

Observer Report

Date: 1/21/25

Observer Corrie Proksa

Time: 6:00

Government Body: District 116 Board of Education		
Members	Present	Absent
President Paul Poulosky	x	
Vice President Tori Exum	x	
Secretary Pro Tem Ben Baxley	x	
Jennifer Hixson	x	
Lola Jones		x
Sheri Langendorf	x	
Citlaly Yuritzi Stanton		x

General Observations	Yes	No	Comments
Did meeting start on time?	x		
Were the facilities large enough? Could the audience readily hear the proceedings? Handicapped Access?	x		
Was there media coverage?		x	
Illinois Open Meeting Act requirements			
Was the agenda posted 48 hours before the meeting? If so, where?	x		
Did the agenda items clearly describe what was to be discussed	x		
Was background information available to the public?	x		
Were issues adequately discussed?	x		
Was public comment encouraged?	x		
Was the public treated respectfully?	x		

Agenda and supporting agenda items can be found at:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FdNZ9fzIWKozXn3xmZQvSNjSjtvDMixl>

Meetings are streamed and archived at

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxxoOyS2Sm_1OKTHh0II0Td9SvySY8FU3

Public participation: (estimate of attendance excluding staff and elected officials):

None

Public Participation Remarks:

None

Presentations and discussion by elected officials, staff and/or administrators:

Headlines:

Details

- Board reports
 - Langendorf: ICE came to community 8 or 10 years ago, community was fearful; students felt the same way today, comforted that there was support; hope families are informed about what services are available; Tiger Market food pantry will start during lunch next Monday
 - Hixson: Refugee center is doing know your rights workshops
 - JIT: had sessions with principals and immigration attorney, Lucia is taking the lead; more know-your-workshops planned
 - JIT: in 2016 district did the same thing; attendance didn't drop because district was proactive; not having school today gave a buffer day; administrators will watch for drops and work with family liaisons
 - Poulosky: must schedule training because district has intensive schools (ISBE designation), might be a remote option; next session is on school improvement
- Recognition: Congratulations to three students
- Student Ambassador report:
 - Lunches quest food has not been up to quality as promised; quality was good at the beginning but it has declined; not enough food for juniors and seniors who eat last; pizza and chicken sandwiches; Quest replied that the run out of food only happened at the end of the semester; but Citlaly said it happened more
 - District started monthly meetings with quest and can give them feedback
 - Bathrooms are still neglected; stall doors don't close; students use them to skip class; two bathrooms only have 1 working sink, causes lost class time
 - Decorating graduation caps; seniors want to; district 4 can; limits creativity; students want answers as to why they can't decorate
 - Habitat for Humanity fundraiser gained popularity for boys volleyball; might have to make a tough decision about what to fund; Mr Waller and Mr Guzman are looking into it
- Administrative personnel items (Angi Franklin)
 - Posted for 2 middle school administrative leadership
 - Each candidate interviewed: at level one interviewed 5 candidates, 3 advanced to level 2 interviews
 - All 4 interview committees recommended Ms. Amani Carr as first 6th grade center administrator and Mrs. Melissa Kearns as 7-8 principal

- Amani Carr: Excited and honored, excited about transition for families, thank you for this opportunity
- Melissa Kearns: Excited to be a principal, lucky to be in the position to lead these schools, thanks to those who have built me into a leader
- Roll call: unanimously approved
- Illinois association for administrators Vision 2030
 - Tonight just discuss
 - Second time creating an advocacy framework for public education
 - Funding model, college and careers initiatives came out of vision 2020
 - Collaboration of many organization representing administrators at all levels
 - In Nov 2012; developed Vision 2020 that sparked legislative action
 - In aftermath of COVID, immense challenges; need a new system for diverse learners, teacher recruitment, student opportunity and predictable funding
 - Input from over 1000 stakeholders throughout Illinois
 - Mandate Relief: Illinois school code has doubled since 2000
 - JIT: Unfunded mandates without enough money or minutes in the school day to do it all
 - Future focused learning
 - Future driven skills
 - Safety and well being
 - High quality, diverse teacher pipeline
 - Promote curriculum and instructional flexibility to meet local needs
 - Some districts don't use all the money allocated to them
 - Shared accountability
 - Reform assessment system to be timely and useful
 - Reform to provide more local flexibility provide indicators that define student success
 - Reform mandate process for local flexibility
 - Predictable funding
 - Protect integrity of evidence-based funding formula
 - Set formula based on Tiers (USD is Tier 1)
 - Three tiers based on local funding ability (tax base)
 - Tier 1 can't fund needs based on local sources
 - Based on extensive documents stating resources available, how funding is used, what are goals... very detailed formula
 - Establish equitable statewide funding sources for capital and safety
 - Like metal detectors and vaping sensors
 - Unit 4 has a different tax base
 - Enhance financial flexibility
 - Tax caps (cap in the increase in what the school can request)
 - Key goals
 - Keeping students safe
 - Keeping high quality educations in front of students
 - Enhancing post-secondary success
 - Portrait of a graduate group starting in USD

- Improving measurement of what is working
 - illinoisvision2030.com
 - District will vote later on whether to support Vision 2030
 - The Portrait of a Graduate group will include parents, students, teachers, alumni, etc
- Consent agenda passed anonymously, gifts passed anonymously
- Resolution: Abating the tax levied: abate the taxes so you don't have to levy them
 - Passed unanimously
- Resolution: Similar motion to pay bonds
 - Passed unanimously
- Resolution: Disposal of UHS weeding library books
 - Passed unanimously
- Cell phone tower lease
 - Length of lease
 - Insurance: low to small increase related to this tower, liability insurance is required
 - It's possible for AT&T to add to the equipment, AT&T installed microcell in middle school
 - Will pay the school district \$32,000/year
 - This will go before zoning board before implementation
 - Passed unanimously
- VOLTUS passed unanimously
- Press plus 117 passed unanimously
- Superintendents report
 - Congratulations to Grace Koady, Kierra Moten, and Frankie Kabu for "Living the Dream" scholarships
 - Black History Month
 - DPW activities are scheduled from 3:30 to 5, program starts at 3:30, all are welcome
 - In Honor of Janie Mitchell
 - Winter Guard and Lyrical Flag qualified for state finals
 - Great camaraderie
 - Feb 10: National African American Parent Involvement Day
 - UHS Cool Schools Polar Plunge February 28 from 12 to 2 on the UHS football field to benefit Special Olympics Illinois
 - Calendar Committee: 450 responses on feedback, another meeting to go through feedback and will present to board again

Observation Report filed by: Corrie Proksa Date: 2/8/2025

Observation Report Reviewed by: _____ Date: _____

Observation Report posted by: _____ Date: _____