



Board Briefs - [Para español, por favor haga click aquí.](#)
[June 14, 2022 Regular Action Meeting](#)

Approval of Agenda

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

Board Reports

President

Board President Ken Fishbain thanked Principals Finn and Anderson for the wonderful graduation ceremonies, expressing his appreciation for the team effort and hard work in putting together the ceremonies and for being back at Ravinia. President Fishbain remarked on the ribbon cutting for the Transition Center in downtown Highland Park. Run by TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804 for District 113 and Glenbrook High School District 225, the Transition Center serves young adults ages 18 to 22 to gain employment and life skills through community-based programs. Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law shared that through an innovative partnership with the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce, this community-centered location benefits the young adults by providing proximity to job opportunities and internships as well as a base for support. Dr. Law added that TrueNorth and the Chamber will be bringing a report to the District 113 Board soon, possibly in August, to provide more details on this exciting and meaningful partnership.

President Fishbain announced Board Committee assignments. Jaime Barraza will chair the Equity and Inclusion Committee, Jodi Shapira will chair the Facilities Committee and Ken Fishbain will chair the Finance Committee and serve as the liaison for Human Resource matters. When appointed, the new Board member will serve on the Equity and Inclusion and Facilities Committees. President Fishbain set up placeholder time slots for committee meetings but asked Dr. Law to consult the appropriate staff and committee members for optimum days and times for each committee.

In providing a road map for upcoming meetings President Fishbain said the June 21 meeting will be a special meeting. The June 28 meeting will be a regular meeting with the agenda dedicated to facilities and finance topics, and any regular business that may be time sensitive or necessary. Closed session for both meetings will begin at 5 p.m. with the open session at the June 28 meeting beginning at 7 p.m.

President Fisbain concluded by saying that filling a Board vacancy follows [Board Policy 2-70](#) and that this current process follows the same policy and is being executed in the same way as the most recent vacancy. The window to submit applications closed June 13.

Policy Committee

Policy Committee Chair Dan Struck provided a report on the June 7 meeting, noting that later in the agenda seven policies are listed for first reading. Some policies related to *8-90 Supporting Organizations: Parent Organizations Booster Clubs, and District Foundations*, such as *8-25 Advertising* and *8-80 Fundraising*, will be reviewed again in conjunction with each other to ensure nothing is lost. Those policies will be brought back to the Policy Committee for review at a future meeting.

Administration Reports

Superintendent

Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law began by pointing out the changes to the room set up. Going forward, Cabinet members who have presentations or items before the Board will attend in person, while others will attend virtually and be able to answer questions or participate in discussions as needed. By having fewer tables, the Board room can accommodate more chairs for the public.

Dr. Law asked Chief Operating Officer Brian Ahmer to provide the Board with an update on bids received for the Deerfield High School Auditorium. Mr. Ahmer said the bid results the District has received thus far have been disappointing because five bid packages had no bids or only one bid. He cited the unpredictability in the market as the main reason and added that the District will add another bid period and continue to push to receive as many bids as possible, while also working with the District's architect and construction managers on options for moving forward. Mr. Ahmer said the District will continue its analysis to determine the best path forward given the current challenges and that he will share with the Board a strategic picture of where things stand and possible alternative strategies at the June 28 meeting.

Mr. Ahmer also provided an update on a sinkhole that developed last week in one of the Highland Park High School parking lots. He reported that although the sinkhole was on HPHS property, it was the responsibility of the City of Highland Park to fix it. He thanked the City for being a great partner in addressing and resolving the problem promptly.

Finally, Dr. Law shared that the Deerfield Girls Soccer Team had a great showing at state, with Principal Anderson adding that the team had a phenomenal year as regional, sectional, and supersectional champs, going to state for the second time in the team's history, ultimately winding up the season with a third-place finish at state.

FOIA

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

Discussion

FY 2023 Tentative Budget Presentation

As it does each June, Administration presented the tentative budget for the following fiscal year to the Board for review. Assistant Superintendent for Finance Ali Mehanti provided an overview for fiscal year 2023, highlighting a balanced budget for the first time since 2020 due in part to budget managers reducing \$1.2 million in recurring personnel and non-personnel expenditures without impacting the quality of instruction. Mr. Mehanti noted that the FY23 budget includes elimination of pandemic expenditures and he said that challenges from a rapidly changing economy are having impacts on the budget with expenditures and variable revenues going up. Dr. Law added that the District's funding is always behind the prices it is currently paying, stating that the money to fund FY23 is determined by the levy approved in December 2021, and the amount the Board can levy is determined by the change in the consumer price index (CPI) from December to December as reported the following January. The amount for FY23 comes from the change in CPI from December 2019 to December 2020, as reported in January 2021, which was 1.4 percent.

Board of Education Policies – First Reading

7-270 Administering Medicines to Students

7-275 Orders to Forgo Life-Sustaining Treatment

7-290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention

8-100 Relations with Agencies and Other Organizations

7-325 Student Fundraising Activities

7-330 Student Use of Buildings- Equal Access

8-35 Fingerprinting Volunteer Chaperones

Action

DHS an HPHS Life Skills Lab Renovations – Pepper Construction Project Authorization

The Board voted to approve as presented and subject to legal counsel's review all construction trade packages including the construction management fee for Pepper Construction.

DHS an HPHS Life Skills Lab Renovations – Electrical Bid

The Board voted to approve Pepper Construction's recommendation to award the electrical bid for the DHS and HPHS Life Skills Lab renovations to Van Ert Electric in the amount of \$416,235.

IASB Annual Membership

The Board voted to approve its annual membership in the Illinois Association of School Boards in the amount of \$12,045.

Bond to Cover School Treasurer

The Board voted to authorize the renewal of bonds to cover the school treasurer to handle District and other school funds.

School Treasurer's Surety Bond

The Board approved as presented the school treasurer's surety bond in the amount of \$47 million of coverage per statutory requirements and authorized the Board President and Board Secretary to sign the bond surety certificate.

Transferring Funds from Operations and Maintenance to Capital Projects

The Board voted to approve as presented a resolution for the one-time transfer of \$5,115,000 from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Funds.

Post Tentative Budget, Set Hearing, and Authorize Expenditures Thereunder

The Board voted to post as presented the FY 2023 tentative budget, to set the public hearing on August 23, 2022, and to authorize expenditures and purchases during the first fiscal quarter in accordance with the tentative budget until the final budget is adopted.

Prior to voting on administrator contracts, President Fishbain said discussion about the process of renewing or extending Cabinet administrator contracts began in November and December. The intention of the Board is to extend contracts for Cabinet administrators by one year the year before their contracts expire. President Fishbain closed by saying that the Board concurred with the Superintendent's recommendations and the Board appreciated their dedication and fine work.

Approve Multi-Year Employment Contract for Principal of Highland Park High School

The Board voted to approve as presented a multi-year employment contract with Deborah Finn to serve as the Highland Park High School Principal through June 30, 2024.

Approve Multi-Year Employment Contract for Director of Communications and Alumni Relations

The Board voted to approve as presented a multi-year employment contract with Karen Warner to serve as the District's Director of Communications and Alumni Relations through June 30, 2024.

Approve Multi-Year Employment Contract for Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

The Board voted to approve as presented a multi-year employment contract with Dr. Michael Lach to serve as the District's Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment through June 30, 2024.

Approve Extension of Employment Contract for Deerfield High School

The Board voted to approve an extension of the employment contract with Kathryn Anderson to serve as the Deerfield High School Principal through June 30, 2024.

Approve Extension of Employment Contract for Assistant Superintendent/Chief Business School Official

The Board voted to approve an extension of the employment contract with Ali Mehanti to serve as the District's Assistant Superintendent for Finance/Chief Business School Official through June 30, 2024.

Approve Extension of Employment Contract for Director of Equity and Inclusion

The Board voted to approve an extension of the employment contract with Mirah Anti to serve as the District's Director of Equity and Inclusion through June 30, 2024.

Approve Extension of Employment Contract of Chief Operations Officer

The Board voted to approve an extension of the employment contract with Brian Ahmer to serve as the District's Chief Operations Officer through June 30, 2024.

Approve Extension of Employment Contract for Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

The Board voted to approve an extension of an employment contract with Thomas Krieger to serve as the District's Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources through June 30, 2024.

Approve Resolution for the Dismissal of Educational Support Staff Employee for Non-RIF Reasons

The Board voted to approve as presented a resolution for the dismissal of an educational support staff employee for non-reduction in force reasons.

Approve Resolution for the Dismissal of Educational Support Staff Employee for Non-RIF Reasons

The Board voted to approve as presented a resolution for the dismissal of an educational support staff employee for non-reduction in force reasons.

Consent Agenda

The Board approved the consent agenda as amended. 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 8:38 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings-

June 21, 2022 – Special Meeting

5:00 p.m.

Administration Building

June 28, 2022 – Special Meeting

5:00 p.m. Closed Session, 7:00 p.m. Open Session

Administration Building