

- 4.0 IDJJ is currently amid legislative session. Deadlines are coming up to pass to the House and into the Senate. IDJJ has the House Appropriation hearing on March 29th and the Senate Appropriation hearing on April 13th. No difficulties are anticipated.

The legislation IDJJ is advancing is House Bill 2054, Recruit and Retention bill. It will create equivalency to have the ability to hire and expand the number of eligible candidates. It will allow consideration of experience working with youth, coaching and residential care capacity as an equivalency to a bachelor's degree. Currently IDJJ requires entry level position employees to have a bachelor's degree, in any subject. IDJJ would like to recognize credible messengers and people who have experience positively working with young people. The second part will clarify detention code alternative formula for current employees. The idea is State employees working at correction centers, like Juvenile Justice or some development centers or residential mental health centers that are exposed to different level of risks will allow people to meet retirement age earlier and other components. Due to IDJJ being separated from DOC and relied on shared services. It was interpreted that IDJJ employees cannot receive the alternative pension formula. With clarifying the language, anyone who works for IDJJ, and/or a congregate facility is entitled to alternative formula. The second bill is House Bill 2454, the Youth Recovery and Support Act. It will allow IDJJ to extend supportive services, with no strings attached, for youth that are discharged from aftercare for up to 12 months. Currently all services are to abruptly stop because IDJJ is not allowed to pay for additional services once discharged. The second part is closure for outdated loopholes on the Juvenile Court Act. Currently, the language in the Juvenile court act prohibits the Juvenile Court Judges from committing young people to IDJJ custody for low-level drug offenses or small amounts of certain substances that violate the substance act. However, Juvenile Court Judges are allowed to subsequently commit a young person to IDJJ for relapse. Youth cannot be committed on the actual offence but can be incarcerated for failing to complete treatments. IDJJ believes this loophole is outdated and the recovery and a harm reduction model are much more effective. There is continued reticence among some lawmakers about the substance abuse portion. There is still some perception among judges and legislative community that you can punish illness, mental health and substance abuse out the youth. IDJJ is continuing to educate with many supporters such as the National Association of Social Works and the Illinois Federation of Teachers.

Board Member Heather Dalmage inquired about having witness slips. President Mueller mentioned our Intergovernmental affairs, Marvin Williams can create or assist any Board Member.

Board Member Briana Morales inquired about the submission of witness of slips. President Mueller stated witness slips to be submitted individually as it will carry more weight if it comes externally.

President Mueller will update the Board after the appropriate hearings as well as IDJJ's budget.

Dominique Newman provided CBS 2 Chicago visited IYC-Chicago to conduct Project Flex. Project Flex is through the Kinesiology Department of Northern Illinois they are currently also at IYC- STC and IYC- WRV. It is athletic based but mentoring as well. They teach youth about decision making. It has been running for over six years.

The first lady of Illinois visited IYC-WRV, she had the opportunity to interact with the youth and SkyArt. She held a session for youth with the art. An exhibition was held at Weinberg Newton featuring Youth's art. The youth have another booth at Expo, a huge international art show. It will be held in Navy Pier, April 13th -16th. In addition to First Lady and the Governor's Chief of Staff, the Women's Justice Initiative was there. They are a group of women in Illinois working to improve justice for women. They are particularly interested in the injustice in the women's prison system.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT** 5.0

School District #428 continues to hold the annual retreats with a focus on instruction and professional development and best practices. The April retreat will be held at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield.

**SCHOOL
DISTRICT #428
RETREAT
DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR** 5.1

Mr. Don Parker will return to speak.

Superintendent of School extended the invitation to all Board Members.

**SCHOOL
DISTRICT #428
AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM
SPRING 2023
DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR** 5.2

This is the third entity, Spring Afterschool Program. There are youth and teachers from all five schools participating. These programs are enrichment classes. The list of programs was provided.

**SCHOOL
DISTRICT #428
SCHOOL DISTRICT FOCUS
MAY AND JULY
DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR** 5.3

Superintendent of Schools started with agenda item 5.3. School District #428 has gone a long way with consent decree constraints. A conversation began in the December Board of Education meeting about how the school will be moving forward as a school district. The commitment is more than getting out of the consent decree and making work noticed. With the President's approval, the School District will ensure the new court monitor is up to date with improvements and plans of action.

The school district is committed to ensuring that best practices are used. The educators are receiving professional developments where they are properly trained on new initiatives and refreshers on older initiatives. The focus is on how to maximize time on tasks with students and how to use blended learning and keeping the youth engaged effectively and efficiently.

The key point is to increase confidence in staff to facilitate relationships when teaching the youth and fully understand curriculum.

School District #428 invites Board of Education members to get involved and how they can partake in the district.

Hiring process is timelier. There is also an increase in applicants.

Superintendent shows appreciation to Mr. Jullian Brevard, Chief of Legal Counsel, whom has been closely working with the district.

Board member Holifield is excited about the consistent focus and holistic approach of dealing with children.

President Mueller is encouraged by Board Member Holifield's words. She appreciates the recognition that the youth deserved to be treated holistically. The youth respond positively to the encouragement.

Board Member Holifield appreciates the work IDJJ is doing with and for the youth.

Lastly, bringing forward for transparency, the school district is short staffed but is continuing to work on resuming full day and full time school at all the facilities.

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

6.0 School District #428 is a school district along with the other districts. The district works closely with reintegrating the youth to their home districts.

In previous occasions, other districts have not accepted credits from IDJJ School District. It is a constant reminder that School District #428 is an official School District.

**ASST. SUPT/DIR OF
SPECIAL ED. SUMMARY
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023
DR. BAMBI
BETHEL-LEITSCHUH**

6.1 There is large group of individuals testing for SAT for the following factors:
1. For juniors coming during the time assessed is required
2. Change in credit status within an alternative district
3. Some youths haven't had the opportunity to take SAT

There are between 35-40 students.

PSAT will take place in April, PLCs for Social Sciences and Science are being held. Hands on labs will be included. A whole revamp for the civics course. Both government course and civics with combine and be renamed. ELA and Math will be coming up.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
MONTHLY DATA
SUMMARY/ NARRATIVE
FOR DECEMBER
2022/JANUARY 2023
DR. BAMBI
BETHEL-LEITSCHUH**

6.2 There has been an increase in youth with IEPs. Enrollment has grown with youth that are predominately eligible for emotional disabilities followed up by Other Health Impaired and closely followed by Specific Learning Disabilities. Due to some youth with emotional disabilities the district continues to investigate SEL support withing the IEPs.

**CTE/VOCATIONAL
EDUCATION UPDATE
NOAH BOUDREAU**

7.0 The Financial Course outline has been finalized. It is currently waiting for ISBE approval. This will follow a Career Exploration course.

As as programming, Larry's Barber College has been opened and running at both IYC Chicago and IYC Warrenville. The facility at IYC St. Charles is complete and scheduled for a state inspection.

Lakeland college at St. Charles has made progress and by June all renovations complete.

Nova's Driver's education will be at every facility and still in the process of finalizing curriculum.

Great West Town Project in Chicago is the shipping and receiving program. Expected start date mid-April. Initial cohort will include 5-6 youth.

First Institute Welding program will be at St. Charles and Harrisburg that is currently in the procurement process.

D & D Solar Electric program at Harrisburg will provide students with solar installation certification which is one of the largest growing fields in the energy sector. It will also benefit the facility directly. A possible high school credit is progress.

CTE staff attended Illinois Associate of Career and Technical and Educational conference. It was a great way to network and pursue future programming.

Board Member Green is a former member of the IA conference and acknowledge participation and encouraged to attend regional conferences.

**BOARD DISCUSSION
ITEMS**

- 8.0 Board Member Morales is one of ten finalists for 2023 Illinois State Teacher of the year.
- 9.0 A motion to adjourn was made by Board Member David Green then followed with a second motion by Board Member Lamont Holifield. The motion was passed. No objections. Motion carries. President Mueller concluded the meeting at 11:09 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT