



Board Briefs

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[January 28, 2025, Regular Action Meeting](#)

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Approval of Agenda

The Board voted to approve the January 28 agenda as amended.

Board Reports

President

Board President Anne Neumann spoke about the Board's recent Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) workshop with Dr. Holland. She thanked IASB Director Laura Martinez for the workshop and the Board and Dr. Holland for attending. The board is working on updating board protocols which will complement the board policies for how the board functions.

Neumann took a visit to DHS Teacher Buffy Sallee's Race and Equity Class to speak about how the Board functions and how it works with Dr. Holland and the district. She was excited by the questions and thoughts the students shared with her.

Neumann closed by reaffirming D113's commitment to a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment for all students and staff. She mentioned the district's dedication to providing opportunities for growth and learning so that all students are empowered to reach their full potential.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met before the regular meeting, where it discussed the fiscal year 2024 audit and the district's future bonding capacity and how it might relate to safety bonds as the district continues to learn its scope over the next few years. During the committee's meeting, it was determined that the action items on the agenda be advanced.

ED-RED

ED-RED Liaison Rick Heineman attended Ed-Red's Legislative Dinner with Assistant Superintendent of Finance/District Treasurer Ali Mehanti. The duo learned about the organization's main three priorities at the moment, two of which would impact D113: improving the dual-credit quality act with colleges and preserving the state paid-leave law as is. A national organization, the School Superintendents Association, was also at the event and mentioned that a range of issues centering around education are at the forefront and how important "thinking seriously, not literally" is right now.

TrueNorth

TrueNorth Liaison Jenny Lupa was in attendance at the recent TrueNorth Leadership Council where student safety and security were discussed in addition to communication efforts improving and expanding. Lupa went on to mention there are no fiscal concerns. A new building phone contract with Zoom will save more than \$300,000 over the next four years. Districts were also reminded of a February 18 deadline to consider Glenview School District 34's withdrawal from TrueNorth. The next meeting will be on March 12.

External Audit for Fiscal Year Ending 2024

The Board discussed the external audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, completed and submitted by Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP. The audit included a review of the District's financial statements, federal programs, student activity, and insurance funds. The results of Baker Tilly's audit were an unmodified audit opinion, which the auditor noted is the highest opinion that can be rendered. The auditor also noted the district is in a healthy financial position. A vote to accept the audit is listed under action later in the meeting.

Administration Information Reports

Superintendent

Superintendent Dr. Chala Holland provided the following updates during her report:

DHS Principal Search Process Update

After gathering feedback from District 113 stakeholders through a survey and focus groups, a [profile for the next DHS Principal](#) has been created. The profile highlights educational experience, core competencies, leadership priorities and desired attributes. Screening interviews started this week. First-round interviews will be held in mid-February with finalist interviews slated for the end of the month. Updates on the process will continue to be shared at board meetings with the goal of presenting a principal recommendation to the board on March 18. Dr. Holland thanked everyone involved in the process while noting the candidate pool is strong and she is excited for the future of DHS.

D113 is an Inclusive School Community

Amid a challenging time in education, in a heartfelt message, Dr. Holland reminded the D113 community that our district is a welcoming environment that welcomes, loves and supports each and all of our staff members and students across their multiple identities and statuses. Education is a calling and she acknowledged the dedication educators have when entering the field to inspire students and show them that they have endless potential. Despite any uncertainties in education right now, Dr. Holland reaffirmed D113's beliefs that all students belong here and that our district would not exist without them. D113 is a place where all staff and students can be their authentic selves, a value the district will never lose.

FOIA

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

Excellence in Efforts

DHS Principal Dr. Kathryn Anderson highlighted the following in her report:

- Over 1000 students participated in "Poetry Out Loud!" in January. The winner of next week's final will advance to the Chicagoland Suburban Regional Final in February.
- DHS Band collaborated with Wayzata High School's Wind Ensemble from Minnesota in a musical exchange. The collaboration featured a joint performance of the songs "Ammerland" and "Sleigh Ride."
- Visual Arts Teacher Tim Bleck's AP Art students held an outstanding showcase in January which was a great opportunity for the students and community.
- Six students from five different art disciplines were selected to represent DHS at the Illinois High School Art Exhibition in April. The exhibition provides students with the opportunity to showcase their skills. Special thanks to Visual Arts Teacher Chris Sykora who helps run IHSAE.
- Congratulations to the Warrior wrestling team for winning the CSL South Division title. This is the program's 16th conference title in the past 17 years and the first since DHS moved to the CSL South.

HPHS Assistant Principal Joshua Seldess (filling in for Principal Holly Fleischer) highlighted the following in his report:

- HPHS is gearing up for the 2025-26 school year by launching registration for next year's classes and welcoming the class of 2029. HPHS is very grateful for its counseling department's hard work in these efforts.
- School spirit is alive and well at HPHS as a flurry of events took place over the past month including the Winter Snowcoming Pep Assembly, the launch of HP Charity Drive and a ski trip to Alpine Valley just to name a few.

- HPHS students who are bilingual served as panelists at an informational session for prospective students currently at District 112. They shared the importance of bilingualism in an increasingly interconnected world and how it has shaped them.

Vision 2030 Overview

The Board discussed adopting a resolution in support of Vision 2030, a blueprint for excellence in K-12 public education. Vision 2030 was introduced at this year's Joint Annual Conference by education leaders from leading statewide organizations.

Second Semester Security Update

As part of the district's commitment to safety for staff and students, Chief Operations Officer Brian Ahmer gave a presentation on second-semester security efforts. A [communication with more information](#) and [FAQs of what to expect](#) is available on the district website. The presentation included the following highlights:

- Our K9 weapons detection teams underwent an acclimation period and have officially started at the district. The dogs are operational during the school day and at large school-sponsored events and have been well received.
- Expanded, randomized screening with weapons detection systems (WDS). Students will be randomly selected for screening while scanning their IDs in the morning. Security staff will be trained for this protocol.
- The launch of a Security Advisory Committee is planned for early February. 15-20 members will represent students, parents/caregivers and staff from both buildings. The first meeting is tentatively planned for March.

Discussion

Consideration of a Resolution and a Petition for Withdrawal from TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804 filed by Glenview District 34

The board discussed a resolution and petition for withdrawal from TrueNorth filed by Glenview District 34. After much discussion and each board member shared their perspectives, it was noted that the co-op was formed to better serve students and that if District 34 leaves, it may negatively impact D113 financially. The board took action on the resolution later in the meeting.

Life Safety Survey

The board reviewed a presentation on the findings of the 10-Year Life Safety Survey, a mandatory inspection conducted per Illinois School Code. The survey, conducted by FGM Architects, identified areas in which facilities need to be improved to be in compliance with health and safety regulations. To address these findings, the district is exploring funding options, including issuing Health Life Safety Bonds to finance necessary improvements.

Life Safety Bonds

The district proposed issuing \$25 million in health life safety (HLS) bonds in 2025 to fund priority repairs. Since the total estimated cost exceeds \$35 million, additional bonds will be issued in 2027 and 2029. To comply with tax-exempt bond regulations, which require 85% of proceeds to be spent within three years, a phased funding approach is recommended. Previously, addressing these issues was difficult due to Property Tax Extension Law Limit (PTELL) restrictions, but recent legislative changes allow HLS Bonds to be exempt from Debt Service Extension Base (DSEB), providing a new funding opportunity. The administration will work with an architect to develop an amendment, obtain necessary approvals of the amendment from the ISBE, and the ROE, and conduct required public hearings before issuing bonds.

Action

Accept External Audit for Fiscal year Ending 2024

The Board approved as presented a motion to accept the annual audit for the year ending June 30, 2024, as submitted by Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP.

Resolution in Support of Vision 2030

The Board approved, as presented, a resolution in support of Vision 2030.

Consideration of a Resolution and a Petition for Withdrawal from TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804 filed by Glenview District 34

After a Board discussion that determined a shared view that the vote to approve D34's withdrawal from TrueNorth Cooperative 804 would be based on the financial impact on District 113, the Board did not approve the resolution, and a Petition for Withdrawal from TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804 filed by Glenview District 34. Framed as a recommendation for approval, the motion for approval did not receive support from any of the Board members. As a result, the resolution for approval failed and was not approved.

Annual Renewal of the Agreements Regarding the Receipt of Developer Subdivision Contributions and Indemnification

The Board reviewed agreements with Lake County regarding developer fees ahead of the agreements' required annual renewal. The agreements support the District in collecting impact fees from any unincorporated area in the District should it be developed. The Board asked Administration to look into the level of impact fees and to compare the fees from different municipalities to gain a deeper look into what each provides. The information will be provided to the Board at a future date. The agreements will come back to the Board for action January 28.

Approval of FGMA's Contract for Summer 2025

The Board voted to approve as presented a contract with FGM Architects agreeing to a fee of 7.90% based on an estimated cost of the work of \$5,024,000 and a \$5,000 reimbursable allowance for a total estimated award of \$401,900.

Approval of Performance Service for Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract

The Board voted to approve as presented a contract with Performance Service for guaranteed energy savings in the amount of \$1,860,000 to replace three air handling units at Deerfield High School and two boiler burners at Highland Park High School.

Approval of Pepper Construction for Summer 2025

The Board voted to approve as presented a contract with Pepper Construction for estimating, pre-planning, bid preparation, procurement, and construction management of FY 2025 capital projects (excluding mechanical projects) in the amount of \$347,000, subject to legal review.

Approval Resolution for Dismissal of Educational Support Staff Employee

The Board voted to approve as presented a resolution to dismiss an educational support staff employee.

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Resolution calling a Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education of the District to sell School Fire Prevention and Safety Bonds

The Board voted to approve as presented a resolution calling a public hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education to sell school fire prevention and safety bonds in an amount not to exceed \$25,000,000.

Consent Agenda

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

February 11, 2025

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

Committee of the Whole Meeting

6:00 p.m. Closed, 7:00 p.m. Open

Administration Building

February 25, 2025

Regular Action Meeting

6:00 p.m. Closed, 7:00 p.m. Open

Administration Building