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Transcription:

[16m3s](#): test. I'd like to call the meeting this special open session meeting to order.
[16m12s](#): Can I have a motion and a second? So moved. Second. Any discussion? Miss
[16m19s](#): Bradford. Mr. Clevenger. Aye. Mr. Scheider. Here. Mr. Wetzel. Aye. And Dr.
[16m27s](#): Collins-Brown. Aye. For I zero nay three absent. Would you all now join me in the
[16m32s](#): Pledge of Allegiance.
[16m56s](#): Do we have a recommendation for tonight's agenda? Yes we do. I recommend the
[17m1s](#): board approve tonight's July 24th 2023 special open session board meeting
[17m7s](#): agenda as presented. Do I have a motion? So moved. Second. Any discussion? All in
[17m16s](#): favor signify by saying aye. Aye. Motion's carried. We will now move on to our
[17m23s](#): public participation portion of the meeting. Board of Education would like
[17m27s](#): to note the following during public participation. Identify oneself and please
[17m32s](#): be as brief as you can. Comments should be limited to three minutes. Any public
[17m36s](#): comments submitted to the board secretary will be included in our record.
[17m41s](#): Please note that during any Board of Education meeting and public
[17m45s](#): participation board members do not respond and or comment to public comments.
[17m51s](#): All comments are referred to administration. Furthermore the board
[17m54s](#): refrains from referring to specific students or staff members by name and
[17m59s](#): requests that public commenters refrain from doing so as well. The request that
[18m5s](#): you omit names is made to protect you from allegations of libel and slander or
[18m10s](#): from violations of the Illinois School Student Records Act. It is not intended
[18m16s](#): to shield an employee from criticism. Ms. Bradford do we have anyone wishing to
[18m19s](#): speak to the board? Yes we do. I would like to call Mark Glawz to the podium.
[18m32s](#): Hello. What's this on? Okay. Hello. Um emailed you guys a letter. I'm sure you
[18m39s](#): guys all got it. If anybody here hasn't read it I highly recommend you do. If you
[18m43s](#): want it just reach out to me afterwards I can email it to you. That letter basically
[18m48s](#): has everything that I feel as long as I go out there my life partner Dr. Glawz.
[18m52s](#): What I want to talk about tonight is some stuff that goes beyond that and into
[18m56s](#): the future. I'm originally from Nebraska, moved to Michigan, was there for five
[19m2s](#): years and then come down here as a parent and coming into the Decatur School
[19m6s](#): District. I wasn't, how do I say this, the school system's less than ideal as
[19m11s](#): somebody moving to Decatur and wanting to put their kid to school here. Trying to
[19m17s](#): be a good citizen and with writing that letter did a lot of research and into
[19m21s](#): stuff like that. I found in 2017 the city did a survey for Millennials which would
[19m25s](#): be me being on the older end of that and they focused on the Millennials wanted
[19m31s](#): better schools. That was the number one thing that they wanted was better
[19m33s](#): schools and then furthermore like looking into trying to find preschooling for
[19m39s](#): my kids and how difficult it was here in town and then looking into national
[19m44s](#): research and studies that are out there about how preschool helps a kid in
[19m47s](#): lower incomes all the way through up until they graduate. So then I get down a
[19m52s](#): rabbit hole and I look at the income levels of Decatur. Less than ideal, let's
[19m55s](#): be honest, right? How can we look forward and get kids into preschools and get
[20m3s](#): them going through here in Decatur and make Decatur a town that people want to
[20m7s](#): live to or want to move to and put their kids through school here. What can we do
[20m11s](#): to help the community? Decatur won't always be in the shape that it's in
[20m14s](#): right now. There will be a chance for future employment. Somebody will come.
[20m19s](#): There will be businesses that come. What can the school or district do to make
[20m23s](#): sure that we're ready on our end so that when the jobs do come kids can go to
[20m28s](#): school here and parents want to move here and they're not sending their kids to
[20m30s](#): Mount Zion or Memorial foresight. That's what's happening right now. Anybody that
[20m34s](#): has the resources is sending their kids out of this district and into ones of
[20m38s](#): nearby if not the private school system. So what can we do to make sure that
[20m43s](#): going forward? We're ready for when the jobs get here and people want to send
[20m47s](#): their kids here. They want to move here. That's all that I have. Thank you for
[20m49s](#): your time. I appreciate you all and everything that you do. Thank you.
[20m52s](#): Thank you, Dr. Glaus.
[21m3s](#): Hi, I'm Dr. Caitlin Glaus. You guys have heard from us quite a bit over the last
[21m6s](#): two weeks. There's two points that I want to make about what's happening with
[21m11s](#): Dennis right now. The first is that Dennis students and teachers absolutely
[21m15s](#): must be exempt from standardized testing for the 2023 and 2024 school year
[21m20s](#): because they're starting school multiple weeks behind their peers. It just doesn't

[21m25s](#): make any sense to have them do state and national testing, especially because
[21m29s](#): their test scores will not in any way be valid compared to their test scores last
[21m34s](#): year or to the scores of their peers this year. We can't make that comparison
[21m39s](#): and it's not fair to have students spend time doing that. Additionally, an
[21m44s](#): exemption from standardized testing will also mean that there are instructional
[21m49s](#): days returned to students that would normally be spent in the weeks of
[21m54s](#): testing and having students do makeup tests. If we don't have to worry about
[21m58s](#): that right now, it means that that time will be returned to teachers and their
[22m1s](#): students. So if that hasn't already happened in conversation with Izby, I
[22m7s](#): highly recommend that we get started on that now. The second thing that I want
[22m12s](#): to say is that as a Dennis parent, the district really needs to be providing
[22m17s](#): more frequent and substantive updates to the Dennis families as well as to the
[22m21s](#): Decatur community at large. So at this time, the school board, the DPS website
[22m29s](#): hasn't been updated with Dennis information since the July 13th meeting and
[22m35s](#): the school board updates are only available through links and the especially
[22m39s](#): pertinent information like that the school, the start of school is being
[22m43s](#): delayed multiple, multiple weeks. That's on slide eight out of 12. So unless
[22m48s](#): you're being a really diligent reader, you're probably not going to see that
[22m51s](#): information. And we certainly know that there are Dennis families and
[22m55s](#): community members who do not understand the scope of what's going on right now.
[22m60s](#): Additionally, no information has been sent directly to families or the
[23m5s](#): neighborhood community about the timeline of the upcoming school year,
[23m8s](#): which I'm sure will be under discussion tonight. And no information has been
[23m11s](#): sent directly to families about how to navigate important upcoming events such
[23m16s](#): as kindergarten registration, which is happening on July 31st and would
[23m19s](#): normally happen in the school building. As far as I know, we don't have a
[23m22s](#): school building right now, so it would be helpful if we could get some
[23m25s](#): clarification on where we're supposed to go for that. And as far as updates go,
[23m30s](#): Dennis families really need these to happen through both the mail and digital
[23m34s](#): mailing listings. Most of us are connected on classroom dojo. And so
[23m38s](#): there are lots of really easy ways to get us information. And especially for
[23m43s](#): Dennis families, this really needs to include updates on the progress and
[23m47s](#): timeline of the academic year, especially for busing and childcare. Since most
[23m51s](#): folks and we know our school, like Mark said, is primarily low income, this is
[23m56s](#): going to be a real struggle for families. We also again need immediate updates on
[24m1s](#): kindergarten registration. And we also really need to know how the school
[24m6s](#): district will be providing classroom supplies and teaching materials since
[24m10s](#): they're all locked up right now. Thank you very much. Thank you. Amy Doberwick.
[24m15s](#): Hope I said that right, Amy.
[24m18s](#): I didn't. Okay.
[24m22s](#): Good evening, Mr. Cleventer, Dr. Clark and members of the School Board. My name
[24m27s](#): is Amy Dobernick. I am a professional in the community, a former DPS parent, a
[24m32s](#): taxpayer and the mother of a DPS teacher. My daughters grew up in DPS and my
[24m38s](#): husband is a DPS graduate. DPS runs deep in our family. We were strong supporters
[24m45s](#): during those during the years my kids were in school. However, the past 10
[24m49s](#): years we have witnessed and becoming behavior and actions within central
[24m53s](#): administration and the school board. I am hoping this board will make me change
[24m57s](#): my mind. I voted for you after all. As I mentioned, I am the mother of a DPS
[25m2s](#): teacher affected by Dennis School closings. I have been supportive of
[25m6s](#): Dennis School staff and would do anything to help them out. I would have
[25m11s](#): hoped to see, excuse me, I would have hoped to see in that same behavior from
[25m17s](#): central administration. I was present when an individual from the Kaia
[25m20s](#): building declined to help assemble boxes during the recent packing of the
[25m24s](#): school. The exact comment was, it's not my job. I was shocked to say the least.
[25m30s](#): You see, I am a nurse. I am also in a management position. I would never ask
[25m36s](#): my staff to do a job that I would not do myself. If I cannot do the job, then I
[25m43s](#): should not be their leader. A good leader will lead by example. If central
[25m48s](#): administration and the school board cannot roll up their sleeves and do some
[25m52s](#): physical labor, then you should not be the leaders of an already struggling
[25m55s](#): district of overworked, stressed out teachers and support staff. Secondly, the
[26m1s](#): staff were given very short notice. Many of them had plans were on vacation
[26m6s](#): already on vacation or maybe even working a second job to make ends meet.
[26m11s](#): Regardless of the situation, they were given five days notice and three days to
[26m16s](#): pack up. My daughter was lucky enough to get all of her personal belongings out
[26m23s](#): before this happened, but some were not so lucky. They were also told that if
[26m31s](#): they packed everything up and labeled it, then the district would move it. Now
[26m37s](#): here we are three weeks later and at a standstill because an OSHA complaint was
[26m41s](#): filed against the conditions about the conditions in the building. You are
[26m45s](#): moving in modular classrooms and cleaning floors, repairing doors, hanging
[26m48s](#): hooks and shelves at a building that will be empty of chairs, tables, desks,
[26m53s](#): books, manipulatives and all the things teachers need and want to engage their
[26m57s](#): students. The OSHA complaint becomes a day late and a dollar short. The
[27m2s](#): environmental problems that exist in that building did not happen overnight.
[27m6s](#): Teachers and support staff have been working at that building for years now
[27m9s](#): and have already been exposed. This administration and board need to do the

[27m13s](#): same thing I did during COVID, gown up, glove up, put on an N95 and get their
[27m18s](#): stuff to the school. Lastly, I did mention that I'm in healthcare and
[27m22s](#): management. I'm trying to recruit others to come to the area to work and you
[27m26s](#): are making it very difficult. Supposedly there's a strategic plan with five
[27m29s](#): goals in place. Student experience, environment and support, staff recruitment,
[27m35s](#): a good leader, FDR said that a good leader can't get too far ahead of their
[27m40s](#): followers. All of you have forgotten and you are once the followers and you've
[27m44s](#): left your followers behind. Nick, thank you.
[27m59s](#): Good evening. My name is Nick Krim. I'm here to speak with you again about
[28m3s](#): Dennis Lab School. I'm sure by now you've heard about Dennis's connection to
[28m7s](#): the Monarch butterfly. If you haven't, ask one of the students. Most of them know
[28m11s](#): the story. While the Monarch may be an underwhelming sports mascot, it certainly
[28m16s](#): isn't as intimidating as a panther or a raider. It is part of the history of
[28m20s](#): Dennis that students can be proud of. In addition to being the mascot for Dennis,
[28m25s](#): the Monarch also has a deeper spiritual symbology in some cultures. It can be a
[28m30s](#): symbol of hope, of change or of transformation. For many of us, the
[28m35s](#): lifecycle of the butterfly seems magical. They go from an egg to the larval
[28m38s](#): stage as a caterpillar, then to a chrysalis where some stuff happens inside a
[28m42s](#): neat little shell, then it comes out as a butterfly. That moment we've seen on
[28m47s](#): countless videos where we see the fully formed butterfly break free of the
[28m50s](#): chrysalis and fly away is beautiful, but it is easy to forget that there is a lot
[28m54s](#): of messy work that goes into that metamorphosis. To me, it seems like
[28m58s](#): Dennis has a great opportunity for metamorphosis right now. The first step
[29m3s](#): the Monarch caterpillar takes in its transformation is to form a temporary
[29m6s](#): protective shell called the chrysalis. Thanks to the hard work that the
[29m10s](#): district is putting into preparing the Garfield campus, the young students of
[29m13s](#): Dennis will have a chrysalis to protect them temporarily. After the chrysalis
[29m18s](#): forms, the body of the caterpillar releases enzymes that dissolve cells in
[29m22s](#): the insects, muscles and organs, leaving vital organs intact. And then a group of
[29m27s](#): specialized cells get to work developing the insects new body and wings. Now that
[29m33s](#): the vital organs of Dennis are safe in their temporary chrysalis, it is time for
[29m37s](#): the district and this board to get busy developing a brand new body and wings for
[29m42s](#): these kids. The old body of the Dennis caterpillar has served the children of
[29m46s](#): the West End well, but now it is time for the hard process of creating the winged
[29m50s](#): butterfly of a new building. Demolish the old buildings or find a new location,
[29m54s](#): but don't dump more money into repairing buildings that do not serve the needs of
[29m58s](#): a modern school. The history of Dennis can be remembered through the symbology
[30m2s](#): of the Monarch. We don't need a deteriorating century old facade for that.
[30m6s](#): My son is entering sixth grade this year. He will never attend a newly
[30m11s](#): constructed Dennis lab school. Let him stay in the Garfield chrysalis for the
[30m15s](#): next three years while we all wait for the new wings of the Dennis Monarchs to
[30m19s](#): emerge. He and his classmates have been through enough changes and upheaval in
[30m23s](#): their time at Dennis. Let them finish out their time with Dennis, protect it in
[30m27s](#): their chrysalis, secure in the knowledge that future Dennis Monarchs will have a
[30m31s](#): better place to call home. Finally, as I wrote to all of you two weeks ago, bring
[30m36s](#): the second AP back to Dennis. I'm hopeful that there will be an announcement
[30m40s](#): that there will be that there will continue to be three administrators at
[30m44s](#): Dennis this upcoming school year. Don't create even more chaos in an already
[30m49s](#): chaotic situation by removing necessary administrative support. Thank you. Thank
[30m54s](#): you.
[31m1s](#): Is there anyone is there anyone else here who'd like to speak to the board
[31m4s](#): that's not on this list? Okay, thank we appreciate all your comments and all
[31m9s](#): your support for Dennis School. That's for sure.
[31m13s](#): We'll now move on to reports from women's administration. I'd like to call
[31m21s](#): district administration to the podium to present an update on the Dennis lab
[31m26s](#): school situation as and the Garfield Learning Academy move and the Steven
[31m32s](#): Cater middle school as appropriate.
[31m47s](#): Thank you. Again, after I'm done with the talking points here, I will drop this
[31m51s](#): PowerPoint or communicate. Thank you. We'll drop the PowerPoint on the
[31m56s](#): website. So just a quick recap for Dennis lab Garfield K 12 will be K 12
[32m6s](#): Garfield Learning Academy will be moving to Steven the Cater at a self
[32m10s](#): contained wing at Steven the Cater middle school with 11 classrooms and
[32m13s](#): offices. And we're currently having modulars taken to the Garfield location
[32m19s](#): for Dennis K 8 to be all together at that site with 31 classrooms, including
[32m26s](#): those modules combined.
[32m29s](#): Here are some important updates. I am still working with is be I have several
[32m35s](#): phone calls out to them as well as to the regional Office of Education. They're
[32m40s](#): working with me as to what this could look like depending on when those
[32m44s](#): modules will be set up. So the goal is to have an answer for you within the next
[32m49s](#): week. I've just made another call today, hoping someone will call me back. But
[32m54s](#): there is nothing that I can do until I hear from them. There are my guide. And
[32m59s](#): so as soon as I hear from them, I will be able to put put a plan in place for
[33m3s](#): you in terms of the items that are still left in the building. Yes, there was a
[33m9s](#): OSHA complaint. We had to follow guidelines with that OSHA complaint, which
[33m13s](#): means no one entering or exiting the building. I just received their response

[33m18s](#): that they received our response to their complaint. And so now I'm asking, can we
[33m23s](#): at least go into the building and finish getting the items that we need? But we
[33m27s](#): need they're okay before we can do anything.
[33m30s](#): There was a question regarding extended day for Dennis, even though Dennis
[33m35s](#): will be at the Garfield location temporarily, there will there will still
[33m39s](#): be extended daycare there. There was a question regarding special education.
[33m44s](#): Special Ed will still remain at the Steven Decatur Middle School site. The
[33m51s](#): bell times tier three schedule updates for Stephen D. Persian and Montessori
[33m56s](#): will have a shifting in times from 9 15 to 3 35 p.m. to accommodate all of the
[34m2s](#): buses that will be needed.
[34m6s](#): And you'll get more information from your building principles on that. As a
[34m10s](#): reminder of how the site will be laid out. The first pink and blue that you're
[34m15s](#): looking at all of that is Steven Decatur Middle School. The powder blue is
[34m20s](#): where Garfield Learning Academy will be housed. The pink is the place where
[34m26s](#): Steven Decatur will utilize the common areas will be worked out with the
[34m30s](#): building principles. So they will determine when kids go to PE when kids
[34m36s](#): go to lunch. Who is outside? Who is using utilize in the library? Those
[34m40s](#): things that comes from them. Not us in looking at the site where we're laying
[34m46s](#): the modules. I'm trying to see if I can do that. Yep, here it is. This area right
[34m51s](#): here. These three areas here is where the modules will be located. If you drive
[34m58s](#): by, you will see that they are starting to put those things together. We have one
[35m2s](#): unit that's there now. I'm told fingers crossed that within the next seven to
[35m8s](#): 10 days, another one will be delivered if not sooner. They have been working very
[35m13s](#): diligently to get those additional modules in place. This area here is where
[35m19s](#): the playground will go. They've already broke ground for that as well. So they're
[35m23s](#): trying to work simultaneously to get everything in place. Again, the room
[35m28s](#): assignments will be based on the building administrator. So they will
[35m31s](#): determine who goes where in those modules.
[35m38s](#): Where are we so far? I'm not going to read all of this to you because it is on
[35m43s](#): the website, but you can see where we have completed some things a little bit
[35m47s](#): earlier than planned. And then the last thing that was added to this timeline
[35m52s](#): is number 10, which is the expansion of the parking lot. So I believe currently
[35m58s](#): we have about 50 parking spaces, and I believe we need about 70 ish parking,
[36m3s](#): maybe 75 parking spaces. So we will be looking at adding those additional
[36m9s](#): spaces as well. So we're probably looking at what's in the front as well as
[36m13s](#): what's in the back of the building.
[36m15s](#): So some of the questions that have come up. How may these moves affect students?
[36m23s](#): Well, here are some of the cons adjusting to new surroundings, bus routes and
[36m28s](#): locations, adjusting to the new schedule, adjusting to staff, classroom set up
[36m34s](#): like a different seating chart, decor in classroom size. What are the and this
[36m39s](#): is for all of the changes, not just Dennis. Everybody is going to have to
[36m43s](#): adjust to something different. Okay, some of the pros, for example, all of
[36m49s](#): Dennis staff and students will be in a single location and they will have a
[36m53s](#): playground area. All grade levels will begin to see friends that they haven't
[36m57s](#): seen before, because they were in separate buildings. They'll be able to
[37m2s](#): engage more in their PBL activities at Dennis. Siblings, multiple siblings
[37m7s](#): that were in two buildings at Dennis will now be at one building. More
[37m13s](#): parent engagement because now they're not having to go to split their time
[37m17s](#): up to go to two different buildings. Instead of the principal going from
[37m23s](#): building to building, the principal will be on site. More peer mentoring because
[37m28s](#): I know Dennis mentions a lot of the upper grades working with the younger
[37m32s](#): students. The extended day is now in one location instead of two. And then the
[37m38s](#): staff will be able to work together more closely.
[37m43s](#): So the other thing that's come up, well, what about what's going on in my
[37m48s](#): building? Well, right now we're in a crisis. And so we have to focus on the
[37m53s](#): crisis that is at hand. So this is just something that we just spoke up. It's
[37m58s](#): nothing on paper or anything like that. I just asked a question from BNG like,
[38m3s](#): Hey, what are some of the things that we're having to come back and revisit
[38m7s](#): when we're finished? And so we just, you know, called out a few things. So this
[38m12s](#): is not a complete listing. This is just to give you an idea of some of the
[38m16s](#): things that have that we need to pause on right now so that we can focus on
[38m21s](#): getting everybody inside the dentist location and getting kids started. And
[38m25s](#): then we'll come back to this. Um, everybody's items a little later.
[38m31s](#): So and I'm saying this for all of my schools. I didn't list everything. I'm
[38m36s](#): just putting a few things out there.
[38m41s](#): So the question has been, when are we going to start getting more community
[38m46s](#): engagement and feedback? Well, that is part of the long term plan. And right
[38m49s](#): now step one is an analysis. So why is a master facility analysis needed? Because
[38m57s](#): both dentist buildings are 100 plus years old and fixing just the structural
[39m1s](#): components does not mean we won't have issues over time. And then in terms of
[39m7s](#): our other schools, there need to be part of this analysis so that we don't
[39m11s](#): miss anything moving forward. We want to make sure that we do the same thing
[39m16s](#): for all of our schools that we're doing for dentists.
[39m20s](#): Once we get that a committee should be formed so that we can all start talking
[39m24s](#): about what a master facilities plan will look like. And then from that

[39m29s](#): committee, make a recommendation to the board that would include things like
[39m33s](#): renovation, possible new construction, expansions, programming, enrollment,
[39m38s](#): funding options. Is it going to affect taxes, et cetera? But you need the
[39m42s](#): information in order for the board to make an informed decision. So I'm
[39m48s](#): saying this to the board to say, we're going to come back to you at our next
[39m52s](#): schedule meeting right now. I want you thinking about what I've just listed
[39m56s](#): here, because the next question that I would ask is basically how do we move
[40m0s](#): forward with all? Because once again, all of our facilities need this
[40m6s](#): analysis.
[40m8s](#): And that's all I have. Does the board have any questions for me?
[40m14s](#): So I have a question. I know we have the delay start for Dennis and we have the
[40m19s](#): call out to OSHA. But do we have a plan in place for in the event that we don't
[40m25s](#): have the supplies needed for the dinner students when they move, you know, such as
[40m30s](#): extra lap, I mean, you know, iPads and teacher supplies and things like that.
[40m36s](#): Yeah, so I've already met with DLT. We're meeting again. Excuse me on Wednesday,
[40m42s](#): right? The 27th Thursday, I'm sorry, the 27th, I believe it is. And we're going
[40m47s](#): through our checklist then to make sure that everybody has what they're
[40m49s](#): need, what they're needing. So we're talking about electronics for the kids,
[40m55s](#): um,
[40m56s](#): tables, chairs, desk, all of those things, how we're getting in, how soon can we
[41m0s](#): get them? So we're looking at all of that.
[41m7s](#): Any other questions?
[41m12s](#): I think then at the same time, we can roll this right into board discussion.
[41m15s](#): Are there any other items that the board would like to discuss at this point
[41m19s](#): time? Oh, and I just to make sure I understand, um, early on, I know Kent
[41m26s](#): was saying at one meeting the very next morning, they were going to start moving
[41m31s](#): some of the classrooms that were in the safer areas. So those all the all the
[41m37s](#): supplies and furniture in those rooms have been moved, haven't they? Those that
[41m41s](#): we could get out not all have been moved because we needed to say in the rooms
[41m45s](#): that were in the safe areas. Not all of them. Not all of them. No. Why not?
[41m49s](#): Because as we were going through getting the other things that they needed, like
[41m53s](#): our, um, students, um, what am I trying to call it? Their paperwork that's in
[41m59s](#): their folders that tells them where Gray they're going to in the next company.
[42m3s](#): Thank you. Cume folders. We stopped started getting those things and getting
[42m8s](#): things moved that we felt were priorities right then and there that we
[42m11s](#): needed and we still didn't even get all of those out. So the plan was to then
[42m16s](#): come back and move the rest of those items. And then we got the OSHA complaint.
[42m21s](#): So I guess my kind of a follow up question is there were structural concerns
[42m28s](#): brought up about a year ago at one of the meetings in public participation by
[42m33s](#): a parent who has, I believe currently has students at Dennis or has former
[42m38s](#): students at Dennis. And I just feel like that person was not taken seriously
[42m43s](#): because I mean, we've sat here and said that we're going to take your, we're
[42m46s](#): going to, you know, we follow up with public participation and I don't feel
[42m49s](#): like that was followed up on. And then all of a sudden here it is May and it's
[42m55s](#): the end of the school year. And it's like, Oh, boom. All of a sudden we have
[42m58s](#): these structural compromises. But I mean, this was actually mentioned several
[43m4s](#): months prior to that. Do we have a reason as to why that was not followed up
[43m8s](#): on? So that's what I've been told. But I was, I've been very honest. I truly
[43m12s](#): don't remember any parent coming in any board meeting stating these structural
[43m17s](#): concerns. And I do try to be diligent in writing down not only your questions,
[43m21s](#): but things that I hear out there. I do not remember that conversation. The
[43m25s](#): minute I heard of this, I started acting. Okay. And have we, I know we talked
[43m33s](#): about the master analysis that you just mentioned. Have the other schools been
[43m36s](#): checked yet for any structural compromises? No, that's what I want. So
[43m42s](#): that hasn't been done yet, but we're in the process. Right. That's what I want
[43m44s](#): the board to think about. That's exactly what I'm going to bring to you at our
[43m47s](#): next board meeting to get permission to move forward with all of that. And it
[43m51s](#): will be, will it be the same? I guess engineering firm that checked the two
[43m58s](#): dentists? Because I know we had two different firms that did those. Is it
[44m2s](#): the one of those firms or is this a different independent? I don't know
[44m5s](#): for sure. I don't know if this firm can do all the things that I guess that was
[44m10s](#): a cue. Sorry. Thank you. So we'll have to do a procurement professional
[44m16s](#): services. We'll have to reach out to structural engineering firms that are
[44m20s](#): on record and anyone else in the state that can provide that. So that's going
[44m23s](#): to be coming to you guys soon enough. And then from that, you'll have to
[44m27s](#): interview at least three and then select one. So it could Oh, so it's like a
[44m31s](#): whole new whole new thing. I can't just continue from the previous. Okay. Okay.
[44m37s](#): Thank you. You're welcome.
[44m41s](#): Will this engineer report not only have structural but also provide the 10
[44m44s](#): year inspection as well at the same time? That's okay. Sorry.
[44m52s](#): No, the 10 year health life safety is something that will be on the agenda
[44m55s](#): for the eighth. And that currently is going to stay with BLDD with that
[44m58s](#): initial on the eighth, the initial proposal on the eighth. The structural
[45m3s](#): analysis will come from an outside company.
[45m8s](#): So in the event that these teachers cannot get their personal belongings out

[45m13s](#): of these classrooms, let's say ever, do we have a plan in place for that?

[45m18s](#): Any kind of like reimbursement or is that something we need to talk about in

[45m22s](#): the event that these buildings are deemed unsafe permanently or something? I

[45m26s](#): think that's something we'll need to talk about if that happens. But I don't

[45m29s](#): believe it will. I believe that they will allow us back into the building at

[45m33s](#): some point in time. I think they just need to be clear that we had a plan in

[45m38s](#): place that we were following. And they just need to hopefully recognize that

[45m43s](#): the plan is a safe plan and will allow us back in.

[45m48s](#): Do we know how long it's going to take to clear the OSHA complaint? I have

[45m51s](#): legal working on that right now.

[45m57s](#): Any other questions? Any comments on other subjects?

[46m3s](#): We'll move on to our roll call action items. Do we have a recommendation for

[46m6s](#): the personnel action items? Yes, I recommend the Board of Education

[46m10s](#): approve the personnel action items listed in the memo from Deanne Hillman,

[46m15s](#): Interim Director of Human Resources and the Human Resources Department as

[46m19s](#): presented. Oh, motion. So moved. Sucker. Any discussion on this item?

[46m28s](#): Miss Bradford. Dr. Collins Brown. Hi, Mr. Scheider. Hi, Mr. Wetzal. Hi, and

[46m33s](#): Mr. Clevenger. Hi, for I zero nade three absent. Motion carry.

[46m39s](#): Thank you. Do we have a recommendation to accept an award general contractor bids

[46m43s](#): for the new K eight magnet school building? Yes, I recommend the Board of

[46m48s](#): Education accept an award general contractor bids for the new K eight

[46m52s](#): magnet school as presented.

[46m55s](#): Motion. So moved.

[47m0s](#): I'll second, but I have a couple of questions. Yeah, okay. I just want to

[47m4s](#): go ahead. Okay. So I'll second it for now. Just question. My concern is these

[47m8s](#): are just bids. These are this is not the actual firm or this is the firm that

[47m12s](#): we're trying to approve right now. I'm going to have thank you. I just

[47m16s](#): This is the firm. This is the firm. I just want to make sure because I had a

[47m20s](#): question if this was the firm. This is the award that tonight you'll be

[47m24s](#): awarding the word to the two that's what I thought firm at hand. Sorry to

[47m29s](#): interrupt you. Apologize to that. So can we talk about this firm like where

[47m33s](#): they're from and why we chose this firm? Yeah, we'd like to we'd like to have

[47m38s](#): Steve Oliver from BLDD architects come up and give us a little refresher

[47m44s](#): where we've been. You hear me? Okay. And where where we're proposing to go

[47m47s](#): here. Yeah. So good evening. So as just answer a few questions, we've

[47m51s](#): completed the competitive bidding process for the new K eight magnet

[47m54s](#): school. And so for those of you not familiar with that, that's this case

[47m58s](#): was about a five week process where it gives general contractors and their

[48m1s](#): subcontractors a chance to get familiar with the project and us answer

[48m5s](#): questions, give clarifications them to get bids from their subcontractors and

[48m9s](#): suppliers. So that process has been completed. This is a competitive

[48m13s](#): process where we had four general contractors that submitted bids that

[48m18s](#): ranged a low of just under 25 million to a high of just over \$30 million. Our

[48m24s](#): estimate, which you've seen in your board packet was just over \$20.8

[48m27s](#): million. So we were very excited about the bid results. The low bidder we

[48m31s](#): have checked out. They're good with their bids. They have met the mb

[48m35s](#): requirements actually exceeded them by almost 5%. They're a firm out of

[48m39s](#): Champaign, Illinois that we're familiar with. In fact, we recently did a new

[48m43s](#): school for us. The International Prep Academy in Champaign. It was about a

[48m47s](#): 78,000 square foot facility, new facility that actually toured with some of

[48m51s](#): the district facilities. Kent Metzger and Rita toured that with us as well as

[48m55s](#): Ray Fry. So it's it's a firm that's very capable of doing this. Again, we're

[49m1s](#): very excited about the bid results because it's might be where this is a

[49m4s](#): very difficult bidding climate right now. There's a lot of work out there. So

[49m9s](#): to get four bids on this size project is good. The Sangamon County

[49m14s](#): markets, especially saturated right now, there's a ton of work going right

[49m17s](#): there. So that I think prevented even more bidders from bidding the project.

[49m21s](#): So we were very pleased to see this came in about \$3.8 million under our

[49m25s](#): estimate. So there were two bids that were above our estimate two below it. So

[49m30s](#): we felt really good about that. So just to clarify for the public when you

[49m35s](#): said the they met the MBE. MBE goal requirements set by the district. Could

[49m41s](#): you just clarify what that is for the general public, please? Sure. And I you

[49m45s](#): know, I know you have a consultant that has that. So let me find that paragraph

[49m49s](#): here. I think there was a letter of recommendation in your board packet

[49m53s](#): from Fred Coleman. Yeah, so basically what are the initials mean? Yeah, that's

[50m1s](#): the CAI letter. No, the MBE. Oh, I'm sorry. Yeah, the minority business

[50m6s](#): enterprises. So the goal is 15%. Okay. Bruno Russo, who is the apparent low

[50m10s](#): bidder that is being recommended tonight, came in at 19.21%. Okay. And were

[50m15s](#): there any firms or contracts, contract companies from Decatur? Christie

[50m21s](#): Foltz. Did they meet the MBE? If you're allowed to share that. Yeah, I don't

[50m28s](#): recall the UQM. I don't know that we analyze that because in a competitive

[50m31s](#): market, basically you're forced to go with the low bidder, the low apparent low

[50m34s](#): bidder. That being the top priority, what you're saying. Part of that being the

[50m41s](#): top priority as long as they meet the minimum MBE percentage. So and that's a

[50m45s](#): goal. Keep in mind that's excuse me. That's a goal for this. It's not a

[50m48s](#): requirement. Right. Okay. So we're required to go with the lowest bid, even
[50m51s](#): if it's not a local company. You are correct. And when we can't make an
[50m56s](#): exception for anything ever, even if it's because I just I'm a little
[51m1s](#): disappointed that it wasn't a Decatur firm because that would be more
[51m4s](#): community involvement and you know. Yeah. With public funds like this, you're
[51m10s](#): really forced unless there there is something wrong with their bid to go
[51m13s](#): with the low bidder.
[51m18s](#): Steve, could you also give a little overview? The portions of the project
[51m24s](#): that have already been let and are out right now have been have been put in
[51m31s](#): motion that purchasing process has been put in motion. Could you kind of give
[51m35s](#): us a grand total of where we are? Yeah, so grand total. So if you recall, we've
[51m40s](#): already procured the precast exterior wall package as well as some materials
[51m45s](#): like electrical switch gear, main distribution panels and the chillers.
[51m48s](#): Those are a long lead time items. So we procure those early so that it could
[51m52s](#): meet the overall project schedule. So all in project budget, including a
[51m57s](#): construction contingency of 5%, which is a prudent way to approach this
[52m0s](#): project, including furniture, fees, all soft costs. You're just under 33.5
[52m6s](#): million dollars total project budget. The original estimate for that was just
[52m10s](#): over \$37 million. So it's about three and a half million dollars under the
[52m14s](#): total project budget all in.
[52m16s](#): Thank you. Any other questions? When will this be completed? The goal is it
[52m23s](#): would be completed by the end of 26, excuse me, 25, because we're using
[52m30s](#): ESSER money and so there's need to be allotted by that time. So this point
[52m34s](#): that schedule is part of the contract as well. Any other questions? And this
[52m42s](#): coming to the special meeting was just a sense of timing. It is. Okay. Actually,
[52m47s](#): I thought it was the end of 24. December 24, I thought. Yeah, you said something
[52m54s](#): about January 25. January 25. Yeah, January 25. The idea of the July board
[52m58s](#): meeting was supposed to be today at some point in time. So the bid
[53m2s](#): documents had this week as the awarding. So that's why we had to have the
[53m6s](#): special meeting. Yeah, the goal was to expedite this to get the contract or
[53m10s](#): mobilize as quickly as possible to hit that target. So I'm sorry. It was
[53m14s](#): January of 25 is what the target is. Thank you for that clarification.
[53m20s](#): Thank you. Thank you. Appreciate the update.
[53m24s](#): Mr. Bradford. Mr. Wetzel.
[53m27s](#): Hi, Dr. Collins Brown. No.
[53m32s](#): Mr. Scheider. I and Mr. Clevenger. I three I one a three absent motion
[53m38s](#): carry. Thank you. The announcements and upcoming dates should be on the
[53m46s](#): screen or they're available for you. August 10th is the first staff work
[53m51s](#): day. First full day of school, which is probably the most important date for
[53m54s](#): everybody in here is August 14th. Everything else will be you can check
[54m1s](#): for those updates on dates and times and so forth. Public portion of the next
[54m6s](#): regular board meeting will be 6 30 p.m. August 8th at the Kyle administration
[54m12s](#): building. Do we have a motion to adjourn? So moved. Second.
[54m18s](#): All in favor say aye. Thank you. We're adjourned.