



**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 -May 17th, 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, March 15th at 9:35 a.m. at the IDJJ Chicago Office.
- ROLL CALL** 1.1 The following Board Members were present: President Robert Vickery, Board Member Briana Morales, Board Member David Green, and Board Member Heather Dalmage and Board Member Lamont Holifield.
- Others present: Tresa D. Dunbar, Superintendent of Schools, Bambi Bethel-Leitschuh, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Noah Boudreau, Director of CTE and Vocational Education 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 MAY 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 School District#428's newest principal as of May 1st. Mr. Harry White from Maya Angelou Alternative High School at IYC Warrenville. Ms. Katelyn Brangenberg, Office Coordinator from Glencliffe Academy was present.
- PRESIDENT'S REPORT** 4.0 The School District #428 Professional Development Annual Retreat was a success. There has been a great turnaround on Maya Angelou Alternative High School' student attendance. The goal is to hire more educators than required at

both Maya Angelou and Thurgood Marshall Alternative High School, to avoid educator availability as a reason for youth absences.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

5.0 As follows.

**SCHOOL
DISTRICT #428**

May 2024 HR Updates

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**

***2024-2025 Updated School
District Calendar, Flexibility of
Additional Days***

DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR

- 5.2 A request for flexibility to update the 2024-2025 School Calendar was presented to the board. After further review of the overall attendance, as a school district have to make sure there is cohesiveness throughout all five schools. The Central Office Administration team is requesting to add eight more non-in-attendance (NIA) days and two NIARemote days. This will allow additional training and professional development days.

The finalized calendar will be presented in the July meeting.

President Vickery called for a motion for approval of updated revised School District calendar.

Approval for flexibility of the 2024-2025 School Calendar was moved by Board Member David Green and second by Board Member Dalmage.

No objections.

Motion passed.

**SCHOOL
DISTRICT #428**

*Board Of Education IASB
Training*

DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR

5.3 The Illinois Associations of School Board mandates an annual in-person training for board members in order to continue virtual School Board Meetings. Training dates have been previously sent out, unfortunately, no consensus was met.

Board Member Green suggested the survey previously sent out to be changed with more time options to choose from.

Dr. Dunbar proposed at least 90% of the Board to be present.

Board Member Dalmage stated once the semester begins it is hard to find time to attend due to the Academic calendar.

Considering Academic Calendar, July is the month that works best.

**SCHOOL
DISTRICT #428**

*IASB 2024 Joint Annual
Conference*

DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR

5.4 Superintendent of School District #428 would like to have further direction from the Legal Counsel or ethics officer about attendance and what the impact would be. It is a good conference for Board Member; however, it is heavily focused on vendors. 90% of the conference is paid for by vendors, therefore, a lot of sales.

As appointed Board Members who work for the State of Illinois, we must be careful and would like to hold off on attending.

Ms. Morales will be a speaker at the conference. She expressed how the conference is a great platform to share with others overall progress of the organization.

Dr. Tresa D. Dunbar acknowledged the valid point in the opportunity in sharing the overall organization's progress, however, without a strategic plan through the Director and Governor's office, we are unable to do so.

**ASST. SUPERINTENDENT
UPDATE**

**DR. BAMBI
BETHEL-LEITSCHUH**

As follows.

*Assistant Superintendent
Summary April/May 2024
Curriculum Council/Intensive
Writing Requirement/
Curriculum Guide, Educator's
Resource Manual and Inventory
Tagging*

6.1 School District #428 has a curriculum guide now that is available for external school districts as well as internally for the incoming youth.

The intensive writing mandate should be done withing the next two weeks. The youth is required to have at least two years of intensive writing withing

**DR. BAMBI
BETHEL-LEITSCHUH**

the High School curriculum. One of the years in English and the other across the board.

There are now three sections in English that will have intensive writing, which is above expectation.

Every school district receives funding through grants, therefore, there must be an identification process of what was purchased.

The school district is working alongside Deputy Director Burtis not only to have inventory for high theft items or items over \$2500, which is an agency requirement. Inventory tagging will take place for all items purchased out of grant money.

The Educator's Resource Manual presented last Board of Education meeting is 70% complete and will be continuing to be current.

Youth report card is coming to closure. The Administrative Directive will be shared in the next meeting. Youth will now receive an overall School District #428 report card as opposed to different report cards per youth center.

The second School District #428 quarterly newsletter will be distributed.

Also, a District-wide attendance key is in the process to maintain sustainability and consistency throughout all the schools.

Contracts with youth balance is also getting updated to make sure youth can continue to receive their cut-time.

Lastly, three training are scheduled. The district is adopting a multi-tier system of support in math. A Math summer will be piloted this summer. It will be through Savvaas at the Warrenville youth center. A Connexus training is also scheduled.

**DIRECTOR OF
SPECIAL
EDUCATION** **6.2**

As follows.

MRS. MELISSA CORY

Special Education Summary **6.3**
April 2024

IDJJ currently has 58 students with special education. The district is continuing to have a high rate of compliance in IEPs.

**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL
EDUCATION**
MRS. MELISSA CORY

All Thurgood Marshall and Booker T. Washington classroom's have promethean smart boards. Next year, Glencliffe Academy classrooms will have access to promethean smart boards.

A promethean board has been secured for the Springfield office for staff training purposes.

The target in the upcoming 2024-2025 school year is research for special education which states that any multi-sensory approach is faster to help

students. There is technology that projects activities on the floor and tracks movement. The district has identified a pilot site. The educators identified are very excited.

**CTE/ VOCATIONAL
EDUCATION DIRECTOR**

7.0 As follows.

MR. NOAH BOUDREAU
*CTE/ Vocational
Education Summary
May 2024*

7.1 The procurement process has begun for the solar program at Harrisburg. There is a company willing to build and entire facility only for IDJJ. The district will work with the Illinois State Board of Education to assure credits are received for this program. Student will receive international certification in Solar Installation.

The Nova Driving Program is in its final steps. The program is expected to begin the end of the month. Once the rosters are completed, the next step is to make sure there are sufficient instructors. The program will be running on Monday, Wednesday and Frida. M-WRV, W- STC and F- CHI. Students over 18 years of age will begin.

The IDJJ is planning on contacting the Secretary of State to determine if a vehicle can be accessible at the St. Charles location.

Larry's Barber School has four different instructor and two back-up instructors in the background check process.

IDJJ is also currently working with the Department of Financial and professional Regulation to get an inspection scheduled for the facility in St. Charles to have the school approved to begin working with graduate and GED students.

Data collection updates:
Nineteen students completed the career exploration course.
Eleven students completed the financial literary course.

All the numbers have increased.

Ms. Kinsinger is working on college visits as well as a career fair planning.

FAFSA completion has slowed down due complications on their end.

School Links is being piloted by educators throughout the IDJJ schools.

**BOARD DISCUSSION
ITEMS**

- 8.0** No other board discussions, however, Board Member Dalmage appreciates keeping the meetings virtual. Board Member Morales inquired on the roles as Liaisons with the IDJJ Youth Center Schools.

ADJOURNMENT

- 9.0** A motion to adjourn was made by Heather Dalmage. Board Member Lamont Holifield then followed with a second motion. The motion passed. No Objections. President Vickery concluded the meeting at 10:55am.