

THE BELL RINGER

GAVEL-TO-GAVEL MEETING UPDATES

SNAPSHOTS OF SUCCESS: BEFORE THE BELL

It may seem like a distance memory now, but at Wednesday's meeting, Director of School and Community Relations Emily Pace Abbotts recapped 'Before the Bell.'

This districtwide event was launched in 2022 and featured student performances, informational booths and hands-on activities from all HSE schools and local educational partners. This year, with the help and support of the Hamilton Southeastern Education Foundation and Fishers Parks & Recreation, the event was expanded. It's estimated more than 3,000 people attended the two-hour event held at the Fishers AMP. Abbotts shared the following information regarding the offerings:

- 5 food vendors
- 2 inflatables
- Airbrush (1) and Balloon Artists (2)
- 7 local business vendors
- 14 community education partners
- 24 school informational booths
- Transportation featuring Touch-A-Bus
- Health Services
- Food Service
- Technology
- Facilities/Solar Energy
- Zot Artz
- FHS Robotics
- HSE FFA/Petting Zoo
- Teacher-in-Residence
- Yoga in Lawn
- Back-to-School Selfie Booth (cont).

- HSE Cheer
- HSE Dance Team
- HSE Marching Band
- HSE Mascot
- FHS Marching Band
- FHS Cheer
- FHS Dance
- FHS Mascot
- 'Bach to Rock' featuring HSE Schools' students
- Event announcements courtesy of Brad Silbert, HSE Infrastructure Project Engineer

HSEF student board member Samira Lee also shared her experience as a volunteer for the Before the Bell. This event would not have been possible without staff, students and community members giving their time to help showcase HSE Schools.



[Click here](#) to watch a quick highlight video of this year's event.

POLICY

No changes were made to G.03.02.01 *Teacher Appreciation Grant*, however, it's mandated the policy be adopted annually. The board approved the policy as presented. In addition, the board approved G02.15 and K10.00 *Background/Criminal History Information* as presented. Resolution #2023-01 *Authorizing Electronic Funds Transfer* was also approved on Wednesday, allowing the Business office to make payments through EFT or ECH.

COKE RENEWAL CONTRACT

The district will continue to use and sell coca-cola products as part of a five-year contract renewal. The beverage vendor, in return, gives a generous amount back to the school corporation for an annual marketing fee, food service fee, a contribution to the Hamilton Southeastern Education Foundation, as well as product rebates and product support. According to Director of Business Stephanie Madison, the financial contributions from Coke remain the same even though consumption is down.

FCI RENOVATION CMC

A Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking a Construction Management (CMC) services for the renovation at Fall Creek Intermediate was approved by the board.

FCI was originally constructed in 1998, and as part of the 2023 Buildings & Grounds 10-Year Plan, funding has been allocated for a building overhaul. Facilities Director Matt Rapp anticipates the project getting underway in May 2024. He says FCI has remained fairly untouched since opening and it's now time to renovate. Updates include: new interior and exterior finishes; address building entrance issues; update mechanical, fire, and public address systems; furniture replacement; kitchen updates; and make improvements to the playground and parking lot.

ACADEMIC UPDATE: SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Wednesday's meeting included an 'Academic Update' from Dr. Matt Kegley, assistant superintendent of Teaching and Learning on School Improvement Plans. According to Kegley, School Improvement Plans (SIP) have been around for many years and are required by state law. Each school must develop a 3-to 5-year plan that establishes goals based on student data. The school must also review and update their plans annually. The following items are what is typically included as part of a SIP:

- Objectives for continuous improvement in, at minimum, the areas of attendance rate, ILEARN proficiency rates, and graduation rates (secondary schools only).
- Specific areas identified by the school where improvement is needed immediately.
- A list of the statutes and rules the school wishes to have suspended from operation for the school (if any).
- Description and location of the curriculum is available for public inspection.
- Description and name of the assessments that will be used by the school in addition to ILEARN.

This year's plans must be submitted to the state by October 6, 2023, and will then be posted on each school's website. [Click here](#) to read more.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

[Click here](#) to read submitted Board Member Reports.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Yvonne Stokes shared information on several items of interest:

- The first day of the 2023-24 school year went smoothly with no major issues or complaints. A big thank you to all HSE staff for welcoming our students back!

- In collaboration with Carmel Clay Schools and Noblesville Schools, the Hamilton County HBCU Fair will be held on September 7 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the Noblesville Schools Community Center. All are welcome to attend.
- Any students and families interested in getting a jump on college and career planning are invited to attend the Hamilton County College Fair on September 12 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Fishers High School.
- The new Student Handbooks are available on the district website. Dr. Stokes wanted to remind families to review and pay attention to the changes made to the dress code.
- HSEngaged is returning for a third year, bringing a new cohort of stakeholders from across the Fishers community together to gain a deeper understanding of Hamilton Southeastern Schools. The nine-month community engagement program launched in 2021 with 29 individuals. It has since expanded to include 41 participants who are either parents of current/former HSE students, alumni, or reside in the district boundaries. "We hope the opportunity to have extended dialogue with leadership will help build a network of informed stakeholders that will be able to share their knowledge with others on how decisions and programs are implemented to foster a culture of academic excellence in HSE Schools," said Director of School and Community Relations Emily Pace Abbotts. More than 100 people applied for this year's HSEngaged program. Participants were selected through an application process based on their affiliation with HSE Schools, their understanding of issues and challenges, their involvement in the community and their desire to assist in sharing HSE Schools' vision with others. [Click here](#) to see who is in this year's HSEngaged cohort.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board President Dawn Lang presented the following information during Wednesday's meeting:

- On Tuesday, August 15, there is a 7:30 a.m. Board Work Session on academics, led by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Matt Kegley.
- Lang also recognized the efforts of administration to prepare for the start of the new school year by saying, "I also want to make note of all the hard work the administration has done to get our district up and running with all of the laws and legislation that has been passed. It has really brought everyone together to hustle and get some things completed in record time, so we thank you for that."

On Wednesday, July 26, Board President Dawn Lang presented information on the following:

- Pursuant to B.04.00, *Organization of the School Board, Duties, and Committees*, the board has the capacity to generate a committee or create an ad hoc committee. With that, the board is discharging the Referendum Committee since the original intent of the committee has been satisfied, which was to report the referendum ballot language at a rate to be voted on by the board. That action was completed on July 12.
- The board will be establishing a new committee for Budget and Finance. Lang has appointed Board Secretary Tiffany Pascoe and Board Member Ben Orr to serve, along with herself. Lang says the goal of the Budget and Finance committee will be to work alongside the Chief Financial Officer, Superintendent and other district administrators to provide financial review of HSE School's \$280M budget. The committee will meet monthly or as needed.
- Board members have been working with district leadership in recent weeks to establish district goals. Lang (cont.)

says, “we recognize the primary (cont.)responsibility of administration in conjunction with the board is to give guidance and strategy on the goals and objectives for the district and leadership.” Lang added the process has allowed the board and administration to find common ground when it comes to fostering academic excellence. [Click here](#) to see the first draft of district goals.