



**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 17th, 2023

- 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 17th at 9:38 a.m. at the IDJJ Chicago Office.
- ROLL CALL** 1.1 The following Board Members were present: President Heidi Mueller, Member Briana Morales, Member David Green, and Member Lamont Holifield
- Not Present: Board Member Shawn Jackson and Member Heather Dalmage
- Others present: Dr. Bambi Bethel-Leitschuh, Assistant Superintendent of Schools/Director of Special Education, and Jullian Brevard, Chief Legal Counsel and Melissa Cory, Director of Special Education.
- CONSENT AGENDA** 2.0
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA** 2.1 Quorum was confirmed. Member David Green motioned for approval. Member Lamont Holifield second the motion.
- No objections.
Motion passed.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 2023 MEETING** 2.2 Approval of the meetings was motioned by Member Lamont Holifield and second by Member David Green.
- No objections.
Motion passed.

**PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION**

- 3.0 Samantha Figueroa is COO of King-Devick technologies. King-Devick technologies, inc. offers a broad set of evidence-based tools utilizing integrated technology to accurately and objectively assess eye movement (oculomotor) disorders such as saccadic dysfunction and objective tools to assess balance and contrast sensitivity. They look for low literacy rates and population of children with affected reading skills.

**PRESIDENT'S
REPORT**

- 4.0 President Mueller invited Chief Legal Jullian Brevard to share an update on where IDJJ stands with the education component of the Consent Decree.

The last item on consent decree is education, with having full-day school and everyday youth attendance. With St. Charles becoming an emerging adult education facility, this will allow coverage of teacher shortages in the other schools. Some teachers will be transferred to Chicago and Warrenville. The effective date of transfer for teachers is December 16th and for the youth it will be January 1st. In the meantime, executive staff has ensured school is running. A new court monitor has been appointed and IDJJ will ensure the proposed monitor will immediately begin monitoring the facilities.

In addition, compensatory education continues. LVI is an external agency that provides in-person tutoring service, and Varsity tutors are online tutors. Tutoring will expand to Saturdays due to some individuals being outside of secure custody.

President Mueller shared her screen to show additional information on the St. Charles Technical and Career facility. Essentially, Sam Sublett High School will be closed. This will allow IDJJ to be more developmentally appropriate and turn focus providing resources and programming to graduates. The plan was presented in June 2023 and was completed with a signed MOU in August 2023. The focus will be on emerging adults, 17–21-year-olds. Not only is the focus on vocational and educational component but also helping youth develop the life skills needed to be successful when moving back into the community. This transition has provided the opportunity to be intentional about how the facility will look like. IDJJ has been cooperatively working alongside staff, youth interns and the parent advisory board for input on how it will function. Educators will transfer to new facilities during NIA days and during the holidays to get acclimated in their new environment. Youth movement will be done in a natural attrition. High school youth were no longer being placed at St. Charles since November 1st. Youth will transition out through their regular release dates. It anticipated that only 15 youth will be transferred.

President Mueller shared screen on programming that is current and expected to be offered by December 2023, both virtual reality and hands on. Essentially the goal is for the youth to be able to select their own programs and manage their own schedule.

Another area of focus is family engagement and pathways to careers for kids. President Mueller encouraged the board to visit website as the transformation report gets posted quarterly.

Family therapy has been a huge focus on family efforts. There is the family parent advisory board that also participates in family staffing. IDJJ wants to continue to have youth and family voices as true partners. The piloting programs started home visits. This program is geared towards the younger youth in preparation to transition into the community. The focus is to strengthen family bonds and reintroduce the youth back to their families. The youth are allowed supervised home visits and overnight or weekend visit depending on youth behavior. This pilot program started in November 2022 and as of now, there has been five, successful, home visits.

The Day Release Work Program’s purpose is to that the youth can find meaningful and sustainable employment. Currently, there are three programs piloted that are full day release. The youth are unescorted for their workday and picked up after the workday is done.

The IDJJ internship was launched in February 2023. The third cohort is currently working on building law libraries in all the facilities. IDJJ also has a partnership with Kurt’s café in Evanston that started in May of 2023 and currently on their second cohort. Finally, SkyArt was launched June 2023 where the youth provide administrative support. Most programs function out of IYC-Chicago location.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT 5.0

As follows.

SCHOOL DISTRICT #428 5.1

Review of ISBE and IDJJ SD #428 BOE Virtual Meeting Agreement

DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR

IDJJ is the only state agency allowed to be virtual, the governor’s executive order expired, and all state agencies are to meet in person. However, IDJJ has been exempted as long the criteria is met. Residents in Chicago and Springfield must be in the office and complete Illinois Association of School Board trainings once a year. A final survey will be sent out to the members with available dates to choose from. The training is four hours long and will be in the Chicago area. Training must be completed to maintain virtual meeting agreement. Superintendent clarified that ISBE is allowing IDJJ some time to complete training before June.

SCHOOL DISTRICT #428 5.2

IASB Training (January or February 2024)

DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR

Covered in section 5.1

SCHOOL 5.3
DISTRICT #428

Proposed 2024 BOE Calendar Dates

Superintendent of schools proposed the action item of the 2024 calendar dates. No additional changes, meetings will be bi-monthly, beginning in January through November.

DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR

President Mueller as for a motion for approval of the meeting calendar.

Board Member Green motioned to approve the meeting calendar. Board Member Lamont Holifield second the motion.

All in favor. No objections.

SCHOOL 5.4
DISTRICT #428

School District Retreat April 24th-26th, 2024

The annual retreat will be held in Pere Marquette, Alton, IL from April 24th - 26th 2024.

DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR

SCHOOL 5.5
DISTRICT #428

Substitute Teaching and Student Teacher Initiative

Superintendent of schools asked for Board member support in looking into developing partnerships with universities, colleges, or trade schools around student teachers. The focus is to share the work of School District #428 and its mission. The support from substitute teachers is current a huge focus, Superintendent of schools also asked for support in finding individuals willing to support our current teachers and the youth. School District is recruiting daily permanent substitute teachers. Professional Development for staff will be highly encouraged as it will facilitate the teacher's work.

DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR

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

As follows.

Assistant Superintendent 6.1
Summary November 2023;
PLC's Professional
Development, Curriculum
Council meeting, PSAT/SAT
Dates

DR. BAMBI
BETHEL-LEITSCHUH

Assistant Superintendent shared highlights regarding the position of Assistant Superintendent. School District #428 has professional development and NIAR day on September 29th, where teachers are remote and focus on professional learning communities. Teacher Institute days and parent conferences are also held. The district continues to provide teachers the opportunity to get certification hours towards their professional educator license.

The Semi-Annual Curriculum Council was held. Each PLC point person was in attendance. Springfield District 186 administrators shared their curriculum, considering most youth return to district 186, coherency is necessary. Curriculum delivery was also reviewed as well as protocol of how to adopt and realign new courses to be more blended in using Connexus and teacher input. Teachers are also looking into creating new courses, i.e., Geometry, Algebra I and Algebra II through a different vendor. The teachers had the opportunity to meet with out of state trainers in Springfield.

PSAT/SAT Testing will continue to be provided as it has been a successful program. Illinois State Board of Education has made the test electronically.

School District #428 proposed to add dates for testing onto the school calendar.

The SAT tests proposed dates are March 19-21, 2024. This will allow for any absences or any special education accommodations.

PSAT offers two different tests, one for 8th grade and 9th grade and one for 10th grade. Testing will be on April 16th- 18th.

President Mueller asked for a motion for approval to adopt the proposed testing dates onto the calendar year.

Board Member Lamont Holifield motioned for approval. Board Member Briana Morales second the motion.

All in favor. No objections. Motion passed.

Special Education Update 6.2
Special Education Monthly Data
Summary/Narrative for
September/October 2023

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL
EDUCATION
MRS. MELISSA CORY

There are currently 59 youth enrolled. Staff is working diligently with working with student IEPs to update any information. The Liaison program continues to work closely with the youth after they have been released from the facility. The Liaison program is no longer funded by ISBE, however, IDJJ continues to provide internal support. Special Education Coordinators continue to meet weekly. The newest update is the University of Illinois IEP Quality project will begin in March to focus writing more appropriate goals and various focuses with IEP processes.

54% of the students have IEPs. IDJJ is double the State of Illinois average. IDJJ has complied in the Special Education department for over three years.

President Mueller recognized the School District Administration and overall hard work and progress.

*CTE/ Vocational
Education Update*

7.0

MR. NOAH BOUDREAU

A streamline report was provided in packet of all the programming currently on board and upcoming.

Nova Driving program has begun. Youth will be able to get driving permits.

**BOARD DISCUSSION
ITEMS**

8.0

None

ADJOURNMENT

9.0

A motion to adjourn was made by David Green. Board Member Lamont Holifield then followed with a second motion. The motion passed. No Objections. President Mueller concluded the meeting at 10:51pm.