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[February 21, 2023 Regular Action Meeting](#)

Approval of Agenda

The Board voted to approve the February 21 agenda as presented.

Recognition

Each District 113 supporting organization under Policies 8-90 and 8-100 have been invited to share the wonderful work they do to support the staff, students and parents of our community.

DHS Boosters

[Deerfield High School](#) Athletic Booster Club Executive Board President Larry Letwat presented an overview of the Booster's mission and vision, which aims to promote athletic success and sportsmanship, and support programs and resources that enhance the student-athlete experience at Deerfield High School. He highlighted the valuable volunteers and key collaboration with school administration that make their programming successful year after year. Letwat used the final part of his time to share the Booster's perspective on the unacceptable length of time for the implementation of the Adams Field electronic scoreboard project. The DHS Booster Club is a supporting organization under Policy 8-90.

Focus on the Arts

[Focus on the Arts](#) Director Tamara Jenkins presented an overview of Focus on the Arts and the plans for Focus on the Arts 2023. Focus on the Arts is in the exploratory phase of expanding to include programming at both high schools starting next year. Focus on the Arts 2023 will take place at Highland Park High School on April 17, 19 and 20. Focus on the Arts is a supporting organization under Policy 8-100.

Board Reports

President

Board President Ken Fishbain began his report by providing an overview of the last two Collective Bargaining meetings between the Board and District 113 Education Association (DEA). The Board and DEA bargaining teams met on February 15 and February 21. The teams reached an agreement on the personnel files section of the agreement, and continued discussion

on LSM leaves, association rights and evaluation language, which will all be continued during the next session. The next session is scheduled for March 1, 2023.

Board President Fishbain closed his report by expressing that his thoughts are with the students and families at Michigan State University following the recent mass shooting there.

Policy Committee

Policy Committee Chair Dan Struck noted that the Policy Committee met on February 14 and reviewed 11 policies. Ten policies are presented later in the agenda for first reading and one for general discussion.

Facilities Committee

Facilities Committee Chair Jodi Shapira noted that the Facilities Committee met on February 14 and that the DHS auditorium improvements and summer 2023 and 2024 infrastructure projects will be discussed later in the meeting.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Chair Jaime Barraza reported that the committee met on February 21 to discuss ways to increase student engagement in clubs and sports as a means for improving overall student academic excellence and social emotional belonging. A more in-depth report will be presented to the Board at its next meeting.

TrueNorth

Board Member Jodi Shapira reported that TrueNorth recently voted to approve their new strategic plan, which was worked on by representatives from member districts. Shapira also noted that a majority of the TrueNorth Leadership Council will transition to new members after the April 4 elections.

Administration Reports

Superintendent

Superintendent Bruce Law began his report by saying that winter brings weather events that can impact school operations. Noting that the safety of students and staff traveling to school and arriving home is the most important priority, conducting school in person is always preferred to eLearning, which for a continuity of learning is preferable to canceling school and using an Emergency Day in spring. Dr. Law continued by saying that it is extremely important for parents/guardians to have accurate, up-to-date contact information in Infinite Campus so that the District can contact them in the event of a school closure or emergency.

Dr. Law mentioned that at the same time as the Board meeting, Yale Researcher and Professor Dr. Marc Brackett, Founder and Director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence (YECI), was presenting, “The Power of Emotional Intelligence to Achieve Well-Being and Success in School and Life” to parents/guardians. Dr. Brackett also shared the results of the surveys administered by YECI.

In addition, Dr. Law encouraged parents/guardians to complete the [5Essentials survey](#) and noted that February 27- March 3 is Celebrate Public Schools Week and thanked the Board, faculty and staff, students, parents and community members for supporting our schools. He also mentioned

that a [District 113 newsletter](#) highlighting the great things that are happening in our schools will be dropped off at the post office tomorrow and sent to all addresses in District 113.

Lastly, Dr. Law concluded his report by letting the Board and community know that the Moraine Township Food Pantry is running out of food and asked us to encourage individuals to donate food and supplies if they are able to do so. For more information, [go to the Moraine Township Food Pantry website](#).

FOIA

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

Discussion

Planning for Sectioning and Staffing

Dr. Law gave a brief recap of the Planning for Sectioning and Staffing discussion that occurred during the last meeting and opened the conversation for additional discussion about topics covered at the February 7 meeting or other principles indicated in the planning document. The Board discussed staffing and sectioning for low enrollment classes, course requests and enrollment trends, and preparation for the de-surveyed classes next year. The Board will hold a special meeting on March 14, 2023 to review the staffing recommendation for next year.

DHS Auditorium Improvements

Chief Operating Officer Brian Ahmer shared that the DHS Auditorium improvement projects are trending about \$375,000 under budget, which could potentially allow for the recommendation of additional alternate bid packages.

Summer 2023 and 2024 Infrastructure Bid Results

Mr. Ahmer shared that infrastructure projects are trending about \$2.1 million under budget due to favorable bids and inflation adjustments, which could potentially allow for the recommendation of additional alternate bid packages.

Policy 6-240, Field Trips

As part of the review process, the Policy Committee wanted to bring *Policy 6-240, Field Trips* to the Board for discussion. The Board discussed and requested a standardized process or form that builds in all the required documentation and approvals at the building level and administration for the field trips that go to the Board for approval, which are field trips beyond a 200-mile radius of the school or overnight. Board members encouraged the Policy Committee to bring a red-lined policy back that ensures school and district administration approvals were attained with proper vetting of trips prior to seeking Board approval.

Policies - First Reading

The Board conducted a first reading of the following policies:

- 2-100, Board Member Conflict of Interest
- 2-210, Organizational School Board Meeting
- 4-10, Fiscal and Business Management

- 4-165, Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors
- 5-120, Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest
- 5-220, Substitute Teachers
- 5-250, Leaves of Absence
- 5-280, Duties and Qualifications
- 5-320, Evaluation
- 5-330, Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays and Leaves

The policies will come back to the Board for consideration at the next meeting.

Action

Resolution for the Dismissal of an Educational Support Staff Employee

The Board voted to approve as presented a resolution for the dismissal of an educational support staff employee.

Consent Agenda

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings-

March 7, 2023

Committee of the Whole Meeting

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

Administration Building

March 14, 2023

Special Meeting

5:00 p.m. Closed Session, 6:00 p.m. Open Session

Administration Building

March 21, 2023

Regular Action Meeting

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

Administration Building