



Board Briefs

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[February 20, 2024 Regular Action Meeting](#)

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Approval of Agenda

The Board voted to approve the February 20 agenda as amended.

Board Reports

President

Board President Anne Neumann began her first President's Report by saying that her role at this meeting is especially meaningful because the meeting's business is approving the contract for the next Superintendent. Ms. Neumann then took the opportunity to state the work of the board by reminding everyone what the Board does and does not do.

Ms. Neumann said that the Board sets the goals and priorities for the Administrators who manage the day-to-day operations of the District through the oversight of the Board's only employee, the Superintendent, by adopting District policies, and serving as fiduciary agents of the district. Ms. Neumann affirmed that as stated in the communication sent on February 14 to District families and staff, the Board takes actions that serve our students and that align accountability with compassion all within the framework of the District's policies and procedures.

She then stated that the Board should not and that this Board does not hire, evaluate, or manage staff; set or develop curriculum, nor make daily management and operational decisions.

She emphasized that this Board is committed to a continued productive partnership with the District 113 Education Association (DEA), and with all of its employees, to put our mutual interests and respect for each other, our students, and the community at the forefront of all decision making.

Ms. Neumann reminded everyone that the Board is actively trying to fill the vacancy on the Board, and that [the application](#) will remain open until 3 p.m. on Friday, March 1.

She closed by asking Highland Park High School staff and families to participate in the survey and stakeholder group meetings so that the search firm can compile that feedback to create the HPHS profile of the next principal who will replace Debby Finn who is retiring at the end of this school year. That profile will be presented to the Board on March 5 and used in the candidate evaluation process.

Administration Reports

Superintendent

Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law began his report by sharing February 26 through March 1 is Public Schools Week. He noted that this week is worth celebrating as public schools accept all students and help all students find their passions as they prepare for life after high school

Dr. Law also shared that the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) had notified District 113 that Deerfield High School Social Studies Teacher and Director of Instructional Technology Dan Kim had been selected for a [2024 Those Who Excel Award](#) of Meritorious Service. ISBE says educators presented with the Award of Meritorious Service have shaped their school community for the better.

Dr. Law continued his report by addressing the issue of providing science labs in a period of the day separate from the science classes because the Board had received several emails on this topic. He explained that, currently, students have to set aside a class in their schedule for a science lab that meets once or twice a week. In an era of more demands on students such as world languages, or career pathway course work, the district needs a class structure that allows students time in their schedules for addressing these and other additional demands.

The issue is pressing this year due to a projected budget shortfall that aligns in timing with several retirements that might allow the District to solve the budget deficit through attrition rather than through layoffs.

Dr. Law closed by saying that nothing has been finalized yet, that the DEA has requested to impact bargain this change, and that Administration will of course discuss with the DEA any concerns they have, but he needed to make sure he did not say anything that crosses the line of bargaining in public.

Action

Approval of 2024-2027 Employment Contract for Superintendent of Schools for Township High School District 113

The Board voted to approve as presented a three-year employment contract with Dr. Chala Holland as Superintendent of Schools for Township High School District 113.

Personnel Notice

The Board approved [the personnel notice](#) as presented.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

February 27, 2024

Facilities Committee Meeting

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Administration Building

March 5, 2024

Committee of the Whole Meeting

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