



Board Briefs

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[August 22, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting](#)

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Annual Budget Public Hearing

The District 113 Board of Education held a public hearing for the budget fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023. The 2023-24 tentative budget was presented at the June 13 Regular Action meeting, was posted on the website and available for public review for 30 days prior to the hearing.

Approval of Agenda

The Board voted to approve the August 22 agenda as presented.

Board Reports

President

Board President Dan Struck started his report with an update about the status of the collective bargaining agreement with the District 113 Education Association (the DEA) by reading the following joint statement issued August 18:

“We are pleased to announce that after arduous but collaborative and constructive negotiations, the Board of Education and the DEA have successfully reached a tentative three-year agreement. This important milestone reflects our shared commitment to fostering a positive and productive educational environment for both our dedicated staff and the students we serve.

We are compiling the tentative agreements into a comprehensive collective bargaining agreement and plan to conclude this work collaboratively by August 28. We anticipate being able to present the agreement shortly thereafter.”

Mr. Struck added that the tentative agreement with the DEA is the result of considerable work but the negotiating teams have achieved an agreement that will ensure that HPHS and DHS continue to be destinations for outstanding teaching professionals. Most importantly, he noted that the negotiating teams found they shared the vision that the mission of our high schools is to cultivate the passion, to unlock the potential, and to inspire the unique excellence of each and every student.

On the topic of the start of school, Mr. Struck remarked that the start of a new school year should be a time of excitement with the promise of new possibilities and opportunities. He said, however, that the happiness and excitement of a new school year was tempered by several recent tragedies involving former or present 113 students. He urged that these tragedies must not be

allowed to create division. In difficult times, it is the role of our schools to engage and provide a home for all students.

He then said that the start of this school year was out of the ordinary because, as part of the District's School Safety Plan, a limited rollout of a weapons detection system is being piloted at HPHS to also include DHS at a future date. He added that the District and Board are committed to the physical and emotional safety and well-being of our students and to that end, the District and Board are committed to being careful and measured in the roll-out of these new systems, reiterating the Board's commitment to getting school safety right rather than doing it quickly.

Finally, he announced the reinstatement of some previous procedures for public comment, asking speakers to state their name and relationship with our District. Future sign-up sheets will reflect these changes. He also noted that beginning at the September 12 meeting, if it appears that the public comment period will exceed 30 minutes because of the number of people who have signed up to speak, the Board will hold two public comment periods.

Facilities Committee

Facilities Committee Chair Anne Neumann provided a summary from the August 15 meeting, reporting that the Committee reviewed the status of summer 2023 construction project updates and 2024 infrastructure improvements. In discussing the current projects, Ms. Neumann shared highlights of the work in process, and recounted the DHS auditorium work that had been completed thus far and then said that the remaining auditorium work is on budget and on schedule with a date of substantial completion of October 31. She also noted that the work underway at HPHS is on budget and on schedule with a date of substantial completion by January 5. She then explained that the second part of the August 15 meeting focused on 2024 infrastructure improvements, and that would be discussed during the related discussion item later on the meeting agenda.

Administration Reports

Superintendent

Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law reported on two events from the previous week, the start of school and that a tentative agreement with the DEA had been reached. He thanked Board members for all the time they have spent working during the arduous process of putting together the first contract with the DEA. He also extended thanks to Chief Human Resources Officer Tom Krieger and Chief Financial Officer Ali Mehanti for their time during negotiations, as well as to the DEA Bargaining Team for their work in being thoughtful and strong advocates for their members. He closed by saying that all who were a part of the process shared the idea of wanting to make District 113 the best it can be.

Opening School 2023-24

Principals Kathryn Anderson and Deborah Finn provided the Board with their start of school report, noting the opening activities for students and each school's theme for building strong school communities. This year, the theme for HPHS is "Our House on Vine" and the theme for DHS is "Care, Connect, Community." The principals walked through initial enrollment and attendance numbers, noting that attendance numbers on the first day were consistent with the two previous school years.

Principal Finn provided an update on the earlier than expected, limited rollout of the weapons detection system at HPHS as well as improvements that are being made to the process to help make entry quicker and more efficient. Principal Finn also shared the many methods that the schools will use to assess the impact of the weapons detection system on climate and culture as well as to reduce any adverse social impacts.

Tom Krieger reported on the status of 2023-24 staffing, emphasizing that despite the difficulties other school districts are facing in hiring teachers, all licensed staff positions in District 1113 have been filled. Mr. Krieger shared a list of current vacancies in support staff positions.

FOIA

Dr. Law reported the FOIA requests received since the last meeting and their disposition. The report is posted in BoardDocs online. In addition to reporting on the FOIA requests processed since the last meeting, Dr. Law said that as the responses show, the District is currently renting weapons detection systems and any purchase of a weapons detection system must comply with statutory procurement requirements.

Discussion

Engaging FGM Architects to Design Infrastructure Projects

A representative from FGM Architects provided a presentation on the proposed 2024 infrastructure improvement project options at DHS and HPHS reviewed by the Facilities Committee at the August 15 meeting. It was determined that option 2 discussed on August 15 was the desired option to move forward. The Board will vote on an agreement to engage FGM architects for those projects identified in option 2 at the September 12 meeting.

Action

Adopt 2023-24 Budget

The Board voted to approve the 2023-24 budget as presented.

Approve Amendment to Settlement Agreement with Former Employee

The Board voted to approve as presented an amendment to a settlement agreement with a former employee.

Consent Agenda

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

September 5, 2023

Policy Committee Meeting

4:00 p.m.

Administration Building

September 12, 2023

Committee of the Whole Meeting

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

Administration Building