Board Briefs

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August 8, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Board Meeting Videos

Approval of Agenda
The Board voted to approve the August 8 agenda as presented.

Board Reports
President
Board President Dan Struck started his report by saying how hard it is to believe that next week students will be welcomed back for the 2023-24 school year.

President Struck noted that the Board and the DEA have been diligently working on the parties’ first collective bargaining agreement and have reached tentative agreement on salary and benefits. The parties are continuing negotiations regarding committees, teacher evaluations and special education working conditions. We will provide a full report on the agreement when it is finalized. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 28. Until the final agreement is ratified, the 2019-23 agreement with the DEA will remain in effect, including salary and fringe benefits.

President Struck then reminded parents that school fees, course packets, activity tickets, yearbooks, etc. are available in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. He shared that anyone who feels that they may need financial assistance should visit the Financial Aid pages on the school websites.

Lastly, President Struck closed by giving a brief preview of the action items on the agenda related to school safety and security, emphasizing that the Board is committed to getting school safety right.

Administration Reports
Superintendent
Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law began his report by welcoming back students and staff and informing the Board that the District will perform a test of its emergency communications on Monday, August 14 at 9:55 a.m. The test will go to parents/guardians, students and staff, and a push notification will be sent to everyone who has downloaded the D113 mobile app.

Dr. Law also mentioned that there is a new law called Faith’s Law that went into effect on July 1 and that more information can be found on the District’s transparency portal.

He then reported that the District’s community newsletter is at the printer and should arrive at the US Post Office in the next day or so. The newsletter is the only way for the District to communicate with every taxpayer in District 113 to share highlights of the good news about our schools, students and staff.
Beginning of School 2023-24
Principals Kathryn Anderson and Deborah Finn provided the Board with their start of school reports. HPHS Principal Finn said that it has been a refreshing and great start as they welcome staff back. She then gave a brief overview of what staff, students and families can expect over the next couple weeks and concluded her report by saying that all information regarding the start of school can be found on the HPHS website.

Principal Kathryn Anderson also began her report by welcoming back staff and students. She then informed the Board that student schedules were released and students will be able to come to the building to walk their schedules. Incoming freshmen will be able to walk their schedules on Monday, August 14 during Warrior Welcome. Important dates for DHS in the upcoming year can be found on the DHS website.

Both Principal Anderson and Principal Finn thanked the custodial and maintenance staff for working tirelessly over the summer to prepare for the upcoming school year and closed by giving a short update on the facility improvements at each school:

DHS
- New auditorium that is scheduled to be completed by November
- Fire alarm updates
- Air handling units replaced
- Boilers replaced

HPHS
- Bus parking lot paved
- Air handling units replaced
- Roofing replaced
- Chillers will be replaced in the winter when cooling is not needed

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

Discussion
2023-24 School Year Safety Plan and Recommendations
Dr. Law presented the 2023-24 School Year Safety Plan that provided information on the many layers of mitigations currently in place to protect students and staff from gun violence. He then recommended additional security enhancements in the presentation that were presented under action as 2023-24 School Safety Recommendations and Expenditures. After reviewing the plan and the recommendations the Board held a thorough, frank, and heartfelt discussion.

Action
2023-24 School Safety Recommendations and Expenditures
The Board voted to approve the 2023-24 school safety recommendations and expenditures as amended:

- Support of clubs for students in no club or sport in an amount not to exceed $40,000
  Approval authorizes the expenditure of funds to pay for stipends for staff members who are able to create/develop clubs or sports that appeal to students who are not currently involved in any extracurricular activity or athletic team.
• **Curriculum for homeroom that fosters student-to-student relationships and student-to-staff relationships in an amount not to exceed $50,000**  
  Approval authorizes the expenditure of funds to pay for a curriculum focused on relationship building.

• **Camera room - security operations center (SOC) in an amount not to exceed $240,000**  
  Approval authorizes the expenditure of funds to pay for a security operations center (SOC) in each school. The SOC will function as the hub where security personnel can monitor security cameras and operate other security technology.

• **Security film on exterior glass in an amount not to exceed $273,000**  
  Approval authorizes the expenditure of funds to cover exterior glass on the first floor at both schools, which will prevent an armed intruder from gaining entry by shooting their way in.

• **Additional exterior card reader access for ingress and egress in an amount not to exceed $571,000**  
  Approval authorizes the expenditure of funds to cover exterior glass on the first floor at both schools, which will prevent an armed intruder from gaining entry by shooting their way in.

• **Access control system equipped with remote door release and lockdown capabilities for the corridors**  
  Approval moves this item to the Facilities Committee for further review. A system like this requires construction and when finished would enable security to restrict movement within the school building.

• **Interior door card readers - classrooms - in an amount not to exceed $1,165,000**  
  Approval authorizes the expenditure of funds to pay for the installation of card readers to replace keyed locks on classroom doors.

• **Interior door card readers - other/remaining doors - in an amount not to exceed $743,000**  
  Approval authorizes the expenditure of funds to pay for the installation of card readers to replace keyed locks in locations other than classrooms throughout the schools.

• **Weapons detection system in an amount not to exceed $80,000**  
  Approval authorizes the expenditure of funds to pay for four units, two for each school, to be used for one randomly selected, unannounced entrance as a “pop up” to create a deterrent effect.

• **Crisis communications app with features such as geofencing for enhanced communications with subs, easy access to plans, and maps in an amount not to exceed $15,000**  
  Approval authorizes the expenditure of funds to pay for a crisis communications app to be used for internal communication/communication with first responders during an emergency or crisis.

Additional details summarizing the recommendations were shared in [a special August 9 email from Dr. Law](mailto:).  

**Approve Employment Contract for Director of Security**  
The Board voted to approve as presented an employment contract with the Director of Security.

**College and Career Readiness**  
The Board voted to approve the implementation of the 2024-25 school year Postsecondary and Careers Expectations (PaCe) Plan, which is required under the Postsecondary Workforce Readiness Act.

**Scholarship Funds Transfer Between Township High School District 113 and the Rotary Club of Highland Park/Highwood**  
The Board voted to approve the scholarship funds transfer between District 113 and the Rotary Club of Highland Park/Highwood.

**Review of Closed Session Minutes**
The Board voted to approve as presented a motion to open or keep closed minutes from closed sessions from Dec. 13, 2022 – May 30, 2023

Consent Agenda
The Board approved the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda includes personnel, stipends and board bills.

The meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings
August 15, 2023
Facilities Committee Meeting
5:00 p.m.
Administration Building

August 22, 2023
Regular Action Meeting
6:00 p.m. Closed Session, 7:00 p.m. Open Session
Administration Building

September 12, 2023
Committee of the Whole Meeting
6:00 p.m. Closed Session, 7:00 p.m. Open Session
Administration Building