



Board Briefs

[Para español, por favor haga click aquí](#)

[January 9, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting](#)

[Board Meeting Videos](#)

Approval of Agenda

The Board voted to approve the January 9 agenda as presented.

Board Reports

President

Board President Anne Neumann welcomed everyone back noting that this semester is an especially exciting transition time for seniors and retiring staff as they wind down and for incoming freshmen as they start to become engaged in the high school community. She closed by reminding fellow Board members of the upcoming Board Retreat with an Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) facilitator on January 23.

Administration Information Reports

Superintendent

Superintendent Dr. Chala Holland welcomed everyone back, sharing that second semester is underway and will go quickly. In her report she provided the following updates:

Thoughtful Course Selection for Current Students

In addition to welcoming incoming 9th grade students and families, staff are assisting current students with course selections, a critical process that impacts student support, curriculum design, staff assignments, and school operations. Families recently received guidance from the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, emphasizing thoughtful course selection to balance academic challenge, growth, and extracurricular commitments. To minimize disruptions caused by frequent course changes, which affect class balance, staff workload, and student stability, the District is focusing on proactive planning and reducing the opportunities for mid-year changes. Struggles in learning are seen as opportunities for growth, with grades reflecting progress at a point in time rather than long-term ability or placement appropriateness. To support students, the District will enhance its systems to provide proactive and responsive assistance, helping students overcome challenges and succeed in their chosen courses.

DHS Principal Search Process Update

The DHS Principal hiring process is underway, with information shared with students and staff on Wednesday, January 8 and parents/guardians set to receive it as soon as the materials are translated. Stakeholders, including students, staff, parents, and guardians, are invited to provide feedback on desired qualities for the next DHS Principal and suggest interview questions through

a survey or focus groups. Both options are offered to accommodate different engagement preferences, and participation in either is sufficient. Focus groups will be held the week of January 13 for those wishing to share perspectives in person. Efforts are also being made to identify a representative group of students, parents, guardians, and staff to participate in the interview process. Updates on the hiring process will be shared during Board meetings, with a goal to present a Principal recommendation to the Board on March 18.

Acclimation Period Underway for K9 Weapons Detection Teams

K9 weapons detection teams are now on campus as part of the District's comprehensive security approach. The teams, including Jinx at DHS and Sue at HPHS, are undergoing an acclimation period to adjust to the buildings, traffic flow, and daily routines. A third dog, Jera, is being trained as a backup to ensure continuous K9 presence. When on duty, the dogs will wear vests indicating they are working, and community members are asked not to engage with them during this time. Updates on the K9 teams and other security measures will be provided during Board meetings.

Grow the Game

On Saturday, January 4, the Grow the Game Basketball Tournament was hosted at Highland Park High School to promote equality and provide girls and women with opportunities to lead, compete, and collaborate through basketball. This year's event featured teams coached by women and female officials for all games. Both Deerfield and Highland Park participated, with Deerfield playing Buffalo Grove and Highland Park competing against Warren. The event highlighted the District's commitment to empowering female athletes, and gratitude was extended to the coaches and athletic directors for making this experience possible.

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

DHS senior Lila Peck was unable to attend but provided a report to the Board in their meeting packet. Her highlights included that some DHS students are attending Illinois High School Theatre Fest, a 3-day festival at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where students can watch performances, participate in workshops, and meet theater students from other schools. She also noted that on January 15, DHS will host High School Preview Night to introduce the school and its offerings to the current 8th graders.

HPHS senior Miles Walker shared that the HP Varsity Hockey Team netted their 11th league win of the season just before break, and Dylan Lansky is the Illinois High School Hockey leading scorer with 40 points in 19 games. On January 17, Highland Park will kick off Charity Drive with a school wide assembly. This year, Charity Drive supports the [Harold E. Eisenberg Foundation](#), which funds life-saving gastrointestinal cancer research. Also coming up is Snowcoming, a week of fun activities in which students can participate.

BOE Policies with Updates – First Reading

2-105, Ethics and Gift Ban

2-110, Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers
2-120, Board Member Development
2-140, Communication Among School Board Members
4-30, Revenue and Investments
4-40, Debt Management
4-150, Facility Management and Building
4-160, Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds
4-190, Targeted School Violence Program
5-10, Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
5-90, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting
5-120, Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest
5-230, Maintaining Student Discipline
6-60, Curriculum Content
6-65, Student Social and Emotional Development
6-135, Accelerated Placement Program Procedures
6-270, Counseling Services
6-310, High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students
7-10, Equal Educational Opportunities
7-100, Health and Eye Examinations
7-160, Student Appearance
7-180, Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
7-200, Suspension Procedures
7-240, Code of Conduct
8-10, Connection with the Community

BOE Policies with Updates to References/Footnotes Only – First Reading

5-30, Hiring Process and Criteria
5-35, Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act
5-150, Personnel Records
6-20, School Year Calendar and Day

BOE Policies with No Updates – First Reading

4-10, Fiscal and Business Management
4-60, Purchases and Contracts

Discussion

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.

Action***Deerfield High School Roadway Sign***

The Board approved as presented a 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.

Consent Agenda

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings***January 23, 2024***

Special Meeting – Board Retreat

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Administration Building

January 28, 2024

Regular Action Meeting

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

Administration Building