



Board Briefs

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[January 23, 2024 Regular Action Meeting](#)

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Approval of Agenda

The Board voted to approve the January 23 agenda as presented.

Board Reports

President

Board President Dan Struck said the Board continues to make progress in the search for Superintendent. The Board has interviewed a slate of six candidates and emerged from those interviews with three finalists. Interviews are being scheduled on January 29 and 30 with the finalists, the Board, and representatives from multiple stakeholder groups. He said the Board will be reaching a decision soon and added all three finalists are committed to the District's mission, committed to students, and committed to the District's goal for all students to achieve their unique potential.

Finance Committee

In his report, Finance Committee Chair Rick Heineman provided an update from the January 9 meeting. At the meeting, the committee reviewed the FY25 budget and financial projections, which are also on the evening's agenda for discussion with the full Board. Mr. Heineman recommended that people look at the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) as it provides detailed information about the District, its history, and its finances.

Administration Reports

Superintendent

Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law began by reminding everyone about the second and final community event for this year, on Tuesday, February 6 from 7-8:30 p.m. at HPHS with Devorah Heitner, author of *Growing Up in Public: Coming of Age in a Digital World*. The event is sponsored with the support of District 113 in conjunction with Deerfield Public Schools District 109 and North Shore School District 112 with the Deerfield Parent Network.

Dr. Law then remarked on the recent spell of severe cold and that under such conditions things break. He reported that there was a waterline break near DHS in a line that brings water to the school. He thanked Chief Operations Officer Brian Ahmer and his team for all their hard work and the long hours repairing the break to ensure there was no disruption to the school day or to school activities.

Following up on the security report provided to the Board on November 28, the Superintendent updated the Board on the Administration's efforts to staff weapons detection at two doors during student arrival every school day. The Superintendent reported to the Board that even with reducing the morning entrances from three to two, currently there is not enough staff nor candidates in the pipeline to deploy weapons detection during student arrival. The Administration will increase pay in an effort to attract candidates and will report back to the Board on efforts to be fully staffed.

For now, weapons detection can be staffed and will be used for visitors and students arriving after the first bell for the duration of the school day. Weapons detection at student arrival will be used if we are aware of a specific threat that requires it.

FOIA

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

Discussion

FY25 Budget Update and 5-Year Financial Projections

Assistant Superintendent for Finance and CFO Ali Mehanti reviewed with the Board the FY25 budget and five-year financial projections. Dr. Law said the staffing process for next year begins in February and this budget review is the kick-off to the entire process. Dr. Law recommended that the Board solve in FY25 the projected budget deficit in FY26 because the number of retirements this year provides the best opportunity to solve the budget deficit through attrition. The Board agreed with that approach. Dr. Law thanked Mr. Mehanti and his team for moving up their timeline to provide this report ahead of staffing.

External Audit for Fiscal Year Ending 2023

The Board discussed the external audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, completed and submitted by Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP. The audit included a review of the District's financial statements, federal programs, student activity, and insurance funds. Baker Tilly noted that it is a clean audit with no material weaknesses. The auditor noted the report is an integral part of the District's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). A vote to accept the audit is listed under action later in the meeting.

Annual Renewal of the Agreements Regarding the Receipt of Developer Subdivision Contributions and Indemnification

As part of the annual review required by law, the Board discussed a recommendation to renew agreements with Lake County regarding developer fees. The agreements support the District in collecting impact fees from any unincorporated area in the District should it be developed. The item will come back to the February 6 meeting for action.

Action

Review of Closed Session Minutes

The Board approved as presented a motion to open or keep closed Closed Session minutes from June 13, 2023 through November 28, 2023.

Accept External Audit for Fiscal Year Ending 2023

The Board approved as presented a motion to accept the annual audit for the year ending June 30, 2023 as submitted by Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP.

Approve One Year Employment Contract for District Arts Festival Director

The Board approved as presented a one-year employment contract with Tamara Jenkins as the District Arts Festival Director.

Approval Resolution for Dismissal of Educational Support Staff Employee

The Board voted to approve as presented a resolution to dismiss an educational support staff employee.

Consent Agenda

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

January 29, 2024

Special Meeting - Superintendent Search

5:30 p.m. - Closed Session

January 30, 2024

Special Meeting - Superintendent Search

6:00 p.m. - Closed Session

February 6, 2024

Committee of the Whole Meeting

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

Administration Building

February 20, 2024

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Administration Building

Regular Action Meeting

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

Administration Building