



Board Briefs

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[August 20, 2024 Regular Action Meeting](#)

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Annual Budget Public Hearing

The District 113 Board of Education held a public hearing for the budget fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024. The 2024-25 tentative budget was presented at the June 11 Regular Action meeting, was posted on the website and available for public review for 30 days prior to the hearing.

Approval of Agenda

The Board voted to approve the August 20 agenda as presented.

Board Reports

President

Board President Anne Neumann reported that the Board held a self-evaluation meeting with the Illinois Association of School Board (IASB) facilitator on August 19. Ms. Neumann said the self-evaluation was intentionally scheduled to have this conversation with new Board members, a new Superintendent at the start of a new school year. She added that the meeting focused on defining communication expectations and that more will be discussed in Open Session at the September 10 meeting.

Ms. Neumann said the Board enjoyed attending the new school year kick off with staff on Opening Day, Monday, August 12, and expressed the Board's gratitude for the invitation, noting that the Board passionately supports Dr. Holland's inclusive school community initiatives.

She invited Board Vice President Jaime Barraza to share his experience speaking with new staff during their orientation on August 8. He said there was nothing like that first day with new staff, because of all the energy and positivity they bring. He welcomed them to District 113.

She closed by expressing that the Board is looking forward to seeing school calendars fill up with sporting events, fine arts shows, club activities and all school events like homecoming.

Finance Committee

Finance Committee Chair Greg Nieder provided an update on the meeting that took place immediately prior to this meeting. He reported that Assistant Superintendent for Finance/CSBO Ali Mehanti provided an update on the budget, historical trends, and the five-year projections.

TrueNorth Liaison Report

TrueNorth Liaison Jenny Lupa provided an update from the August 7 meeting. Ms. Lupa said she and Dr. Holland had attended the New Leadership Council Member and New Superintendent Orientation meeting and that the leaders at TrueNorth did an excellent job in explaining their mission and the inspiring work that they do. She said District 113 is lucky to be in close proximity to TrueNorth and she hopes that the two organizations will continue to find many ways to work together. She added that the next Leadership Council meeting will be held August 21, so she will have a report for the September 10 meeting.

Administration Information Reports

Superintendent

Superintendent Dr. Chala Holland reported that a lot of work has been underway leading up to the first day of student attendance. She welcomed new teachers at their orientation, where they learned about District 113 and the communities it serves. She stated that she was joined by Board Vice President Jaime Barraza who inspired teachers with his words and his personal story within the District.

She reported that on August 12 all District staff returned for the Opening Day at DHS. Students from both schools inspired all with performances grounded in themes of belonging and identity and everyone was energized by the music from the DHS and HPHS Marching Bands. Dr. Holland welcomed staff, introduced herself, and discussed learning about inclusive school communities, a theme for the year with a particular focus on access, achievement, and belonging.

Dr. Holland reported that Board President Anne Neumann and District 113 Education Association (DEA) President Marty Esgar shared remarks, and that staff members were honored for reaching benchmark years of service in D113. She said the day was a time of reflection and excitement and she thanked everyone who made that morning possible.

Dr. Holland then went on to note that she had the pleasure of joining the respective all staff meetings at each building when Principals welcomed their staff back. She said new HPHS Principal Holly Fleischer reintroduced herself to her staff in a meaningful way during a neon-themed gathering, when all had the opportunity to “glow” while enjoying the music of two talented student DJs who brought staff to their feet. Dr. Holland said it was thrilling to experience seasoned Principal Dr. Anderson launch the year at DHS with storytelling to help center and ground staff, as well as presentations which informed staff of important experiences they will encounter throughout the year.

On the first full day for students August 14, Dr. Holland said she so enjoyed the first day energy at both schools. She said she was fortunate to spend time welcoming students in the doors at DHS, greeting kind and caring bus drivers, and watching staff reunite with students after a long summer. She thanked both Principals for their time throughout the day as Dr. Holland greeted students and staff in hallways, visited students in classes, and popped into student areas to engage. She thanked everyone for the all-hands-on-deck approach to welcome students back with care and joy on their first day. She also thanked parents and caregivers for their patience as everyone navigated drop-off and pick-up as well as new bus schedules.

She concluded her remarks by sharing that she had joined TrueNorth to welcome their staff and thank them for their partnership on their Opening Day on August 19. Dr. Holland said she valued the insights and expertise that exists among the leadership and staff at TrueNorth and that they serve as a wonderful resource for District 113 in its work to enhance efforts to see, understand, and support the needs of each learner.

FOIA

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

Excellence in Effort

As Ms. Neumann reminded everyone, this relatively new agenda item at Regular Action meetings during the school year provides an opportunity for Principals to showcase the good but often unnoticed work that is just as important for students' sense of belonging and connection in their learning and growth. Student liaisons provide student-led reports of good news at the Committee of the Whole meetings during the school year.

DHS Principal Dr. Kathryn Anderson:

Dr. Anderson acknowledged and recognized all the work staff had undertaken to prepare for the school year. She thanked Buildings and Grounds staff for the work that they must accomplish under tight timelines to have the building ready and she expressed gratitude to Transportation staff for being a part of the District 113 family, coming to Opening Day events to share their enthusiasm. She also thanked Quest Food Service staff for their work in collecting feedback from last year to offer new options for students. She thanked advisory teachers, senior student advisors, counselors, deans, security, activity directors, student council, parent organizations, and athletics for all their work at Warrior Welcome, the orientation program for freshmen and transfer students. Dr. Anderson said that post-secondary counselors met with seniors about action items over the next few months as they continue to plan for life after graduation.

HPHS Principal Holly Fleischer:

Principal Fleischer thanked her Buildings and Grounds staff and other 12-month staff for all the work they did to prepare for the start of school. She reported that PE Department staff and Link Crew Leaders welcomed incoming freshmen to HPHS for team-building and mentoring activities as well as the ability to walk their schedules before the first day. Last Friday, she reported that all students attended the Glow House Party on Vine where students experienced a neon-decorated event with the theme that Giants grow brighter when together. Two student DJs provided rousing music for the event, Activities Director Dr. Joaquin Stephenson and Athletic Director Coach Paul Harris shared the importance of holding Giant values and integrity, and Dean McCord and teacher Ms. Rizwan went over the four non-negotiables at HPHS. Principal Fleischer said HPHS had also held a college application workshop about trends in college admissions.

Looking ahead, Ms. Fleischer said next week AP English Literature students will have the unique opportunity to participate in a writing workshop and Q & A session with Kathleen Rooney, author of *Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk*. She concluded her remarks by sharing that MTSS (multi-tiered system of supports) staff had examined data for all current sophomores through seniors to determine eligibility for academic and social emotional support. Staff will be

meeting with students and contacting caregivers to onboard those who qualify. She noted that in a few weeks, MTSS staff will convene to review data for current freshmen and any additional students that were being monitored for interventions.

Action

Adopt 2024-25 Budget

The Board voted to approve the 2024-25 budget as presented.

Approve Memorandum of Understanding Regarding High School Bell Schedules

The Board voted to approve as presented a memorandum of understanding with the District 113 Educational Association (DEA) regarding high school bell schedules.

Consent Agenda

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

September 10, 2024

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

September 24, 2024

Regular Action Meeting
6:00 p.m. Closed, 7:00 p.m. Open
Administration Building