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[August 23, 2022 Regular Action Meeting](#)

Annual Budget Public Hearing

The District 113 Board of Education held a public hearing for the budget fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022. The 2022-23 tentative budget was presented at the June 14 Regular Action meeting, was posted on the website and available for public review for 30 days prior to the hearing.

The Approval of Agenda

The Board voted to approve the August 23 agenda as presented.

Board Reports

President

Board President Ken Fishbain began his report with a summary of opening day for staff and the first day of school for students. He recognized that the increased media attention brought to Highland Park High school after the July 4 mass shooting created increased attention from district administration and was appreciative of how it was addressed.

Regarding the resolution the D113 passed August 9 against gun violence, Mr. Fishbain said that the D113 Board had received the resolution Deerfield Public Schools District 109 adopted against gun violence, and that he had sent the D113 resolution to state elected officials and U.S. Senators to take action on this issue.

Mr. Fishbain closed his remarks by noting that the Board will hold a workshop meeting for Board development on September 14 with a facilitator from the Illinois Association of School Boards.

Facilities Committee

Facilities Committee Chair Jodi Shapira provided a report on the August 16 meeting, sharing that the HPHS Library construction project is on time and on budget as are both schools' Life Skills Labs, with a timeline of early November anticipated for occupancy.

Ms. Shapira then reported that the Facilities Committee discussed the Deerfield Auditorium and interim project scenarios for that space costing in a range of \$5-10 million with the goal of having those improvements in place in time for next year's freshman class. Ms. Shapira then noted that the Board believes that infrastructure such as roofing and projects related to *The Americans with Disabilities Act* are the Board's fiscal responsibility in order to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all. She closed by saying that the Board needs to approve the improvements now or it will be another year before the work can be completed.

Finance Committee

Finance Committee Chair Ken Fishbain provided a report on the August 23 meeting, saying that the Facilities Committee vets the facilities needs and projects, then turns that information over to the Finance Committee to respond to those needs and to figure out how to fund projects. The Finance Committee took the recommendation made by the Facilities Committee and reviewed a cash flow statement prepared by Assistant Superintendent for Finance Ali Mehanti. Mr. Fishbain concluded his report by noting that the Board will be talking more about the 2022-23 budget because it is on the evening's agenda for action.

Administration Reports

Superintendent

Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law provided a report on the start of the 2022-23 school year highlighting the following topics: The Recovery Plan, Security, Parent Connection, Media and Student Enrollment.

Recovery Plan

Dr. Law began his remarks by sharing that he plans to bring to the Board in October a progress report on the Recovery Plan introduced to the Board August 4. The recovery plan has four components: Support for staff, support for teaching, support for students, programming for parents and guardians. He then introduced Director of Recovery Jen Ginopolis to provide a preliminary update on the plan.

Ms. Ginopolis provided a summary of staff opening day August 15 with the keynote address on the topic of crises and trauma provided by expert Dr. Scott Poland. Breakout sessions for professional development and experiential sessions followed the keynote. Ms. Ginopolis said the District will continue to offer opportunities depending on staff feedback. She then reported that the District is looking at supports at the tier I level for staff, meaning all staff, looking at social-emotional learning (SEL) instructional specialists, who would provide support on a more individualized basis at the tier II and tier III levels.

Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Dr. Tiffany Rowe then provided an update on the programming for parents and guardians, including the "Get the 1-1-3" series designed to provide support to families of students with disabilities. She said the plan is to proceed with monthly

events and that they are working to schedule topics that parents/guardians indicated that they wanted to learn more about when they were surveyed in the spring. Dr. Rowe also shared that a partnership had been formed with Community Action Together for Children's Health (CATCH) to provide parent/guardian support for mental health. She noted that CATCH has a wide variety of resources available to parents/guardians including presentations, podcasts and videos. A Lunch and Learn, "[Parenting through Community Trauma](#)," was scheduled for Thursday, August 25.

Security

Dr. Law then provided an update related to security, reminding everyone that students had begun scanning their student IDs each morning upon entry. We are doing this to ensure that the students in our schools are only the students who are supposed to be there. Scan data to date indicate efficient throughput of students and are being used to determine optimal staffing placement. He also shared that a test of the District's emergency notification system was conducted at 4 p.m., on Monday, August 15 by phone call, text/SMS and email. Push notifications were also sent through the [District 113 mobile app](#) to those who have downloaded the app and enabled notifications. Parents/guardians are reminded to keep their contact information up to date in the [IC Portal](#). Staff are reminded to keep their contact information up to date in Skyward.

Connection

In speaking of the District 113 mobile app, Dr. Law announced that the Campus Parent (Infinite Campus parent app) Campus Student, and Schoology apps have been embedded in the D113 app. At this time, technical limitations in the Ride 360 app for bus transportation do not allow for it to be embedded in the D113 app. He also reminded everyone that it is possible to use the D113 mobile app to submit a tip to the D113 Tip Line.

Media

Dr. Law noted the increased media interest in Highland Park High School since the mass shooting July 4 and it serving as a hub for services in the immediate aftermath. Dr. Law said that media interest is likely to continue for the foreseeable future, and reminded those seeking to avert cameras to avoid using the Vine St. entrance when cameras are present. He reminded everyone that the District cannot prohibit the media from being on public property or at public events.

Student Enrollment

In conclusion, Dr. Law shared with the Board that an enrollment and FTE reconciliation report will be presented October 11 after the October 1 student count. Dr. Law reported that Administration is reviewing class sizes for classes that have more enrollment than the staffing plan predicted, distinguishing which class sizes are over the "maximum" due to imbalances that result from the complexity of creating a master schedule or from students moving in after staffing.

In conclusion to the entire report, Principals Finn and Anderson shared that the special schedule the first week of school focusing on community building was a success, providing flexibility that allowed for activities that alleviate stress and enabled people to get to know each other.

FOIA

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

Discussion

District 113 Focus on the Arts 2023

Dr. Law provided an update on Focus on the Arts returning in 2023 after a four-year hiatus caused by the pandemic. He said that for the first time Focus will be an event at both schools so that all District 113 students can experience it. Remarking on the successful arts programs at both schools, he said it is the District's obligation to provide this opportunity to all students, in particular to the Class of 2023.

Dr. Law said priorities for the event include offering sessions that are driven by student input, and that are less disruptive to the instructional day. He shared with the Board that in addition to the \$55,000 in the budget, he expects this year's event to cost more than that when combining direct and indirect costs. Ultimately, Dr. Law said that Focus would provide the community and district an opportunity for celebration and artistic expression at a time when students need it the most.

Action

Interim DHS Auditorium Project Design

The Board approved as presented amendment 16 for the DHS Auditorium. The amendment authorizes the District's architect FGM to design the scope of the interim project based on the Facilities Committee recommendation. The interim design prioritizes options to provide a safe, accessible and improved space suitable for the next five years but is not the complete renovation that the Board approved but rejected the bids to do the work due to inflated costs.

2023-24 Infrastructure Projects Design

The Board approved as presented amendment 15 to the owner architect agreement previously issued for infrastructure projects for work in the summers of 2023 and 2024.

Adopt 2022-23 Budget

Following the Annual Budget Hearing earlier in the meeting, the Board voted to adopt the 2022-23 annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023.

Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$7,500,000 General Obligation Refunding School Bonds for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds of the District, authorizing the execution of an escrow agreement in connection with said refunding, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof

The Board voted to approve as presented a resolution that will enable but not obligate the Board to refund bonds if changes in interest rates become favorable, resulting in lower debt service and thereby reducing the tax levy.

Approve Settlement Agreement for Student 2021-08

The Board approved as presented a settlement agreement for student 2021-08.

Consent Agenda

The Board approved the consent agenda as amended. The consent agenda includes personnel, stipends, and board bills. Click on [this link](#) to access the meeting agenda and then scroll down to see consent agenda items beginning under number 10.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings-

September 6, 2022 – Policy Committee Meeting

4:00 p.m.

Administration Building

September 13, 2022 – Committee of the Whole Meeting

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

Administration Building

September 14, 2022 – Special Meeting

5:30 p.m. Closed Session – No open session business; Board self-evaluation

Administration Building

September 20, 2022

Equity and Inclusion Committee

5:00 p.m.

Administration Building