



Board Briefs

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[June 13, 2023 Regular Action Meeting](#)

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Approval of Board Meeting Agenda

The Board voted to approve the June 13 agenda as presented.

Recognition

Schuler Scholars

The Board recognized The Schuler Scholar Program, which equips high-achieving and underrepresented students to gain access to and succeed at highly selective colleges and beyond. Schuler Scholars is a supporting organization recognized under Policy 8-100.

College Bound Opportunities

The Board recognized College Bound Opportunities (CBO). Founded in 2006, CBO's programming ensures equitable access to a college education for motivated students whose potential often exceeds their opportunity. College Bound Opportunities is a supporting organization recognized under Policy 8-100.

Retiring Staff

Board President Dan Struck read [a resolution formally recognizing the 23 retirees from the 2022-23 school year](#) who have collectively provided District 113 with more than 390 years of service. Mr. Struck thanked them for their years of service and congratulated them on their retirement.

Board Reports

President

Board President Dan Struck shared with the Board that registration has opened for the Illinois Association of School Boards-Illinois Association of School Administrators-Illinois Association of School Business Officials (IASB-IASA-IASBO) Joint Annual Conference in November and that Board members should let Board Recording Secretary, Ramina Isaac, know their plans for attending. Mr. Struck then announced that beginning with the June 13 meeting, all Regular and Committee of the Whole Meetings will be streamed live. The link to watch the meetings live will be posted on the District 113 website homepage on the day of the meeting.

Mr. Struck expressed condolences on behalf of the Board and District 113 for the recent passing of District 109 Board member Maureen Wener to District 109 and to her family and friends.

He continued by sharing the most recent update from negotiations saying that the Board and DEA Bargaining Teams met on June 7, June 8, and June 12, 2023, for the 23rd, 24th, and 25th bargaining sessions. The parties exchanged proposals on committees, conducting investigations and duties of special assignment LSMs.

The teams are continuing discussion on salary, professional development funds, insurance, retirement and stipends. The parties will be seeking the assistance of a mediator from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to continue these negotiations. While the two parties continue to work toward an agreement, a mediator, as a neutral party, is often helpful to guide discussion and facilitate resolution.

Until an agreement is reached, the 2019-2023 agreement will remain in effect, including salary and fringe benefits.

Members of the bargaining unit will continue to receive email updates about the collective bargaining process. These updates will also be available [on the District's website](#).

Mr. Struck concluded his remarks by noting that at the May 30 meeting the Board received copies of *Troubadour*, DHS's annual literary and visual arts publication. He said that every page demonstrates the exceptional voice and talents of students, as well as, the dedication of faculty sponsors, and he thanked all for a job really well done.

Finance Committee

Finance Committee Chair Rick Heineman provided a report on the June 6 meeting. He said the committee discussed two topics, the District's investment strategy and the budget, noting that the budget is listed for discussion and action later in the meeting. Mr. Heineman said the discussion of the District's investments included the District's financial advisors, PMA. He said that on the scale of conservative to aggressive, the District's investments are conservative and that strategy is in line with peer districts. Other options were reviewed, however, given the returns in the current interest rate environment it was agreed that the current strategy is preferred but should be reviewed periodically.

Administration Information Reports

Superintendent

Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law thanked the Board for their understanding and support when he had to attend to a family emergency on May 30 in lieu of the regular meeting that evening.

Dr. Law remarked on the new student art in the Board room, thanking the staff in the buildings for curating the collection and the students who created the pieces. The artwork will be on display for the 2023-24 school year. Dr. Law added that summer school began June 12 and that a report on summer school will come back to the Board later this summer. He then closed by saying that just like roadwork, summer is construction season in schools. He said Chief Operating Officer Brian Ahmer will provide updates as the projects move along, and that those projects are on schedule.

FOIA

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

Discussion

FY 2024 Tentative Budget Presentation

As it does each June, Administration presented to the Board the tentative budget for the following fiscal year. Assistant Superintendent for Finance Ali Mehanti walked through the overview highlighting material changes to FY 24 operating expenditures and revenues. Mr. Mehanti is projecting an operating deficit of \$1.9 million for FY 24 due to increases in expenditures that are greater than increases in revenue.

On the expenditure side:

- The approximately \$1.1M increase in licensed staffing expenses can be primarily attributed to the rise in licensed staff Full-Time Equivalents (FTE). This increase in FTE is a direct response to the growing demand for special education services and the District's steadfast commitment to maintaining smaller class sizes for freshmen.
- The \$700K increase in non-licensed staffing expenses is a direct result of several changes made by the District, including adding six new security staff members in the current fiscal year, and starting FY24, a new position of Director of Security to further enhance and oversee security measures.
- There has been a net increase of \$1.6M in tuition and room and board expenses from private facilities, primarily due to an increase in the number of freshman students who have already been placed outside of the District.
- Budget managers reduced \$700K from recurring non-personnel expenditures for FY 2024 without impacting the quality of instruction.
- Health Insurance is projected to go up by 11 percent (\$1M) primarily due to an increase in health insurance rates for PPO insurance plan.

On the revenue side:

- Property tax revenue is projected to increase by 5.5 percent (\$5.4M) due to CPI (Consumer Price Index) of 7 percent and new property.
- The Illinois Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) limits the growth of a taxing district's property tax levy to 5 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less.
- Federal sources of revenue are projected to increase by 45 percent (\$840K), due to an increase in tuition and room and board reimbursements from private facilities, resulting from incoming special education freshman students who are already outplaced.

Other items related to the tentative budget are listed for action later in the agenda.

Student Disciplinary Rules for the 2023-24 School Year

As is required by state statute, the Board reviewed the student disciplinary rules for the 2023-24 school year.

Review Three-Year Contract with Finalsity for D113 Website and Mass Communications

The Board reviewed a three-year contract with Finalsity for the D113 dist113.org websites and mass communications software beginning July 1, 2023. As the result of a buyout, the District's current web platform will be eliminated by June 30, 2025, necessitating the move. The timing of the review and action on the contract allows the District to benefit from additional financial incentives that will result in significant savings of D113 staff time and expenditures. Development of a new website will take approximately a year to design, test and launch. The item is marked for action later in the agenda.

Action

Post Tentative Budget, Set Hearing, and Authorize Expenditures Thereunder

The Board voted to post as presented the FY 2024 tentative budget, to set the public hearing on August 22, 2023, and to authorize expenditures and purchases during the first fiscal quarter in accordance with the tentative budget until the final budget is adopted.

School Treasurer's Surety Bond

The Board voted to approve the school treasurer's surety bond in the amount of \$38,375,000 of coverage per statutory requirements and authorized the Board President and Board Secretary to sign the bond surety certificate.

Transferring Funds from Operations and Maintenance to Capital Projects

The Board voted to adopt a resolution as presented to authorize the one-time transfer of \$7,389,776 from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Funds.

Resolution Transferring Funds from the O&M Fund to the Bond and Interest Fund to Pay Debt Service on the District's General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2022A

The Board voted to adopt a resolution as presented authorizing the transfer of funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund (O&M) to the Bond and Interest Fund to pay debt service on the District's general obligation school bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2022A.

Multi-Function Printers/Copiers RFP

The Board voted to accept a bid from Image Tec in the amount of \$88,077 for equipment leasing and ongoing service/maintenance agreements for the 2023-24 school year.

Approve Settlement Agreement for Student 2023-01

The Board approved as presented a settlement agreement for Student 2023-01.

Approval of Settlement Agreement with Former Employee

The Board approved as presented a settlement agreement with a former employee.

Approve the IGA between the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and District 113

The Board approved as presented an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services for the purposed of Medicaid reimbursement.

Approve Three-Year Contract with Finalsite for D113 Website and Mass Communications

The Board approved as presented a three-year contract for District 113 websites and mass communications software with Finalsite in the total amount of \$85,223.

Consent Agenda

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

July 11, 2023

Regular Action Meeting

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

Administration Building