



## **Board Briefs**

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[October 22, 2024 Regular Action Meeting](#)

[Board Meeting Videos](#)

### **Approval of Agenda**

The Board voted to approve the October 22 agenda as presented.

### **Recognition**

#### ***School Bus Driver Appreciation***

The Board of Education shared their appreciation for the District 113 Transportation Department during National School Bus Safety Week, noting that this year the theme from the National Association for Pupil Transportation is *Safety First - Safety Always*. Board President Anne Neumann called attention to the fact that bus drivers are the staff members many students see at the very start and end of their day.

Chief Transportation Officer Brandon Hayes then expressed gratitude to the 34 members of his transportation team for setting an example of safety throughout the District and community. He highlighted a few safety improvements, including the installation of four-foot, stop-arm extenders that notify drivers to stop when students board or disembark buses as well as training and onboarding improvements that qualify the District 113 Transportation Department to conduct certain onboarding and training activities onsite.

#### ***Principal Appreciation***

The Board shared their appreciation for Principals by recognizing October 20 through October 26 as Principal Appreciation Week with October 25 as Principal Appreciation Day. Ms. Neumann also read a resolution in honor of all the hard work Principals do to help students learn and succeed and the integral role they play in nurturing a positive, student-centered culture.

### **Board Reports**

#### ***President***

Board President Anne Neumann shared that she attended the DHS fall play *Metamorphoses* this past weekend and was impressed with not only the performance of the actors but also the stage crew who built one of the key actors for this production - a pool in the studio theater. She said she looked forward to attending productions from both schools this year as well as other extracurricular and fine arts events.

In regards to the Illinois Association of School Board Convention at the Triple I Conference, Ms. Neumann said the Board is unable to send a delegate to the voting session so no further Board action is required.

Finally, Ms. Neumann shared upcoming changes in practice to public comment at Board meetings. Beginning at the November 19 meeting, the process to sign up will move from paper to electronic sign-up in the lobby of the Ad Building. When members of the public attend a meeting and wish to speak, they will be asked to enter into an electronic form their first and last name, the name of the city where they live, and the topic they wish to speak about. They will also have the option to enter their email address for follow-up. They will then be given a number so that the speakers will be called on in the order that they signed up.

This new process will help the District meet requirements for records and minutes, and will also help Administration connect with community members to answer questions or address individual concerns that are raised but cannot be addressed by the Board within the limitations of public comment.

### ***IASB Regional Meeting***

Rick Heineman attended the October 9 Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) regional meeting that covered the topics of future-focused learning, shared accountability and predictable funding. Mr. Heineman said one session he attended covered giving more voice to school districts in determining tax increment financing districts, or TIFs. The current process provides more input from municipalities. Another session he attended focused on well-meaning but unfunded mandates, noting that 23 such mandates were passed last year. He said there is work underway to set up a focus group to review the cost and benefits of such mandates.

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

ED-RED Liaison Rick Heineman attended the annual kick-off luncheon October 18. He said that ED-RED leadership shared three main priorities: funding to support the needs of immigrant students regardless of their immigration status, requiring schools to serve as polling places and the challenges it brings as well as improving and providing more equitable special education funding across public schools.

### ***Finance Committee***

Finance Committee Greg Nieder reported that the Finance Committee met earlier in the evening and they reviewed the 2024 tax levy. He said that the item is listed later on the agenda for the full Board's discussion.

### ***TrueNorth***

TrueNorth Liaison Jenny Lupa said TrueNorth met on October 9 and she relayed information from their Board Briefs as she was unable to attend. She said the TrueNorth Board is looking into establishing a process and criteria for new membership since it is not something that is well defined currently. Ms. Lupa also shared that like District 113, TrueNorth's Board is discussing the Lake County School Mutual Aid Response Team Agreement. She said that at the next meeting on November 13, the Board will be reviewing the Superintendent's contract and Glenview District 34's program evaluation of TrueNorth as D34 determines whether it will leave the co-op. She closed by saying that TrueNorth now has a presence on Instagram and encouraged sharing their content within District 113.

## **Administration Information Reports**

### ***Superintendent***

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

### **School Bus Driver Appreciation**

Dr. Holland extended her heartfelt thanks and appreciation to D113 bus drivers, describing how she has been able to spend time getting to know them by spending time at the transportation depot and on “ride-alongs” when she rides a bus as it travels its route. Dr. Holland emphasized the significant relationships the bus drivers have with students, noting how they connect with them personally, provide daily warmth and care, and serve as trusted adults who encourage and support the students. She also acknowledged that our drivers go above and beyond in their commitment to the well-being of the students.

### **Principal Appreciation**

To Principals Dr. Anderson and Ms. Fleischer, Dr. Holland, as former Principal herself, stated no one could fully understand the work of Principals unless they had experienced it themselves. She highlighted the significance of their roles, acknowledging that the job can easily become all-consuming. She continued that it is her honor to support them as she gains a firsthand view of their leadership, commitment to students, staff and families and the sense of community they cultivate in their schools. She concluded by thanking them for the love, care and time they commit to their schools, often at the expense of time with their own families, and expressed deep appreciation for their unique leadership.

### **Instructional Rounds**

Dr. Holland was recently invited to join staff members from DHS and HPHS for a full day of instructional rounds, a structured practice where educators collaborate to identify and address common challenges in teaching and learning. The day involved group learning, classroom visits that focused on students rather than teachers and debriefing sessions to analyze the data collected. The reflections and discussions provided a meaningful learning experience and professional development for the educators. Dr. Holland thanked the educators who welcomed the instructional round teams into their classrooms and looked forward to continuing this work to inform District-wide efforts to support teaching and learning.

### **Metamorphoses at DHS**

Dr. Holland attended the production of *Metamorphoses* at DHS and said that the technical production was incredible, with the water features of the pool and rain breathtaking. She enjoyed the brilliant performance and thanked the students who work behind the scenes for what they do—sound, lighting, make-up, choreography, set design and much more.

### **HPHS Homecoming**

At the HPHS Homecoming game Friday, Dr. Holland served concessions alongside students in the HPHS Black Student Union and Chess Club, working to fill orders. She said she had a great time working with a fun and lively group of students. Noting that at the start of the evening traffic congestion caused by unfinished road work outside Wolters Field caused some frustration,

the game went on as planned and ended with a Giant win. She expressed her thanks to those who worked to mitigate the impact on those arriving at the game.

### ***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***

DHS Principal Dr. Kathryn Anderson highlighted the following in her report:

**Spanish III Field Trip to Pilsen:** Classes with Profesoras Garfias, Cordova and Mansfield took a field trip to Pilsen to see artwork for Dia de Los Muertos and other Mexican murals. Students had an amazing time throughout the day as they were also able to enjoy lunch and a visit to a dulceria.

**DHS received the Blue Ribbon Award for Health Education:** Dr. Anderson thanked Health teachers Mrs. Gershon and Mrs. Hoveydai, Department Chair Mac Pechter, and the entire Physical Education Department for earning the prestigious Blue Ribbon Award for Health Education. The Blue Ribbon Award was developed using guidelines established by the Illinois Learning Standards, the Illinois School Code, and the National Health Education Standards. The Department will be honored at an awards banquet this winter at the Illinois School Health Conference in the spring.

**Get to know the Deerfield Sports Information Team (DSI):** Dr. Anderson highlighted the work under the direction of Dennis Chmielecki in DSI where students can get a taste or build a budding career in information and sports management. DSI students are working on announcing and broadcasting, scorekeeping and statistics, social media, videography/streaming and much more. Several DHS alums started with DSI and experienced success in college and beyond.

**Shout out to all in *Metamorphoses*:** Dr. Anderson congratulated the work of all those in the production, particularly Tech Crew for their work creating a pool on the stage.

**Science Department makes the best of fall weather:** Teachers are taking advantage of the fall weather in outdoor spaces like the outdoor classroom and the water in the river behind the school.

**School Chest Kick-Off Next Week:** October 29 is the kick-off to [School Chest 2024](#). This year's recipient, Mothers Trust Foundation, works with social workers and school counselors to identify children in need—providing essentials like clothing, safe baby items, medical care, educational support and more.

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

**Giant shout out to all involved in Homecoming festivities:** Principal Fleischer thanked all for an incredibly successful and fun Homecoming 2024.

**Students attend first Lake County Trade Skills Fair:** The Post-Secondary Counseling Team brought a group of 17 seniors to this fair to provide students with the chance to explore over 25 union trade areas and meet directly with Lake County construction trades representatives. The students learned about future employment opportunities and potential career paths.

**Spanish Language Arts students have the opportunity to earn dual credit with Lake Forest College:** Spanish Seminar Honors, the capstone class in the sequence, focuses on cross-curricular and real-world connections. The curriculum is vetted by Lake Forest College faculty, and students who earn a C or higher in the course at HPHS, receive a 200-level college course credit. On October 28, students in Spanish Seminar Honors with Mrs. Hagopian or Mr. Cordova will attend a campus visit to Lake Forest College, allowing the students to experience a day in the life of a Lake Forest College student; they take a tour of campus, attend a Psychology class, learn about the admissions process and interact with current students via a panel discussion

**English I Honors GIANT Values Lunchroom Event:** English I Honors will host an intergenerational dialogue with Link Crew Leaders, Administrators, Teachers, Counselors and other adults where they will share their first quarter project which focuses on the theme of “Home.” The goal is for the students and adults in attendance to co-create a vision board for action steps toward a generous and inclusive lunchroom.

**Outdoor Adventure PE Students camp, climb, experience camaraderie at Devil’s Lake State Park:** Students in this course look forward to this annual overnight camping and rock-climbing trip in Baraboo, WI. PE Teacher Joshua Hess has worked hard to create this experience and this year he had the chaperone help of David Cordoba, Jamie Shroat, Elizabeth Swindle, Sarah Palmberg and Alyssa Wilson. On the trip, students work together in groups to locate their climbing routes on the rock face, tie proper rope knots and set their anchors at the top of the cliff, setting up their climbing routes. They problem-solve together, belay for each other, encourage each other through the physical challenge of a climb, and celebrate each other’s successes and accomplishments.

### ***D113 Summer School Report***

As it does each year, Administration presented a report on District 113 Summer School and Extended School Year (ESY) programming for the 2023-24 school year. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Dr. Lisa Dallacqua provided an overview of enrollment and results of credit recovery, grade replacement courses as well as enrichment opportunities and details disaggregated by subgroups. Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Dr. Tiffany Rowe provided an overview of ESY and progress monitoring of students who participate in ESY to maintain skills.

### **Information**

#### ***Focus on the Arts/Arts Alive***

Director of Arts Festivals Tamara Jenkins provided an overview of both of the District’s arts festivals, reporting on the first DHS Arts Alive event in 2024 and plans for the upcoming HPHS Focus on the Arts event in April 2025. Ms. Jenkins reported that Arts Alive 2024 was warmly received and a very successful experience for all, particularly the community Arts Expo event. She said Arts Alive will continue to grow and evolve to reflect the unique culture of the DHS community. In discussing Focus, Ms. Jenkins said dates are set—April 1 through April 4—and fundraising and planning are well underway. She noted that there are all new members on the Focus Board, there is a new mission and vision, a new logo and [a new website](#) where all of the information can be found. She added that she is extremely grateful that both schools now can

enjoy an arts-intensive experience, that she wants student engagement in the planning process to increase and that there is a need to investigate and develop novel fundraising techniques to secure continued financial support of these impactful events.

## **Discussion**

### ***Tax Levy***

Following his presentation to the Finance Committee, Assistant Superintendent for Finance Ali Mehanti presented information to the Board concerning the 2024 tax levy it must adopt by the last Tuesday of December 2024 to fund school year 2025-26. The amount the Board can levy is based on the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from December to December, capped at a maximum of five percent by the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law, or PTELL. The item will come back to the Board on November 19 for action.

### ***Girls Water Polo Cooperative for Deerfield and Highland Park High Schools***

The Board reviewed Administration's proposal to submit a request to the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) to create combined DHS and HPHS water polo teams, known as a "co-op," due to a decrease in participation in recent seasons. If approved, the District will have one team of DHS and HPHS water polo players until the program is large enough to return to single-school programs. The item will come back for action at the November 19 meeting.

### ***Lake County School Mutual Aid Response Team Agreement***

The Board discussed an agreement vetted by the Lake County Regional Office of Education (ROE) and approved by the Lake County State's Attorney to provide training, professional development and sharing of resources to prepare school districts and cooperatives for response and recovery activities. The item will come back for action at the November 19 meeting.

## **Action**

### ***Legal Firm for Property Tax Appeals***

The Board approved as presented a resolution to authorize the firm Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn (HLERK) to provide legal representation on behalf of the District for property tax appeals. Representation would be for appeals seeking a reduction of \$500,000 equalized assessed valuation (EAV) or more. An EAV in the amount of \$500,000 represents a fair market value of \$1.5 million. By proactively intervening in significant tax appeals, predominantly from commercial properties, the District could potentially alleviate the tax burden for all taxpayers.

### ***Approve Resolution for Dismissal of Educational Support Staff Employee***

The Board voted to approve as presented a resolution to dismiss an educational support staff employee.

## **Consent Agenda**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

**Upcoming Meetings**

***November 19, 2024***

Facilities Committee

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Administration Building

Regular Action Meeting

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

Administration Building