

Monday, August 7, 2023

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance (2:220)

President Joyce Dickerson called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

2. Roll Call (2:220)

The following members were present: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Yvette Black, Ms. Sharron Davis, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo, and Ms. Joyce Dickerson. The following members were absent: Ms. Carlene Matthews and Ms. Vicki Walker.

Also present were Dr. Denise Julius, Interim Superintendent, Dr. Terry O'Brien, Interim Superintendent, Dr. Tiffany Burnett, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Leonard Hill, Director of Technology, Dr. Dominique Moore, and Ms. Sheryl Coleman, Chief School Business Official.

3. Presentations

Dr. Rob Grossi Sr, Illuminate Financial, presented the FY24 Tentative Budget to the Board. Dr. Grossi discussed the current and future financial state of the District based on the tentative budget presented.

Ms. Matthews arrived at 5:10p.m.

4. Superintendent Update

1. Administrator and Board Retreat- Dr. Julius and Dr. O'Brien began by introducing the newly hired administrators to the Board followed by a brief overview of the Board Retreat, as well as, the Administrative Retreat. Dr. O'Brien then stated that he and Dr. Julius are in the process of compiling a full report of the attendees, past and present financials, and other relevant information. Information will be presented at the Regular Board Meeting.
2. Teacher Resignations IL School Board Policy- Dr. O'Brien provided the IL Compiled Statutes related to the contractual obligations of a certified teacher working in Illinois. The Board and administrators reviewed the handout and engaged in a brief discussion of how District 144 will handle each case.
3. Board of Education Photographs- The Board discussed a new date for their professional photos. Based on availability photos will tentatively be taken in October 2023.

5. Annual Board Planning Calendar

The Board reviewed the Annual Planning Calendar for pending, updated, and completed items. The Board requested a status update on the redacted Executive Session minutes; Atty Hayden commented accordingly.

6. Board Member Adopt a School

President Dickerson surveyed the Board for feedback on which school they would like to adopt for the 2023-24 school year. The FY24 Adopted School list is as follows; Ms. Dickerson- Mae Jemison/Prairie-Hills, Ms. Black-Highlands, Ms. Crain- Chateaux, Ms. Davis- Fieldcrest/STEAM Academy, Ms. Matthews- Nob Hill, Dr. Musaindapo- STEAM Academy, and Ms. Walker- Primary Learning Center.

7. Clear Bookbag Discussion

The Board made a final decision to purchase clear bookbags for the 2023-2024 school year as a courtesy to parents, due to the timing. Bookbags will be available at the District Back to School Fair.

8. Committee Meeting Discussion

President Dickerson reviewed the current schedules for upcoming committee meetings (Finance, Policy, Personnel, etc.) to ensure that the Board and Administration are aware of the dates and times.

9. Tentative Budget

Ms. Black moved and it was seconded by Ms. Crain to Approve the Tentative Budget as presented by Dr. Grossi and Ms. Coleman. On roll call the following members voted aye: Ms. Matthews, Dr. Musaindapo, Ms. Black, Ms. Crain, and Ms. Dickerson. Nays: None. Absent: Ms. Walker.

Motion Carried

10. New Vendor- ABC Parade Floats

Dr. O'Brien presented the W9 and invoice for the ABC Parade Floats company to be added as a new vendor. Dr. O'Brien is seeking approval at the August 21, 2023 Regular Business Meeting.

11. Organizational Chart Discussion

Dr. Julius presented a draft of the District's Organizational Chart. After reviewing the chart there was some discussion about the placement of certain positions as it related to who the employees would be reporting to and the rationale behind the placement. Dr. Julius will continue to revise as needed and will be seeking approval to adopt once completed.

12. SPA Negotiations Discussion

Tabled for Executive Session discussion.

13. Student Registration Update

Administration provided an up to date account of registration numbers (online and in person) commenting that they are a bit lower than this time last year. They then announced that there is open registration August 8, 9 and 10, 2023, as well as, Saturday, August 13, 2023 and that there will be an update to follow.

14. Subscriptions Discussion

Dr. Burnett shared with the Board that the list of subscriptions provided to the Board was subscriptions used by the Curriculum and Instruction Department. The Board then tasked the entire cabinet to revise the list and provide all of the current subscriptions that the District is paying for. The Board would also like to see the usage and reports, and to know if the programs are beneficial.

15. Superintendent Search and Evaluation Discussion

Todd Hayden, Robbins Schwartz spoke briefly about the process for searching for a new superintendent. Mr. Hayden explained that it is most common to hire a search to review applications and narrow down the candidates. Mr. Hayden then recommended that the Board interview several firms before deciding which firm to represent them.

16. Audience Participation (2:30)

Ms. Genya Harley, Help Desk Secretary addressed the Board with concerns regarding compensation for the Technology Department. Ms. Harley asked that there be fair representation for the department during the upcoming SPA Negotiations.

17. New Business

No new business to discuss.

18. Executive Session (2:00)

Dr. Musaindapo moved and it was seconded by Ms. Crain to go into Executive Session. On roll call the following members voted aye: Ms. Black, Ms. Davis, Ms. Crain, Ms. Matthews, Dr. Musaindapo, and Ms. Dickerson. Nays: None. Absent: Ms. Walker.

Motion Carried at 6:50p.m.

Ms. Davis moved and it was seconded by Dr. Musaindapo to adjourn the Executive Session. On roll call the following members voted aye: Dr. Musaindapo, Ms. Black, Ms. Davis, Ms. Crain, and Ms. Dickerson. Nays: None. Absent: Ms. Walker and Ms. Matthews.

Motion Carried at 7:30p.m.

19. Adjournment (2:00)

Dr. Musaindapo moved and it was seconded by Ms. Davis to adjourn the August 7, 2023 Work Session. On voice vote, all members present voted aye: Nays: None. Absent: Ms. Walker and Ms. Matthews.

Motion Carried 7:30p.m.

Submitted by,

Joyce Dickerson, President

Aubry Crain, Secretary