Board Briefs

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**September 12, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting**

**Board Meeting Videos**

**Approval of Agenda**
The Board voted to approve the September 12 agenda as amended.

**Appoint Student Liaisons to the Board**
The Board moved up this action item to appoint Stephanie Diaz and Miles Walker from HPHS, Lillian Dowlatshahi and Jada Harris from DHS as the student liaisons to the Board for the 2023-24 school year.

Per **Policy 2-40 Board Member Qualifications**, the Board voted to appoint students to serve in an advisory capacity. The students will sit at the Board table, provide feedback and the student perspective but will not vote or attend closed session.

**Board Reports**

**President**
Board President Dan Struck welcomed the student liaisons and remarked on how glad the Board is to have this opportunity for students to provide their insight and intelligence through their input.

**TrueNorth**
Board Representative to TrueNorth Jodi Shapira reported that the work on TrueNorth’s transition space at Red Oak Elementary School is on budget and on time. She said that phase two of the work has been put on hold until there is time to evaluate the work from phase one and its potential impact to any updates to phase two plans. She added that TrueNorth has introduced a continuous improvement plan and that plan will be reevaluated every academic year.

**Administration Reports**

**Superintendent**
Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law began his report by welcoming the student liaisons to the table, reiterating the insight and intelligence that students bring through their perspectives that they share in discussions at the Board table. Dr. Law noted that the Board approved the first collective bargaining agreement with the District 113 Education Association (DEA) at the Special Meeting held the week prior on September 5. He added that there is a lot of work ongoing in implementing the contract but it is ongoing in collaboration and cooperation with DEA. Dr. Law said while there are implementation details still to work out, it is great to be able to refer to the contract as the framework to work through issues.

He closed by adding that Director of Focus on the Arts Tamara Jenkins will provide a two-part presentation at the September 26 meeting. The first part will look back at the spring 2023 event at HPHS and the second part will look ahead to this year’s plans for DHS.

**Goals 23-24**
DHS Principal Dr. Kathryn Anderson and HPHS Principal Deborah Finn provided the Board with a report on the goals for their schools for the 2023-24 year. Dr. Anderson explained the theme of “Care, Connect, Community” and the importance of relationships in cultivating a positive climate and culture. She said that DHS will be working to create a school vision at DHS and that the vision will help set the path forward. She also added that they are actively working to provide supports to students to promote social emotional learning and positive student behavior. Principal Finn explained the HPHS theme of “Our House on Vine” also stresses the importance of relationships in continuing to build a positive culture and climate through social emotional learning and positive behavior.

Both principals shared that the curriculum and collaboration goals will include implementing new standards-based curriculum for de-surveyed 9th grade courses and creating a standards-based curriculum map for 10th grade courses. Principal Finn noted that HPHS will also have an emphasis on disrupting predictability of achievement through culturally responsive strategies and instructional coaching.

Security Report
As part of a security report, Dr. Law introduced the District’s new Director of Security Amy Oliva. He then introduced the video the District produced in English and Spanish to help educate students on how to move quickly and efficiently through the weapons detection systems. Assistant Superintendent for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Mirah Anti provided information from the first focus group held with students who experienced secondary screening about the impact of the weapons detection system on culture and climate. Ms. Anti said they will continue to solicit feedback from students and evaluate that feedback.

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
Stephanie Diaz from HPHS and Lillian Dowlatshahi from DHS provided the Board with updates from their respective schools as well as provided input during the security report earlier in the agenda.

Discussion
Resolution Concerning Ethan’s Law
The Board of Education discussed adopting a resolution in support of Ethan’s Law. If passed, gun owners would be required to secure their firearms in a “secure gun storage or safety device” if a minor is likely to gain access to the firearm without permission, or if a resident of the dwelling cannot legally possess a firearm under existing law. The item will come back for action at the September 26 meeting.

Engage Baker Tilly for Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Credit Professional Services
The Board of Education discussed engaging Baker Tilly for professional services to assist with capturing a direct pay tax credit that is available through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) for the solar improvement project the District is considering.

Policy 7-180, Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment – First Reading
In compliance with School Code, the Board conducted its biannual review of Policy 7-180, Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment. No changes were recommended. Board affirmation of the policy at the September 26 meeting fulfills the District’s statutory obligation.
Appoint Student Liaisons to the Board
This item was moved up in the agenda.

Resolution Authorizing Commencement of Social Media Litigation
The Board of Education approved as presented a resolution authorizing commencement of social media litigation.

Approve Agreement with Houston Protection & Investigation Service, Inc. as Contractor Hired by North Suburban Synagogue Beth El to Provide Armed Security on District 113 Property During High Holy Days Services
The Board of Education approved an agreement as presented with Houston Protection & Investigation Service, Inc. to bring firearms onto District 113 property as a contractor for the North Suburban Synagogue Beth El. The North Suburban Synagogue Beth El is using District 113 facilities for the High Holy Days services and Synagogue Beth El has hired Houston Protection & Investigation Service, Inc. to provide armed security for these events.

Approve Amendment 17 to the Owner/Architect Agreement
The Board of Education approved as presented Amendment 17 to the owner/architect agreement with FGM Architects. The amendment allows a total estimated award of $570,888.51 for the design of summer 2024 projects.

Resolution to Adopt Notice to Remedy Against Tenured Teacher
The Board of Education approved as presented a resolution to adopt a notice to remedy against a tenured teacher.

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

Dr. Law highlighted that the personnel notice on the consent agenda stated that HPHS Principal Debby Finn is retiring at the end of this school year. He said that in some of the most challenging times that HPHS has faced, Principal Finn led with care and courage, always trying to do what’s best for her students and school. Dan Struck acknowledged the incredible contribution she made as an outstanding math teacher and department chair, stepping up to be principal in an exceedingly difficult time.

Dr. Law said that she had shared her retirement news with HPHS staff and families and that he is recommending the Board hire a search firm to find the next principal for HPHS. Dr. Law emphasized that the firm would engage students, staff, parents and teachers to find the best candidate for the position as HPHS looks ahead to its next chapter.

Principal Finn thanked everyone for their well wishes, saying she feels truly lucky and blessed for her career of 29 years that includes time at both DHS and HPHS.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings
September 26, 2023
Diversity Equity and Inclusion Meeting
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Administration Building
September 26, 2023
Regular Action Meeting
6:00 p.m. Closed Session, 7:00 p.m. Open Session
Administration Building

October 10, 2023
Committee of the Whole Meeting
6:00 p.m. Closed Session, 7:00 p.m. Open Session
Administration Building