



## Board Briefs

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[March 5, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting](#)

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### **Approval of Agenda**

The Board voted to approve the March 5 agenda as presented.

### **Board Reports**

#### ***President***

Board President Anne Neumann began her report with a few housekeeping items. She reminded Board members that the inaugural arts festival at DHS, Arts Alive!, is the week of April 15-20. She asked Board members to hold April 20 on their calendars for the Art Expo Open House, which is open to the public.

She reminded [all parents to complete the 5Essentials survey by March 29](#). The 5Essentials survey is administered online by UChicago Impact at the University of Chicago on behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education. The survey gathers data related to five indicators that can predict important student outcomes, including improved attendance and larger test score gains.

She said the Board will be conducting applicant interviews on March 11 and March 12 to fill the Board vacancy, which keeps the Board on track for seating the candidate at the March 19 meeting. She asked Board members to review the summer dates shared with them for a Board self-evaluation retreat with an Illinois Association of School Board (IASB) facilitator and incoming Superintendent Dr. Chala Holland.

Finally, Ms. Neuman introduced a new item called Excellence and Effort to be shared during the Board President's Report at Regular Action meetings during the school year. Excellence and Effort builds on the practice of student liaisons sharing good news from the schools during their reports at the Committee of the Whole meetings. Ms. Neumann said the Principals will share examples of excellence and effort and this item will be an opportunity to recognize the contributions of staff members, community partnerships, as well as other examples of success and community that make a valuable impact but are different from the athletic, arts and academic news people typically see.

#### ***Facilities Committee***

Facilities Committee Chair Rick Heineman provided a summary of the February 27 committee meeting. He said the committee discussed bid openings that are listed later on the evening's agenda. He noted that the bids came back in line with expectations.

## **Administration Information Reports**

### ***Superintendent***

Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law began his report with the news that the transition in Superintendent leadership is underway. He said incoming Superintendent Dr. Chala Holland is participating in substantive and meaningful ways. He added that her attendance at the evening's meeting shows her commitment to the District even before she officially begins her new role on July 1.

Dr. Law said in addition to the interviews in Closed Session to fill the Board vacancy on March 12, he reminded everyone that the staffing report will be brought to the Open Session part of the meeting for discussion. He thanked the Board for agreeing to hear the staffing recommendation on March 12 because it gave the Administration additional time to create the report. To meet our statutory deadline in April, the Board will be asked to take action on the staffing recommendation at its March 19 regular meeting.

Dr. Law reiterated Ms. Neumann's [call for parents to take the 5Essentials survey by March 29](#).

### ***FOIA***

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

## **School Reports**

### ***Student Liaison Reports***

HPHS Student Liaison Miles Walker and DHS Student Liaison Jada Harris provided reports on the latest happenings at their respective schools to the Board.

### **Discussion**

#### ***2025-26 School Calendar***

The Board reviewed the calendar proposed for the 2025-26 school year. Highlights of the proposal include a continued commitment to keep first-semester finals before winter break while also trying to balance the semesters as much as possible. It was noted that no classes will be held in observance of Juneteenth as well as July 4 during summer school. The item will come back for a vote at the March 19 meeting.

#### ***Highland Park High School Principal Search Update***

Dr. Linda Yonke from the search firm School Exec Connect provided the Board and incoming Superintendent Dr. Chala Holland with an update on the Highland Park High School Principal search. Dr. Yonke walked through the feedback gathered from the online survey and the engagement sessions to develop the community engagement report and principal profile. Both documents can be found on the HPHS website under the [Principal Search](#) channel. Dr. Yonke said that there were recurring themes among all groups which included a community of caring and a strong commitment to educational excellence as well as curriculum and instruction. Dr. Yonke said that next steps included first-round, in-person interviews with candidates the week of March 5 followed by stakeholder interviews with up to three finalists on March 12. Following the finalist interviews on March 12, Dr. Yonke indicated that it may be possible for Dr. Holland to meet the target deadline of March 19 for bringing her recommendation for the next HPHS

Principal to the Board for approval. Dr. Yonke said if more time is needed, she anticipated that Dr. Holland would bring a recommendation to the first meeting in April.

### **Action**

#### ***2024-25 School Calendar Amendment***

The Board approved as presented an amendment to the 2024-25 school calendar. The amendment is necessary because state law requires that Election Day in November be a non-attendance day for students and staff. This calendar amendment also adds October 14 as an Institute Day for staff and October 15 as a regular school day.

#### ***Approve Resolution for Dismissal of Educational Support Staff Employee***

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

#### ***Summer 2024 Capital Improvements Project***

The Board voted to authorize the summer 2024 capital improvement projects discussed at the Facilities Committee on February 27. The projects include infrastructure items such as HVAC, electrical, and roofing work at both schools in the budgeted amount of \$6,689,635.

#### ***Summer 2024 Capital Improvements Project - Pepper Construction Project Authorization***

The Board voted to authorize Pepper Construction to serve as the District's Construction Manager for the summer 2024 capital improvement projects for a fee of \$470,929.

#### ***Summer 2024 Security Project***

The Board voted to approve a proposal in the amount of \$99,915 with Video and Sound Service, Inc., for access control systems equipped with remote door release and lockdown capabilities for corridor doors for Highland Park and Deerfield High Schools. This item was initially reviewed by the Board as part of the package of security initiatives approved to move forward on August 8, 2023. Installation will occur over the summer.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

March 11, 2024

Special Meeting

5:00 p.m., Adjourn to Closed immediately after meeting *Open Meetings Act* requirements.

Administration Building

March 12, 2024

Special Meeting

6:00 p.m. Open, 7:30 p.m. Closed

Administration Building

March 19, 2024  
Regular Action Meeting  
6:00 p.m. Closed, 7:00 p.m. Open  
Administration Building