 **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 15, 2019**

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| **CALL TO ORDER** | **1.0** | A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Heidi Mueller, on Friday, November 15, 2019 at 9:47 a.m. at the Aftercare Conference Room, Chicago, IL. | |
| **ROLL CALL** | **1.1** | Roll call by Recording Administrative Assistant, Susana Tirado resulted in the following: Board Members answered Present: President Heidi Mueller; Dr. Heather Dalmage; Ms. Jennifer Vidis; and Mr. David Green.  Board Members Absent: Mr. John Patrick Griffin; Dr. Shawn Jackson.  Others Present: Dr. Sophia Jones-Redmond, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Tresa Dunbar, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. NeAngela Dixon, Chief Legal Counsel; Dr. Bambi Bethel-Leitschuh, Director of Special Education; Mr. Ricardo D. Johnson, Career and Technical Education Director; Susana Tirado, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent of IDJJ-SD#428 and Recorder; Laurence Roper, Management Operations Analyst; and Corelle Perry, Librarian at Thurgood Marshall Alternative High School, Mr. Michael McGrone, Principal at Thurgood Marshall Alternative High School (came in at 11:41 am)  Board Member Left early: Jennifer Vidis (11:40 am) | |
| **CONSENT AGENDA** | **2.0** | As follows. | |
| **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** | **2.1** | President Mueller motioned to move the approval of the November 15, 2019 agenda. Member Mr. Green motioned to approve the agenda and Member Ms. Vidis seconded.  Voice Vote  Aye: Unanimous  Nay: None  Motion Carries | |
| **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2019 MINUTES** | **2.2** | President Mueller motioned to move the approval of the minutes for September 20, 2019. Member Ms. Vidis motioned to approve the minutes and Member Dr. Dalmage seconded.  Voice Vote  Aye: Unanimous  Nay: None  Motion Carries | |
| **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** | **3.0** | No public comments. | |
| **PRESIDENT’S REPORT** | **4.0** | Director Mueller thanked the School District’s Central Office Administration. She acknowledged the hard work and the progress being made in the Education Department. She discussed the transformation of IDJJ, from where we started, where we are at, and where we are headed. From her perspective, looking at all different states, IDJJ is emerging as a leader in the field. The area that other national partners have started to recognize as a strength of IDJJ is purposeful programming. The book club was a topic that was mentioned, the job preparation program, the Shakespeare Behind Bars teaching strategy, etc. Director Mueller stated that most of the really good things that we do are because we as a District have opened up and said, “Community come in and help us please.” Other states with the same systems, nationwide, are not doing that to the same degree that we are and that is an area where some of our national partners want to come in and do what Illinois is doing.  Dr. Dalmage, Board Member, added that when we incarcerate a kid, we are disconnecting them, and what we are doing is trying to reconnect them to themselves, the community and to future. Per Director Mueller, this is critical, and therefore we are investing in programs that provide kids real opportunities to belong and have a real experience on a college campus. For example, we are partnering with TMA and transporting youth to the Schaumburg-based TMA site.  NeAngela Dixon, Chief Legal Counsel, mentioned some exciting updates. She stated that they are in the closure of the Mental Health consent decree, which was terminated on November 14, 2019. Mental Health is done with monitoring. Now the Mental Health Department can concentrate on the RJ Consent Decree. The judge wants to see this litigation progress and smaller reports with more targeted information from the monitors with clear recommendations and steps for DJJ to come out to the litigation. The goal is to be in compliance. Next year we will take the recommended steps they have for other compliance areas.  President Mueller mentioned that our “Mission To Me” video is officially launched. It is on our website. It is very nice and was produced by CMS. It is our staff speaking in their own words about what our mission means to them. It is also one of our youth narrating in his words with some help also speaking about what the mission means to him. It will be sent out to the Board Members. This is the first video, hopefully becoming a series. Next, Director would like to have a Mission in Action video, focusing on community partnerships where we have footage of actual things being done in real time and show what those things are as a team and externally with the community and show what we are trying to accomplish.  To conclude, the YAP pilot that was spoke about last meeting will launch in mid-December. There will probably be a press release in collaboration with that launch. | |
| **SUPERINTENDANT’S REPORT** | **5.0** | Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jones-Redmond thanked the Board members for their attendance at the board meeting. Dr. Jones-Redmond then mentioned that an Action Item is included in her report, which is 2020/2021 proposed Board of Education Meeting dates. She asked to take a moment to look at the proposed dates for the motion. She gave the board members the opportunity to look over the dates before Director Heidi Mueller started the motion to approve. | |
| **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DATES FOR 2020 AND 2021** | **5.1** | President Mueller motioned to move the approval of the Board of Education meeting dates for years 2020/2021. All members were in favor. | |
| **TEACHER RETENTION REPORT** | **5.2** | Per Dr. Jones-Redmond, the number of teachers employed as of September 2019 has improved. There is a less of an exodus of teachers leaving. As she showed us from the data reports in the Board of Education Packet, she explained that in the school year of 2016-2017 a total net of 8 teachers left. Then for the school year 2017-2018, it improved, 1 teacher left. For the school year 2018-2019 we had a gain of 7 school teachers. The goal is to recruit and retain teachers. This has improved because we have worked together as a team and made the atmosphere as conducive to learning and supporting resource-rich activities for staff and our youth, which is paying off. Relationship building helps increase the numbers.  Dr. Jones-Redmond also stated that she had a meeting about school staffing every other week with all the HR representatives. Meeting were held weekly and are now scheduled monthly due to better staffing. Our Chief of Staff attends the call too. We look at retirements, transfer out within the state and total resignations.  It was stated by Director Mueller that this has to do with all the professional development efforts that Dr. Jones-Redmond, Dr. Dunbar, Dr. Bethel-Leitschuh, and Mr. Johnson have spent to do this. There has been so much time put into training, to building collaboration to team and leadership skills. Now we can see how things used to be and how they have changed through communication, coaching and relationship building. She stated that the thing that is keeping people together is all that effort that was poured into professional development. Per Dr. Jones-Redmond, we are giving teachers more of a voice as far as the Curriculum Council because they are leading our processes through our power-sharing and letting them be the leaders. Dr. Jones-Redmond, Dr. Dunbar, Dr. Bethel-Leitschuh, and Mr. Johnson are very visible at the facilities by visiting the facilities. | |
| **DISTRICT ACT/SAT UPDATES** | **5.3** | Per Dr. Dunbar, as a District we are most proud of, under the direction of the Director and the Superintendent for giving us full support and kind of leaning in and thinking outside the box, is that right now we are now engaging in the Illinois State Report Card. Now we are listed on the state report card, which is a good thing. One of the benefits that this gives us is that we are opening up and making it known that we are a real School District and people are starting to notice and hold us accountable. ISBE is focusing on us and giving us the support and the resources that we need. | |
| **ADMINISTRATOR RETREAT** | **5.4** | On October 15-16, 2019, the Administrator Retreat in Springfield took place in anticipation and in preparation for the All-Staff Retreat. DJJ Administrators got together as a team with David Fischer, our facilitator, and were trained on how to create a trauma-informed environment. Dr. David Fischer is working on a “Toolkit” and working with the school staff, counselors, teachers, and principals so that each school is individually helped in accordance to its own needs in creating trauma-informed environments.  An agenda was developed together, which was good for all to be on the same level at the All-Staff Meeting. Each school developed their own toolkits, they made up a superhero and a chant or song. There is improvement on recruiting as well as on retaining staff by having relationships with them. This is partly the reason for the All-Staff Meeting, so that we can all be together and build relationships with each other. We want staff to know we support them, because they support our youth and we have to build our staff up. David Fischer will work with each school using these plans. It was wonderful and Dr. Jones-Redmond states she was overly surprised at this event. | |
| **AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2019 SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORTS** | **5.5** | Dr. Bambi Bethel-Leitschuh started her report by giving kudos to Ms. Perry and Dr. Dalmage in their book club process. She stated that it is time for training for the Special Education coordinators, since we are now closer to approval of all schools and are now approved at Warrenville for the SAT testing process.  Dr. Bethel-Leitschuh stated that the All Staff Meeting for Special Education was held on October 23-25, 2019. Chief Legal Counsel, NeAngela Dixon, presented at the Special Education meeting.  In addition to the All-Staff Meeting, we had our EMBRACE training. We have talked about the EMBRACE program in the past. It is a new IEP program. It is a 504 program and a Medicaid reimbursement billable program. Phase one was the training kickoff, that happened October 24-25, 2019. Since then, we have had a critical weekly debriefing for the changing program. We are building a QNA all the way through from our weekly debriefs. She states she has to have all the SERCS and the psychologists drafted in this, so they are the go-to experts. Now they have started utilizing internal videos in their trainings, after the webinars were used. | |
| **OCTOBER 2019 PRINCIPAL DATA AND EDUCATION REPORTS** | **5.6** | Dr. Tresa Dunbar mentioned that that the School District is in compliance with the Consent Decree for both General Education and Special Education and that the School District is doing a good job with staff retention. Dr. Dunbar also mentioned that IYC-Warrenville/Maya Angelou Alternative High School is in full compliance with Special Education. She further mentioned that the School District is focused on ensuring that eligible youth have the opportunity to obtain a GED or a high school diploma for completing the required coursework. | |
| **CTE AND POST-SECONDARY PROGRAMMING ACROSS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATE** | **5.7** | Mr. Ricardo D. Johnson discussed the FY20 requirements as mandated by the Perkins V Act, including youth and adult stakeholder surveys that will be used to collect data on our CTE programming. Mr. Johnson is asking everybody to participate in the surveys that he has sent out. The second component is a consultation, which consists of key stakeholders: youth, a parent, school administrators, board members, and community partners. The goal is to form a committee to determine what we need as a School District to ensure that all our youth have been exposed to college and career readiness. | |
| **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS** | **6.0** | Ms. Perry briefly explained that she and Dr. Dalmage are working together to sponsor a book drive. She also talked about some books that were read in the IYC-Chicago Book Club, which takes place at 12:30 p.m. on Mondays. She stated she noticed a change in the students who are part of the book club. They become more mentally-focused, more confident in reading, and more determined to learn. Per Dr. Jones-Redmond, the School District is going to build up on this to promote literacy and have more of a structure for the Librarians, since they have a broad spectrum of their work in their job title. Books can be ordered through Title I. Dr. Dalmage stated this is very easy and hands-on and is a good plan for the youth. | |
| **ADJOURNMENT:** | **7.0** | President Mueller motioned to adjourn the Board of Education meeting. Member Dr. Dalmage motioned to adjourn and Member Green seconded. Members were all in favor.  Voice Vote  Aye: Unanimous  Nay: None  Motion Carries | |
|  |  | Meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.  Next Board of Education Meeting will be Friday, January 17, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.  Aftercare Conference Room, Chicago | |
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