



**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 of July 16, 2021**

- CALL TO ORDER** 1.0 The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Heidi Mueller on Friday, July 16, 2021 at 9:44 a.m. via WebEx Video Conference.
- ROLL CALL** 1.1 Roll call by Recording Administrative Assistant, Susana Tirado, resulted in the following: Board Members answered Present: President Heidi Mueller; Member David Green; and Member Jennifer Vidis.
Not Present: Member Willa Taylor; Member Patrick Griffin; Member Dr. Shawn Jackson; and Member Dr. Heather Dalmage.
- Others Present: Dr. Tresa D. Dunbar, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Bambi Bethel-Leitschuh, Mr. Ricardo Johnson, Director of CTE, Grants Management, and Quality Assurance; Assistant Superintendent of Schools; NeAngela Dixon, Chief Legal Counsel; Mr. Mike Zarco, Principal; Mr. Michael McGrone, Principal; Dr. Joyce Nelson, Principal; Ms. Cynthia Houston, Principal; Mrs. Jamie Rheaume, Principal; Susana Tirado, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent of IDJJ-SD#428 and Recorder; and Tasneem Doriwala, Educator.
- CONSENT AGENDA** 2.0 As follows.
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA** 2.1 Quorum was not present at this time. The Agenda of July 16, 2021 will be approved in September meeting.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF May 21, 2021 MEETING** 2.2 Quorum was not present at this time and Minutes of May 21, 2021 will be approved in September meeting.
- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** 3.0 None.
- PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Heidi Mueller** 4.0 President Mueller started by stating that the biggest update that we have is that IDJJ, along with the state, and the country are emerging from COVID-19. We are resuming a number of our pre-COVID-19 activities. We are resuming with our partnership with the Manufactures Association, on-site programming, and classes with Northwestern University for students that are earning credits. We are also planning to continue our partnership with University of Chicago to offer classes through the University of Chicago Law School to our students ongoing. We are planning to ramp up with some of our CTE programming, starting in the Fall, with the College of DuPage and resuming things that are off ground that we were holding off on for the last year and a half.

President Mueller stated that she was at IYC Warrenville to observe the resuming intramural basketball teams. She stated that the basketball tournaments will be continuing

and will culminate in a state-wide championship basketball game in Springfield. We are planning a celebration after the basketball game.

Along with resuming activities, monitoring is resuming as well. We have had audits and the John Howard association in person visiting our facilities. We have also had our RJB Miller monitors on site to review our facilities.

The facilities will soon be dropping off of the consent decree for conditions of care and other consent decree points. We are really looking at closing out our consent decree. We are hearing from our Education monitor as well and waiting for our mental health monitors. We have met the department-wide items and we are working on meeting the facility wide requirement for 2 years, in order to drop out the monitoring. This is really great news.

IYC Warrenville was selected by the Performance based standards National Group as the Barbara Allen-Hagen Award winner in the detention and assessment category. Warrenville was selected for their comprehensive work to implement best practices to ensure the facility is a safe and healthy environment for youths and staff. They treat youth as our own. It is put up on the PbS website.

We were informed that IDJJ was selected as the National Promising Practice Site by the Frontal of Juvenile Justice Administrators, the National Center for Juvenile Justice Report and the Pew Foundation. This means that they have recognized us as a jurisdiction that has been very successful in achieving our goals to reduce our youths of solitary confinement and restraints. We are a representative, nationally, state because we have rural and non-rural areas in Illinois. We serve as a National Practice Site and have to teach other states about how accomplish our goals. Over the next couple of years, we will have cohorts of 5 different jurisdictions from around the country to visit our DJJ sites and facilities, in person, and we are committed to sharing with them our policies, training curriculum, our employee handbooks and youth handbooks, and give them technical assistance to reduce the solitary confinement across the country.

President Mueller states that education has been a forefront of how we lead our department, in terms of how we think of our kids and approach them, as to who are they and what are they worthy off. Our education team has really pushed forward in a meaningful way. The Principals have anchored our ability to change our practices. We see that we have a responsibility to the youth in our custody, to improve their skills and see them as children and see their potential.

The DJJ transformation continues to move forward. Our Advancing Transformation Committee Work Group is wrapping up and we will be receiving recommendations for the implementation of the transformation from them. We began staff work groups. Dr. Bethel did a presentation for our Executive Transformation Teams. They are looking at what the process will be. Dr. Bethel presented about our mobile intake unit and what it looks like and what that process would be. We are starting to have movement there. We will be publishing our transformation quarterly report in early August, where hopefully we can incorporate our recommendations from the work group.

Over the past month, a handful of youth have been granted clemency by the governor. He has pardoned a handful of youth and converted their adult sentence into a juvenile adjudication. This is life changing and transformative. This is like a second chance in life that the kids are experiencing that President is witnessing. Education is a huge piece of this

because the kids are graduating and earning college credits. They have gone to post-secondary education and completing vocational programs. This is part of what is leading them to be granted clemency. I see how our staff help and support them. Our staff have written letters of recommendations and have been able to sit with them to take quizzes and got them engaged in FAFSA and enrolled in college. Two of the youth, granted clemency, are enrolled for the Fall semester in 4-year universities, while incarcerated. One young man passes the real estate exam to get his real estate license and got his driver's license and is enrolled in college, had a job interview. Another youth enrolled in the welding program. They are people on the move, and we expect really good things from them.

Per President Mueller, we continue to work on the transformation. Dr. Dunbar is continuing to work and develop with partners in Aftercare and programs on the buildup of the Community Services Division.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT –
Dr. Tresa D. Dunbar**

- 5.0** Dr. Dunbar thanked President Mueller for allowing the School District to move forward. She states this is why we are here, and we are moving forward to add value. She states that the foundation to the unguarded change is our principals. We have come upon these presentations to give you a piece of the work that we do every day. Per Dr. Dunbar, everything is so that we can move towards making this District better than what it is and helping people to grow in their role, so that we can work with our kids here.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-
MAYA ANGELOU
ALTERNATIVE HIGH
SCHOOL- PRINCIPAL DR.
JOYCE NELSON**

- 5.1** Dr. Joyce Nelson started her report by mentioning that it is definitely a team effort that Dr. Dunbar, Mr. Johnson and Dr. Bethel have. She compared the School District #428 team as an Olympic team. Ms. Rheaume is always our opener, Mr. McGrone has the role of making sure that we get off to a good running start. Our veteran, Ms. Houston, is in the middle because she needs to make sure that the content and everything is on point, that the pace is right and that we get to our destination. Mr. Zarco is the energy and makes sure that by the time he gets to Dr. Nelson, that we have everything we need to do to close the doorline. She thanked the Board Members, Director, the superintendent, Executive team for their support and the opportunity.

Dr. Joyce Nelson then shared her screen and shared her presentation of what is being done at IYC Warrentville. Her presentation started with a quote from Maya Angelou. Then her presentation video introduced herself and stated her school motto and briefly stated the school's student and staff goals.

The video presentation showed us the school's demographics. Then the presentation mentioned the curriculum instruction methods used in IYC Warrentville to help students transition from post-secondary to getting ready to work.

Dr. Nelson presented in her video all the partnerships that IYC Warrentville is working with to educate youth. She presented in detail the days and times that students are involved in learning and working with these external partnerships to better their education.

Dr. Nelson also presented about the graduation, events and activities that IYC Warrentville has for youth and staff. She ended her presentation stating, "the secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."

Board Member Vidis stated that it was an amazing presentation and year despite the obstacles that the Pandemic made it a challenging year.

Board Member Green stated it was nice to see all the different activities going on in the facility and across the district.

Dr. Dunbar requested Dr. Nelson to mention the homecoming dance that took place in IYC Warrenville. It was mentioned by Dr. Nelson that the gym was transformed, and the staff and youth liked it so much, that they want to make it an annual event. They all got dressed up and enjoyed it very much.

Ms. Houston said that we are all the wind to each other's wings, and we cannot do any of this without all of the support received. She also stated she is grateful to be part of this team. She thanked the board members, President Mueller, our Superintendent. She stated that Dr. Nelson inspires her every day.

Dr. Bethel extended everything that was said but showcasing what the youth are a part of is exactly why we are here. They are being helped to gain all the skills they can. She has a team that works with her and despite being a pandemic year, her presentation showed that IYC Warrenville shined.

Mr. Johnson stated that as they have worked closely together, and for this presentation where she showcased everything, she has accomplished with IYC Warrenville, especially during the Pandemic, broke into the joy of his heart, presenting her school the way she did. She covered all of the programs that are there and how the youth are truly getting the field set and the certification and the educational programs to help them transition into their community school and back into the community. He was glad to see her showcase the school the way she did.

Dr. Dunbar appreciated Dr. Nelson for her presentation. Dr. Dunbar stated that Dr. Nelson is closing out the principal presentations. This was part of the strategic plan as to how to add value to what we do. This was incredible work that was done by our entire team. We hope that you are pleased and proud as to what we have been able to accomplish, missing less than twenty-five days of school due to security concerns or outbreaks of COVID-19. We still pushed on at IDJJ. we have a lot of work to do, going forward, to add value so that we can continue to improve instructional practices, leadership skills, professional development, and skill building for our youth and family engagement.

These presentations were for you to understand what we do and for us to dig deep about how we can improve our practice and be ready to make sure that we can talk about the work that we do and reflect upon how we can serve you.

Dr. Dunbar thanked the board members for allowing us to do this every other month.

**2020-2021 ISBE AUDIT of
TITLE I and IDEA GRANT**

5.2 Dr. Dunbar stated that the School District will be having an ISBE audit of Title 1 and IDEA Grant. This has not been done since 2017 even though it is usually done annually. This audit will look at all of our practices around our purchases, our expenditures and how that was used and defined and aligned. This is welcomed and requested by Dr. Dunbar because it will set a marker when you start new as to what happened and where you are now, for Dr. Dunbar as a new Superintendent.

The letter to conduct the audit has been sent. We are waiting on the audit questions and conditions of audit to be sent to us in August and hope to have the full audit in early September. We will send them the documents, they will give us the conditions. Then in early October we will meet with them to get the final report. We expect to have a clean

audit and expect to have some findings that we need to improve on. The CFO and Dr. Dunbar have had a conversation about it. This is about the fact are we following procedures and processes. To be frank, our procurement process, our payment of vendors, our ordering process has been shaky because of the State, so we anticipate there may be something there that we have a finding on.

**School District #428
Administrators' Retreat
August 4th-6th, 2021**

5.3 Our School District Administrative Retreat will be taking place in August 3 to August 6, 2021. It is exciting to announce. We will be talking about the scope of our work. We will mainly be doing some leadership practices on those days. On the 4th, the COA Team will meet separately from the Principals group. On the 5th and 6th we will come together and work around leadership development, practices in instructional leadership, self-care mindfulness wellness. Then we will be working on a Disc Survey, suggested by Dr. Bethel, and getting to know each other. We will then have some work around District initiatives. A lot of this work is being led by the District. We are planning and developing together. We are hoping to take a tour of a JTDC or Nancy Jefferson. We have some exciting things planned. Most of this work will be driven by what we are planning to do in the next year. We will be taking a look at our strategic plan and the 21st Century Transformation plan. We will be looking into our curriculum practices as well as our partnerships. We will be inviting the board members to some of these plans. We will have some speakers come and do some few things and then we will do our own work together. This will be something that we will make part of our work going forward. It is exciting to have our first Administrative Retreat under this leadership regime and looking forward for all of this to come. It will take place in person at the Union League Club.

Moving forward, our Assistant Superintendent will give her report. Then she will move into her Special Education Report, followed by Mr. Johnson and his CTE Director in Grants Management and Quality Assurance.

**ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT/
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL
EDUCATION UPDATE
Dr. Bambi Bethel-
Leitschuh**

**-Assistant Superintendent
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**-Special Education
Monthly Data
Summary/Narrative for
April/May 2021
- School Graphs
representing monthly
Special Education Data
for April/May 2021
- April/May 2021
Summary of Special**

5.4 Assistant Superintendents Report.
The focus are two items. The Electronic School District Manual is coming in July in preparation for our Administrative Retreat in August. It is still building. We are getting information from each of the school's principals to talk about the program as a one pager. The goal of this is that it is a growing document. It will be in the shared drive, initially once it is published. The goal as we are working with the IDJJ Department of Innovation and Technology representative is that we get it into a SharePoint drive where it can be easily manipulated and updated and available to everybody directly, rather than having to go into a shared drive.

So, the manual itself is what we have in reflection as any school district has. That is a comprehensive overview of what the school district has to offer. The main goal for us is that as our youth move back and reenter into their home residence school district, we have the ability to share with those school districts, if they question any of the courses in their transcripts. We know, by administrative code in Illinois that any school district can either accept or not accept the courses that the youth brings into that district. So, we want this to be very available and valid so they can compare and contrast courses. We want to make sure that our youth leave the School District with credits that will carry into their reentry. Looking at this, you will see that it is for the youth. They will come in and have a meeting with their Counselor or Teacher who puts courses in and know what is being offered. This was replicated from a public-school district external to IDJJ as far as format, which the School Counselors wanted. It ties into ISBE and School District #428 and ties into allowing the youth and teachers know what our course design and scope and sequence is. We are looking at the clarity of how they came through and then we are switching it over to share

**Education, Activities,
Meetings and Events**

drive hopefully by July, so that we know that the delivery of our curriculum can be computer directed, in order to get their credits and accommodations. We will see which courses can be blended.

Dr. Bethel stated that a monthly meeting does occur as the Assistant Superintendents of the facilities, of operation and of programming. Mr. Johnson and Dr. Bethel have meetings with facility 2s and 3s and make an agenda of items that they want to discuss and if they have any questions or concerns, we try to address those. Dr. Dunbar works closely with the Superintendents of the facilities, and Dr. Bethel and Mr. Johnson work more with the ASPs and ASOs.

Special Education.

As far as the reentry program we have had a successful first year. We finished our end of the year report with ISBE. ISBEs director of Special Education is very pleased about what we are doing. She and Dr. Bethel are working closely together. Dr. Lee is the liaison from IYC Chicago and is working with ISBE to give a youth a facility and was able to be set up at the residence school district, got the paperwork done, the IEPs taken care of and meet with the school facility to have the school facility buy in to what this program was all about, was great news. Thanks to Dr. Lee. We are meeting with the ISBE consultant. As a team twice a month we meet. We keep track of all the data and all the contacts with schools and parents. Also, the aftercare meets in a quarterly basis. This year we are going to look at the contract with ISBE and make some changes because some of our goals have to be increased or modified.

The personnel update is that Dr. Dunbar has been working diligently to support with the principals and having a minimum of at least two certified Special Education teachers per facility. We have to look at continuums. We need to be able to offer self-contained through co-teaching or restricted general education classroom with support consultation. We need to organize through CMS and shared services.

Next is the Language Live Update. This is a solidified program as we have been working with them for almost a year and a half, despite the pandemic. It does provide target intervention for those youth having difficulty with English 1, 2, 3,4 on Pearson. They get one to one text instruction, word instruction, fluency, spelling, writing, comprehension. We received 3 trainings over the summer to reinvigorate with the knowledge of all those programs can provide. We grow in the second year. Every facility will have one general education class and one special education class for youth.

Our enrollment is lower than past years based on data. We know that is because we are looking at the 21st century transition. Our graduation rate continues. Our focus of attendance of parents has been about 3 years ago and has maintained.

**DIRECTOR OF CTE,
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
AND QUALITY
ASSURANCE UPDATE
Mr. Ricardo Johnson**

- 5.5 Mr. Johnson thanked everyone in the Board of Education meeting and the Board Members for their support of the School District's CTE programs. He briefly spoke about the three external partnerships that he has been working on for the past months, in collaboration with Principals and the facility administration. He mentioned this is his last Board presentation.

**- Technology and
Manufacturing
Association (TMA)**

The TMA program started two weeks ago. Mr. Johnson shared a presentation of the TMA program and what it offers to youth. TMA provides top quality jobs in the state if Illinois in Manufacturing and Tooling. TMA also provides educational training opportunities to

-Elgin Community College

**-Truman College –
Automotive Technology**

students in high school, college and adults looking to change careers or already in the manufacturing industry. TMA focuses in CNC machinery as well. TMA has a virtual tour in their website that focuses on their machines and curriculum. They truly have a strong career pathway for young people that would like to go into manufacturing. They have connections with the manufacturing job opportunities in the Chicago area. They have a grant that support traditional high school students and hopefully soon IDJJ students with on-site TMA programs for the student to learn within the program. The program manager Ms. Lee is engaging youth in all components of the TMA program. Dr. Peter Leone also toured the TMA program.

Mr. Johnson showed pictures of models that the TMA program teaches students and spoke about the in person tour he took and what was presented during the tour, shown in the presentation pictures. TMA highlights and caters to nontraditional potential applicants, this is a part of the Federal Perkins Grant requirements that programs of study be created to include opportunity to nontraditional students. The youth involved the TMA are very excited, as per Mr. Johnson.

The Elgin Community College (ECC) CTE Department was reached in early January. We have met with them via WebEx and phone calls. They are excited about starting a partnership with IDJJ School District #428 with the ECC Automotive Program and the HVAC program. The partnerships that are being established can work in conjunction with Lake Land College and the new CTE Educators. As we build out the CTE framework, all of these entities will co-exist together and to do well on behalf of the youth that we serve. Those plans are moving forward. A tour is scheduled on July 27 with this partnership.

We started planning the Truman College partnership in November 2020. We cannot start the programs with Truman College until a written agreement is finalized. This is for the Automotive Technology Program. Youth will be able to gain a credit opportunity, work-based learning and certification.

All of these programs are for our IYC youth. we want to plan that we work with aftercare so that we know that the external partnerships are of benefit for the youth.

Mr. Johnson then announced that effective July 31st, he will be transitioning to a new world as a CTE Director within the south suburban school district. He said to Dr. Dunbar, Dr. Bethel and all principals that it has been a pleasure to work with them and is very grateful to have served at this capacity and to have been a part of this process for youth. we have to weigh our advantages and be appreciative for the opportunities for them. He thanked them all for the opportunity to work with all of them about 4 years ago and gave honor to Dr. Sophia Jones Redmond who gave him the opportunity to start. We were in the start of the CTE Department. So, to the CTE Educators, Mr. Rommel Hall, Mr. Aaron Hall, and acknowledge in memory Ms. Joni Gravatt, they deserve great recognition across the state of Illinois for our CTE department. Because of their work, our funding increased for our CTE programming. It brings great joy to his heart that he was a part of this process and growing as leaders. He thanked the board members individually for the opportunities they gave him and the facilities to further grow CTE. He states he learned from the best and was a part the great team and worked alongside Dr. Bethel, the best Special Education director, as he has learned Special Education just from working with Dr. Bethel.

Dr. Dunbar thanked Mr. Johnson and wished him the best and success as he moves on to the other place. We appreciate him and what he has brought to the District. we will benefit from his work in the foundation. She asked if anyone wanted to say a word as he departs.

Mr. Green thanked Mr. Johnson as he started the CTE Programming. Mr. McGrone thanked Mr. Johnson for the Barbershop Program. Ms. Rheume thank MR. Johnson and stated he is a Godly man and his spirit shines. She thanked for recognizing Ms. Gravatt. Dr. Bethel remembers the interview to bring him on board and stated that his dedication and ability to network and skill to help support the youth needs of IDJJ School District #428 has been outstanding. He is leaving the agency with these programs and in good condition, she thanked him for the hard work. Dr. Nelson thanked Mr. Johnson and stated she and he enjoyed the program tours that he was anticipating in bringing to the School District and it has been a pleasure seeing them come to life. she wants him to know that his commitment and dedication and fruits of his labor will live on throughout this District in youth to come and he will continue to talk about the great things that he made available to youth, she thanked him. Ms. Houston thanked Mr. Johnson's for the support he gave to Mr. Aaron Hall. It has been a blessing to work with him. She wished him luck and as we suffer a tremendous loss, he will be an asset to another group of people.

Mr. Johnson thanked the Board Members again for their support of the School District's CTE programs. He thanked Dr. Bethel and Dr. Dunbar and everyone in the meeting. Dr. Dunbar asked to salute Mr. Johnson. Everyone clapped.

Dr. Dunbar thanked Mr. Johnson for his hard work. Dr. Dunbar thanked the board for their engagement and support. We owe a lot of the success of the overall history of IDJJ to the Board of Education.

**BOARD DISCUSSION
ITEMS
ADJOURNMENT:**

6.0 None.

7.0 Director thanked Mr. Johnson for his dedication, service and diligence. She recognized him for his diligence, being detail-oriented and thoroughness. We were lucky to have him and will miss him very much. She wishes him well and hopes he stays in touch. She congratulated him in his continuing path in his career.

Mr. Johnson thanked her.

President Mueller concluded the School District report by thanking the Principals and the Board Members for joining us.

Quorum was not present at this time and Minutes of May 21, 2021 will be approved in September meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Next Board of Education Meeting scheduled for Friday, September 17, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.
WebEx Video Conference