

HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 12, 2026

Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting
Tuesday, 8:00 a.m.
Viking Room

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call: Ms. Jackson, Mr. Legardy, Dr. Leonard, Dr. O'Quin, Mr. Riedel, Dr. Smith, Mr. Pauling
3. Comments
4. Superintendent's Report
 - 4.1 District Updates
 - 4.1.1 South Cook Governing Board Meeting - June 3, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
 - 4.1.2 District Strategic Plan
5. Topics
 - 5.1 Finance
 - 5.1.1 [Approval of Minutes of the April 7, 2026 Finance Committee Meeting](#)
 - 5.1.2 Monthly Financials Update
 - 5.1.3 Appointment of Bloom Township Treasurer Trustee
 - 5.1.4 FY27 District Budget Process
 - 5.1.5 Athletic Trainer Request for Proposal
 - 5.1.6 Arbiter System
 - 5.1.7 Five-Year Facility Plan
 - 5.1.8 FY27 Technology Purchase
 - 5.1.9 PAC Seating
 - 5.1.10 Insurance
 - 5.1.10.1 Worker's Compensation Insurance (SELF)
 - 5.1.10.2 Liability (CLIC)
 - 5.2 Personnel
 - 5.2.1 [Approval of Minutes of the March 3, 2026 Personnel Committee Meeting](#)
 - 5.2.2 Staffing 26-27
 - 5.2.3 2026 Summer Student Activities
 - 5.2.4 2026 Summer Student Athletics
 - 5.2.5 Summer Employment (Student Workers)
 - 5.2.6 EvaluWise Proposal
 - 5.2.7 Review of the Following Revisions to IASB Board Policies - Issue 121 - 1st Read
 - 5.2.7.1 2:140-E Guidance for Board Member Communications, Including Email
 - 5.2.7.2 2:200 Types of Board of Education Meetings
 - 5.2.7.3 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure

- 5.2.7.4 2:250 Access to District Public Records
- 5.2.7.5 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure
- 5.2.7.6 4:165 Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming
- 5.2.7.7 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria
- 5.2.7.8 5:50 Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition
- 5.2.7.9 5:250 Leaves of Absence
- 5.2.7.10 5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves
- 5.2.7.11 6:65 Student Social and Emotional Development
- 5.2.7.12 6:100 Using Animals in the Educational Program
- 5.2.7.13 6:145 Migrant Students
- 5.2.7.14 6:170 Title I Programs
- 5.2.7.15 6:180 Extended Instructional Programs
- 5.2.7.16 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited
- 5.2.7.17 7:50 School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools
- 5.2.7.18 7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students
- 5.2.7.19 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited
- 5.2.7.20 7:220 Bus Conduct
- 5.2.7.21 7:230 Misconduct by Students with Disabilities
- 5.2.7.22 7:240 Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities
- 5.2.7.23 7:260 Exemption from Physical Education
- 5.2.7.24 7:280 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease
- 5.2.7.25 7:300 Extracurricular Athletics
- 5.2.7.26 8:90 Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs

5.3 Planning

- 5.3.1 [Approval of Minutes of the April 17, 2026 Planning Committee Meeting](#)
- 5.3.2 College and Career National Trends
- 5.3.3 MTSS (Multi-tiered Systems of Support)
- 5.3.4 Panorama Platform
- 5.3.5 ALEKS
- 5.3.6 Wayfinder
- 5.3.7 FY27 Textbooks (Part 2)
- 5.3.8 Student Exchange Program

6. Consent Items

- 6.1 Personnel Report

7. Executive Session

- 7.1 Motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c) of the *Open Meetings Act* to consider the appointment, employment, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, to consider security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property, and to consider collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives.

7.2 Return to Open Session

8. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: May 19, 2026
Viking Room, 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of the April 7, 2026 Finance Committee Meeting

MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Homewood-Flossmoor High School, 999 Kedzie Ave., Flossmoor
April 7, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 a.m.

In attendance for all or part of the meeting were:

Members

Dr. Jennifer Norrell, Superintendent
Dr. Ariana Leonard, Board Member
Mr. Gerald Pauling, Board President
Mr. Chris Riedel, Board Finance Chair

Participants

Dr. Jennifer Norrell, Superintendent
Dr. Lawrence Cook, CSBO
Mr. Jim Patterson, Director of Operations & Maintenance

A representative from the HF Chronicle and community members Ms. Karstrom and Ms. Larocca were also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes. The February 3, 2026 Finance Committee meeting minutes stand approved as presented.

Monthly Financials

Dr. Cook presented a Financial Snapshot through March 25, 2026 and reported the following:
All Funds:

- As of March 25, 2026
- Fund balance - \$56.9M
- Total revenues received: \$54.2M
- Total expenditures over 9 months: \$56.1M
- Average monthly expenditures: \$6.2M
- 9.1 Months Reserves

Operating Funds:

- As of March 25, 2026
- Fund balance - \$54.3M
- Total revenues received: \$51.8M
- Total expenditures over 9 months: \$47.8M
- Average monthly expenditures: \$5.3M
- 10.2 Months Reserves

Percentage of Budgeted Revenues Received

- Property tax collection is at 57%, down 37% from last fiscal year. Revenues are down due to property tax bills going out late this year. Dr. Cook noted fund balances and reserves will increase once all monies are received.
- Approximately \$16.6 million in revenue
- Other State Revenue down 16%, due to \$2million NetZero grant received at the beginning of FY2025. The NetZero grant was related to the Science building project.
- Federal Revenue, up 5%; only budget \$1.14million; this is a small amount to overall revenue; any overage is magnified; we received more in Special Ed – Orphanage. Dr. Cook noted a three-year trend can be seen as more funds have been received than originally anticipated.

Percentage of Budgeted Expenditures Spent

- May see savings in salaries and benefits. Currently tracking lower in this area showing a 6% decrease of what was budgeted last year.
- Favorable spending trends in supplies, capitalized purchases/services, tuition, other objects, and equipment can be seen.
 - Other objects the item that exists in debt services (long term debt). Equipment because we closed coffers should not increase much beyond the 57%.
 - Chris asked for clarification on the budget expectations for equipment. Dr. Cook responded that projections were developed in collaboration with Dr. Norrell, with an emphasis on reducing line items based on identified needs during departmental meetings.
 - Dr. Norrell added that tuition expenditures are being reviewed in collaboration with the Student Services Department and noted that there are opportunities for improvement in that area.
 - Possible overage for purchased services due to professional training of staff this year. As of March 25, 2026 Professional is at 95% reported expenditure. In addition the district's contract with Kaplan has been paid out of this year's budget \$265,000 to secure a spot for next year and to ensure that Kaplan staffed property for next year. Dr. Norrell added that this amount will reduce next year as substantial training of staff has been completed.

Donations

None

Comments

Ms. Larocca raised questions regarding reserve levels, noting increases from 6.3 to 10.2 months for expenses and from 7.3 to 9.1 months in the operating fund, and requested clarification on these changes. She expressed concern about the lack of agenda attachments, stating it limits the ability to review information and ask informed questions, and referenced that not providing board packet documents to the public in advance does not align with the Open Meetings Act. Ms. Larocca also inquired about residency enforcement, asking whether the district continues to use a residency firm and whether additional resources will be allocated, stating there may not be enough residency officers to investigate potential non-residents. She expressed concern about the impact of non-resident students on district resources and outcomes. Mr. Pauling asked for clarification regarding her statement about a potential Open Meetings Act violation. Ms. Larocca responded that not providing the same materials to the public as those given to the board could constitute a violation. Mr. Pauling stated that this does not violate the Open Meetings Act, clarifying that OMA requires a posted agenda that lists all items to be discussed, which had been provided. Ms. Larocca asked about the change in practice regarding document availability. Dr. Norrell explained that the district is transitioning to a new board management system that will allow attachments to be accessible via live links once presented to the committee or board, improving access to information. Mr. Pauling added that information can be provided upon request and reiterated that the district is not in violation of the Open Meetings Act.

Ms. Karstrom noted that Flossmoor District 161 is losing a superintendent and encouraged the district to explore opportunities for stronger collaboration with feeder districts 161 and 153, to improve curriculum alignment and better prepare students for success at HF. She emphasized the need for greater consistency in student preparedness and suggested exploring shared resources and strategies to support smoother student transitions. Ms. Karstrom also raised

concerns regarding residency, requesting data on residency figures at semester break and the number of student enrollments. She stated that community members want transparency in these numbers, emphasizing that taxpayers expect responsible stewardship of resources and expressed concern about non-resident students attending the school. Mr. Pauling responded that the board shares these concerns, noting that board members are also taxpayers. He added that the board is in agreement regarding the importance of articulation and stated that Dr. Norrell is spending significant time dedicated to these efforts. Mr. Riedel stated that comments were appreciated and that efforts will be made to provide information when they can.

Old Business

Contract Renewal – Transportation

The District will soon complete the required second year of the transportation contract, with the third year being optional. Kickert, now First Student, has agreed to contract language reflecting a 2.7% rate increase. Historical context was provided by Dr. Cook noting that in 2022–2023, Kickert initially requested an 11% increase for the 2023–2024 school year, which was subsequently reduced to 8.5%. The Board later directed that the contract be put out to bid, resulting in an 8% decrease in the first year and a 3% increase in the second year, with subsequent years structured for increases equal to the lesser of 5% or CPI. Dr. Cook further noted that any extension of the contract must be mutually agreed upon by both parties; otherwise, the agreement will expire and a new bid process will be required. Committee discussion included questions about future market conditions, potential increases in transportation costs across other districts, and whether the contract allows for negotiation within the optional renewal terms. It was clarified that both parties must agree to renewal terms, and if no agreement is reached, the contract would return to the bidding process. Additional discussion addressed service quality improvements over the past two years and prior concerns related to shared transportation routes with other districts. The committee requested that Dr. Cook gather information on transportation bids from other school districts and prepare for potential future cost increases. The importance of understanding what other districts are paying was emphasized. Dr. Cook noted that transportation service quality has improved overall. This item will be on the April 21, 2026 board agenda for approval.

Safety & Security Update

Dr. Norrell stated that additional details regarding safety and security will be discussed in closed session with the full Board. She reported that the audit report has been returned and that she will meet with the safety and security lead and Mr. Patterson to review the draft before finalizing and sharing it with the Board. Dr. Norrell also announced the launch of an interim improvement plan starting today, noting that new safety and security officers have begun in their permanent positions and are now visible on a daily basis in new uniforms identifying them as security. She added that additional Dean's Assistants have also started today based on staff input that addressed additional areas in need of security. Two full days of training was conducted and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), approximately 11 pages in length, have been developed and implemented. Mr. Pauling expressed appreciation to Dr. Norrell and Dr. Alexander for their team training efforts, noting he had the opportunity to meet both new and existing security staff during the training and described it as a positive experience. Mr. Riedel added that Dr. Norrell should be commended for her efforts in bringing these initiatives together so quickly.

New Business:

FY27 Budget Plan Process

Dr. Norrell stated that, in light of the safety and security audit, the district anticipates additional expenses, including potential facility-related needs. She explained that, as a result, they are focused on identifying strategies to grow the fund balance. Dr. Norrell noted that a meeting with Dr. Cook, Dr. Grossi, Mr. Horton, and herself is scheduled, during which they plan to move forward with a zero-based budgeting model as a means to strengthen the fund balance. She stated that the goal is to present a tentative zero-based budget to the Board by late June or early July, with the final budget to be presented in August. Dr. Norrell added that the process will include collaboration with Dr. Cook, Mr. Horton and Dr. Grossi. Mr. Riedel inquired about the budget timeline and whether there would be any issues meeting it, to which Dr. Norrell responded that there would not be. Mr. Riedel expressed support for the zero-based budgeting approach, noting its effectiveness, and asked whether it aligns with prior comments regarding eliminating certain line items. Dr. Norrell confirmed that it does. Dr. Leonard asked whether purchased services would remain consistent moving forward. Dr. Norrell responded affirmatively, noting that they want to ensure the district continues moving in the right direction in alignment with the district's strategic plan and Board goals.

HB4416 Update

Dr. Cook provided an update on House Bill 4416, noting that the House Bill is currently on the table and the Bill could be called for a floor vote at any time between then and the House's third reading deadline of Friday, April 17th. He explained that the legislation would allow non-12-month employees to receive compensation opportunities over the summer for approximately 8 to 10 weeks. If approved, the bill would take effect in June 1, 2026 and would allow eligible non-full-time employees to apply for unemployment benefits during the two-week winter break and summer break periods. Dr. Cook reported that, based on approximately 66 current employees, the projected cost to the district could range from \$225,000 to \$370,000 over the summer, compared to no current cost under existing practice. Mr. Riedel noted that state agency estimates suggest the legislation could cost school districts statewide between \$200 million and \$400 million and emphasized the importance of monitoring the potential impact of this Bill. He thanked Dr. Cook for the information. Dr. Cook added that if the bill passes, the district will need to account for additional FTE-related costs in the budget and identify corresponding savings. He further stressed that, if enacted, this requirement would be mandatory rather than optional for the district.

Auditorium Microphone

Mr. Patterson provided rationale for the purchase of a wireless microphone system for use in the Auditorium. He noted this has been budgeted and falls under the technology procurement with the lowest bid at \$157,033.76 from JRLX out of Tinley Park. Mr. Patterson added that the system requirements were developed in coordination with Ms. Smith and Mr. Gould from the theater department. The team reviewed needs, consulted with the manufacturer and evaluated bids from multiple vendors. Mr. Patterson noted that the existing system was installed in 2016 and has experienced significant wear and tear due to frequent student use, including repeated handling and repairs. The expected lifespan of the system is approximately 10 years, and the current equipment is considered beyond its optimal service life. It was further noted that the proposed purchase represents a long-term investment in updated equipment to support student performances. This item will be on the April 21, 2026 board agenda for approval.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 a.m.

Approval of Minutes of the March 3, 2026 Personnel Committee Meeting

MINUTES OF PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING
Homewood-Flossmoor High School, 999 Kedzie, Flossmoor, IL
March 3, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

In attendance for all or part of the meeting were:

Members

Dr. Jennifer Norrell, Superintendent
Ms. Pam Jackson, Board Member
Mr. Nathan Legardy, Board Chair
Dr. Camille O'Quin, Board Member

Participants

Dr. Jennifer Norrell, Superintendent
Ms. Jalitza Martinez, Assistant Superintendent for Staff
Services

Mr. Legardy attended the meeting via Zoom video conference.

Dr. Lawrence Cook, Ms. Shaily Baranwal and Ms. Katie House, Representatives from heyC.AI were in attendance. Ms. Beth Larocca, community member was also in attendance .

Approval of Minutes. The January 16, 2026 meeting minutes stand approved as presented.

Comments. Ms. Larocca inquired about the Staffing 2026–2027 agenda item and asked when staffing for the upcoming school year would be finalized. Dr. Norrell stated that hiring for the next school year is still in progress and that additional positions will be posted. Ms. Larocca further asked whether data exists to justify the six additional teachers and four dean assistant positions referenced at the previous meeting. Dr. Norrell explained that the four dean assistant positions are connected to discussions regarding the district's safety and security plan, which was addressed in closed session earlier in the January meeting. Dr. Norrell also noted that the term police liaisons will be replaced with safety and security officers moving forward. Regarding the six teaching positions, Dr. Norrell confirmed that, as discussed at the last meeting, these positions will be added next year to support advanced coursework.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Tuition for Pathways Teaching Endorsement Program Agreement

Ms. Martinez requested authorization to fund staff tuition, as needed, to ensure Homewood-Flossmoor Community High School has certified instructors qualified to teach specialized, dual-credit, and career-related coursework. An example noted was supporting a staff member pursuing the credentials required to teach dual credit in early childhood education, which supports the district's expansion of college and career pathways. To meet requirements set by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), instructors must complete at least 18 graduate hours in the discipline. The district will fund tuition for necessary coursework and will establish a two-year service agreement for retention with the participating staff member. Costs vary by program; for early childhood education, tuition is estimated at approximately \$5,000, with the district covering tuition, books, and the first attempt at required licensure exams. This item will be on the March 17, 2026 board agenda for approval.

AP/IB Proctor Recruitment

Ms. Martinez reported that Homewood-Flossmoor Community High School is in need of ten (10) proctors for AP and IB exams due to limited substitute teacher availability. Qualified candidates must hold a short-term substitute certificate, and the District will cover the application cost for prospective proctors. Proctors will assist with administering AP and IB exams in accordance with College Board guidelines and the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. Proctors will be needed for 15 exam days from April 28 to May 20. Dr. Norrell noted the District is exploring external testing sites due to space constraints on campus, driven by rising enrollment in rigorous coursework and increased test participation. Ms. Martinez stated the estimated cost includes up to \$50 per proctor for the substitute teacher application, and a daily rate of \$160 for proctoring, prorated based on days worked. There are 15 potential days of employment. This item will be on the March 17, 2026 board agenda for approval.

AllOne Health Renewal

Ms. Martinez reported that this item is an annual renewal. The District continues to utilize AllOne Health, an employee benefit program that offers whole-health support to staff. Services include Employee Assistance Programs, organizational consulting, wellness programs, crisis management, and related resources. Continued use of this service is intended to improve efficiency, reduce staff burnout, support retention, and enhance overall staff performance. The renewal will take effect on July 1, 2026 with a total approximate cost of \$15,020 (\$37.55 per employee). Ms. Jackson asked whether the cost had increased. Ms. Martinez confirmed that the price has increased over the past several years. This item will be on the March 17, 2026 board agenda for approval.

Request for the following sixth assignments

Ms. Martinez requested approval for sixth assignments in the following areas: 0.1 FTE for Engine Repair: This is being requested for the second semester due to staffing needs. Engine Performance/Automotive Electrical: These are classes taught simultaneously also being requested due to staffing needs. Scriptwriting and Directing: This is due to a staff resignation. AP English Literature and Composition: Requested due to staffing/leave needs. Ms. Martinez noted that each position is (1) 0.1 FTE. This item will be on the March 17, 2026 board agenda for approval.

Request for four (4) 1.0 FTE Dean Assistant Position

Ms. Martinez stated that Homewood-Flossmoor Community High School, given its size and student density, requires four (4) Dean's Assistant positions to support ongoing safety and security operations. She noted that the school's unique layout and large student population necessitate additional staffing to maintain comprehensive supervision. Dr. Norrell added that the specific building locations to be staffed were presented to the board during the board's previous closed session. This item will be on the March 17, 2026 board agenda for approval.

Non-School Sanctioned Student Trips

Dr. Norrell reported that she recently became aware of two long-standing student trips: a World Language trip planned for this summer to Beijing and a Fine Arts (FA) trip to New Orleans. The Fine Arts trip to New Orleans has existed for approximately 30 years. She noted that while these trips offer valuable experiences, they have historically been treated as non-school-sanctioned activities, leaving the District with liability but without oversight or formal approval. Dr. Norrell stated her intent to ensure appropriate District oversight moving forward. For trips currently underway, she recommended

assigning a leadership team member to accompany them and adding an international travel rider for overseas trips, necessary for China, but not required for New Orleans. She emphasized the need to protect the District's liability. Ms. Jackson expressed discomfort with international travel due to the state of world affairs and supported increasing oversight and control. She also raised concerns about unclear planning processes, insurance coverage, and procedures for changes or cancellations. Mr. Legardy acknowledged the transformative value of such trips having participated in one himself as a junior student in Germany, but agreed that current global conditions and liability concerns require tighter controls. He requested information on how these trips may affect District liability costs and noted that organizations exist that manage such trips. Ms. Jackson reiterated her support for the travel opportunities but emphasized concerns about travel safety and the lack of clarity around logistics and insurance. Dr. Norrell stated that she does not yet have answers to those questions and asked whether the committee would like her to proceed by gathering detailed information from the teachers leading the trips. She will also consult with legal counsel and provide a liability report to the board in March. She noted that the New Orleans trip is likely covered and that an administrator would accompany both trips at this time. In response to questions, Dr. Norrell clarified that administrators do not typically attend athletic field trips; however, those trips are formally approved by the Board with full details. Dr. O'Quin asked whether an administrator would accompany future trips long-term; Dr. Norrell stated that, for now, yes, and that this process may be refined as more information becomes available. Dr. O'Quin also confirmed her support of an international travel rider being required for all overseas trips. Dr. Norrell will bring the information and the proposed rider to the full Board in the near future, likely through the Finance Committee first.

heyC AI Modern Staff Development

Dr. Norrell introduced Shaily Baranwal, who demonstrated the new HeyC AI platform. The tool centralizes all district training materials, board policies, and documents so staff can easily access information and reduce overwhelm from systems like ParentSquare. HeyC can answer staff questions, reference past training, access pathways, locate policies, and even access meeting minutes. It can also create role-play scenarios for teachers to practice. Ms. Baranwal explained that heyC is built to sync only with district-approved documents and that data does not leave the district. Linking all materials takes about six weeks, with onboarding possible by summer. The platform can incorporate both internal and optional external documents, such as Illinois State Standards. The estimated cost is \$7 per staff member per month, approximately \$4,000 for 385 employees. Dr. Norrell added that a formal proposal would be required to review before any formal action is taken. This item will be on the March 17, 2026 board agenda for approval.

Executive Session. The committee moved into Executive Session at 10:05 a.m., pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c) of the Open Meetings Act to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the School District.

Return to Open Meeting. The committee returned to open session at 10:54 a.m.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Approval of Minutes of the April 17, 2026 Planning Committee Meeting

MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
Homewood-Flossmoor High School, 999 Kedzie, Flossmoor, IL
April 17, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m.

In attendance for all or part of the meeting were:

Members

Dr. Dr. Jennifer Norrell, Superintendent
Ms. Pam Jackson, Board Member
Mr. Nathan Legardy, Board Chair
Dr. Tamekia Smith, Board Member

Participants

Dr. Jennifer Norrell, Superintendent
Dr. Lisa Dallacqua, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum,
Instruction and Professional Learning
Ms. Megan Coy, Illinois Agricultural Education District 4
Program Advisor FCAE Local Program Support (Via Zoom)

Representatives of the HFEO and HF Chronicle as well as members of the Leadership Team including Dr. Lawrence Cook, Mr. Asa Gordon, Dr. Jalitza Colon-Quilles, Mr. Steve Richardson were in attendance. Mr. Jack Anderson, HF substitute teacher was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes. The minutes from March 3, 2026 stand approved as presented.

Comments. Dr. Norrell expressed appreciation to the Board for convening a non-regularly scheduled meeting, noting that their support of students allows the district to meet the deadline for a new pathway that will be presented today.

Old Business: None

New Business:

ISBE Career Pathways in Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources (ANFR) Cluster

Dr. Norrell highlighted Dr. Dallacqua's extensive work on the Agriculture Pathway, along with the development of additional pathways, and introduced Jack Anderson as a subject-matter expert supporting the initiative. Ms. Megan Coy (Illinois Agricultural Education District 4 Program Advisor, FCAE Local Program Support) and Mr. Anderson were on hand to provide input on program details and benefits. Dr. Dallacqua presented the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) Career Cluster pathway, noting existing HF facilities, including the popular Zoology/Zoobot course with a waitlist, and strong student and community interest. She noted AFNR as a rapidly growing Illinois career cluster with aligned workforce demand and referenced supporting legislation for agricultural programming and student-grown produce. HF is approved for the Animal Systems pathway and is preparing an Environmental Service Systems pathway for submission June 1. A University of Illinois dual credit course, Intro to Sustainable Food Systems, supports pathway alignment. The program follows the Three Circle Model: classroom instruction, Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), and FFA leadership. Grant funding supports staffing for after-hours supervision and program sustainability. Course coding allows existing courses such as Zoobot to count toward pathway and science credit requirements without major instructional changes. Funding sources include the Local Food Infrastructure Grant, Incentive Funding Grant, and Three Circle Grant, which follows a five-year funding structure transitioning from full funding in years 1-2 to a 50/50 cost share in later years. Comparable district programs were cited, including Barrington, Lincoln-Way, Naperville, Oswego, and others, as well as Evanston Township and Gary Comer College Prep for farm-to-school models and food distribution partnerships. Dr. Dallacqua

spoke on the next steps that include grant submission by month-end pending Board approval, posting an agricultural endorsement FTE position, and staff credentialing support. Committee discussion included facility usage (greenhouse, gardens, hydroponic/aeroponic systems, and underutilized campus spaces), staffing and cost considerations, and alignment with existing staffing flexibility. Dr. Norrell reiterated one FTE is required and noted that Mr. Riedel, Finance Committee Chair, will be kept in the loop regarding financial planning and grant alignment. Additional discussion included potential student-run farmers markets, community partnerships, supply chain opportunities, and alignment with culinary programming. Mr. Legardy recommended including partnership information and visual mapping of program spaces for the full Board presentation and emphasized workplace learning opportunities and applied experiences. Ms. Coy noted the program's strong student impact and growth potential and added that the "sky is the limit" for students and the district in this pathway. Mr. Legardy further noted this pathway is also in alignment with the district's renovated culinary program. The Committee expressed strong support and recommended Board approval. This item will be on the April 21, 2026 Board agenda for approval.

Summer Programming

Dr. Dallacqua provided an overview of Summer Programming. She noted that the District will offer traditional summer Behind-the-Wheel driving instruction for eligible students, summer school for credit recovery, and summer school for academic advancement, allowing students to both recover credits and accelerate coursework. She also highlighted the Leaders in Theatre Ensemble, which provides an intensive summer drama experience. Dr. Dallacqua further described programs specifically designed for incoming ninth-grade students, including a six-week Summer Academy offering one elective credit with instruction across core content areas, and Summer Bridge, which supports students needing additional academic preparation prior to entering HF. She noted a new enrichment program for incoming freshmen from Parker focused on accelerated math, with 17 students currently enrolled. She also stated that Extended School Year services will continue for students in Life Skills and VAST programs, with programming aligned to individual IEPs. Additional credit recovery programming will be provided for students in principles courses and the Anchor program, also aligned to IEP requirements. Next steps include the development of a comprehensive list of summer program positions and compensation to be presented by Human Resources for Board review, continued collaboration with program leaders for rising freshman offerings, and posting of positions at established pay rates.

Summer Curriculum Writing and Professional Development

Dr. Dallacqua provided an overview of summer curriculum writing and professional development. She noted that seven curriculum projects have been identified with defined deliverables, allowing teachers to engage in work focused on unit development, instructional refinement, and alignment to district priorities. Projects include preparation for increased AP and IB enrollment, with emphasis on equitable access and supports for students with IEPs through high-leverage instructional strategies such as differentiation, collaborative learning, explicit instruction, and multimodal assessment design. Additional projects include development of common formative assessments, expansion of work-based learning experiences aligned to career pathways, and continued standards-based curriculum work defining essential learning and proficiency expectations. Teachers may also submit alternative proposals addressing AP/IB support, intervention planning, or special education blended learning models. All completed projects will be reviewed jointly by department leaders and the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, with clear expectations and deliverables outlined. Dr. Dallacqua also reviewed professional development opportunities, including AP Summer Institutes, IB training, and University of Illinois-supported dual credit training for the Sustainable Food Systems course. She outlined funding of \$29,965 in Title funds and \$65,000 in local funds, totaling \$94,965 for summer curriculum writing, noting that the

structured approach with defined deliverables has been well received by staff. Dr. Smith inquired about the number of teachers participating in summer curriculum work. Dr. Dallacqua responded that participation is voluntary and based on teacher applications, though stipends are provided for selected work. She anticipates increased participation this year and noted that the application deadline is May 1, after which the number of approved projects will be aligned with available funding. Dr. Norrell added that, based on historical participation, approximately one-third to one-half of staff typically apply for summer curriculum work. She noted that additional support may be supplemented through FY27 grant funding and the upcoming budget cycle.

Consolidated District Plan for SY 26-27

Dr. Dallacqua provided an overview of the Consolidated District Plan (formerly the Title I Plan). It was noted that the plan has traditionally been presented to the Board annually in the spring under the consent agenda; however, with the committee's approval, it will be moved to the full board on April 21st as an action item for Board approval. The plan outlines the district's formal commitment to the State for addressing the needs of students with lower academic achievement. It details strategies to mitigate barriers to learning, including targeted academic interventions, expanded instructional supports, increased access to resources, and efforts to address social-emotional and environmental factors that may impact student success. The plan emphasizes equity and inclusivity in access to rigorous coursework. Additionally, the plan serves as a framework for communicating district priorities to staff and guiding the allocation of funding for professional development, summer school programming, and curriculum planning to ensure the district is effectively supporting and challenging all students. Dr. Dallacqua added that upon Board approval, the Consolidated District Plan will be sent to the state for approval. This item will be on the April 21, 2026 Board agenda for approval.

NWEA MAP Contract

Dr. Dallacqua presented on the NWEA MAP Assessment, highlighting the need for an academic universal screener. She explained that Response to Intervention (RtI), also referred to as a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), is a state and federal mandate, with a universal screener serving as its foundation. She noted that HF had one in the past and currently utilizes Terrace Metrics as a behavioral screening tool. Dr. Dallacqua stated that the request for NWEA MAP is to implement a universal academic screener for all students in grades 9 and 10. She added that partner districts 153 and 161 currently administer this assessment at the middle school level. The MAP assessment is designed for grades 6–12 and measures student performance along a continuum in reading and mathematics. She further explained that the skills assessed align directly with HF's identified priority standards across all departments, as well as the focus of formative assessments developed through PLC collaborative teams during the current school year. Dr. Dallacqua expressed enthusiasm that this tool will allow faculty to better understand the strengths and areas for growth of incoming 9th and 10th grade students and support ongoing accountability and improvement in reading and math achievement. Dr. Dallacqua noted that this item will be placed on the agenda as a one-year contract for the NWEA MAP assessment, which includes professional development, licenses, and access to the reporting system at a cost of \$20,485.00. Ms. Jackson asked how the MAP assessment aligns with Terrace Metrics. Dr. Dallacqua explained that Terrace Metrics serves as a behavioral health assessment, while MAP will function as the academic assessment for reading and mathematics. Ms. Jackson inquired about the timing of administering the assessment. Dr. Dallacqua stated that assessments would be staggered to avoid over-testing, with MAP likely administered in the fall/winter, and Terrace Metrics scheduled later in the year so they do not overlap. Ms. Jackson also raised a concern about whether behavioral factors identified through Terrace Metrics could impact MAP results and asked if Terrace Metrics should be administered first. Dr. Norrell responded that the district is strengthening Student Support Team (SST) processes and, with the

addition of a universal screener, will take a comprehensive approach to reviewing student data. She described the development of a “monster roster,” which would compile multiple assessment data points for each student, to provide a more complete picture of student performance rather than relying on a single measure. Dr. Norrell added that a current challenge is the lack of a centralized data system for staff access; however, the district is exploring platforms that integrate multiple data sources into a single dashboard to better support instructional decisions and interventions. Mr. Legardy noted that this has been an ongoing topic of discussion for several years. Dr. Dallacqua expressed enthusiasm for the tool, noting that it includes an AI component that allows educators to analyze student data and identify priority instructional areas, including guidance on what to focus on first with students. This item will be on the April 21, 2026 Board agenda for approval.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.