



Board Briefs

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[September 10, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting](#)

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Approval of Agenda

The Board voted to approve the September 10 agenda as amended.

Board Reports

President

Board President Anne Neumann reported that the Board enjoyed participating in the DHS and HPHS Open Houses and seeing the way in which professional staff engage, educate and create an inclusive school community for students. She then moved on to the August 27 storm and the power outages it caused particularly in Deerfield, saying that it served as the first emergency the Board had experienced with Dr. Holland at the helm. She thanked Dr. Holland and her team for the appropriate level of communication as well as all that was required to ensure DHS was open despite the outage's continued impact on students and staff.

September is suicide prevention month and Ms. Neumann provided some information from the American Psychological Association (APA), noting that the APA reports that 22 percent of high school students have seriously considered suicide in the past year. Referencing the theme of "connect to protect," she reminded everyone of the importance of connecting others because individuals who have strong, supportive relationships have a lower risk for suicide. She said that talking about suicide does not cause suicide and she said those who may be worried about a young person in their lives should encourage them to seek help. She then shared that for those in crisis the national suicide hotline can be reached 24/7 by [chat](#), or phone and text at 988. She also said those with a concern about others' well-being can use the [D113 Tip Line](#) to report a non-urgent concern for someone who may need help.

Ms. Neumann then tied the theme of connect to protect to her last point of her report, school safety. She said the Board will continue to ask Dr. Holland and her team to meet the Board's expectation that every D113 student and staff member can receive and offer education free from gun violence. Ms. Neumann said achieving this depends on three key pillars of school safety: ensuring every student feels a sense of belonging, providing comprehensive mental health support, and implementing layers of physical security measures in our buildings. She noted that the Board recognizes that although there is no perfect solution, the Board must be thoughtful in its approach, relying on research, case studies, and current best practices. She closed by saying that maintaining focus on these pillars in D113 is the best way to honor the community of Winder, Georgia, and the lives affected by gun violence.

TrueNorth Liaison Report

TrueNorth Liaison Jenny Lupa provided an update from the August 21 meeting. Ms. Lupa said she attended the employer recognition breakfast held to honor employers who hire young adults in TrueNorth programming. Ms. Lupa also noted some other highlights from the meeting including that some 300 students attended ESY, or extended school year programming, and that two institute days supported by federal grants and focusing on trauma-informed and trauma-sensitive learning practices will be provided this year. She also said the Association of Parents and Staff is looking for two parents from each member district to serve, and names of those who may be interested can be forwarded to Ms. Lupa. She reported that an analysis of the potential withdrawal from the co-op by District 34 will be undertaken and paid for by District 34. She closed with some financial information saying that \$122,390 has been budgeted in FY 25 to pay for security updates, including cameras, and a minivan is being purchased to facilitate student transportation. October 9 is the next meeting.

Administration Information Reports

Superintendent

Superintendent Dr. Chala Holland began by addressing a recent incident of bullying through a social media post. She emphasized that District 113 deeply values the physical, mental, social, and emotional safety of every student, and that bullying in any form will not and cannot be tolerated. She said that this particular post exhibited harmful behavior that has been wrongfully accepted as a tradition by some. The post had a tremendous negative impact on the well-being of some students and violated the District's values and policies. Moving forward, she called on everyone to reject any practices that intentionally cause harm, to encourage healing, and to work together to create new traditions that are uplifting and that promote kindness and respect. Parents, caregivers, and students were asked to partner with staff to foster a safe and supportive environment for everyone in District 113.

Moving on to the Open Houses at DHS and HPHS, she said she really enjoyed both nights while she followed sample schedules and learned more about teachers and their vision for learning. She said she greatly appreciated each teacher giving insight into who they are as people outside of their work in schools and making the connection between their lives and how they show up for students. Dr. Holland said that the student learning experience and the quality of teachers in D113 is something that all should continue to celebrate and support. She closed by thanking all parent and caregiver groups who consistently serve as arms and extensions of the work in D113, and how these groups enthusiastically engage with families to share many opportunities to obtain support, resources, and to get involved. Her final thank you was to students who helped in the evenings, providing welcoming smiles, helping many navigate their way around the buildings, and providing linguistic support.

FOIA

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

Appoint Student Liaisons to the Board

The Board moved up this action item to appoint Miles Walker from HPHS and Lila Peck from DHS as the student liaisons to the Board for the 2024-25 school year.

Per *Policy 2-40 Board Member Qualifications*, the Board voted to appoint students to serve in an advisory capacity. The students will sit at the Board table, provide feedback and the student perspective but will not vote or attend closed session.

School Reports

Student Liaison Reports

Senior Miles Walker from HPHS provided his report highlighting back-to-school festivities which included a “pool party” in the courtyard. He noted that the HPHS Band held its annual car wash annual fundraiser and said the Open House event when parents/guardians are able to follow a shortened version of their student’s schedules went really well. When asked by Dr. Holland to share a little information about himself, Miles said he is on the varsity golf team, and that this is his fourth year on the golf team, he participates in debate, he is passionate about people and he plans to pursue a career in medicine.

Senior Lila Peck from DHS provided her report. She too highlighted the Welcome-Back BBQ, which provides a free lunch to all students on that day, she noted that the event is very popular and the long line reflected that. Lila reported that Open House at DHS was also very successful, and she shared that her parents told her they enjoyed their experience that evening. Lila also announced that Mothers Trust had been chosen as this year’s School Chest beneficiary. Recognizing that Dr. Holland was about to ask the same question, Lila volunteered that she is involved in theater, robotics, DECA and Code Warriors.

Information

Moraine Township

Anne Flanigan Bassi, the Executive Director, from Moraine Township presented information to the D113 Board to educate the community about Moraine Township’s referendum on the November 5 ballot to fund a Community Mental Health Board. Information in English and Spanish about the referendum is available on the [Moraine Township website](#).

Action

3DK9 Canine Services Agreement

The Board voted to approve as presented an agreement with 3DK9 for canine weapons detection services. The agreement covers the expense of deploying a K9 weapons detection team at each school. The team is composed of a specially trained dog and the dog’s handler. The anticipated start date for the teams is January 2025. [More information about the program and FAQs related to it can be found online](#).

Appoint Student Liaisons to the Board

This item was moved up in the agenda.

Consent Agenda

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings
September 24, 2024

Policy Committee Meeting
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Regular Action Meeting
6:00 p.m. Closed, 7:00 p.m. Open
Administration Building