



Board Briefs

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[December 17, 2024 Regular Action Meeting](#)

[Board Meeting Videos](#)

Tax Levy Public Hearing

As required by law, the Board held a public hearing before voting to adopt the 2024 levy later in the meeting. In accordance with *Public Act 102-0895*, the District disclosed the cash and investment balance of \$ 156,140,902 as of the November 30, 2024 Treasurer's Report.

Approval of Agenda

The Board voted to approve the December 17 agenda as presented.

Recognition

Blue Ribbon Award for Health Education

In honor of Deerfield High School earning the Blue Ribbon Award in Health, the Board recognized Health Teachers Sarah Gershon and Dani Hoveydai along with Department Chair Marc Pechter for their efforts in leading this work. The Blue Ribbon Award recognizes high quality middle and high school health programs in Illinois. The award was developed using guidelines established by the Illinois Learning Standards, the Illinois School Code, and the National Health Education Standards.

Board Reports

President

Board President Anne Neumann said as mentioned in November, she and Board member Rick Heineman attended the joint IASB-IASA-IASBO conference known as Triple I with several District leaders. In sharing their takeaways from the conference, they noted that the conference offers an opportunity to meet and learn from other school districts. Mr. Heineman provided highlights from construction and integrating artificial intelligence (AI). Ms. Neumann said she appreciated insights gained from a conference on effective school board presidents, and asked all Board members to plan to attend the conference in 2025.

She also reported that she has asked Member Lupa to review Board norms as preparation for a January 23 D113 Board workshop with an IASB facilitator. Ms. Neumann closed by thanking Dr. Holland, her team, school staff and fellow Board members for all of the time and effort everyone has made into building an inclusive school community. She wished everyone a relaxing and restful winter break as second semester will be very busy.

Policy Committee

Policy Committee Chair Jaime Barraza shared a short summary of the meeting held immediately prior. He noted that most of the reviewed policies will go to the full Board for first reading at the next meeting in January.

ED-RED

ED-RED Liaison Rick Heineman attended the December 6 meeting and noted that ED-RED is looking for volunteers for a dual credit working group. He added that January 27 is the annual legislative dinner and the topic is navigating federal uncertainty. He also shared information about an upcoming June 12 breakfast meeting.

Administration Information Reports

Superintendent

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

Cell phone use

- Dr. Holland noted this is a shared challenge affecting staff and families alike. District 113 is actively examining how cell phones impact the learning environment and is focusing this year on the collection of data. Insights from that data will be instrumental in shaping updates to cell phone expectations in the 2025-26 school year. She also encouraged those who had not yet taken the survey to take it.

Organizational updates

- In reviewing administration positions and the required licensure and endorsements associated with them, updates are being made to two positions. The Assistant Superintendent for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is shifting to an Executive Director role. The job description has been updated to include a Principal's endorsement, formerly known as a Type 75. Dr. Holland underscored that this update should not be interpreted as a change in the District's commitment to this important work. The other position with an updated requirement is the role of Athletic Director. It will also require a Principal's endorsement/Type 75 moving forward. Dr. Holland emphasized that the changes have nothing to do with individuals in these roles but instead is an update to expectations for administration roles looking ahead.

Security updates for second semester

- Dr. Holland issued a reminder about the K9 teams that will be deployed in each school following winter break. The K9 teams will begin with an "acclimation period" learning the layout of the buildings and adjusting to the sounds and traffic flow of students and staff as they circulate throughout the schools. Also planned for second semester is the launch of a Safety and Security Advisory Committee. She added that the review and consideration of safety and security measures are ongoing, and continue to require active engagement and thoughtful, contextual decision making. More information will be shared after winter break.

End of first semester

- Dr. Holland expressed her amazement at how quickly the end of first semester is approaching and all of the wonderful things that happened during that time. She expressed thanks to the community for entrusting the District with the gift of their children every day, thanked staff for all of their efforts to support students and their growth, and thanked her team for all of the work taken on this semester. Dr. Holland wished everyone a restorative, peaceful break and holiday season.

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 part of her report, HPHS Principal Holly Fleischer highlighted the following:

- Thanked staff for all the effort they have put in as the first semester comes to a close
- Celebrated seasonal fun with the talented MAD Cap, an acapella group, as they caroled through Highwood spreading music and cheer
- Appreciated the thoughtful approach of the American Literature team with students in the reading of *Every Brilliant Thing* and the live performance students were able to enjoy featuring HPHS alum Jessie Fisher at the Writers Theatre
- Enjoyed the thought-provoking experience in English I Honors as students designed and hosted intergenerational discussions exploring the concept of time
- Congratulated HPHS Student Liaison Miles Walker for his acceptance to attend DePaul University and major in Health Sciences
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DHS Principal Dr. Kathryn Anderson highlighted the following in her report:

- Expressed thanks to everyone for all their hard work and perseverance as the semester winds down
- Enjoyed the many talents of students in the performing arts, Jazz Band, and Choraliers as they provided festive performances at school and throughout the community
- Applauded the work in the Science Department in their use of outdoor spaces to enhance student learning and engagement
- Marveled at the work in AP Chemistry to complete a redox titration to determine the percentage of hydrogen peroxide in store-bought dental whiteners and then discussed the identified levels, their safety, and the impact of those safe or not-so-safe levels on teeth
- Anticipated the excitement of welcoming future 9th graders as staff have begun engaging with sender schools to ensure a smooth transition
- Congratulated DHS Student Liaison Lila Peck for her acceptance to Vanderbilt University

School Reports

Student Liaison Reports

DHS senior Lila Peck shared that School Chest raised over \$85,000 for Mothers Trust Foundation, noting that students worked very hard to reach that result. She said the cafeteria now offers gluten-free lunch options and is celiac safe, an endeavor led by junior Zosia Zarnecki. In closing, Lila added that finals week is underway and that seniors were the lucky beneficiaries of \$5 Dunkin Donuts gift cards, a timely gift given the stress of finals and college deadlines and decisions.

HPHS senior Miles Walker shared that heading into finals, students enjoyed celebration and fun in the mornings with the return of the annual “Hot Chocolate Fridays” enhanced with live student music performances. He reported that Human Rights Club was collecting coats and winter apparel to be shared with people in need. In closing, Miles said the first annual

gingerbread house-making competition was held during lunch periods with the final products on display.

As they approach their final semesters, Dr. Holland asked Lila and Miles to share advice with younger students. Both encouraged students to take courses that they find really interesting even if they are not the traditional academic courses or Honors and AP courses. They also encouraged students to think about balance in their course load and take advantage of the many opportunities that are offered.

Discussion

Deerfield High School Roadway Sign

The Board reviewed the proposal in the amount of \$69,473 to install an illuminated roadway display sign for Deerfield High School on Waukegan Road. The project has already been approved by the Village of Deerfield. The item will come back for action at the January 9 meeting.

Catalyst for Educational Change (CEC) Agreement

The Board discussed a proposal to engage Catalyst for Educational Change (CEC) to lead strategic planning services in District 113 in winter-spring 2025. Dr. Holland explained the in-depth, iterative process that the District will participate in to work on the plan. She said that once developed, the District will need to be adaptive, so that the plan as lived meets the needs of students. Rick Heineman and Jaime Barraza will participate as the Board's liaisons throughout. Next steps will be finalized and communicated following winter break.

Action

Approve Multi-year Employment Contract for Chief Human Resources Officer/Deputy Superintendent

The Board voted to approve as presented a three-year contract with Dr. Kathryn Anderson to serve as Chief Human Resources Officer/Deputy Superintendent effective July 1, 2025. For more information on the announcement and next steps in the search for the next Deerfield High School Principal, please see [the December 17 announcement](#).

Approve Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Change in Pay Frequency for Licensed Staff Members

The Board voted to approve as presented a memorandum of understanding regarding a change in pay frequency for licensed staff. When the change takes effect beginning August 29, 2025, licensed staff will be paid their annual salary over 24 pay dates instead of 12 pay dates.

School Resource Officer Agreement between Township High School District 113 and the City of Highland Park

The Board voted to approve as presented the school resource officer agreement between the City of Highland Park and District 113. The agreement will now proceed to the City of Highland Park for action.

Course Proposals for the 2025-26 School Year

The Board voted to approve as presented two AP Cybersecurity courses aligned to College and Career Pathways for the 2025-2026 school year.

2024 Tax Levy

The Board voted to approve as presented the 2024 tax levy. The 2024 levy will fund the 2025-26 school year.

Resolution authorizing a supplemental property tax levy to pay the principal of and interest on outstanding limited bonds of the District

The Board voted to adopt a resolution authorizing a supplemental property tax levy to pay the principal of and interest on outstanding limited bonds of the District.

Resolution abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2023 to pay debt service on the District's General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2022A

The Board voted to adopt a resolution abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2023 to pay debt service on the District's General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2022A.

Approve Fifth Amendment to Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract

The Board approved an amendment to the Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract between Township High School District 113 and Performance Services, Inc. (PSI). This amendment outlines the Preliminary Phase 3 Scope of Work, which includes the installation of electric bus chargers, a ground-mounted solar PV array, and the necessary upgrades to ComEd electrical service.

Approve Catalyst for Educational Change (CEC) Agreement

The Board voted to approve as presented an agreement with CEC in the amount of \$29,700 for strategic planning services.

Consent Agenda

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

January 9, 2024 – Rescheduled from January 14

Committee of the Whole Meeting

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

Administration Building