



Board Briefs

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

[Board Meeting Videos](#)

Approval of Agenda

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

Board Reports

President

Board President Anne Neumann reminded everyone that the Board will honor nearly all District honorees and Board student liaisons at the May 14 meeting. The Board will tentatively honor Cabinet member retirees at the final meeting of this fiscal year on June 11.

Ms. Neumann reported that Board Member Jodi Shapira attended a Genocide Commemoration Day presentation and shared a reminder from Ms. Shapira that this event was started by one student who realized that the Armenian genocide was not widely known. Ms. Neumann said this event is a perfect example of student voice and how student voice can make an impact on the community. Ms. Neumann went on to say that two speakers this year made a point of defining the criteria of a genocide, noting that it is important for students to understand that legal definition.

She reported that Rick Heineman, Jaime Barraza, and she attended the Arts Alive Expo at Deerfield High School Saturday. Ms. Neumann said she was moved by the truly community event, the wide age range of attendees, and said she was impressed by the hands-on activities the artists had for even the littlest of hands and that she was of course mesmerized by the talents of DHS students.

Looking ahead, she reminded Board members that DHS graduation is May 21 and HPHS graduation is May 22, both at 5 p.m. at Ravinia.

In closing, she expressed gratitude and congratulations to Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction Dr. Michael Lach at his last meeting in District 113. Dr. Lach is moving on to the Superintendent role in Hinsdale Township High School District 86. Ms. Neuman thanked him for the impactful projects he has led in his five years in D113.

Administration Information Reports

Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law

Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law thanked Tamara Jenkins and DHS Principal Dr. Kathryn Anderson and her staff for all of their efforts in bringing the first school and community wide

arts event to Deerfield High School. Dr. Law commented that after many years of a successful school and community-wide arts event at Highland Park High School, DHS finally has its own event and Dr. Law credited and thanked the Board for their support in allowing the District to make that expansion.

Dr. Law shared that earlier that day reports on two high school rankings were being circulated by various local media outlets. *U.S. News & World Report* announced its “2024 Best High Schools” rankings and that both DHS and HPHS are among the top schools in Illinois, with high national and metro area rankings based on metrics calculated across a variety of dimensions. The second report was a 2024 survey administered by Test Prep Insight naming the “Top 250 most envied school districts” with District 113 coming in at 51st place nationally and second place in Illinois.

Dr. Kathryn Anderson provided a brief update on the status of the bell schedule work for the 2025-26 school year. She noted that the Bell Schedule Committee had collected input from students and staff on four bell schedule concepts and will bring two bell schedule concepts to the Board for consideration at the last meeting in May.

Excellence in Effort

Dr. Anderson provided a more detailed update on the first school and community-wide arts event, Arts Alive, and said that planning has already begun for the next event in 2026. She said that the staff Library Club has enjoyed hosting periodic book clubs with colleagues, highlighting a recent *Bridgerton* theme replete with costumes and era-consistent treats. She noted that the student Library Club has also grown over the years, partnering with academic classes to take field trips to museums such as the Art Institute to further advance study. Dr. Anderson also spoke of the very popular Outdoor Adventure Class, and a recent trip to Bear Paw Adventure Park, where students were able to take things literally to new heights with a 48-foot ropes course with over 70 obstacles.

HPHS Assistant Principal Matt Wallace shared a report on behalf of HPHS Principal Debby Finn. Mr. Wallace said Chinese teacher Emma Forquer was working with a group of students and staff from New Taipei Industrial Vocational High School via video and email and were able to practice English and Chinese language skills. A group from Taipei visited HPHS onsite, shadowing HPHS students and providing a valuable intercultural exchange for both groups. Also on the topic of world language, Mr. Wallace noted that the HPHS Dual Language Fair is coming up and that students from Northwood Middle School in North Shore School District 112 are also invited to participate, giving them a sense of connection before arriving at HPHS for their freshman year.

Career Education Plan Update

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Michael Lach presented an update on the career education work discussed previously with the Board in August of 2023. The report provided information from the high-level plan developed by teachers and administrators serving on the Career Education Committee established under the committee structure outlined in the new collective bargaining agreement. The plan recommends action items for the 2024-25 school year as well as longer-term items for the 2025-26 school year and beyond

Semester 1 Academic Report

With Principals Finn and Dr. Anderson as well Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Dr. Tiffany Rowe, Dr. Lach presented to the Board a report focused on rates of absenteeism and chronic absenteeism as well as the deleveling work required by the Illinois State Board of Education. Year-to-date, efforts to improve attendance at both schools are showing positive results. Comparing freshman grades from semester one of the 2023-24 school year to semester one of the last school year, grades for delevelled classes are generally higher although the results are mixed. Limitations on drawing conclusions include having only one year of data, variances in grading practices, and too few data sources in addition to grades.

Enhancing Special Education Services

Dr. Rowe presented [an educational video in English](#) and [Spanish](#) for parents and guardians about enhancing Special Education services. These changes are a result of the Supreme Court of the United States holding in the *Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District* case, which requires districts to be “more ambitious” in the goals they set for students with IEPs.

FOIA

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

Discussion

Textbook Adoptions for 2024-25

Administration provided a description of the books and digital platforms being recommended for adoption for the 2024-25 school year. These materials have been selected by faculty committees, discussed by departments, and approved by the administration. All groups made a concerted effort to collaborate when and where appropriate and to review the available packages that included both print and online resources. This recommendation will come back to the Board for approval at the May 14 meeting. Additional adoption requests may come to the Board of Education this summer after teams complete summer curricular projects.

DHS - Southern Stormwater System - Village of Deerfield-D113

The Board received an update on the proposed work to fix an existing stormwater system that has a zigzagged configuration located outside of the Deerfield High School campus (and within the Village of Deerfield) before connecting to the pipe on the Deerfield High School side. In addition to the age of the system, the configuration impairs the system’s functionality which can result in the substantial pooling of water on both the campus and in Deerfield residences’ yards. Work has been proposed that will straighten the zigzag and place more of the storm pipe on the Deerfield High School campus. To effectuate this work, an agreement is needed between the Board of Education and the Village of Deerfield, and the Board received an update on the status of the agreement.

In discussing potential provisions of the agreement with Administration and the Board’s legal counsel, the Board provided direction to continue to work with the Village of Deerfield to determine an apportionment of cost for the project as well as agree to the apportionment of the responsibility of costs for future repairs to the system. District 113 remains steadfast in its

commitment to work with its municipal partners to promote the general good of school and community.

Consent Agenda

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

May 14, 2024

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Meeting

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Administration Building

Facilities Committee Meeting

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

Administration Building

Committee of the Whole Meeting

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

Administration Building

May 28, 2024

Regular Action Meeting

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

Administration Building