



Board Briefs

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[May 28, 2024 Regular Action Meeting](#)

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Approval of Agenda

The Board voted to approve the May 28 agenda as presented.

Driver Education Fee Public Hearing Approval of Agenda

In compliance with Illinois School Code, the Board held a public hearing before formally adopting the annually required resolution for establishing the driver education fee under the action portion of the agenda. The fee will remain the same as last year.

Organization of the Board of Education

Election of President for One Year

The Board voted to elect Anne Neumann as President for one year.

Election of Vice President for One Year

The Board voted to elect Jaime Barraza as Vice President for one year.

Election of Secretary for One Year

The Board voted to elect Dr. Jody Elliott-Schrimmer as Secretary for one year.

Appointment of Treasurer for One Year

The Board voted to appoint Assistant Superintendent of Finance Ali Mehanti as the Board's Treasurer for one year.

Board Reports

President

Board President Anne Neumann reminded Board members to provide any proposed new or amended resolutions by June 4 for discussion at the June 11 meeting in order to make the submission deadline of June 26 to the Illinois Association of School Boards. She announced that Board committee assignments will be determined at the first meeting of FY 2025 on July 16 and asked members to submit their preferences by July 1.

Ms. Neumann remarked on both the DHS and HPHS graduation ceremonies that occurred the previous week, saying that they are the highlight of serving on the Board. She wished the Classes of 2024 good luck in their next pursuits, wished freshmen through juniors good luck as they take finals, and thanked staff for everything as they approach the end of the school year.

In closing, Ms. Neumann said in a statement that the Board supports D113 students cultivating and finding their voices through student-run publications, organizations that enable students to be seen and through access to resources to expand their critical thought development all within the framework of federal law, state law and District policy. She said people do not need to like what students say or who they invite to speak but the students do have the right to develop their voice within the educational setting. That means they also need to sit with the discomfort their words may create and that the Board expects the community to ensure students and the staff who oversee their work are able to safely learn, mentor and teach.

Administration Information Reports

Superintendent

Following up on Ms. Neumann's report, Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law explained to the Board the process for reviewing content for school-sponsored publications because questions had been raised. He advised that Board Policy [7-315 Restrictions on Publications – High Schools](#) governs this topic and it is based on the Illinois Statute called the *Speech Rights of Student Journalists Act*.

He said this policy defines a student journalist as a public high school student who gathers, compiles, writes, edits, photographs, records, or prepares information for dissemination in school-sponsored media. He emphasized that a student journalist is not only a student who writes for a school-sponsored publication. A student who collects or gathers information and publishes that information does so as a student journalist. That means that they can collect or gather an article from non-students and as student journalists are still protected in their work by Board policy, state law, and *the First Amendment*.

He noted that their speech rights are not absolute, and the policy provides limits on what they can create, produce, or distribute, citing the policy as follows.

Student journalists may not create, produce, or distribute school-sponsored media that:

- 1. Is libelous, slanderous, or obscene;*
- 2. Constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy;*
- 3. Violates federal or State law, including the Constitutional rights of third parties; or*
- 4. Incites students to:*
 - a. Commit an unlawful act;*
 - b. Violate any of the District's policies; or*
 - c. Materially and substantially disrupt the orderly operation of the school.*

He also emphasized that the sponsor's review of content is restricted to those four criteria. Provided the content does not violate any of those criteria, students determine what goes into school-sponsored publications. Then Dr. Law highlighted another provision in the policy that explicitly states that staff cannot engage in prior restraint, again citing language in the policy as follows.

The District will not engage in prior restraint of material prepared by student journalists for school-sponsored media, unless the material fits into one of the four prohibited categories listed above, in which case the Superintendent or designee and/or student

media adviser may review, edit, and delete such media material before publication or distribution of the media.

In conclusion, Dr. Law made two additional points. One is that the requirement to provide the opportunity and space for the expression of differing opinions does not require differing opinions to appear in the same issue. Student journalists could present two sides of an issue in one publication or publish different opinions in a future publication. Finally, he said the Board cannot simply rewrite this policy to restrict student journalists because in doing so the Board would violate state law.

Dr. Law then shared that the graduation ceremonies were wonderful, that both days they had good weather, and as the final ceremonies in his career they were particularly meaningful. He also thanked DHS Principal Dr. Kathryn Anderson and HPHS Principal Debby Finn and their teams for all the work that goes into making the ceremonies run so well and the event so enjoyable. He closed by saying he was deeply humbled and grateful that this experience has been a part of his life.

Incoming Superintendent

Incoming Superintendent Dr. Chala Holland commented on how beautifully unique each graduation ceremony was, saying it made her really proud to be a part of these wonderful opportunities to celebrate students. She thanked Principal Finn and Dr. Anderson and their staff for their hard work and for hosting and welcoming her. She added that graduation is not only about celebrating the graduates but everyone who has cared for and demonstrated love to the students throughout their education. Dr. Holland also expressed how much she looks forward to becoming superintendent in District 113.

Excellence in Effort

DHS Principal Dr. Anderson shared highlights from the English Department, specifically academic literacy teachers Sara Teplinsky and Kevin Bulava who invited professionals into the school to share with students the ways that literacy impacts their professional practice so students can see how important reading is no matter what their career choice. Dr. Anderson added that the Counseling Department, members of the Student Services Department, and building administrators took proactive steps to enhance collaboration with community partners. The team worked with local governmental entities such as West Deerfield Township, the Lake County Health Department, and the Deerfield Police Department to strengthen connections that benefit students.

In her final report before she retires, HPHS Principal Debby Finn said her highlights this month centered around a few different themes. The first focused on how much she enjoys going into classrooms and one of her favorite experiences is viewing the student presentations in the Immigrant Voices course when teachers like Elizabeth Perlman invite staff in for these culminating project presentations. She said the murals AP Art students created are now in the process of being displayed around the building by teacher Blake Novotny and that they are beautiful additions to look at while walking through the building. Principal Finn credited science teacher Heather Hernandez for being energetic and creative until the very end of the year by using a cicada cookbook, making chocolate chip cicada cookies and cicada banana bread, and with Biology classes talking about the protein in cicadas, if one chooses to consume them.

In closing, she said HPHS has also been celebrating its diversity. English Learner students marked the auspicious celebration of graduation with a pre-celebration and this year graduates wore colorful stoles representing their cultures. She shared that in late April HPHS hosted the Chicano Bowl with the JV team finishing in second place. Principal Finn said this annual event is run by HPHS students and it provides an empowering experience for both the HPHS students and students of the other schools that participate. Finally, she said they held a special celebration when unveiling the Black History Month Photo Gallery organized by Student Activities Director Dr. Joaquin Stephenson. She said the staff members photographed had family members in attendance and that the event provided an opportunity to honor Black staff members and how truly exceptional they are.

FOIA

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

Discussion

Determination of Date and Time of Regular Meetings

As required by school code and Board Policy 2-210, the Board reviewed [the proposed 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. The item will come back for action at the June 11 meeting.

Daily and Weekly Bell Schedule Update

The Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the Board of Education and the District 113 Education Association requires that both schools be on the same daily and weekly schedule for the 2025-26 school year as recommended by a district-wide committee. In compliance with the CBA's requirement for a presentation to the Board before June 1, 2024 that presents at least two options for a common schedule, DHS Principal Dr. Kathryn Anderson, Chair of the Bell Schedule Committee, provided the Board with an update on the committee's work, presenting three bell schedule concepts for Board input. Dr. Anderson said the committee will continue to gather student and staff feedback in the fall of 2024, ahead of the requirement for the committee to present a final recommendation to the Board by December 1, 2024.

Individual Small Group Transportation Service for Students Bid

Administration presented to the Board responses to a bid for individual and small group transportation services for students. This bid was structured differently than other bids to allow the District flexibility in meeting the transportation needs of students with disabilities in the most efficient way. The item will come back to the Board for action on June 11.

Action

Approve Multi-Year Employment Contract for Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

The Board voted to approve as presented a three-year employment contract with [Dr. Lisa Dallacqua to serve as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment](#) beginning July 1, 2024.

Approve One-Year Employment Contract for Department Chair of World Languages/ELL at Deerfield High School

The Board voted to approve as presented a one-year employment contract with Danielle Ossman as Chair of the World Languages/ELL Department at Deerfield High School.

One Year Employment Contract for Department Chair of Applied and Fine Arts at Deerfield High School

The Board voted to approve as presented a one-year employment contract with Markeise Russell as Chair of the Applied and Fine Arts Department at Deerfield High School.

Approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Regarding Summer School Pay for Deans

The Board approved as presented a MOU regarding summer school pay for deans.

Resolution Authorizing Driver Education Fee

The Board approved as presented a resolution authorizing the driver education fee of \$240 for the 2024-25 school year. The fee remains unchanged since the 2019-20 school year.

Bond to Cover School Treasurer

As required by law, the Board voted to authorize the renewal of bonds to cover the school treasurer to handle District and other school funds.

Consent Agenda

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

June 4, 2024

Finance Committee

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Administration Building

June 11, 2024

Committee of the Whole Meeting

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

Administration Building