



Mr. Andy Taylor (President)
Mrs. Jennifer Gusentine (Vice-President)
Mrs. Katy Fattaleh (Secretary)
Mrs. Kristi Bruno (Member)
Mrs. Jennifer Dunleavy (Member)
Mrs. Jodi M. Golm (Member)
Mrs. Jenny Mitchell (Member)

Board Meeting Summary

An audio recording of the July 20, 2021 Board meeting can be accessed [HERE](#).

HEALTH AND SAFETY EFFORTS: Current health department guidance, local health metrics, planned mitigation efforts, potential masking protocols, and next steps were all presented to the Board and discussed. Click [HERE](#) to review the information that was presented. A few of the important discussion points are listed below:

- Regardless of what mitigation strategies are recommended to start the year, it's important to stay mindful that this is a very fluid situation and that we will be ready to adjust our plan at any point in response to local metrics and what we are experiencing inside our schools.
- The CDC has published guidance for the upcoming year, but local school districts have been given the ability to make the final decision on masking and other mitigation strategies. A robust conversation at the board table considered the costs and benefits of both a mask-mandatory and mask-recommended approach. The discussion also included the plans to layer many prevention strategies.
- A final recommendation from the administration regarding masking and other mitigation strategies is expected during the first week of August. While we know many people are anxious to receive this information, we want to make sure we have fully considered all information and input before making a final decision.

LEARNING PLAN UPDATE: The administration presented the Board with a recommended plan for the upcoming school year. A top priority for the administration is finding the right balance between resuming valuable instructional practices that were not possible last year and continuing with a robust set of mitigation strategies. For example, there are great educational, social, and emotional benefits from students engaging in guided reading together and gathering on the carpet, but these activities require students to be in close proximity for short periods of time. We will continue developing a plan that creates an engaging, impactful, and safe learning environment. The full plan can be found [here](#). A few important highlights are listed below.

- Students will attend in person five days per week.
- Flexible grouping and all levels of courses will be offered at both schools.
- Students will have the opportunity to participate in sports, clubs, and our typical extracurricular offerings.
- A special focus will be placed on social and emotional learning for the upcoming year.
- Throughout the year, we will be assessing students' mastery of important prerequisite skills and knowledge. We will provide targeted classroom instruction and intervention when warranted.
- Per recent guidance, remote instruction will only be provided for unvaccinated students who are required to quarantine.

SIDEWALK PROJECT UPDATE: The administration recommended proceeding with the plans to build the section of sidewalk on 59th street from Wolf Road to the Highlands schools. Additionally, six flashing crosswalk signs will be installed. We will address the current need for improved safety on Laurel Avenue

by eliminating the second lane of southbound traffic, parent communication, and partnership with local law enforcement. At this time, it is recommended that we do not proceed with the section of sidewalk along Laurel Ave and that a more comprehensive traffic study be conducted if a new sidewalk in that neighborhood is considered in the future. The full board report on the sidewalk project can be accessed [HERE](#).

TTO UPDATE: Since the court's latest ruling, we have learned that Lyons Township High School will no longer be utilizing the services of the TTO and that the TTO does not plan to appeal the judge's decision.

BOARD OF EDUCATION AGREEMENTS: The D106 Board Agreements and Expectations were approved by the Board.

On July 7th, 2021, the Highlands Board of Education, Superintendent, and Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Field Director met to engage in the IASB Starting Right Workshop. As part of that work together, the Board and Superintendent revised previous Board Agreements. The purpose of these operating principles is to guide and govern the way the Board and Superintendent work together in order to ensure transparency, collaboration, efficiency, and effectiveness. The updated Agreements can be viewed [HERE](#).

FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT: The recommended food service contract with Just A Dash catering was approved by the Board.

During the Spring of 2021, District 106 requested bids for our food service program. That process resulted in a recommendation to approve a contract with Just A Dash catering to provide student meals. A neighboring district uses Just A Dash and has been very happy with its service. Additionally, Just A Dash was the lowest bidder. For the full board report on the food service contract, click [HERE](#).

CONSENT AGENDA: The consent agenda was approved which included the approval of minutes from previous meetings, bills payable, financial reports, a personnel report, and a FOIA report.

BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mr. Munch, Board member Jodi Golm, and Amy Laskowski are collaborating on the creation of a Parent Advisory Committee. The goal of this committee will be to bring a parent-based perspective into important conversations and decisions. The scope of this committee and the specifics of its membership will be shared at the August Board of Education meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: The first few weeks of planning for the new school year have gotten off to a great start.

- Our teachers are doing a wonderful job of making summer school a fun and meaningful time for our students. Amy Laskowski and Ali Beiermeister have done a great job coordinating and leading this effort.
- A COVID and meningitis vaccination clinic is being hosted by LT High School for any resident, 12 years of age and older, living in the Lyons Township High School District. Additional information on this clinic can be found [HERE](#).

PUBLIC COMMENT: Eleven members of the public attended the board meeting on Tuesday night. Three parents made public comments and shared their perspectives on whether or not students should be required to wear masks. The board and administration appreciated the information and perspectives that were presented by parents.

The official minutes of the July 20 Board meeting will be published on the District website once approved by the Board in August.