

**Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice School District #428
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Minutes of July 29, 2022**

- CALL TO ORDER 1.0** The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Heidi Mueller on Friday, July 29, 2022 at 9:35 a.m. via WebEx Video Conference.
- ROLL CALL 1.1** The following Board Members answered Present: President Heidi Mueller; Member Jennifer Vidis; Member Heather Dalmage; Member Willa Taylor, and Member David Green.
- Not Present: Member Patrick Griffin and Member Shawn Jackson.
- Others Present: Dr. Tresa Dunbar, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Bambi Bethel-Leitschuh, Assistant Superintendent of Schools/Director of Special Education; Noah Boudreau, Director of Career Technical Education; Dominique Newman, DJJ Public Information Officer; NeAngela Dixon, Chief Legal Counsel, and Mike Walters, Assistant Chief Legal Counsel, and Mr. Laurence Roper.
- CONSENT AGENDA 2.0** As follows.
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA 2.1** Quorum was confirmed. Member David Green motioned for approval. Member Jennifer Vidis second the motion. Motion passed.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES 2.2** Member Jennifer Vidis motioned for approval.
MAY 20, 2022 Member David Green second the motion. Motion passed.
MEETING
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES 2.2** April 8, 2022, Meeting minutes were post-posted until the July 2022
April 8, 2022 Board of Education Meeting.
MEETING
- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION 3.0** Dominique Newman introduced herself as the newly hired DJJ Public Information Specialist. She stated that she will also have the roles of Open Meetings Act (OMA) Officer and will be overseeing the training of OMA for the Board of Education. Board Member Green indicated that he attempted to open the online site to complete the training, but was unable to do so. Ms. Newman said she would assist him. Board Member Vitas verified that she had completed her training. Ms. Newman asked that each Board of Education member forward her a copy of their certificate after the training has been completed.
- PRESIDENT'S REPORT- 4.0** Board President Mueller presented information to the board members relating to the current court monitor visits. The Health Monitors are most likely wrapping up their final on-site visit. She indicate that this is a positive indicator that the agency is getting closer to the closure of the

current consent decree.

President Mueller also provided an update with regard to the 21st Century Transformation Plan. She discussed the Community Services Division. The agency will be adding Social Workers to the Division to work with families and also the Victim Services Unit. Secondly, an update was shared about the Mobile Intake Pilot Program. The

Mobile Intake Unit is essentially the agency's Reception and Classification staff. The staff connects with the detention centers and youth are processed at the detention centers for entry into the DJJ rather than being directly sent to DJJ for the processing period. With this plan, DJJ staff connect sooner with the families, youth, and Aftercare representatives before arriving to a facility or being placed in the community or at home with a monitoring system where he or she can receive community wraparound services. The pilot is currently working with Kane County JDC and IYC St. Charles. The next location is to expand into Lake and Winnebago Counties. It results in a reduction of time for the entire process. The agency is seeing great engagement. Board Member Vidis asked about some protests around the transformational process. President Mueller indicated that there have been some protests by an agency called the Final 5 Campaign who are wanting to close the final five juvenile justice correctional locations. In response, the agency and some of the youth participate in focus groups with them because engagement and transparency are important.

IDJJ is working on the physical plan footprint too. President Mueller provided an update on the renovations at the Lincoln site. She also expressed that architects have been selected to assist with renovations at the IYC Warrenville location. The agency is also wanting to look for space in the City of Chicago area. The current IYC Chicago has space issues and no outdoor area. This search is ongoing. Board Member Vidis asked if the agency was working with anyone in Chicago City Government to find a new Chicago-based IYC location. President Mueller confirmed that the agency has been in communication with city leaders. She indicated the challenges of navigating the multiple entities and stakeholders when looking at different locations for a site.

Because IDJJ has been recognized repeatedly as the Promising Practice Site for reducing isolation and solitary confinement, other state juvenile justice cohort of individuals are wanting to learn more about the current models and practices at IDJJ. President Mueller stated that teams of individuals from other states will be visiting this year. She just led a webinar with Nevada and the State of Washington. Board Member Dalmage asked about information based on Pew Research. President Mueller indicated that the Pew Research has a focus on the length of stay for incarcerated youth and how it is calculated. It also acknowledges and prioritizes that youth and families are best served within their

communities. DJJ youth have some control over their length of stay by participating in evidenced-based/incentive-based programming including the engagement in education, behavior, substance abuse programming. Community partnerships also aid in the programming opportunities.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT 5.0 Superintendent Dr. Dunbar provided the Board of Education with a copy of the 2022/2023 Board of Education Meeting dates. She stated that it important to maintain the dates of the meetings, but all effort will be maintain the calendar. She thanked the board members for their flexibility.
Dr. Dunbar also shared that Governor Pritzker has extended the order to allow for remote/hybrid Open Meetings through February 2023.

ADMINISTRATOR'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/EDUCATIONAL RETREAT 5.1 The Superintendent shared her excitement about the work the School District #428 will be doing with the Franklin Covey Organization. For the past five years, they have been working with educational organizations such as school districts and universities. The educators, principals, and central office administration will be working with them during the next two years. The District is beginning with the Seven Habits during an in-person training next month. The Board of Education members are invited. Next, the District is going to move to the Four Disciplines of Excellence/Execution with the intent of having the principals to become more involved with curriculum instruction. Dr. Dunbar reminded the members of the book *The 4 Disciplines of Execution* that was sent to them previously.

HR UPDATES 5.2 Superintendent Dr. Dunbar stated that the District was moving forward with employment postings, interviewing, and onboarding of new staff. She also shared that DJJ now has their own Human Resources Department. The team works with the her to track and provide input to the needs of the schools around retirements, resignations, and leaves of absences. She wants to employ and interview candidates to fill the current open positions.

Board Member Dalage inquired about the 21st Century positions such as the status of the General Education Liaison and the Registrar. The Superintendent indicated those are still in process, yet the focus is to first hire for the positions of direct care.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT/DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE
Dr. Bambi Dr. Bethel-Leitschuh 5.3 Dr. Bethel-Leitschuh shared that a 24-month contract has been approved for the supplemental reading program called Language Live for youth in both General and Special Education. The District is continuing with the establishment of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) with educators in all core academic disciplines. The English Language Arts PLC met recently all other areas will have met at least one

in September. They will meet with the Assistant Superintendent bi-monthly and as a teacher PLC during the alternative months. The purpose of the PLCs is to develop curriculum goals to support the blended/hybrid model of instruction. The principals will also be working with lesson plans with their teaching staff. Dr. Bethel-Leitschuh provided an example of *No Connexis Wednesdays* to promote direct instruction.

Dr. Bethel-Leitschuh described the work of the Curriculum Council. They will be meeting during the summer to review the 21/22 student course completions, grades, and other pertinent data points to assist in the identification of student needs for the upcoming 22/23 school year.

With regard to Special Education, Dr. Bethel-Leitschuh stated that a fifth Liaison position is being reviewed. An updated job description for the position has been submitted for review and approval.

Dr. Bethel-Leitschuh directed the Board of Education members to the special education statistics included in the packet. She stated that parent contact is critical toward achieving the goals of the 21st Century Transformation. She highlighted the number of parents who attend special education meetings either by phone or on a virtual basis. Board Member Dalmage asked about how many meetings are happening without a parent, surrogate parent, or guardian. In response, parental/guardian/surrogate attendance is tracked yet nonattendance is not. The number of parents attending DJJ special education meetings has continued to increase for the past four years.

**CTE/VOCATIONAL -
EDUCATION UPDATE
Dr. Tresa Dunbar**

5.6 Dr. Tresa Dunbar provided an update regarding the finalization of the Driver's Education Program (NOVA) allowing all five schools to have a Driver's Education course in approximately October 2022. The school will provide the eight week book course allowing the youth under age 17 years of age to obtain their "white slip" and those over 18 years of age to obtain their "blue slip." Youth will need to complete the driving component when they are released on their own.

Information about Larry's Barber College and Cosmetology Program was provided. It is set to begin in September 2022 in Warrentville and Chicago. St. Charles will probably be online in October or November 2022.

Dr. Dunbar also spoke about the Trade Manufactures Association (TMA). She is hopeful for the contract to be finalized soon with a start date in September 2022. It is hopeful that six to eight students will be able to take a six weeks online course with the basics around metalworking and math/science foundations. After the course is completed, the youth will

also learn about how to work with machinery through a hands-on program. It ends with a job placement program.

Mr. Noah Boudreau was introduced as the new Director of Career Technical Education (CTE). He explained the potential future partnering with Greater West Town, a shipping and receiving and woodworking program. He stated that it is the intent of the District to begin with a small cohort of youth who will benefit from the partnership located in Chicago. He will be meeting with GWT in the next few weeks to look at the curriculum and design of the program.

Board Member Taylor shared information about a Chicago-based program she is involved with whereby non-profit organizations can take care of vacant lots. It is called the Academy Program. The overarching goal is to embed digital communities in the areas. Currently, the program is clearing a vacant lot and is planning to build a stage on the lot.

Mr. Boudreau will be reaching out to each Board of Education member to conduct individual conversations.

**BOARD DISCUSSION-
ITEMS**

6.0 No discussion items were presented.

**ADJOURNMENT-
PRESIDENT
HEIDI MUELLER**

7.0 President Mueller thanked everyone for their support and asked for a motion to adjourn the July 29, 2022, Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice School Board of Education Meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Dalmage. Board member Jennifer Vidis followed with a second to the motion. The motion was passed. President Mueller concluded the meeting at 10:58 a.m.