



Board Briefs

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[June 11, 2024 Regular Action Meeting](#)

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Approval of Agenda

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

Board Reports

President

Board President Anne Neumann said she did not have a report for this meeting. Instead, she said she will share remarks of gratitude during the recognition portion of the agenda, thanking retiring Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law and HPHS Principal Debby Finn.

Finance Committee

Finance Committee Chair Greg Nieder provided a report from the meeting held earlier in the evening. Mr. Nieder said the committee went through the budget presentation listed for discussion later in the meeting.

Policy Committee

Policy Committee Chair Jaime Barraza provided a report from the meeting held earlier in the evening. Mr. Barraza noted that the Illinois Association of School Boards coincidentally released a policy update earlier that day as well. He said the policies discussed during the meeting were moving forward to the full Board for discussion and action with two of those policies appearing on the June 11 agenda.

ED-RED

Ms. Neumann said Board member Rick Heineman had volunteered to serve as the Board's liaison to ED-RED, an educational advocacy and lobbying organization for suburban public schools. Mr. Heineman said the District can provide input on legislation that is important and material to the District by submitting witness slips, adopting resolutions or engaging with the organization. Ms. Neumann said a Board Report agenda item will be slated for future agendas following ED-RED meetings so that Mr. Heineman can relay updates to the full Board.

Administration Information Reports

Superintendent

In the final Board meeting of his career, Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law began his report with a business item, the news that District 113 has been awarded a grant for \$565,000 for electric buses and that more information will be shared as it becomes available.

He then expressed remarks thanking the Board and Cabinet for the support and hard work during his time leading District 113 and wished everyone well in months and years ahead.

FOIA

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

Discussion

FY 2025 Tentative Budget Presentation

As it does each June, Administration presented to the Board the tentative budget for the following fiscal year. Assistant Superintendent for Finance Ali Mehanti walked through the overview highlighting material changes to FY 25 operating expenditures and revenues. Mr. Mehanti is projecting an operating surplus of approximately \$300,00-\$500,000, down from approximately the \$1.3 million projected surplus in the tentative financial projections presented to the Board in February.

Mr. Mehanti said salaries and benefits are the biggest drivers of operations expenditures, and salary increases in the District 113 Education Association (DEA) contract are the biggest driver of salary costs. Other changes include:

- An increase of 40% in electricity rates following the expiration of a four-year electricity service contract that had locked in lower rates
- A 42% increase in the employer contribution to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), required by IMRF upon updating their actuarial assumptions
- A market adjustment for salaries of educational support personnel to make those salaries more competitive with comparable districts
- A few additions in full time equivalences (FTEs) that were not originally presented in February

Mr. Mehanti also provided the following highlights:

- Insurance costs will remain flat due to favorable claims in FY24
- Non-personnel budget is projected to increase by only 2.4%

Groups under Policies 8-90 and 8-100

Following the comprehensive updates to Policies 8-90 and 8-100 in 2022, legal counsel recommended the Board annually review and reaffirm the organizations and community affiliates listed under Exhibit A for both policies. The Board reviewed the organizations and community affiliates and then reaffirmed those listed as an action item on the Consent Agenda.

Action

Approve One-Year Employment Contract for Assistant Principal of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Highland Park High School

The Board voted to approve as presented a one-year employment contract with Joshua Seldess to serve as the Assistant Principal of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Highland Park High School beginning July 1, 2024.

Approve One-Year Employment Contract for Director of Health Services

The Board voted to approve as presented a one-year employment contract with Jennifer Darner to serve as the Director of Health Services for the District. This position will provide services at a lower cost than what was previously budgeted as purchased services.

Increased Licensed Staff FTE

The Board voted to approve as presented a 1.0 increase in licensed staff FTE in the event that current FTE cannot meet the need to balance class sizes in classes with students with individualized education plans (IEPs) and that decision is made before the next Board meeting on July 16.

Post Tentative Budget, Set Hearing, and Authorize Expenditures Thereunder

The Board voted to post as presented the FY 2025 tentative budget, to set the public hearing on August 20, 2024, and to authorize expenditures and purchases during the first fiscal quarter in accordance with the tentative budget until the final budget is adopted.

Individual and Small Group Transportation Services for Students Bid

The Board voted to award bids for individual and small group student transportation services to Citicare, 303/United Dispatch, Safeway, Topline, and BrightLift. The contracts do not guarantee a minimum number of routes.

Approve Pro Bono Professional Services Agreement

The Board approved as presented a pro bono professional services agreement with former Board member Ken Fishbain.

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 2024 through June 2025.

School Treasurer's Surety Bond

The Board voted to approve the school treasurer's surety bond in the amount of \$17,685,000 of coverage per statutory requirements and authorized the Board President and Board Secretary to sign the bond surety certificate.

Transferring Funds from Operations and Maintenance to Capital Projects

The Board voted to adopt a resolution as presented to authorize the one-time transfer of \$1,850,340 from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Funds.

Resolution Transferring Funds from the O&M Fund to the Bond and Interest Fund to Pay Debt Service on the District's General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2022A

The Board voted to adopt a resolution as presented authorizing the transfer of funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund (O&M) to the Bond and Interest Fund to pay debt service on the District's general obligation school bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2022A.

Consent Agenda

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

Recognition

Cabinet Retirees

The Board formally recognized HPHS Principal Debby Finn and Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law upon their retirements from District 113. Board members expressed their gratitude for their leadership and their service. On behalf of the Board, Ms. Neumann presented Dr. Law with a replica of the plaques that will be placed permanently outside the Life Skills Labs in both schools in honor of his commitment to ensuring equity and access for all students and reflecting his love of learning.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

July 16, 2024

Regular Action Meeting

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

Administration Building