



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

J.B Pritzker
Governor

Robert D. Vickery
Acting Director

**Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice School District #428
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Minutes -July 19th, 2024**

- CALL TO ORDER** 1.0 The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Robert D. Vickery on Friday, July 19th at 9:39 a.m. at the IDJJ Chicago Office.
- ROLL CALL** 1.1 The following Board Members were present: Acting President Robert Vickery, Board Member Briana Morales, Board Member David Green, and Board Member Lamont Holifield.
- Others present: Tresa D. Dunbar, Superintendent of Schools, Bambi Bethel-Leitschuh, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, and Melissa Cory, Director of Special Education.
- CONSENT AGENDA** 2.0 As follows.
- 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 2024 MEETING** 2.2 Approval of the meetings was moved by Member Lamont Holifield and second by Member David Green.
- No objections.
Motion passed.
- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** 3.0 Robyn Mixon, potential Business Manager candidate at IYC – Warrenville, was in for observation to get a feel of the current state of the district and gain more insight of how she can be beneficial to the organization.
- PRESIDENT’S REPORT** 4.0 IL Department of Juvenile Justice’s IYC-Warrenville facility suffered a catastrophic event. Thankfully, everyone is safe. Unfortunately, the kitchen caught on fire. Staff followed protocol from training, discharged the extinguishers available and still weren’t unable to stop the fire. The alarm

system sounded immediate, and the building was evacuated safely within, roughly, two minutes.

Due to staffing issues the day of, the youth were having lunch in their respective housing units, therefore, no youth was harmed.

There was, however, fire damage to the main building and is useable for the foreseeable future until there is a fire restoration assessment of the damages and repairs.

For emergencies like these, there are contingency plans and have now relocated all the youth from IYC Warrenville to the PEACE Center at IYC St. Charles. All the staff, operation and programming has also been relocated; therefore, two distinct programming will be operating. The emerging adults serving through the Phoenix Emerging Adult Career Education Program and the youth from IYC Warrenville.

Overall performance as an agency, a team, has been incredible. However, regular school days have been impacted.

On a positive note, IDJJ has continued to see positive progress tied closely to the 21st century transformation model. There is visible progress on the construction aspect of the new facility in Lincoln, IL. As a leadership team a determination has been made for the name of the facility. The new facility will be called the Monarch Youth Center. It is the state's insect and a wonderful symbol of change in transformation and growth. Pictures will be shared in the next meeting. It is expected to start serving youth in early 2025.

Another school related progress is at Glencliffe Academy at IYC Pere Marquette. After two years, the facility will be fully remodeled and staff will be able to return back to their regular classrooms.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

5.0 As follows.

**SCHOOL
DISTRICT #428**

*HR updates – Assistant
Superintendent of Extended
Educational Services/
Educator Postings*

DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR

- 5.1 The School District #428's goal is to continue to work in the best interest of the students and focus on moving the district onward. The district will also continue to assure we have the right type of instructional goals and objectives to make respectable decisions about how student skills and abilities will be challenged and moved forward.

The School District #428 works in line with the facilities cohesively to make the best decisions. As a District, we must continue hiring educators to cover the support needed around youth attendance. Though there is conditions of care that allow youth to take mental health days, and refuse school, we have to make sure youth understand the importance of school. Therefore, as a district the approach is to control and manage what we can, making sure our schools are fully staffed.

5.1 in the agenda lists the positions posted. Outside of hiring Mr. White, the district continues to add substitute and paraprofessionals. Aside our in-house, current substitute, this is the first time we have used an agency to have a plethora of substitutes and paraprofessionals for our northern schools as they are the current focus.

Our school Maya Angelou at IYC Warrenville, has eight positions posted and had six candidates who qualified for interviews. Thurgood Marshall has four educator positions.

Working alongside with the Department of Corrections, the Assistant Superintendent of curriculum instruction position has also been posted. This candidate will be working 90% of the time with the Department of Corrections. This will allow for a consistent focus on our agenda and high school support to our youth housed under the Department of Corrections.

Board Member Heather Dalmage inquired on the challenges the district is facing now and for further discussion on the Harrisburg project.

President Vickery explained how two years ago the Department of Juvenile Justice Central Office consisted of a single person and a lot of the fiscal administrative and HR processes were conducted by the public safety Shared Services. The Department of Juvenile Justice has established their own infrastructure in capacity to have their own processes. The current Central Office now consists of eight people. The hiring process moves a lot faster and with an automated system it is easier to track the processes.

In 2006 the IL Department of Juvenile Justice separated from the Department of Corrections. DOC has been providing a level of adult education but no high school education services, which created a liability for the state in terms of individuals in DOC custody up to the age of 22 being entitled to educational services. In partnership with DOC, the School District #428 is figuring out strategies to provide educational services to the individuals up to the age of 22.

The plan is to use the Youth Center in Harrisburg for this project. Once the Youth Center in Lincoln, IL opens, the current youth at Harrisburg will be moved out. Educators from School District #428 will be used as well as curriculum and the pilot will begin in June at the two of the DOC correctional centers, Illinois River and Shawnee.

President Vickery assured the Board Members the individuals with special education will meet the same special education requirements in instruction and staffing. He also stated the current staff's response to the DOC partnership, overwhelmingly positive and excited. Full time staff will be hired.

DJJ is working with both the Governor's office and the Department of Innovation and Technology.

There will be an HR update in July.

**SCHOOL
DISTRICT #428**

*IDJJ/DOC – Partnership
(Illinois River/ Shawnee),
Booker T. Washington/
Harrisburg (2026)*

DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR

- 5.2 School District #428 has been charged through the state statute to deliver services to the Department of Corrections. Anyone under the age of 21 is entitled to receive a high school diploma district. The program will be implemented first with individuals from Shawnee and Illinois River Correctional Center. Computers have been ordered in preparation for classrooms. The program will begin with ten individuals from each center. They will be connected to Connexus and be taught by current educators from the Department of Corrections. Positions for educators that will work strictly with DOC individuals will be posted. No CTE courses will be available. The individuals will attend school four days a week for four to five hours a day until fully staffed.

**SCHOOL
DISTRICT #428**

*School/Facility updates -Maya
Angelou (Warrenville), Lincoln,
Glenclyffe Academy (Pere
Marquette), Thurgood Marshall
(Chicago) and Of Education
IASB Training*

DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR

- 5.3 Acting President Vickery covered this information in the President's report.

**SCHOOL
DISTRICT #428**

*Board Member Ambassador and
School Partnerships*

DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR

- 5.4 Superintendent of School District #428 directed the School Board to the attachment. The attachment details out the partnerships the Board will have as Ambassadors with the schools at each facility. Any finance related assistance is allowed with the involvement of the Legal Council and Superintendent of Schools. Donations greater than \$50 are not acceptable. If, donations are greater, the legal council will need to get involved. The most important role is to connect with the principals and visit the schools.

Board Member Holifield expressed excitement as he is interest in visiting now that school is not in session. Board Member Green requested contact

information to be shared. Principals can be contacted directly for scheduling a visit.

Board Member Morales is excited, she expressed the importance of being available to meet the youth and staff.

**ASST. SUPERINTENDENT 6.0
UPDATE**

*Assistant Superintendent
Summary May/June/July 2024
PLC's, Professional
Development, Supplemental
Math Pilot, 24/25 Curriculum
Initiatives*

**DR. BAMBI
BETHEL-LEITSCHUH**

IDJJ SD #428 continues to focus on the appropriateness and rigor of curriculum delivery, on-going Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), youth engagement with daily attendance, and continued collaboration with facility administration. An Administrative Directive for GED Procedures are requested for Board Approval.

Alongside the Principal of Warrenville, an action plan is to be developed for curriculum around technology. Plan B and Plan C are in development. Plan B is with limited classroom technology access and Plan C is no technology access overall.

The District continues to move forward with Google. Math labs are running with the exception of Warrenville and Chicago. The Math lab will be on hold at the Chicago facility until resources and attendance level improves and enough technology is on hand.

Math Labs are running at both IYC Harrisburg and IYC Pere Marquette. Youth are receiving a multitiered intervention, level two, similar to Language Live. Math labs are currently in the pilot stage, expected to be in place by semester one, quarter one of the school year.

PLC's continue to address curriculum with more direct instruction. Course are being modified to meet both Pearson and Illinois State Board of Education requirements.

Social Emotional Learning is an area currently being addressed through the Curriculum Council. During the NIAR/NIA days, staff will be working alongside Illinois State University. ISU has the grant from the Illinois State Board of Education for Behavioral Interventions. Staff will be required to demonstrate the modules viewed through professional development sessions.

An attendance key has been developed to be more consistent with attendance. Drop downs will be added to identify reasons for attendance across the district.

The Superintendent of Schools suggested IDJJ School District #428 to share the curriculum to the Board Member to discuss in the following Board of Education meeting.

**DIRECTOR OF
SPECIAL
EDUCATION**

*Special Education Summary
May/June 2024
Review Special Education
Numbers Update on
Paraprofessionals*

MRS. MELISSA CORY

- 6.2 IDJJ currently has 55 students with special education. The highest so far has been 65 students. A few youths have graduated. As far as compliance, rates continue to progress. IEP compliance at Harrisburg wasn't progressing due to loss of a staff member, however, there has been a recent hire and now expecting compliance rates to increase.

There has been positive success with the paraprofessionals hired. The number of paraprofessionals continue to grow as well as the 1:1 ratio with students.

**CTE/ VOCATIONAL
EDUCATION DIRECTOR**

*CTE/ Vocational
Education Summary
July 2024*

MR. NOAH BOUDREAU

- 7.0 In the absence of the Director of CTE, Superintendent of Schools provided the report on his behalf. The very first cohort of 15 youth have completed the Nova Driving School. Three youth have completed the program and will receive a driver's license upon release.

All fees are covered by the department. The Director is also wanting to begin a driver's ed course at St. Charles. This will allow for the students to be able to obtain a driver's license.

D&D Solar is the first program attempt to have downstate. It is a 15–16-week program to learn about the History of solar, construction and other related areas. Upon completion, youth will receive a certificate.

**BOARD DISCUSSION
ITEMS**

- 8.0 Superintendent of Schools suggested to review Board of Education meeting dates and times. The Board Members are to discuss what works. IASB training date availability is October. Board Members are to discuss individual's availability. Lastly, the possible attendance to the Triple I conference.

Board Member Morales asked for clarification on the next Board of Education meeting date. Next meeting is in November and not in October.

ADJOURNMENT

- 9.0 A motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Lamon Holifield. Board Member David Green then followed with a second motion. The motion passed. No Objections. Superintendent of Schools concluded the meeting at 10:39am.