



PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND BOARD BUSINESS

January 18, 2022

School Board President's Report to the Board

Board Vice President Pam Paris welcomed everyone in attendance and asked board member Dr. Tim Baker to recite one of the sections of the Oath of Office to affirm the board's commitment.

Update on Recent and Upcoming Events

Palos South Presents: Dr. Dolittle Jr	January 21st & 22nd	6pm	Stagg High School 8015 W 115th St Palos Hills, IL
Student Outcomes and Accountability	January 25th	6 pm	Central
Finance Committee	February 8th	6 pm	Central
Board of Education Meeting	February 15th	7 pm	Central

Student Artwork

The artwork on display was provided by Palos West Elementary students.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Scarsella wished everyone in attendance a Happy New Year.

Strategic Planning Update

Dr. Scarsella gave an update on the progress of the District's first phase of strategic planning which includes four public forums and a series of focus groups throughout the month of January. Feedback from these meetings will help the District create a **Portrait of a Graduate** which will identify the skills and attributes Palos students will need to be successful in high school and beyond. All of the information will be compiled and shared with the Board and its strategic planning steering committee in late February/early March. Dr. Scarsella thanked everyone who has participated in these important conversations and encourages any community member or parent who has not yet participated to please consider filling out the Portrait of a Graduate survey that can be found [online](#).

Updated Guidance on Isolation and Quarantine

Dr. Scarsella reported that the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) recently adopted Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for reduced isolation and quarantine periods for K-12 students. The District has implemented the updated guidance following IDPH & ISBE's adoption. The new guidance will allow the school district to return students and staff to the classroom safely and in shorter time period. Dr. Scarsella thanked Palos 118 school nurses and administrators for their continued diligence in implementing COVID safety plans and adapting to ever-changing regulations and guidance.

Palos South Play

Dr. Scarsella announced the return of Palos South's annual play for 2022, Dr. Dolittle Jr., which will take place on Friday, January 21st, and Saturday, January 22nd at 6 p.m. at Stagg High School. Tickets are on sale at the Palos South school office. About 80 Palos South students are performing in the play, building sets, or working as stage crew, lighting, and sound. He thanked teacher Kevin Graham for directing this year's play and Adam Turlakes for serving as assistant director, Amanda Schuller for serving as choral assistant, Stavros Makropoulos for serving as lights and sound assistant, and Randy Buvala for directing the stage crew. He wished the Palos South students well as they prepare for the weekend performances and is looking forward to watching students perform.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE

The board appointed Pam Paris and Mike Pizur as board representatives on this committee.

MUSIC PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The MPA report was given by Mrs. Paris who reported that the December band and choir concerts were a great success. Breaking them into separate concerts allowed for less overcrowding. Other reminders included:

- Spirit wear orders will arrive soon.
- The percussion ensemble will be starting up on January 24.
- The jazz band had auditions in early January and will start up on February 1.
- The MPA is looking for volunteers for the band contest in March. A signup will be sent out soon.
- The next MPA meeting is February 7 at 6:30.

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Mrs. Paris gave a reminder that the Educational Foundation's annual trivia fundraiser has been canceled for 2022.

PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Paris reported that the PFA wanted to acknowledge the amazing staff at Palos 118 from administrators to bus drivers to custodians. In their report, the PFA recognized the hard work of teachers, paraprofessionals, aides, nurses, front office, subs, and every person to keep school operations moving for students. The PFA acknowledged the difficulties over the last couple of years and expressed its appreciation for the efforts to keep kids safe, learning, and mentally healthy during this tumultuous time. We appreciate you.

PFA is working on rescheduling their next meeting and is aiming for early February. An announcement about the rescheduled meeting will be forthcoming on the PFA website (Palos118PFA.com) or Facebook page.

The PFA is looking for volunteers to get involved and to keep the organization going in the future. Anyone interested is invited to attend the next meeting or reach out via email to learn more at PFA@Palos118.org.

New Business

Dr. Scarsella gave a brief overview to the board regarding the proposed 2022/23 school year calendar. Highlights of the proposed calendar include:

- Teachers will start on Monday, August 22nd.
- The first day for grades 1-8 is August 24th, which is a full day of instruction.
- Kindergarten visitation is August 24th.
- The first day of preschool is August 25th.
- Late start Wednesdays begin August 31st and end May 31st.
- Election Day is now a school holiday so there is no school on November 8th.
- Parent-teacher conferences are on November 21st and 22nd and the entire week of Thanksgiving will be a non-attendance week for students. Parents will have the choice of either in-person or remote conferences.
- Winter recess begins December 23rd and students return to school on January 9th.
- Spring break is scheduled for March 27th through March 31st.
- Graduation is tentatively scheduled for June 1st at Stagg.
- Records Day will be June 8th.
- The last day of school is Friday, June 9th.

The board will vote to approve the proposed calendar at its next regular meeting on February 15, 2022.