



**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 -July 21, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

- 1.0** The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board Member Heather Dalmage on Friday, July 21st at 9:39 a.m. via WebEx video conference.

ROLL CALL

- 1.1** The following Board Members were present: Member Heather Dalmage and Member Briana Morales.

Not Present: President Heidi Mueller, Board Member Shawn Jackson. Board Member David Green, Board Member Lamont Holifield, and Board Member Willa Taylor.

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, Dominique Newman, Public Information Officer and Jullian Brevard, Chief Legal Counsel.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 2.0** It is recognized that there is no quorum confirmed, President Mueller is not present, therefore, no action will be taken at this meeting.

Dr. Heather Dalmage will be presiding.

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

- 2.1** It is recognized that there is no quorum confirmed, President Mueller is not present, therefore, no action will be taken at this meeting

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES OF
JUNE 2023
MEETING**

- 2.2** It is recognized that there is no quorum confirmed, President Mueller is not present, therefore, no action will be taken at this meeting

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	3.0	Martha Ruben attended as a member of the public
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	4.0	No report.
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT	5.0	As follows.
SCHOOL DISTRICT #428	5.1	The new Special Education Director was onboarded on 08/01 that will be training exclusively with Dr. Bethel.
<i>Human resources updates: special education director, departure of Warrenville (Maya Angelou) principal, St. Charles (Sam Sublett) principal</i>		The last day for the Principal at Sam Sublett was May 31 st , 2023.
DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR		<p>The Principal at Maya Angelou, IYC- Warrenville, accepted a promotion and is also no longer with IDJJ.</p> <p>A job posting for the principal position at Maya Angelou will be reposted within the next three weeks. The principal position at Sam Sublett will not be reposted due to the reorganization at St. Charles.</p> <p>Mr. Boudreau and Dr. Bethel have been closely monitoring the schools. Dr. Dunbar acknowledges their hard work and time. It is anticipated to have a principal at Maya Angelou by late September.</p> <p>Board Member Dalmage inquired about Dr. Bethel's position, whether she will work closely with the new Special Education Director during the transition. It was confirmed that there will be a smooth transition.</p> <p>Board Member Dalmage also inquired about the number of students affected by the principal's absence. Dr. Dunbar stated, as of yesterday, 56 students at Sam Sublett, 22 at school and 3 in the infirmary, Warrenville had 13 students. The rest of the youth not in school are graduates. Both schools have professional long-term educators, however, it is recognized that both facilities do need a leader.</p> <p>Previously, there was a list that included each Board Member and the school they represented. It was requested an updated list to be shared to both the schools and Board Members to provide their support any way they can.</p> <p>Board Member Morales had the opportunity to visit Booker T. Washington. She mentioned one of the staff concerns at the school is not knowing to whom they can elevate concerns. Board Member Morales stated would be helpful to know the Board Member assigned to their school.</p>

SCHOOL DISTRICT #428 5.2 There are no current updates on the St. Charles reorganization, however, IDJJ is in negotiations with the Union to discuss the possibility of making St. Charles an emerging adult education center. The center would be geared more towards CTE, long-term, skilled-based center for youth aged 17-21. More programming and career technical education would be involved. The intent is to increase job-readiness skills and work-based practices for graduates. Board Member Dalmage agreed that the emphasis on job-readiness needs to be a priority.

*IYC- St. Charles (Sam Sublett)
Reorganization Update*

DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR

Board Member Dalmage also inquired on the GED process with the younger student, whether they will skip earning a diploma and go straight into GED. Dr. Dunbar confirmed the GED program is not affected by the lack of principals and it is up to the students to decide whether they wish to test for the GED program. All students in all five facilities are eligible to participate in all CTE programs. Youth can choose their program of interests.

SCHOOL DISTRICT #428 5.3 Under CTE grant there was an increase of 62%. Mr. Boudreau was able to cover all the requirements to earn the increase in monies. Over 70% of Title 1 monies was spent. No additional increase for Title 1. All grants, CTE, IDEA and Title 1 are included in the 20% of grants submitted on time and done with authenticity. School District is showing consistence progress with programming for the youth and utilizing monies. In September, the SD#428 will share the differences in the grants and how the monies are spent. As a District under direct care and a correctional educational district it is excited to show that the district is moving towards fidelity of practice for the second year in a row.

*2023-2024 School Year-
Technology Updates, FY2023-
2024 Grants Submission.
Increase in Title 1 Monies
Allocations*

DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR

SCHOOL DISTRICT #428 5.4

*Board of Education Meeting
Return to In-Person Meeting
September 2024*

DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR

This discussion was moved to 8.0 Board Discussion Items

**ASST. SUPT/DIR OF SPECIAL ED. UPDATE
DR. BAMBI BETHEL-LEITSCHUH** 6.0

As follows.

**DR. BAMBI
BETHEL-LEITSCHUH**

The GED program is self-sufficient for each school because the proctors are the educators. The GED program will continue to run without a principal. The GED program is recognized as another type of diploma in the State of Illinois. There is prescreening for the youth as well as skill-based activities. LVI (volunteer tutors) is also an option that help students prepare for GED.

Language Live Curriculum will begin in-person coaching. On August 9th, they will visit Glencliff Academy to work with the teachers individually on the supplemental reading program. The coaching will occur in all five facilities.

After two years, the supplemental math program has been procured. It was noticed that the youth needed more support with exposure to math classes. The district has secured Savvas. Contract signatures are still pending and intent to be fully implemented by the second quarter.

As usual, the end of the school year exit took place through the Illinois State Board of Education, a student information system. A training was conducted for the exit and beginning of new school year.

As PLC's continue to meet, there will be major Science course changes in August as well as changes in Social Science courses; will be fully implemented by first quarter. The next step is the inclusion of a Nutrition course that will be under Health where the PE teachers would teach the course. The specific of a predeveloped course is being reviewed.

Lastly, an Executive Administrator II will be onboarded in the Belleville office on August 16th. This individual will support the Assistant Superintendent as well as other individuals such as Director of Special Education and Mr. Wessel, who is part of the Executive Team.

Dr. Dalmage inquired on the youth with disabilities and the variety of accommodations they will need relative to both prep work and test taking. She would like to see comparative data, youth with IEP's or 504's and youth with none. She would like to know if these youth are getting the accommodations, they need to be successful as their counterparts. Dr. Bethel stated there will be more in-depth information in the September meeting but assured the diploma rate of both the youth with disability and youth with no disability is consistent. Last year there was a 53% of graduates which included both disabled and non-disabled. As far as GED, accommodations are applied, like PSAT, SAT, very limited based on IEP. Youth with disabilities get one-to-one support from the Special Education educators.

Dr. Dalmage mention Pearson is a corporation where their interest is profit as for ISBE ensures the rights of students. Dr. Dalmage was unaware that Pearson could impose restrictions differently than IDEA.

Dr. Bethel explained that the GED program is usually provided outside the high school setting, however, our School District can do so. School District #428 obtained a special license/ waiver to be able to allow students to take the GED program as opposed to regular diploma. All accommodations and extra

support are given to the students up until they are to take the actual test. The test is to follow Pearson protocol. Normally students must visit testing sites but considering the student enrolled, the waiver allows test taking to take place in the facilities.

Dr. Dunbar explained not all students are vetted to participate in the GED program. There is a formal legal process where the students are to pass the pre-qualify test.

Dr. Bethel stated that our focus is getting a diploma and getting the support required to obtain it through the supplemental courses.

*Assistant Superintendent
Special Education Update*

**DR. BAMBI
BETHEL-LEITSCHUH**

- 6.2 The new Special Education Director started on June 16th. Sam Sublett is in the process of hiring a new Special Education teacher. Recently the Special Education Resource Coordinator resigned. The Liaison team has spent the last three years working with ISBE providing quarterly reports. The ISBE consultant provided a presentation to the school and ask to continue working with them, however, the School District will continue with DJJ program. It was the first year to be offered.

*CTE/ Vocational
Education Update*

NOAH BOUDREAU

- 7.0 The Technical Manufacturing Association program started at St. Charles and Harrisburg with currently 13 students enrolled. Once completed a certificate will be given that will allow them into any manufacturing plants.

Victory XR will begin next month that will provide certifications in carpentry, nursing assistant, medical assistance, drone operator (licensed) and robotics. Sim Log is a training and certificate program on heavy equipment. Simulators would be used for this training.

Nova Driver's Education program contract is complete. Students are currently in the process of getting selected and partnered with an instructor. The youth will begin the paper component and once release in Aftercare, they will complete the rest.

The start date for Greater West Town Project is August 7th at the Chicago location. The students have been enrolled. A total of three reviews for safety protocols will be done.

The School District and the facility is looking for funding for the First Institute Welding Program. Once the St. Charles program is running then Harrisburg will begin its process.

The funding for D&D Solar at Harrisburg and Champion's Barbershop at Pere Marquette has been received.

SchoolLinks has been onboarded. All CTE staff has been trained, eventually will roll out for all facilities and alumni. All academic reports will be accessible through this platform. All information can be tracked. Recently added were mentor videos with people that are working in specific fields. Mentors can now respond to student questions.

Another graduate program at St. Charles that will be added is Edwin's partnership where students will gain the knowledge on how to open a business and entrepreneurial skills.

As far as data collection, the CTE student completion increased to 45. College application increased to 11, FAFSA application increased to 18. There was one college visit. The student was able to tour the campus along with security with no issues.

Once St. Charles is fully reorganized to a graduate facility, the number of students and their progress will increase.

A job fair will take place Wednesday, August 16th, hoping to increase CTE staff hires.

Board Member Dalmage appreciates the focus in training and the vocational pathways. She asked if it would be possible to align social emotional learning goals so that youth are able to determine if the program is really in their interest. Mr. Boudreau stated the career exploration course is taken to be able to determine the youth's best interests and with having multiple programs, the youth can narrow down the things done.

Board Member Briana acknowledges the variety of CTE programming. As Board Member showed interest on how they can support in any way.

**BOARD DISCUSSION
ITEMS**

8.0

Any Board Member that wishes to visit the facilities are welcomed however, they are to let the Director and Dr. Dunbar to facilitate tour. Dr. Dunbar mentioned that the district needs donors in terms of support. Board Member Morales suggested a three-minute video of alumni and recent youth involved in the program. Ms. Newman stated a short video or pictures can be done considering the protection of youth identity.

A possible campaign was also mentioned where local libraries would be contacted to possibly partner with DJJ and donate books to our youth. Another idea mention was public facing document that could elevate student voice, such as a publication that the youth are engaged in and write about what they are learning and any relationship building.

Moving forward the Board of Education meetings will be held in person. The Board Members are to come together to discuss what the times and frequency of the meetings. As of now, the Board of Education meets every other month. A discussion is open for the members to decide any upcoming changes. There are different facilities available to come in person.

Board Member Dalmage appreciates Board Member Morales and her drive and expertise. Board Member also suggested a Board Member retreat to further discuss engagement in the IDJJ Board.

ADJOURNMENT

- 9.0** Board Member Heather Dalmage closed the meeting at 11:08 a.m. It is recognized that there is no quorum confirmed.