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[November 15, 2022 Committee of the Whole Meeting](#)

Approval of Agenda

The Board voted to approve the November 15 agenda as presented.

School Board Member Appreciation

In honor of School Board Member Appreciation Day November 15, Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law read a [resolution](#) thanking school board members for devoting their time and energy to the successful education of District 113 children as future leaders.

Board Reports

President

Board President Ken Fishbain began his report by sharing an update from the City of Highland Park in response to the July 4 mass shooting. He said on November 11, the City opened the Rose Garden adjacent to City Hall as the temporary memorial. He noted that the Highland Park Library archivist is overseeing items that will be reviewed for a July 4 collection. He added that the City has initiated the planning phase for the permanent memorial.

Mr. Fishbain added that because of a scheduling conflict for Dr. Law, Mr. Fishbain attended the quarterly intergovernmental agency meeting with partner entities in Highland Park. He said the agencies appreciated the resources the district was dedicating to trauma response for our students and staff. Additionally, Mr. Fishbain shared that Moraine Township said its food pantry is in need of donations. He reminded everyone that Moraine Township serves students and families at Highland Park High School. West Deerfield Township is also in search of donations. West Deerfield Township serves students and families at Deerfield High School.

He closed his remarks by saying the Board has begun working on a new contract with the District 113 Education Association (DEA). The Board and the DEA have discussed their communications protocol and the process they will follow for bargaining. Mr. Fishbain said their discussions have been cooperative and open.

As the District 113 Board representative to TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804, Jodi Shapira said that TrueNorth will be starting discussions with its 18 member districts seeking financial support to update TrueNorth facilities to support special education programming.

Policy Committee

Policy Committee Chair Dan Struck provided a report on the November 1 meeting, noting that the 11 policies discussed appear later on the agenda for first reading. Mr. Struck also noted that the committee reviewed the 2022 Illinois Association of School Board Delegate Assembly resolutions that the Board will take action on later in the meeting.

Administration Reports

Superintendent

Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law reported that he and Board member Jodi Shapira attended the Village of Deerfield's annual picnic for municipal partner leaders, the first time the event had been held in person since 2019.

Dr. Law said that an action item will be listed on the November 29 meeting agenda to extend the expiration of unused vacation days for 12-month staff from December 31 to January 6, the end of winter break. Several 12-month employees asked for the date to be changed, citing that it would be better on the operations of the schools to allow vacation days to align with winter break more so than a calendar year end before they expire. The Board agreed, and the change will come before the Board on November 29 for approval.

Dr. Law announced that following many months of construction, the Highland Park High School library opened that morning. He said he saw many students and staff enjoying walking around the library, viewing the new facility and features. He thanked Chief Operating Officer Brian Ahmer and his team for their hard work in completing the project and for really listening to the input from end users to ensure that the space reflects student and staff needs.

In conclusion, Dr. Law said he wanted to make people aware of a very serious topic. He said [a communication would go out to families and staff about the disturbing trend known as "swatting"](#) that continues to occur at schools nationwide. Swatting is making a false report of active or imminent violence to emergency services in an attempt to bring a large number of armed police officers, or SWAT team, to a particular address.

Administration has been talking to local law enforcement about swatting and law enforcement's procedures in such cases. In these discussions, local law enforcement said that they will respond immediately and in force to a report of an active incident. Dr. Law emphasized that the District will communicate with families as soon as it has accurate, verified information, and that the speed of communication may not be as fast as reports on social media or students texting from their personal cell phones.

He added that District 113 in conjunction with its partner elementary districts in Project 440 (Bannockburn School District 106, Deerfield Public Schools 109, North Shore School District 112), is working with a shared security consultant to ensure the highest standard of care for all students in Project 440. This work includes standardizing procedures and vocabulary when

schools have to alter their normal operations so that parents/guardians and students know what all the terms mean as they move through Pre-K – 12.

Illinois Report Cards 2021-22

As required by Board policy and Illinois School Code, Administration presented the 2021-22 district and school report cards created by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to the Board and the community. DHS was named exemplary and HPHS was named commendable, the same summative designations received in 2019 for the 2017-18 report cards, the last time the full report cards were released due to the pandemic. New for 2021-22 is a district-level report on what ISBE defines as the “Equity Journey Continuum,” an algorithm that calculates scores for state measures of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Equity and Inclusion Committee has been discussing the Equity Journey Continuum component at its meetings and will continue to review steps to work on this area of the report card.

The report cards can be found on the [District 113 website](#). If a District 113 parent or guardian wishes to receive a printed copy by mail, please contact Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Dr. Michael Lach at 224-765-1016.

2022-23 Goals Update

Administration provided the Board with an update on two of the five goals for the 2022-23 school year, “Improve Practices that Improve Student Outcomes” and “Recover from the Trauma Caused by the July 4 Mass Shooting.” An update on the remaining three goals will be presented at the November 29 meeting.

Improve Practices that Improve Student Outcomes:

Dr. Law said this year establishes a post-pandemic baseline, putting structures and practices in place on which to build for the future. Administration explained Tiers I-III in a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS), noting that Tier I encompasses all students, Tier II supports are more intensive for the approximate 10-15 percent of students who need them, Tier III supports are the most intensive, individualized supports for the approximate three to five percent of students who need them. The percentages represent the national norms used as a guideline. The goal is for all students to experience success in Tier I, and for the students who need additional supports to receive those supports and transition back to Tier I.

Director of Equity and Inclusion Mirah Anti reported on the number of students receiving Tier II supports at both schools and highlighted that students of color are overrepresented in the proportion of students receiving supports. She added that a report that provides more detail on how effective Tier II supports have been will come back to the Board in February.

Dr. Law concluded by stressing that although District 113 may trend at or below national norms for Tier I-III interventions as a total school population, success in the real work for equity means that all student demographic groups proportionally align with those same norms.

Recover from the Trauma Caused by the July 4 Mass Shooting:

District Director of Recovery Jen Ginopolis and her team, including Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Instructional Specialists and Trauma Responsive Interventionists, provided an

informational report on the work being done to identify students in need and the Tier I-III infrastructure created to deliver intensive trauma-related support. Ms. Ginopolis said that in working on this goal, it has become evident that there is a need to develop a systemic approach that is both preventative (Tier I) and responsive (Tier II-III) to student social-emotional well-being, and that priority is a future focus of the Recovery team. This must be a priority as social emotional learning and recovery are intertwined. Emotions matter. Students do better academically when there is a universal Tier I comprehensive trauma informed support system. The team will continue to partner with field experts, Dr. Marc Brackett and Karen Niemi to 1) identify students in greatest need 2) develop infrastructure for delivering intensive support and 3) create a systemic approach to SEL.

[A Passion for Excellence Video Series: Stacy Chambers](#)

The second installment of the video series, “A Passion for Excellence,” focuses on HPHS Fine and Applied Arts Teacher and Preschool Director Stacy Chambers. The series highlights teachers and staff telling their stories as educators, which tell the story of the passion for excellence in District 113 that drives the passion for students' potential. Future installments will come to the Board on a monthly basis throughout the school year.

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

Deerfield High School student Keshav Shah and Highland Park High School student Jeremy Bach provided some highlights from the previous month to the Board. Both student liaisons served as active student members during key discussions of the evening's agenda including the Illinois Report Card and the 2022-2023 Goals update.

Policies for First Reading

4-210 Township High School District 113 Foundation

5-10, Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment

6-160, English Learners

6-170, Title I

6-180, Extended Instructional Programs

6-190, School Organizations/Student Clubs

6-310, High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students

6-312, Summer School

6-320, High School Credit for Proficiency

6-330, Achievement and Awards

7-260, Exemption from Physical Education

8-40, Spectator Conduct at School Events

Action

Estimate the Aggregate Levy

The Board voted to approve as presented its intent to levy for the 2022 tax year a total aggregate of \$103,831,993 exclusive of bond and interest costs, or \$109,753,553 with bond and interest costs, and authorize the publication of a notice in compliance with *The Truth-in-Taxation Act* for a public hearing on the 2022 tax levy to be scheduled for Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at Township High School District 113, 1040 Park Avenue West, Highland Park, IL 60035.

In order to comply with *The Truth-in-Taxation Act*, the 2022 tax levy must be "determined" by Board action at least 20 days prior to the Tax Levy Hearing.

IASB Delegate Assembly Resolutions

The Board voted to accept as presented the IASB Delegate Assembly Resolutions as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Consent Agenda

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings-

November 22, 2022

Facilities Committee Meeting

3:00 p.m.

Administration Building

November 29, 2022

Regular Action Meeting
6:00 p.m. Closed Session, 7:00 p.m. Open Session
Administration Building

December 13, 2022
Regular Action Meeting
6:00 p.m. Closed Session, 7:00 p.m. Open Session
Administration Building