agenda

The Board approved the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda includes personnel, stipends, and board bills. Click on [this link](#) to access the meeting agenda and then scroll down to see consent agenda items beginning under number 10.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings-

September 28, 2021 – Regular Action Meeting
6:00 p.m. Closed Session, 7:00 p.m. Open Session