



Board Briefs

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[March 19, 2024 Regular Action Meeting](#)

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Approval of Agenda

The Board voted to approve the March 19 agenda as presented.

Board Member Appointment

Appointment of Board Member

The [Board voted to appoint Jenny Lupa to fill the vacancy](#) created by the February 7 resignation of Dan Struck. Under this appointment, Ms. Lupa will serve until the next consolidated election on April 1, 2025.

Oath of Office

In accordance with Board policy, Board President Anne Neumann administered the oath of office to Jenny Lupa. After being sworn in, Ms. Lupa was seated at the Board table.

Board Reports

President

With three days remaining until the start of spring break, Ms. Neumann wished everyone fun and relaxation over break.

Ms. Neumann thanked all of those who applied to fill the Board vacancy and welcomed Jenny Lupa to the Board. Ms. Neumann said Ms. Lupa is the right person at this pivotal time in District 113, noting her depth of experience serving on several boards including those focused on education which demonstrates her deep commitment to students and staff.

Ms. Neumann then said she looked forward to the first Excellence and Effort report later in the evening. Under this new item at Regular Action meetings during the school year, Principals bring forward the good work that is happening in the schools that may not have the same visibility as academic, athletic, activity or fine arts accolades but are just as important for students' sense of belonging and connection in their learning and growth. She encouraged everyone that for each example given, there are several others occurring in our buildings with just as much impact. Student liaisons provide student-led reports of good news at the Committee of the Whole meetings during the school year.

Administration Information Reports

Superintendent

Note: Ms. Neumann announced that Incoming Superintendent Dr. Chala Holland will provide updates at some Board meetings as she fully moves into the role July 1. Going forward, when there are reports from both Dr. Law and Dr. Holland, each report will be denoted by name for the Superintendent Report agenda item.

Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law

Dr. Law provided an update on the number of periods devoted to science instruction and science labs. Currently, full-time science teachers teach four classes, compared to other full-time teachers who teach five. Currently, science labs are taught in a period that is in addition to the instructional period.

Dr. Law said he proposed to the District 113 Education Association (DEA) in February that science teachers incorporate labs into their daily instruction and teach five classes and he offered to meet to discuss this change. Dr. Law said he met with DEA leadership last week to discuss the impact of making this change for the 24-25 school year. After discussing making this change for the 2024-25 school year, it became clear that to implement this change well, teachers would need more time than the rest of this year and the summer to plan for it.

As a result of those discussions, he said that incorporating labs into daily instruction will begin in the 2025-26 school year and that the DEA and administration will be working together so that these changes are implemented in the best interest of students and teachers. Dr. Law added that science teachers will have release time to adjust their curriculum, and that the district will be able to see how other comparable districts have implemented this change, including schools with high performing AP and honors courses. Ultimately, this move will allow students to take another class, including another science class, and will promote equity among all teachers as all full-time teachers will teach the same number of classes.

Dr. Law closed his remarks by wishing everyone a great spring break. He added that an auto-reply alerting emailers about the break will be set up for 10-month LSMs so that LSMs can have a true break.

Incoming Superintendent Dr. Chala Holland

As noted above, during the spring Dr. Holland will provide periodic updates on her transition to D113 Superintendent, which is effective July 1. When those updates occur, they will appear under this header in the Superintendent Report agenda item.

Dr. Holland expressed her gratitude for the kind and warm welcome since the announcement of her appointment as the next D113 Superintendent. She said she has enjoyed engaging with staff across the District and spending time at both schools. She looks forward to scheduling time to meet with a wider range of stakeholders following spring break. She also extended a special thank you to the students who have been accepting and affirming of her and she wanted students to know that she looks forward to being one of their biggest fans.

Dr. Holland then provided an update on the Highland Park High School Principal Search. She said that although she had hoped to bring her recommendation to the March 19 meeting, she

wanted to have enough time to fully review all the stakeholder input as part of her due diligence in choosing the next HPHS Principal. In addition, she said she, along with the search firm School Exec Connect, have been conducting extensive reference checks of the finalists. Dr. Holland said she has learned so much from speaking with various stakeholders and she understands the magnitude of the decision. She thanked everyone in the HPHS community for their interest and feedback, and she looks forward to bringing her recommendation to the Board April 9.

Finally, Dr. Holland said that as she spends more time in District 113 examining the achievement landscape and all of the instructional efforts underway, she sees many opportunities to increase the growth and the development of each student in the District. To better support her as Superintendent, she shared with the Board that she is backfilling the vacancy for the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment position. She noted that she looked at the impact of the position on the FY25 and FY26 budgets and the impact is minimal. Dr. Holland said she was sharing more information with staff through an email sent that evening and the position will be posted as soon as possible.

Excellence in Effort

As noted in the President's Report, this new agenda item at Regular Action meetings during the school year provides an opportunity for Principals to showcase the good but often unnoticed work that is just as important for students' sense of belonging and connection in their learning and growth. Student liaisons provide student-led reports of good news at the Committee of the Whole meetings during the school year.

HPHS Principal Debby Finn shared the following:

- Charity Drive raised an amazing \$161,238.21 in support of the Cancer Wellness Center.
- A new student club, Lettuce Eating Club, which was inspired by a viral trend of races to eat lettuce, is an inclusive and fun space where students can learn about plant-based living. Over 60 students have participated in community-building activities of trivia, succulent plant fundraising, tea tasting, to name a few. For more details, see [Principal Finn's February 29 newsletter](#).
- Under the House on Vine initiative, students have been encouraged to be on time as they "Beat the Bell" moving from class to class throughout the day. The freshman class won the competition and local restaurant Backyard Grill (BYG) is providing all freshmen with \$10 gift cards to use at BYG for their first-place finish.

DHS Principal Dr. Kathryn Anderson shared the following:

- At the invitation of the Honorable Judge George Strickland, AP Government classes went to witness a portion of a murder trial at the Lake County Courthouse. Students were able to witness the complexity of the court case, some students returned on their own as they continued to follow the trial. Although students expected a certain outcome, some were surprised that the jury spent 10 hours deliberating over multiple days to reach a verdict.
- DHS high school students in child development courses gain real-life experience by being part of the Deer Park program for young children ages two through five.

Recently students in Child Development 2 and 3 were again able to engage with children's book author Todd Parr and that experience resulted in some creative work by DHS students as they collaborated a book for him emulating his style.

- Kudos to student council for their work in promoting many initiatives to raise awareness for mental health and reduce the stigma of seeking support.

Five-Year Financial Forecast Update

Assistant Superintendent for Finance/CSBO Ali Mehanti presented the updated five-year financials to reflect the reductions in the staffing recommendation for FY25 and projected for FY26. This report follows up on the one presented to the Finance Committee and Board in January, which projected significant deficits beginning in FY26. Due to reductions in staffing and a lower-than-expected renewal rate for health insurance, the Administration is now projecting a surplus in FY25 and FY26.

FOIA

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

Action

Licensed and Non-Licensed Staffing Recommendation for 2024-25

The Board approved as presented the licensed and non-licensed staffing recommendation for 2024-2025.

2025-26 School Calendar

The Board approved as presented the 2025-26 school calendar.

Sitework Approval for 2024 Summer Capital Improvement Project

The Board approved a motion to award a contract related to the 2024 summer capital improvement projects. This bid package was originally estimated at \$378,448 for paving at Deerfield High School. Murphy was determined to be the lowest responsible bidder and recommended to be the paving subcontractor for \$164,860, which will result in savings of \$213,588 for this trade line item. General liability and fees for Pepper Construction were reduced to reflect the realized savings for this bid package.

Consent Agenda

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

April 2, 2024

Policy Committee Meeting

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Administration Building

April 9, 2024
Committee of the Whole Meeting
6:00 p.m. Closed, 7:00 p.m. Open
Administration Building

April 23, 2024
Regular Action Meeting
6:00 p.m. Closed, 7:00 p.m. Open
Administration Building