



Board Briefs

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[May 9, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting](#)

[Board Meeting Videos](#)

2021 Board Adjourns *Sine Die*

Recognition of Retiring Board Members

The Board recognized retiring President Ken Fishbain, thanking him for his leadership and many years of service on the District 113 Board. Mr. Fishbain then shared some warm sentiments from his time on the Board.

Oath of Office

Newly elected Board members Dan Struck, Anne Neumann, Jodi Elliott-Schrimmer, and Greg Nieder took the oath of office to be seated on the 2023 Board.

Adjournment *Sine Die*

The 2021 Board adjourned *sine die*, which means adjournment without another day to convene again.

Organization of the 2023 Board

Selection of President Pro Tempore

The Board voted to approve Anne Neumann as the President Pro Tempore for the organization of the 2023 Board.

Election of President for One Year

The Board voted to elect Dan Struck as the President of the Board of Education for one year.

Election of Vice President for One Year

The Board voted to elect Anne Neumann as the Vice President of the Board of Education for one year.

Election of Secretary for One Year

The Board voted to elect Jodi Shapira as Secretary of the Board of Education for one year.

Appointment of Treasurer for One Year

The Board voted to appoint Assistant Superintendent of Finance Ali Mehanti as the Board's Treasurer for one year.

Determination of Date and Time of Regular Meetings

As required by school code and *Board Policy 2-210*, the Board approved as presented [the schedule for its regular meetings](#) for the upcoming fiscal year. Meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held at the Administration Building, 1040 Park Avenue West, Highland Park, IL.

Assignment of Board Members to Examine Bills and Salaries

The Board voted to approve as presented the assignment of Board members to examine bills and salaries for the period beginning July 2023 through June 2024.

Approval of Board Meeting Agenda

The Board voted to approve the May 9 agenda as amended.

Recognition

Student Liaisons to the Board

The Board of Education thanked the five students who served as student liaisons to the Board during the 2022-23 school year/fiscal year 2023: Jeremy Bach, HPHS; Raquel Bach, HPHS; Evelyn Gehrig, HPHS; Anna Catella, DHS; Keshav Shah, DHS.

Board Reports

President

Board President Dan Struck began his report sharing an update on the most recent Board and DEA joint negotiations session. The Board and DEA Bargaining Teams met on May 8, 2023, for the sixteenth bargaining session. The teams continued discussion on working conditions for full and part-time LSMs, and the DEA responded to the Board's salary and fringe benefits proposal. The next session is scheduled for May 16, 2023.

Mr. Struck shared that it was Teacher Appreciation Week and impossible to overstate how important our professional licensed staff is to the District and students. He also acknowledged that it was Nurse Appreciation Week, noting how well teachers and nurses handled the pandemic and the dedication of the staff at District 113.

Mr. Struck then expressed his profound condolences to long-time HPHS staff members Terry Joiner and Nitza Rivera on the loss of their daughter over the weekend, citing the tragic circumstances of her passing due to another senseless act of gun violence.

He closed by saying he will reach out to all Board members for assignments on Board committees.

TrueNorth

D113 Board Member Representative for TrueNorth Jodi Shapira reported that TrueNorth will be holding their reorganization meeting to elect their officers and that she will serve as Secretary for TrueNorth and as the Policy Committee Chair. She added that as she has stated at recent meetings, TrueNorth will be connecting with its member districts for support.

Administration Information Reports

Superintendent

Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law began his comments by recognizing teachers and nurses for all of their hard work during this week of Teacher and Nurse Appreciation. He shared that he was thinking of Terry Joiner and Nitzia Rivera and expressed his deep condolences on the loss of their daughter.

He closed by saying that there many students looking forward to the celebrations coming up as the end of the year approaches, reminding everyone that the next Board meeting will be held after graduation.

FOIA

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

A Passion for Excellence: Joe Navickas

The sixth installment of the video series, [“A Passion for Excellence,” focuses on DHS Business Education Teacher Joe Navickas](#). The series highlights teachers and staff telling their stories as educators, which tell the story of the passion for excellence in District 113 that drives the passion for students' potential.

Discussion

Security Update

Dr. Law and Chief Operating Officer Brian Ahmer provided an update on security. Mr. Ahmer said that security procedures at graduation will be enhanced this year and follow Ravinia’s regular concert security procedures including; all entrants must produce a ticket, all entrants must go through metal detectors, all bags are subject to search and K-9 teams will patrol the grounds. As in years past, security personnel onsite will include D113 security, Ravinia security and members of the Highland Park police department. Dr. Law stated that these security procedures are not in response to or in anticipation of any threat. He encouraged families to plan ahead and arrive early to ensure a smooth graduation experience for everyone. Dr. Law then provided an update on other security matters, including a survey being conducted by public opinion research firm, Public Opinion Strategies on school security that will be sent to D113 staff, parents and students on May 16. Analysis of the data from the survey will be shared at the May 30 Board meeting. Dr. Law also provided an update on SB1521, known as Ethan’s Law, that if passed would require gun owners to lock up their guns. He also shared an update on the Director of Security position. More information can be found in [a detailed May 10 email from Dr. Law](#).

Textbook Adoptions for 2023-24

The Board reviewed new textbooks recommended for adoption. The textbooks were selected by faculty committees, discussed by departments, and approved by administration. All reviewing groups made a concerted effort to review the available packages that included both print and online resources. Additional adoption requests may come to the Board over the summer after teams complete summer curricular projects. The agenda item will come back for a vote at the May 30 meeting.

2024-25 School Calendar

The Board reviewed the proposed 2024-25 school calendar created with the input of representatives from the District 113 Education Association (DEA), Department Chairs and Administration. The calendar will come back for a vote at the May 30 meeting.

Action

Donation Agreement

The Board approved as presented an agreement with the Highland Park High School Giants Club to accept \$100,000 toward the purchase and installation of new scoreboards at Wolters Field.

Correct Digital Displays Proposals for Highland Park High School Wolter's Field Scoreboards

The Board approved as presented proposals from Correct Digital Displays for replacing the Wolters Field baseball and football scoreboards that are at the end of their useful lives.

Summer 2023 and 2024 Infrastructure Projects

The Board voted to award bids to Maneval Construction for paving in the amount of \$1,021,730, and to Husar Abatement for lead abatement in the amount of \$86,875 for summer 2023 and 2024 infrastructure projects.

Summer 2023 and 2024 Infrastructure Projects – Pepper Construction Project Authorization

The Board voted to approve Pepper Construction to provide construction management services for summer 2023 and 2024 infrastructure projects in the amount of \$15,711,917.

2023 Athletic Apparel and Spirit Wear Bid

The Board voted to accept a bid from its current vendor, BSN Sports, to supply athletic and spirit wear apparel for a three-year term.

School Resource Officer Agreement between Township High School District 113 and Village of Deerfield

The Board approved as presented an intergovernmental agreement between District 113 and the Village of Deerfield for reciprocal reporting, digital image access, and school resource officer services.

Consultant Agreement-Negotiations of Licensed Staff Member Collective Bargaining Agreement

The Board approved as presented a consultant agreement with Ken Fishbain for negotiations of the licensed staff member collective bargaining agreement. There is no remuneration for these consulting services.

Bond to Cover School Treasurer

As required by law, the Board voted to authorize the renewal of bonds to cover the school treasurer to handle District and other school funds.

Authorize Payment of Invoices to Avoid Late Finance Charges

The Board voted to authorize payment of invoices to avoid late charges from certain vendors when Board approval of the invoices comes after the due date. The checks will be released but

still appear on all reports and could be pulled for auditing purposes. The list of companies for fiscal year 2023 can be found on BoardDocs.

Resolution Designating Depositories for School District Funds

As it does each year, the Board voted to adopt a resolution to authorize signatories and depositories for the following fiscal year.

Resolution for the Dismissal of an Educational Support Staff Employee

The Board approved as presented a resolution for the dismissal of an educational support staff employee.

Consent Agenda

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

May 23, 2023 Regular Action Meeting - **Canceled**
6:00 p.m. Closed Session, 7:00 p.m. Open Session
Administration Building

May 30, 2023 Regular Action Meeting
6:00 p.m. Closed Session, 7:00 p.m. Open Session
Administration Building