



## **Board Briefs**

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[February 11, 2025 Committee of Whole Meeting](#)

[Board Meeting Videos](#)

### **Public Hearing Concerning the Intent of the Board of Education of the District to Sell \$25,000,000 School Fire Prevention and Safety Bonds**

As required by law, the Board held a public hearing concerning the intent to sell school fire prevention and safety bonds in an amount not to exceed \$25,000,000.

### **Public Hearing Concerning the Resolution Authorizing Certain Repairs to School Playgrounds or Paving Using Fire Prevention and Safety Funds**

As required by law, the Board held a public hearing concerning a resolution authorizing certain repairs to school playgrounds or paving using fire prevention and safety funds.

### **Approval of Agenda**

The Board voted to approve the February 11 agenda as presented.

### **Board Reports**

#### ***President***

Board President Anne Neumann said she is looking forward to attending the musicals at both high schools over the next week. At HPHS, the blue pole was signed by seniors, which is considered a rite of passage by graduating Giants as they complete their high school experience. She said she loved seeing the signing on Instagram and is filled with hope every time she sees students enjoying such a proud moment.

Ms. Neumann also reiterated the Board's message from the previous meeting as well as Dr. Holland's staff and community message that D113 is and will continue to be an inclusive school community. Both messages reiterated that the District's vibrant learning environment is created through students and staff showing up and being seen in their unique and authentic selves each day.

#### ***Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee***

Committee Chair Dr. Jody Elliott-Schrimmer reported on the committee meeting held immediately prior. She said the District is developing an affinity program for employees and the committee discussed the why behind the program, how it will provide the opportunity to build connections and plans for the program's rollout at the beginning of next school year.

#### ***ED-RED***

No report.

### ***Board Protocols***

Ms. Neumann reminded everyone that Superintendent/Board communication protocols have been in place since 2020 and that those were updated at the start of this school year to reflect new Board members and a new Superintendent. After attending the Joint Conference in November, the Board agreed to expand protocols to include how the Board engages with the community and staff, how the Board utilizes social media, and how the Board speaks with one voice. She said the protocols support Policies 2-130 *Board-Superintendent Relationship* and 2-140 *Communications to and from the Board*, were written using guidelines from the Illinois Association of School Boards, and also incorporated examples from Districts 112 and 109. Ms. Neumann said they are living breathing protocols that the Board will adapt as needed. The Board agreed to post them [on the District website](#) for all to view.

### **Administration Information Reports**

#### ***Superintendent***

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

- Students and staff continue to move full steam ahead in classrooms and across our many extracurricular activities and school events.
- *Black History Month*: Dr. Holland thanked the District for not only elevating this month of Black History, but for the efforts to support inclusion across all buildings in many ways for all groups of people.
- *Institute Day*: A full day of learning and engaging for all staff will take place on February 14
- *Highland Park Chamber of Commerce - State of Education Presentation*: will be held at The Art Center Highland Park on February 25 at 8:30 a.m. The community is welcome but [registration is required](#).
- *Family Action Network Partnership* - In addition to Deerfield Parent Network (DPN) and the applicable and timely programming they provide to DHS and open to the entire District, District 113 has added a partnership with the Family Action Network (FAN). This partnership will build and expand on engagement opportunities for families across the entire District for students, staff, and families. FAN offers a variety of virtual and in-person opportunities with presenters on a wide range of topics.
  - On February 19 - [Join](#) author David Greenberg, Ph.D., an engaging conversation about his book, *John Lewis: A Life*, with David Blight, Ph.D.
  - On February 20 - [Join](#) author Mary-Frances O'Connor, Ph.D., author of *The Grieving Body: How the Stress of Loss Can Be an Opportunity for Healing*, with Meghan Riordan Jarvis, MA, LCSW.
- *Ongoing questions regarding the state of the grant funding received by the District and the potential dismantling of the Department of Education*: The District continues to monitor national and statewide discussions on this topic. At the moment, there are many questions but few answers. Dr. Holland will continue to keep the Board informed regarding developments and their potential impact on the District for future decision-making.
- Reiterated points from [the joint statement](#) issued from District 113 in conjunction with the City of Highland Park and North Shore School District 112 about troubling incidents

of unlawful video recording at Highland Park High School and Edgewood Middle School.

### **FOIA**

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

### **School Reports**

#### *Student Liaison Reports*

HPHS senior Miles Walker shared that the student production of *Legally Blonde the Musical!* will be put on this week. Tickets are on sale right now. This is the last week of Charity Drive and there are a ton of fun activities planned for students including root beer floats, food from Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers and crepes at lunch just to name a few. Girls Gymnastics finished 2nd at the CSL North at last Friday's Conference meet. Girls Basketball celebrated a CSL North title on Senior Night with a win over Niles North marking the program's second consecutive conference championship. Poms and Jammers also celebrated their senior night at the Boys Basketball game last Friday, which the boys won, sending the Poms and Jammers seniors out on a high.

DHS senior Lila Peck was not in attendance at the meeting, but shared in a written report that the student production of *9 to 5* is heading into Tech Week and will open on February 19. Actors, crew and the pit are working hard to prepare for the show and tickets are on sale right now. Student Council sold roses for students to buy and have delivered to their fellow classmates for Valentine's Day. On January 24, over 300 students competed in the North Suburban DECA Conference where 54 DHS students earned the right to compete in the DECA State Competition in March.

### **Discussion**

#### ***Resolution Authorizing Certain Repairs to School Playgrounds or Paving Using Fire Prevention and Safety Funds***

Following the public hearing held earlier in the meeting, the Board discussed a resolution authorizing certain repairs to school playgrounds or paving using fire prevention and safety funds.

### **Action**

#### ***Resolution Authorizing Certain Repairs to School Playgrounds or Paving Using Fire Prevention and Safety Funds***

The Board voted to adopt a resolution authorizing certain repairs to school playgrounds or paving using fire prevention and safety funds.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

***February 25, 2025***

Regular Action Meeting

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

Administration Building