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[August 9, 2022 Committee of the Whole Meeting](#)

Approval of Agenda

The Board voted to approve the August 9 agenda as amended.

Board Reports

President

Board President Ken Fishbain opened his remarks by saying that for the foreseeable future he will begin his comments with an update on recovery and resiliency. He then reminded everyone of what the District has been doing to prepare for the upcoming school year, reflecting back to the August 4 Special Meeting and the appointment of the Director of Recovery position, and the surveys that are seeking input from students, parents and staff. Mr. Fishbain said these actions reflect the priority and focus the District has on recovery and ongoing work in safety and security and that Superintendent Law had shared this information with the community. He then thanked everyone for all their hard work.

School begins for all students August 17. Mr. Fishbain asked Principals to share an update about preparations for the return to school. Highland Park High School Principal Debby Finn spoke about the Giant Unite events that have been running every Wednesday during the day with counseling services available for students without an appointment and the social food truck events for students and staff in the evenings. Deerfield High School Principal Kathryn Anderson said that DHS joined HPHS for a joint evening event on August 3. On August 10 both schools hosted events for freshmen, with DHS students having the opportunity to walk their schedules, meet other students and to meet staff. Principal Anderson also shared that new staff would meet for orientation on August 11 and all staff will be back on August 15.

The principals shared that both schools have developed alternate schedules for the first week of school. This revised schedule for the first week at both schools will begin with homeroom and provide an opportunity to acknowledge the July 4 mass shooting, provide safe spaces for discussion, and then to focus on community building. Students will not have homework on the first day of school.

The principals thanked their staff for all the additional work that they are doing to prepare for the school year on top of all their regular preparations, and they are excited to start the school year.

Equity and Inclusion Committee

Equity and Inclusion Committee Chair Jaime Barraza provided a report on the July 19 meeting, noting the need of the committee to pivot and take stock of what the committee will do this year in the face of the pandemic and the tragic events of this summer. Those discussions included the current work of the committee and goals for the upcoming year. One goal identified at the meeting is responding to the Equity Journey Continuum rating, which scores districts on student learning, learning conditions, and elevating educators. Mr. Barraza said the Board can expect more information about that in the coming months.

Administration Reports

Superintendent

Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law invited Board members to the District portion of opening day on August 15. He echoed the comments of Board members and principals saying that there is always a lot of work to do before school starts and that this year, there was another layer added to an already heavy workload. Providing an update on the surveys conducted by the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, he said that as of Monday morning 620 parents had responded and 325 staff members had responded. Students will be surveyed once they return to school.

Dr. Law then remarked that although COVID-19 is still here, there are signs that school is returning to a more normal year when it comes to the pandemic. Although it is unclear what if any changes to COVID-19 guidance might be coming, Dr. Law said IDPH and ISBE will be sharing updated guidance on August 16. He then added that unvaccinated staff with approved exemptions will not be required to test at the start of the 2022-23 school year because of the uncertainty in guidance and to see if there are any changes at the state level. He added that there is no plan to offer screening testing to students in the upcoming school year but there will be diagnostic testing available in the health offices.

FOIA

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

Discussion

District Goals 2022-23

Dr. Law said that as presented at the July 12 Board of Education meeting, the first goal for the 2022-23 school year is to provide the support that students and staff need. In moving on to the discussion of the original “regular order” District goals set before July, Dr. Law said that action plans and metrics will be developed and shared with the Board at a later date to allow time to work with staff to formulate them. The Board agreed to a cadence of quarterly updates on goals. The following are the original four goals for the upcoming year.

1. Improve climate
2. Improve practices that improve student outcomes
3. Increase leadership capacity
4. Improve communication

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 discussed a recommendation from the District's financial advisor, PMA, that the District execute a refunding of the Series 2014 bonds for debt service savings. By passing this resolution, the Board can refund bonds if changes in interest rates will result in lower debt service. The resolution will come back at a future meeting.

Resolution Concerning Response to July 4 Mass Shooting

The Board thanked Member Struck for drafting a resolution for the Board regarding the July 4 mass shooting. Member Struck explained that the resolution responds to what happened in this District to District 113 students and teachers. He continued that it makes clear that the Board believes the school district is affected directly by this mass shooting, and calls on legislators to fix this problem, laying out what the Board believes needs to be done. The resolution is on this agenda under action.

Action

Resolution for the Dismissal of a Support-Staff Employee for Reasons other than Reduction in Force

The Board approved as presented a resolution for the dismissal of a support-staff employee for reasons other than reduction in force.

Approve Four-Year Salary and Benefits Agreement with Buildings, Grounds, Maintenance and Security Group

The Board approved as presented a four-year salary and benefits agreement with Buildings, Grounds, Maintenance and Security groups.

Approval of Temporary Custodial Staffing Services Bid

The Board approved as presented a service agreement with Precision Human Resources for temporary custodial staffing services for a three-month period to fill vacant custodial positions. By using the service, the District can work to permanently fill the vacant positions with outside candidates while also having the option to hire the temporary employees.

Review of Closed Session Minutes

Following its regular review process, the Board voted to approve as presented the Closed Session minutes that are to remain closed or opened from December 14, 2021 through June 7, 2022.

Resignation Agreement for Licensed Staff Member

The Board voted to approve as presented a resignation agreement and general release with a licensed staff member.

Resolution Concerning Response to July 4 Mass Shooting

The Board voted to approve as presented [the resolution concerning the response to the July 4 mass shooting](#) discussed earlier in the meeting.

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 9.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings-

August 16, 2022 – Facilities Committee Meeting

5:00 p.m.

Administration Building

August 23, 2022 – Regular Action Meeting

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

Administration Building