



**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**J.B Pritzker**  
Governor

**Heidi Mueller**  
Director

**Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice School District #428**

**Board of Education Meeting Minutes**

**Minutes -November 18, 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, November 18th at 9:36 a.m. via WebEx video conference.

**ROLL CALL**

- 1.1** The following Board Members were present: President Heidi Mueller, Member David Green, Member Shawn Jackson, Member Willa Taylor, Member Lamont Holifield.

Not Present: Member Heather Dalmage and Member Briana Morales

Others present: Dr. Tresa D. Dunbar, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Bambi Bethel-Leitschuh, Assistant Superintendent of Schools/Director of Special Education, Mr. Noah Boudreau, Director of CTE and Vocational Programs, Ms. Beverly Singleton, CTE Educator and Ms. Sharon Kinsinger, CTE Counselor for SD #428.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 2.0** A motion for flexibility of the agenda was requested by Dr. Tresa Dunbar, Superintendent of Schools.

Member David Green motion for approval. Member Lamont Holifield second the motion. No objections.

Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF  
AGENDA**

- 2.1** Quorum was confirmed. Member Willa Taylor motioned for approval. Member David Green second the motion. No objections.

Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES OF  
NOVEMBER 2022  
MEETING**

- 2.2** Board member motioned for approval. Board member Shawn Jackson second the motion. No objections.

Motion passed.

**PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION**

- 3.0 Dr. Carol Collum, Executive Director of True Believers Community Connections. Ms. Beverly Singleton, CTE Educator at IYC- STC. Ms. Sharon Kinsinger, CTE Counselor for SD #428.

**PRESIDENT'S  
REPORT**

- 4.0 President Mueller shared the Department is at the end of the current Strategic Plan and at beginning of the new Strategic Plan process that will cover the next four years. 2015 was the first Strategic plan. Last Strategic plan covered the period from 2018-2022. IDJJ initiated the planning process with a Lunch and Learn via WebEx. There was an overall of 121 participants. It was great participation and feedback on direction. The Advancing Transformation committee gave a lot of recommendations. The first plan the President was part of was limited to only the executive team member along with a consultant. Participation was expanded to facility administrators and director's office in the second round of planning. The most current planning process involved the voice of all IDJJ from frontline to executive level. A survey will be sent out to staff and possibly create focus groups.

The first Parent Advisory group was launched. The group consists of the parents of the youth that are part of DJJ or have gone through DJJ. Feedback from the parent's was great and looking forward to the next Advisory group. President Mueller is very excited to incorporate more voices that have been impacted by the process that will eventually result in better outcomes.

The Federal Monitor's report had been received from the consent decree. IDJJ was found to be in full substantial compliance in all the mental health provisions. All the mental health requirements listed in the consent decree have been met and monitoring the facilities will no longer be necessary.

Monitors from the conditions of care for youth in the facilities have also reported full substantial compliance with all the requirements of the remedial plan related to our conditions.

Data will be overlooked for the next several months to fully terminate these portions of the consent decree.

IDJJ has reached compliance in two of the three key areas. In 2014 IDJJ was not in compliance in any of the areas, violating the 8<sup>th</sup> amendment, not meeting constitutional minimum requirements in Education, mental health, and conditions of care.

Board Member Willa Taylor stated interest in hosting the parent advisory group for a performance of the Christmas Carol. President Mueller was very excited and will be following up with Board Member to possibly have parents, youth, and staff to participate together.

Moving back to consent decree. IDJJ is one of the only State Agencies that is moving out of the Consent Decree.

Education is the one area remaining under the consent decree. Two of the facilities, Pere Marquette, and Harrisburg, are no longer monitored, they have

reached substantial compliance. IYC- Chicago, IYC St. Charles and IYC- Warrenville have yet to reach substantial compliance. There has been struggles in maintaining full-day school due to Covid-19. The State hiring process through CMS has also become a struggle. There is also an Educator shortage across the State and across the country. The School District #428 is working hard to maintain full- day school. Data collection is crucial for verification to reflect monitor's request. IDJJ is extricating itself from Department of Correction and all the shared services.

As a result of not yet being in full compliance with education, the court ordered IDJJ to engage in compensatory education services. This will award damages to the youth that did not receive full-day school during the time the youth was part of IDJJ. The Department is required to provide additional education services. IDJJ is working together to collect data and capturing youth that were in custody of IDJJ between June 1, 2021-October 31, 2022. The number of hours youth can receive range from 25 to up to 200 hours. Workload has increased, IDJJ is working hard to find providers for the services as well as adjusting the budget. IDJJ is on track to meet deadlines.

President Mueller shared that IDJJ made great progress. IDJJ reported that in 2022 they had the lowest recidivism rate ever. Since implementing Aftercare services statewide, the recidivism rate has dropped every year and this year it is 31%. It is also the lowest rate in the country. Starting in 2017 the rate began to decrease. 20.1% of the youth who commit a new crime are recommitted. 6.2% of the youth are recommitted for a new crime. IDJJ will continue to expand and invest on all the factors that are making a difference, such as community-based programs and Aftercare services.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- 5.0** Superintendent asked President Mueller to request a motion for flexibility of the agenda. President Mueller motioned for flexibility for the agenda for today. Member David Green moved the motion. Member Lamont Holifield second the motion. All in favor. No objections. Motion carried.

Dr. Bethel presented two Action Items. The first Action Item is the School Calendar Revision. The College Board and Illinois State Board of Education finalized the dates for the High School SAT/PSAT. A motion to add March 22, 23 and 24 and have 8, 9 and 10 grades testing on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Board Member Lamont Holifield moved motion. Board Member Jackson second the motion. All in favor. No objections. Motion carried.

The second Action Item is the ESSA Conference. A conference normally held in Chicago annually. It went from a in-person conference to a virtual conference and the dates changed. The original dates are February 21,22,23 and 24, 2023. The requested change is to make February 21,22,23, regular school days. February 24<sup>th</sup> will not only be a non-attendance day, but it will be a remote day. As background knowledge, SD #428 will attend the ESSA Conference virtually during the week of December that was initially NIAR days. President presented the motion. Board Member David Green moved the motion. Board Member Lamont Holifield second the motion. All in favor. No objections. Motion carried.

<b>SCHOOL DISTRICT #428 STATE OF THE DISTRICT (2023) DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR</b>	<b>5.1</b> Starting in February, State of the District updates will be provided by Dr. Dunbar. This will allow to provide information to the Board members with highlights of the progress at DJJ. Data information will be provided. One focus is to move the district forward. The purpose of the State of the district is to provide information of how DJJ is getting closer to moving out of the consent decree. Superintendent intends to have authentic conversation with the Board Members so there is value of what is being done withing DJJ.
<b>SCHOOL DISTRICT #428 2023 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING CALENDAR DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR</b>	<b>5.2</b> Superintendent presented Action Item 5.2 the 2023 Board of Education Meeting calendar. Webex meetings will continue until further notice. President Mueller motioned to approve the Board of Education Meeting Calendar. Member David Green moved the motion. Member Lamont Holifield second the motion. All in favor. No Objection. Motion carried.
<b>SCHOOL DISTRICT #428 AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM WINTER 2022 SESSION DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR</b>	<b>5.3</b> The 2022 Winter Afterschool program is in session. It is an endeavor that was approved by Director Mueller in 2020. It is enrichment-based program. Teachers volunteer to participate. Two schools did not participate last year. This year all facilities are participating. Programs vary from puzzle-making, weightlifting and pottery. It is a hands-on, engaging programs. It lasts one and half hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The program is running effective, and it is very rich engagement process between the teacher and the student. It will run until December 16 and resume back in April.
<b>ASST. SUPT/DIR OF SPECIAL ED. UPDATE DR. BAMBI BETHEL-LEITSCHUH</b>	<b>6.0</b> There are PLC's, Professional Learning Communities that meet each month; such as, Curriculum Council, Special Education GED teams. The Assistant Superintendent meets with certain individuals and other times (bi-monthly) the teams meet internally without Dr. Bethel. The Special Education Team met in person in Springfield to develop their annual goal to provide training for student led IEP Meetings. School counselors met to revisit the guidelines and updated the practices as it should be a School District wide approach. There are new counselors that received training.  The Superintendent of Schools highlighted that DJJ is ISBE certified. We make sure that DJJ is in line with ISBE standards and that it follows policies and procedures around certification and accreditation as well as following DJJ's policies, procedures, and mandates. All educators and counselors must understand that their responsibility is a legal responsibility to our youth.
<b>CTE/VOCATIONAL EDUCATION UPDATE NOAH BOUDREAU, MS. SINGLETON AND MS. KINSINGER</b>	<b>7.0</b> Ms. Singleton, CTE Educator and Ms. Kinsinger, CTE Counselor presented to the Board.  ISBE finally reviewed and approved CTE course. Curriculum will be delivered in the next two week to all the facilities. The second half of the Career

Exploration Course is currently under review. The Career Exploration Course is .5 and the Financial Planning course will be .5 to receive 1.0 credits.

Ms. Singleton has been teaching a CTE course since July. As of now only seven youths have completed the course. The first week focuses on personal interests. A questionnaire is provided to the youth to share their expectations of the course. Questionnaires are also used to find out about personality traits and that will relate to careers. The goal is to help the youth understand what a job is and how they will proceed to make it a career. Also, to understand the overall hiring process of the resume, cover letter and applications. The use of worksheets from Illinoisworknet are used for mock interviews. The class focuses also on the importance of having a good attitude and how to expand professional relationships through networking. The objective of the course of this course is to make the youth aware that is a lot of opportunity available. Board member David Green shared that at the college they had a similar course minus some of the topics of professional behaviors, he stated it is a good addition to better the youth. There is a lot of good opportunities for the students to learn not only from IDJJ but from other. IDJJ is looking to partner with RecruitME, who deal with offenders in giving them a second chance. Board Member Holifield is excited to see what DJJ has planned for the CTE course. He is former a EFE and expanding his CTE program. It is okay to change academic routes. Board Member inquired if DJJ will eventually offer Communication skills course to get industry credentials. Youth vision boards were shared and resumes usually done on no Connexus Wednesday. Open conversations are also held.

A financial Course outline was shared. It is part two of the career exploration course. The objective is to provide a foundational understanding for making informed financial decisions.

Background checks are being processed for Larry's Barbershop and Cosmetology. St. Charles's Barbershop is almost completed. Lake Land College is doing Q-Hut renovations. Nova Driver's education will soon be at all the facilities. DJJ will tour Technical Manufacturing Association to see how it can be implemented into DJJ. Greater West Town projects are turning in background checks. CTA Second Chance program wants to get involved with DJJ.

Ms. Kinsinger shared CTE data collected. Spreadsheets were created to be accessible information from each of the facilities.

By 2025 it will be asked that all school districts to begin tracking college, career applications and interviews. Mr. Boudreau is looking into a program, Naviance, that provides schools to track that data. It will also be accessible to Alumni. It allows college searching and matching. There will be more updated on program that will be used. Mr. Boudreau shared a College and Career Pathway Endorsement Framework.

Dr. Collum appreciated the work DJJ is involved with. Mr. Boudreau will be touching base for a possible partnership.

**BOARD DISCUSSION  
ITEMS**

**8.0** No discussion items were present.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**9.0** A motion to adjourn was made by David Green. Board member Lamont Holifield then followed with a second motion. the motion was passed. no objections. Motion carried. President Mueller concluded the meeting at 11:17a.m.