

**Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice School District #428
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Minutes of September 23rd, 2022.**

- CALL TO ORDER** **1.0** The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Superintendent, Dr. Tresa Dunbar on Friday, September 23rd , 2022, at 9:39 a.m. via WebEx Video Conference.
- ROLL CALL** **1.1** Board Members Present: Member David Green, Member Shawn Jackson; and Member Heather Dalmage. President Heidi Mueller joined at 9:53a.m.
- Board Members Absent: Member Willa Taylor, Member Jennifer Vidis and Member Patrick Griffin.
- Others Present: Dr. Tresa Dunbar, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Bambi Bethel-Leitschuh, Assistant Superintendent of Schools/Director of Special Education; and Dr. Georgette Lee, Special Education Coordinator-IYC Chicago, Laurence Roper, Management Operations Analyst and Ivette Serrano, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent of Schools.
- CONSENT AGENDA** **2.0** As follows.
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA** **2.1** Quorum was confirmed at 9:53 a.m. when President Mueller joined. Member David Green motioned for approval. Member Shawn Jackson second the motion. Motion carried.
- Motion Passed
No objections
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES of JULY 2022 MEETING** **2.2** Member David Green motioned for approval. Member Shawn Jackson second the motion. Motion carried.
- Motion Passed
No objections
- PUBLIC PARTICIPATON** **3.0** Ivette Serrano- Administrative Assistant to Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Dunbar. Dr. Georgette Lee, Special Education Coordinator at IYC-Chicago. Dominique Newman, Public Information Officer. Michael Walters- Assisting Chief Legal Counsel. Laurence Roper, Management Operations Analyst.
- PRESIDENT’S REPORT** **4.0** President Heidi Mueller mentioned there is a lot going on in the school district as well as department wide. They are continuing to move forward with compliance and the consent decree. By the next Board Meeting there will be more information to share on the monitors report. It is anticipated that both Mental Health and Conditions of Care monitors will indicate substantial compliance and therefore, no further site monitoring is needed. They are working on wrapping up the consent decree litigation.

Departmental updates: This fall will be the second year in row that IDJJ will host ,as a promising practice site, at IYC Chicago and IYC Warrenville two different out-of-state Juvenile Justice cohorts. One cohort is from Georgia and the other from Oklahoma. Cohorts will sit in on some programming, meeting with staff, team members and some youth. Time will be spent debriefing, sharing policies and protocol as an executive team to help the other cohorts eliminate the use of solitary confinement and implement alternative approaches that are more humane, more developmentally appropriate, more youth and learning based.

IDJJ continues trainings as they provide technical assistance. IDJJ is now working with the Department of Justice and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to virtually present state wide how other states can move away from the use of solitary confinement successfully and what can be done to reduce length of stay.

President Mueller stated due to transparency of successes, failures and challenges it resonates with others and motivates other cohorts to move into the same direction. It relays the message that anyone can do it.

In addition, President Mueller anticipates more additional, big updates in the next meeting. She shared data from a project with the Office of Firearm and Violence Prevention:

1. FY 2022 Admissions by Crime Type
2. Initiated by the President of the DJJ advisory Board, Dave Olson from Loyola. President Olson focuses Criminal and Juvenile Justice system research.
3. Findings on the Adult system showed there is a high number of weapon offenses where there is no victim rather a illegal possession,i.e., no foid card, illegal possession, discharge.
4. Findings on Juvenile system admissions: types of offenses, person crime is the largest, property crimes second largest and weapons offense is the third.
5. 20% of weapons offense was broken down; findings showed youth with weapon offenses are being disproportionately charged as adult felonies.
6. Further breakdown: counties where the youth are coming from
 - a. Offenses have decreased in Cook County
 - b. Central Illinois has the larger percentage of youth with both weapon and non-weapon offenses.
7. There is a high percentage of weapons offenses which is concerning because kids can be getting pulled into the system when they shouldn't be.
8. There is disparity in younger children and race as well.
9. DJJ has to concentrate more on solving racial disparities.

At a base line, developing an intervention specifically targeted towards weapons offense can avoid the youth to be admitted to DJJ and not sort the reason for the behavior. The primary reason of offense is due to safety. It is disproportionately affecting black children. The goal is to help eliminate disparities and help the youth learn how to feel safe.

DJJ has partnered with The Department Firearm and Violence Prevention, ADHS Department, to develop a model to address, specifically, weapons offenses. Member Dalmage inquired on the ethnic data relating to Hispanic as it is not a racial category. President Mueller indicated research list ethnic category of Hispanic but the youth within the Hispanic ethnicity self identify as black, white or other. Member Dalmage appreciated the information and data, she will share a podcast relating to gunfire.

The Office of Fire Arm and Violence Prevention is headed by Chris Patterson who worked for the Mayor focusing on public safety and community based violence prevention. Now working at the Department of Human Services, his team has used data to identify hotspots and the communities with the most violence. Residents of Illinois have the highest risk to either be victims or perpetrators of gun violence. DJJ has developed a unique model for a targeted intervention with two prongs: one for the youth with more serious offenses, unrelated offenses. Youth with non-weapon offenses have a model on advocacy. The second pathway is for the youth with possession who have not really victimized anyone, therefore, it is preferred to refer them to the community based provider. Though most data comes from central Illinois, it will be piloted first in Chicago due to a robust community provider network and make an impact on some racial disparity and better outcomes for the youth.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

5.0

After School Pilot Program: Participant Surveys.

Pros: 100 percent of the responses agreed to continue program

Cons: cut-time too long , no title III funds to provide incentives and time conflict with other programs.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT #428
After School Program-
DR. Georgette Lee- IYC
Chicago**

5.1

Dr. Lee presented on her After School Programs: Art, Chess, Poetry Writing and Free Writings. Dr. Lee facilitated the poetry class that was held from June 14th- July 27th and stated the following:

1. Poetry encourages students to write: if there are thoughts, there is writing.
2. Students prefer text over writing
3. Poetry supports: self expression, feelings , thoughts and experience.
4. The use of enhanced literacy skills allowed the youth to use exciting words and enhance knowledge.
5. Poetry showcases the youth's creativity-most youth prefer rap, a form of poetry.
6. There was consistent attendance and student involvement.
7. Two poems were submitted to the Liberation Literacy contest, winning second prize and and an honorary mention.

Dr. Lee concluded by sharing two poems written by the youth titled " I am". Board members showed their appreciation and thoughts. Board member Dalmage and possible students and Roosevelt University are willing to support this work in any way available.

Dr. Dunbar shared the after school programs began as pilot, enrichment programs but the youth turned them into academics. The youth have shown interest and engagement by taking control and ownership of their learning.

**SCHOOL DISTRIC #428
IDJJ New School
Website Update-
Dominique Newman**

- 5.2** The new IDJJ website official launch is November 1st. The goal is to increase credibility and make information accessible. It will include the following:
1. Board of Education information tab.
 - a. Includes Notice of Meetings, agendas and school calendars.
 - b. Board Members are to decide if they want to include headshots along with a short biography.
 2. School and Facility information tab
 - a. Information on each facility will be included
 - b. Information on each school along with principle headshot and message
 - c. Information requests such as diplomas or transcripts
 3. Families information tab
 - a. Information useful to families
 4. Community Partners
 - a. Shows the number of partners that are investing in our youth and are educationally focused.

President Mueller expressed her excitement over the website. She stated it is much more user-friendly and more visually appealing. Board member Dalmage is excited to see the new upgraded site. Board Member Dalmage suggested to add an opportunities/ resources tab where it shows the youth and families that there are opportunities available. Dr. Dunbar appreciates the 21st century site being developed.

**ASST. SUPT/DIR. OF SPECIAL
ED. UPDATE DR. BAMBI
BETHEL- LEITSCHUH**

- 5.3** This school year's focus will not only be one Curriculum Council rather a professional learning community. Curriculum Council has at least two representatives from every school. There are 33 basic outcomes that will be looked into using the same procedure as last year but more concise. The goal is to have a more concise curriculum and delivery based on data points. In addition to relying less on Connexus. Though the credit recovery program is needed, a higher level of engagement, optimum engagement is goal. This year Dr. Dunbar mandated, which has been a successful requirement on Wednesdays, that all teachers are to create hands-on, project based lesson plans. Dr. Bethel will provide updates throughout the year on PLC's and Curriculum Council. Science PLC's goal is to get virtual science labs to prepare the youth into a more robust lab situation.

Dr. Bethel provided end-of-the year report, which shows the number of youth serving, it also includes the number of recidivist youth. It has been a consistent tool to show youth involvement with DJJ. Special education youth go through a series of interventions. The majority of the youth have emotional disability as their primary. This year a significant number of youth come in and out of compliance. Dr. Bethel showed appreciation to the Special Education resource coordinator.

The Liaison program has been a successful program and it is in the third and final year of the \$950,000 grant from ISBE. Due to money being left over a request for an extension will be submitted. Dr. Bethel will have a report within the next two months. The marker is to have the youth enrolled 90 days with a minimum of 60% attendance. Unfortunately, they are under 10% . They will continue to focus on this marker. Member Dalmage appreciates that the number of youth in and out of compliance is recognized and it is being addressed.

**CTE/ VOCATIONAL
EDUCATION UPDATE-
NOAH BOUDREAU**

5.4 Mr. Boudreau continues to work on adding some programming and opportunities for our youth to have goals when they leave the facilities. A monthly newsletter was shared which shows highlights on facility visits and current information being offered and how it is supported. The newsletter shows the progress of Larry's Barbershop and other plans at Saint Charles. Greater West Town project on a shipping and receiving program. Working with the P-20 Initiatives Director, Jason Klein, will include seven pathway career clusters. Mr. Boudreau networked at the ICTA conference to learn on the courses the public sector offers that could fit into our school.

CTE Programing:

1. Career exploration course: 0.5 credits for each course with requirement of 2 courses equaling 1.0 credits
2. Resume building, mock interviews
3. Financial course- Bank accounts, Credit cards
4. Nova Driver's school will be at every facility.
5. Larry's barbershop at St. Charles is almost fully renovated.

CTE Data collection

1. Graduates/completion time
2. Completed Job/FAFSA applications
3. College visits

Eligible students to enroll are soon-to graduate students. The focus is to generate student interest. Understanding student interest will drive where to look for community partners. Member Dalmage appreciated the presentation.

Dr. Dunbar thanked both Dr. Bethel and Mr. Boudreau for serving as Principals at Saint Charles while their Principal was out on paternity leave and for the support. President Mueller thanked everyone for their support and commitment as it is an immense amount of work.

Technical, assistant partners from the center for Juvenile Justice from Georgetown are continuously struck by the DJJ team and their commitment. President Mueller thanks everyone for willing to roll-up their sleeves.

**BOARD
DISCUSSION- ITEMS**

6.0 No discussion items were presented.

**ADJOURNMENT-
PRESIDENT HEIDI
MUELLER**

7.0 Next Board of Education Meeting will be on Friday, November 18th at 9:30am. President Mueller asked for a motion to adjourn the September 23, 2022, Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice School Board of Education Meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Board member Heather Dalmage. President Mueller then followed with a second to the motion. The motion was passed. President Mueller concluded the meeting at 11:21 a.m.