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Transcription:

0s: you 30s: you 1m0s: you 1m30s: you 17m0s: you

17m15s: Oh, I forget. No, I forget. For real. I did.

17m20s: Oh, yes. You got it. You're scripting it, right?

17m26s: I sure forgot your tag.

<u>17m31s</u>: Yep. Okay.

<u>17m37s</u>: I'd like to welcome everybody tonight.

17m39s: Testing.

17m43s: I'd like to welcome everybody tonight and we are going to start tonight with a public hearing.

17m50s: I'll call the public hearing to order and note for the board and public that this hearing is to give an opportunity for public and board members to present any written or oral

<u>17m59s</u>: testimony or comments on the subject of the tentative budget for the Macon Pied Special Education District for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

18m14s: The Board of Education has had a tentative form for this budget prepared by the business office and the board secretary has made the same conveniently available for the public inspection for the last 30 days prior to tonight's action.

18m28s: Ms. Bradford, have we received any public comments?

18m31s: No, we have not.

18m33s: Thank you. Do we have anyone in the audience tonight wishing to speak on this subject tonight?

<u>18m39s</u>: Are we going to do the Pledge of Allegiance?

18m41s: Not yet.

18m42s: Let's do that right after we finish the public hearing and then we'll do the Pledge of Allegiance. Sorry about that.

18m48s: Seeing no one, do I have any board members who have any comments on this agenda item?

19m5s: Okay, I'll declare this public hearing closed and we'll move on to the August 22, 2023 open session.

19m15s: The Board of Education has been in closed executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, the purchase of lease of real property for use of the public body, legal counsel for the public body,

19m34s: pending litigation, settlement agreement, and collective negotiating matters between the board and representatives of its employees.

19m42s: No action was taken during our closed executive session. I would now ask everyone to join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

20m5s: I feel better.

20m10s: We had you covered.

20m15s: Do we have a recommendation for tonight's agenda?

20m18s: Yes, we do. I recommend a board approved tonight's August 22, 2023 open session board meeting agenda as presented.

20m28s: Can I have a motion?

20m29s: So moved. 20m30s: Second.

20m32s: All in favor signify by saying aye.

<u>20m35s</u>: Aye.

20m36s: Those in opposition, motions carried.

20m40s: We'll now move on to our district highlights.

20m43s: Maria's already there and ready to go, so take it away.

20m47s: Good evening, President Clevenger, members of the board.

20m50s: Ms. Bradford and Dr. Clark, we are back in full swing for the 23-24 school year.

20m56s: And so starting off tonight with our district highlights is Pershing Early Learning Center, our youngest and littlest friends here.

21m5s: And I had the pleasure of spending the first day at school at Pershing, and I personally did not see one tier shed.

21m11s: So very, very exciting. I must have came at the right spot.

21m14s: But here tonight to do their district highlight is Principal Sarah Neupol.

21m20s: Good evening.

21m24s: Good evening. Thank you for having me.

21m26s: If you were at the back to school convocation, you'll be disappointed to hear that I will not be turning cartwheels tonight for this presentation.

21m33s: I'm still recovering from that back to school event.

21m36s: As Maria said, I am the principal at Pershing Early Learning Center where we are overflowing currently.

21m42s: We are full for the first time in August in many years with a pretty significant wait list of eligible kids.

21m50s: This is a very good thing for us, but it also is really indicative of a need for more options for children ages three to five in our area.

<u>22m1s</u>: We are almost completely staffed, which is also a great thing.

22m6s: And Maria indicated no tiers, but we had few tiers and much fewer tiers from children than parents on the first day.

22m16s: That's always really hard for moms and dads and grandmas.

22m19s: But we are off to a great start.

<u>22m21s</u>: I would extend my yearly invitation to each of you to come and visit, see what's happening at Pre-K.

22m27s: It's probably very different from what you think might be happening there, but we would love to see you.

22m32s: And because it's almost bedtime, I didn't bring any kiddos with me, but we did bring you a little something from our youngest babies.

22m40s: That is so cute.

22m45s: Thank you.

22m48s: How adorable.

22m51s: That is so cute.

22m53s: Thank you.

22m56s: Nice.

22m58s: This has been signed.

23m2s: Yes.

23m3s: So the children at Pershing love to paint, and so Dr. Clark's holding hers up.

23m7s: Her little handprint fish, she says, are school years going swimmingly.

23m11s: So everybody needs some refrigerator art so you can remember our youngest scholars at Pershing Early Learning Center.

23m17s: Thank you. 23m18s: Thank you.

23m19s: Thank you.

23m20s: Thank you.

23m24s: Okay, we'll now move on to our public participation.

23m27s: Board of Education would like to note the following during public participation.

23m31s: Identify oneself and be brief.

23m33s: Comments should be limited to three minutes.

23m35s: Any public comments submitted to the board secretary will be included in the record.

23m40s: Please note that during any Board of Education meeting and public participation, board members do not respond or comment to public comments.

23m49s: All comments are referred to administration.

23m52s: Furthermore, the board refrains from referring to specific students or staff members by name and request that public commenters refrain from doing so as well.

24m3s: The request that you omit names is made to protect you from allegations of liable or slander or from violations of Illinois School Student Records Act.

24m14s: It is not intended to shield any employee from criticism.

24m19s: Ms. Bradford, do we have anyone wishing to address the board tonight?

24m23s: Luke Feeney.

24m29s: I've been asked to give a brief statement on behalf of the board.

24m33s: The district is aware of allegations regarding a specific employee.

24m37s: The district takes these matters seriously, but will not be commenting tonight on any ongoing investigations or matters related to individual employees.

24m48s: Thank you.

24m49s: Reed Sutman.

24m59s: Hello, my name is Reed Sutman speaking on behalf of DecaturVote.com.

25m5s: At the last meeting, the Social Emotional Learning Program Seven Mindsets was discussed, and Dr. Collins-Brown and Al Scheider voted to table the contract, but that motion to table was voted down.

25m22s: Despite Dr. Gray saying that it should be okay to table it.

25m26s: The following day, somebody asked in a DPS Facebook group how folks felt about the Seven Mindsets program, and there was a lot of mixed feedback from presumably teachers.

25m37s: I don't know who all the people are, but there was mixed feedback about it.

25m41s: Some people seemed to like it.

<u>25m43s</u>: Some people didn't like it, said it was over students' heads.

25m47s: I think it would be nice to see a follow-up report on that where we get more information.

25m58s: The union issues, you can see there's daft of people here tonight, and there's been news about the daft of contract issues.

<u>26m7s</u>: I've also heard that there may be contract negotiation issues with the maintenance and security unions. <u>26m14s</u>: I think it would be great to hear reports on those and to learn more about that.

26m20s: At the last board meeting, Valdemire Talley spoke about school security, and I believe the Explorer program came up.

26m31s: I believe he said that they needed one more student to sign up for that program.

26m36s: It would be nice to hear a report on whether the Explorer program is a go.

26m39s: That's the public safety training, I believe.

26m44s: On another note, I send a lot of FOIA requests, and I want to say thank you to the staff who has to probably work very hard to fulfill all my FOIA requests.

26m55s: I have several times asked for spreadsheets with regard to some of my FOIA items, particularly digital maintenance requests with a FOIA I sent a few weeks ago.

27m8s: I got PDFs back instead of the spreadsheets, which just makes it a lot harder to work with the information and catalog it and take my own notes about the different digital maintenance requests.

27m20s: There's been other items I've requested that probably could have been in a spreadsheet, but I got them back as a

27m27s: It would be nice to have the district ensure that all your software systems that can export data that they can be

exported into some kind of spreadsheet format, and it would be good for transparency.

27m43s: And if those systems are already available, it would be nice if I could get the spreadsheet versions.

27m49s: Thank you for your time.

27m51s: Tara Pitt?

28m0s: Good evening, board. My name is Tara Pitt, and I am a DPS employee. I teach at American Dreamer STEM Academy, but I am also a DPS parent.

28m8s: My oldest child goes to Pershing. I know they are spotlighted today. They are an amazing school.

28m13s: My daughter has absolutely thrived there, but I wanted to especially thank the board and whoever is truly in charge of the summer programming initiative that happened this summer, where part of the summer

<u>28m24s</u>: programs were paid for by the district for district students. My daughter was able to participate in things that I wouldn't have even thought to have signed her up for because of this program.

28m34s: And there's a lot of amazing programs through DPS, including our park districts, dance arts and dance, where my daughter did a dance class where half of her Persian class was in that dance class, and she was able to see her friends over the summer.

28m49s: The day school ended, she asked me, when am I going back to school? And has asked me every single day since coming back last Monday, so the fact that she was able to see her Persian friends at this dance program was fantastic.

29m0s: So I'm not sure what the plan is for doing this for future summers, but please consider it. There are a lot of good programs through Decatur that a lot of our students truly can benefit from, but there might be some financial things in the way. 29m13s: If the district could continue to offer those opportunities for families over the summer, kids could have safe places for them to go over the summer. So thank you.

29m22s: Thank you, Michelle Mitchell.

29m36s: Good evening, Dr. Clark, Madam Secretary Melissa, and to the board, you may know me as the President of DEFTA, but what you may not know is I am the Executive Vice President for the IFT, a representative of over 100,000 members. 29m54s: What you see of blue that you see behind me is just the tip of the iceberg that desire to be treated and valued and respected.

<u>30m5s</u>: We are regular ed, special ed sign language interpreters, LPNs, behavioral specialists, and hearing and vision technicians that make sure not only DPS 61 is run like a well-oiled machine, but the Macon Piat counties.

30m22s: Our contract expired on June 30th and have several times met with the district to settle a new contract to no avail. We've gotten a lot of hard nose.

<u>30m34s</u>: Our goal is not to disrupt student learning. That not only hurts our students, but our staff and parents. The confidence in the district is also affected by that.

<u>30m47s</u>: What we've proposed are items to just survive. Insurance is high. Subbing positions often go on field. Our TAs are overworked because they're bringing them into the classrooms with other students.

31m2s: We have senior assistants that have been here for over 30 years, and the classes are often split so that those students can continue to learn.

<u>31m16s</u>: We are your boots on the ground that keep you held up, but we feel that we are least valued. We ask that the district show an appreciation for us and to settle our contract as soon as possible.

31m33s: Thank you.

31m34s: Keith Creighton.

<u>31m42s</u>: Good evening, Dr. Clark, President Clevenger, and members of the board. My name is Keith Creighton, and I'm an assistant principal at Dennis Lab School.

31m49s: I'm here tonight to share a story about this artwork that I have brought. This is the first piece of artwork that we displayed in our new home on the Garfield campus.

<u>31m59s</u>: The butterfly collage you see here was created last year out of recycled materials by Gavin Crimm as part of a project-based learning project led by his teacher, Kim Carver.

32m9s: I'm so glad that someone had the foresight to retrieve this from the kaleidoscope campus. There are many layers of symbolism that this art represents for me.

<u>32m17s</u>: I have learned that art serves as humanity's anchor when the world spins out of control. When the world shut down due to COVID, people turn to singing on balconies, concerts in living rooms, and coloring pictures of animals to create zoos in our neighborhood.

<u>32m31s</u>: This piece also anchors Dennis Lab in our time of transition as a reminder of our why. The butterfly has long stood as a symbol of new life, and we're entering a new chapter at Dennis, one in which we'll be able to grow as one school no longer divided.

<u>32m45s</u>: This artwork is a public presentation of a PBL project. I believe that PBL motivates students to learn, inspires teachers to turn more control over to students, and creates opportunities for all students to have access to important conversations <u>32m59s</u>: and decisions that affect the world around us. A piece of art born out of this teaching pedagogy is so emblematic of the lofty goals that we set for ourselves at Dennis Lab's school.

33m9s: This piece will be a reminder of the power of PBL to affect the lives of others.

<u>33m13s</u>: Finally, the last layer of symbolism in this artwork is the medium in which it was created. The students were working to solve the problem of how to create something out of seemingly nothing.

33m23s: When I look at this art on display, I'm reminded that just a few short weeks ago, the Garfield campus was a very different place.

<u>33m31s</u>: The efforts of district leadership, the investment of the school board, and the hard work of the district's crews have turned a field of seemingly nothing into a collection of modular classrooms, and they are so nice.

33m43s: Our community and school district has rallied around Dennis.

33m47s: When I walk past Gavin's Art, I will remember that the community came together to create something spectacular out of nowhere.

33m54s: I could not ask for a more poignant piece of artwork to be the first piece of art on display. This artwork will look amazing on the wall for the next several years as we await the long-term solution for Dennis Lab's school.

<u>34m6s</u>: Our students will have a great experience at our new campus. We have been set up for success, and we are not eager to just fix the existing problems with the old buildings and move back.

34m16s: When you come to visit the new campus, be sure to take a moment to reflect on this art by Gavin Krim.

34m21s: I hope that you too will find layers of personal meaning as I do. Thank you for your time. Monarch's Rise.

34m26s: Thank you. Can you hold up the painting? Oh, that's beautiful. Thank you.

34m34s: Is there anyone else in the audience that would like to provide any comments tonight? Seeing none, thank you for your

comments and participation tonight. We appreciate that.

34m56s: We'll now move on to board discussion. Is there anything the board wishes to discuss at this point in time?

35m5s: I would like to request, as I have in the past, this Friday is the 10th day of enrollment, so I request that we receive the number of students enrolled on that day in each grade in each school.

35m20s: Okay. Hearing no more comments, let's move on to reports from administration. I'd like to call on Dr. Gray.

35m45s: Good evening, everyone. I am here to deliver a presentation about Harvard. I talked to Dr. Clark and she said Dr. Gray let the principals tell their story.

35m56s: So I will step out the way and let Mrs. Mola next and Mrs. Mentor sit up here and tell you about Harvard.

<u>36m4s</u>: Hello, Dr. Clark, President Clevenger, Melissa, and members of the board. Kami and I, along with so many principals that got an opportunity of a lifetime, we are happy to come and share this great experience that happened in two different sects, two different weeks.

36m24s: So the first week was in early July. I don't have the clicker.

<u>36m37s</u>: My name is Kami Mentor, principal of Dennis Lab School. I first want to start off by thanking all of you for making the decision and investing in your principals.

<u>36m48s</u>: To be able to travel together, not once, but twice, to Harvard to invest in the goal of achieving leadership. And it was absolutely phenomenal.

37m0s: I wish I could capture it and bottle it up and share that with you. But we attended the first achieving excellence in leadership during July 9th through the 14th.

37m11s: The included Dr. Larry Gray, Christy Mullen X, myself, Paul Ranstead, Michelle Bonebrake, Mary Brady, Nate Tallent, Sergio Rannett, and Holly Kitson.

<u>37m23s</u>: We had six days of focused sessions every day. We started on a Sunday and that Sunday was really hard because we didn't feel like we should be in school.

<u>37m33s</u>: But we did things like adaptive and strategic approaches to leadership, leadership impact on climate and culture, addressing equity in leadership, trauma and resiliency, family engagement, transformational leadership, and reflecting on self as a leader.

37m53s: What was amazing about this is that the people who presented to us, they actually wrote the books. So it wasn't somebody who had read a book and they're telling us about it. They knew it inside and out.

38m7s: And they allowed for interaction. We could raise our hand. It was kind of like being at the, oh, this is going to fill Don Hueso, but like they would bring a microphone to you and let you ask questions and things like that.

38m20s: So it was an awesome experience.

38m24s: And the topics, as you will see, were heavy. There was a lot of research and reading of articles and work that you had to do prior to the sessions.

38m33s: But what I loved most about this is that you usually attend a workshop and then you go home and then you have to just kind of do it on your own.

38m41s: They gave us the time to, not only after you attended the sessions, but within your group or within our team, go off campus for a little bit and dissect and think about how are we strategically going to embed this or make a difference and impact our schools.

<u>38m56s</u>: So we actually had the time while we were there to do that.

39m0s: The next session was leadership from different perspectives. Each leader, did I skip one?

39m7s: I think you skipped one. Go back there.

39m9s: Okay, hold on.

39m11s: Okay, they're not going to put me in charge of technology ever. Okay?

39m18s: Leadership from different perspectives.

39m21s: Okay.

39m22s: One more.

39m24s: One more.

39m27s: There, I...

39m30s: Okay.

39m34s: So this is a second set.

39m35s: It's like I'm going to send you back to Harvard.

39m39s: I know, as I proudly wear this shirt, you know?

39m42s: Wicked smot.

39m44s: Yes, wicked smot.

39m46s: It wasn't on clickers, so you're good.

39m48s: It was not on technology.

39m51s: So we spent another group of us went. Some of us did both sessions, but another group of us went and we had...

40m0s: This one was five days with race, equity, and leadership, instructional leadership, impact on efficacy on student achievement,

<u>40m9s</u>: utilizing data, school culture, trauma, and resilience in schools.

40m14s: Once again, we would have the speakers, then we were all in a different group.

40m21s: So nobody from our group was in the same group.

40m25s: So I think the second time, I think there were 17 groups.

40m28s: So you were able to connect with people from...

40m32s: Well, the first one, we had different countries.

40m35s: The second one was mostly because it was on leadership.

40m43s: We mostly just had the United States.

40m47s: The first one, we had, I think, nine different countries.

40m51s: But when you went back to your group, then you were talking with people from Texas, Wisconsin, Ohio, Florida,

41m0s: and getting their perspectives of how they do it and their buildings and what they've done to make changes.

41m7s: And it was a sigh of relief to be in a room with 218 people from all around the world,

41m14s: to actually hear that at first you're thinking, why am I in this room? I don't belong.

41m18s: I don't really feel like I had a great year or a successful year.

41m22s: When you heard from all 218 people in attendance, they had the same feelings and the same thought.

41m28s: And so Harvard did an excellent job of bringing it to our attention that we chose you.

41m33s: So that application, we brought you here, we were well representative from Decatur,

- 41m38s: and we were able to take that and take that time and those serious topics and come back 41m44s: and kind of create some action plans of some great changes that we want to bring within our district.
- 41m50s: So very exciting.
- 41m51s: We were also allowed time to bond as a group of administrators, too.
- 41m59s: We got to know each other a lot more.
- 42m2s: And as we have returned, it is completely different.
- 42m7s: We pick up the phone, we call Paul, we call Cammie, we call Bone Break, we call Talent.
- 42m12s: I mean, we are all networking with each other.
- 42m15s: Emails go back and forth.
- 42m17s: We're calling Cordell at Eisenhower or Beth Williams.
- 42m20s: And it makes a difference that we're all connecting and saving time because somebody's already invented it.
- 42m28s: And we talk all the time about taking the time to build relationships,
- 42m32s: but we're so busy when school gets started to really actually have the time to do that.
- 42m36s: So that was absolutely wonderful.
- 42m38s: Harvard, being the School of Excellence that they are, they challenged us.
- 42m41s: At each week, we had to come up with a problem of practice from either one of the topics that was provided that week
- 42m48s: and we had to come up with a presentation.
- 42m50s: We had to do a consultancy protocol where we had to present to our team
- 42m54s: and listen through a series of questions and feedback,
- 42m57s: and then take that and tweak our plans before we came back and shared with what we were doing.
- 43m3s: That picture up there, you'll see the lady was one of the group leaders,
- 43m8s: but she had actually taught at Eastern a long time ago and all of us are Eastern grads with her.
- 43m16s: So she sent that in to the Eastern Alumni Magazine.
- 43m20s: So, okay, so our takeaways.
- 43m26s: Learning requires discomfort.
- 43m29s: Mistakes will be made.
- 43m31s: You have to do the hard work before you do the hard work.
- 43m35s: Celebrating the work is vital and when in doubt, huddle.
- 43m40s: Know who your people are.
- 43m42s: And that really gave us that opportunity, like I said, to huddle.
- 43m47s: And one of the things that I took away was a saying that said,
- 43m54s: think big, act small.
- 43m56s: And so sometimes I'll say, hold on, you don't have to create the whole thing.
- 44m2s: What are some pieces I can do right now to get this accomplished and marked off my list as a building principal?
- 44m10s: So anything else you want to?
- 44m12s: No, there are a lot more takeaways than just these.
- 44m15s: These are just a few of those, but again, we just want to thank you for the opportunity and finding the value
- 44m21s: and putting the money up front for us to be able to go.
- 44m25s: And we came out learning a lot of things and I can't wait as you go on with the year
- 44m30s: as you hear all of the wonderful things that came out of Harvard.
- 44m33s: So thank you.
- 44m34s: Thank you.
- 44m35s: Thank you.
- 44m41s: Thank you for that update.
- 44m43s: Dr. Gray, I think you're up again.
- 44m55s: All right.
- <u>44m56s</u>: The next topic is summer school.
- 44m58s: And when I say, when I got tasked with the job of putting together summer school,
- <u>45m4s</u>: I said this is easy breezy until I started doing the work.
- 45m8s: And I want to let you know I'm thankful for everyone that helped out in summer school
- 45m13s: between the certified teachers, the substitute teachers,
- 45m17s: and the host sites of Hope Academy, Eisenhower, MacArthur.
- 45m23s: I basically had to beg, borrow, steal to get people to come in and work this summer.
- 45m28s: And those that showed up every day, I'm truly grateful our kids are better, you know, for that.
- 45m33s: But this summer we served 757 students, K-12, and it was a great experience for our students.
- 45m44s: The attendance wise, we could have did a little bit better,
- 45m48s: but knowing that it was summertime and things happened such as vacations
- 45m52s: and people got a little bit tired, you see our attendance percentage is there.
- 45m58s: But the ones that showed up, they had a great experience again.
- 46m3s: In the K-12, we focused on reading and math,
- 46m7s: making sure that students understood the phonics piece of reading comprehension,
- 46m12s: and we added some writing in there as well.
- 46m14s: The math piece is always crucial in terms of number of sense and the foundational skills,
- 46m19s: so working with the students that were behind to help them catch up.
- 46m25s: In the high school space, it's all about credit recovery.
- 46m29s: Although some students did have an opportunity to do dual enrollment,
- 46m33s: but as you see, we were able to help students catch up with some of their credits at both Eisenhower and MacArthur.
- 46m39s: Again, a lot of hard work for such a short time.
- 46m43s: I couldn't tell you enough about the opportunities that students had,
- <u>46m48s</u>: because if you look at the numbers, it doesn't equate to the hard work that went into the summer school piece.
- 46m54s: So that's my report on summer school.
- 46m56s: We did talk about providing data, and later on I'll share some of that data with you guys.
- 47m5s: Alright, so as you recall,
- 47m8s: district administrators wanted to provide additional learning opportunities outside the classroom using community

resources.

- 47m15s: And this summer, 2023 marked the second year we hosted a community summer sign up event
- 47m21s: and provided the DPS scholarships to cover the cost of all the enrollment and registration fees.
- 47m26s: So in the spring during the summer sign up event, we welcomed over 260 families,
- 47m31s: where they had access to community organizations and social service partners in one location.
- 47m39s: Last year we had 150.
- 47m42s: So MacArthur's gym was action packed, full steam, the full two hours we were there.
 47m49s: Thanks to our community organizations, we had over 1400 students DPS enrolled and then deployed in our programs in Decatur as a whole.
- 48m1s: So they provided different academic, social and personal enrichment opportunities for the students.
- 48m6s: And as I mentioned, this was the second year offered to pay for summer fees.
- 48m10s: The majority of the expenses were paid by ESSER funds.
- 48m14s: It was around \$277,000.
- 48m17s: And then the district picked up the other 39% of that, which was \$178,000.
- 48m26s: This isn't all of our community partners that were at our summer sign up event that hosted our students just for dates.
- 48m34s: They were deployed in our community from June 5th through August 4th.
- 48m38s: And just to name a few of the experiences offered this summer,
- 48m41s: the Boy Scouts of America hosted Arrowhead Camp, Millican Arts Academy held summer camps such as Strings Camp, Music Theater,
- 48m50s: Rap U, Bass, Drums and Guitar camps, Sugar Fix Design and Dessert Studio as a DPS graduate.
- 48m58s: She's also a women's small business owner.
- 49m0s: She offered a kids decorating challenge and a summer entrepreneurship experience.
- 49m5s: So that was pretty unique.
- 49m7s: Decatur Area Arts Council hosted paint and drawing camps as well as an international arts camp.
- 49m13s: The ROE hosted a camp for our special needs population and their parents.
- 49m17s: And Making County Conservation held adventure and earth camp.
- 49m21s: So a big magnitude and wide variety of programs that our students had access to.
- 49m27s: And I promise I did not talk to Miss Pritt before her public participation.
- 49m31s: I have a script so I have proof.
- 49m33s: But my next thing I'm going to say is, in speaking to some of our parents,
- 49m37s: our students were exposed to many opportunities that they may not have known about or were even offered.
- 49m42s: But because of our summer sign up event, they appreciated it because it allowed parents and students to visit the organization tables
- 49m48s: and ask questions about their program offerings.
- 49m51s: And for our community partners and our social service agencies, they loved having that access to our families.
- 49m57s: So otherwise, that is all about the summer community partner program that we held.
- 50m3s: Do you have any questions for myself or Dr. Gray?
- 50m6s: I guess just one question.
- 50m10s: Do you have a mechanism for feedback on the various programs that we're funding throughout the summer
- 50m18s: so that our parents can provide feedback or our kids can provide feedback so that feedback can be shared with our community partners
- 50m25s: and...
- 50m27s: Yeah, I can get something lined up.
- 50m29s: But other than the few emails that I get and are we listening mailbox or me personally?
- 50m34s: Yeah, I can do some type of mechanism.
- <u>50m37s</u>: Maybe for next summer we could look at some feedback.
- 50m39s: Absolutely. 50m40s: That'd be great.
- 50m41s: Yeah. Anything else? 50m43s: Thank you.
- 50m47s: Okay, for our next item, I think Dr. Clark will take this one for an update on our Dennis School, our Dennis Lab School.
- 50m53s: Yes.
- 50m55s: It will be brief because not...
- 50m57s: Well, actually a few things have changed, but let's get them loaded here.
- 51m5s: Just recapping a few things.
- 51m8s: Dennis will start September 5th, 2023, and we are still doing grab and go bills.
- 51m14s: The last one would be August 28th from 4.30 to 6.00 p.m.
- 51m20s: We have ordered signs for the Dennis location.
- 51m24s: They haven't come in yet, but we will get something out there to help families recognize that this is a Dennis campus.
- 51m30s: It will be just something temporary.
- 51m33s: Extended day will not start for Dennis until September 5th.
- <u>51m36s</u>: All the other K.A. buildings have started.
- 51m40s: A G.O.A., we're looking at a name that can stick because every time the audit programs move, they take on the school that they move to.
- 51m49s: So in talking with administration, you know, just simply Decatur Public Schools alternative education program.
- 51m57s: And this way wherever they go, whatever building they're in, that name will follow.
- 52m2s: So we just did a temporary logo for right now.
- 52m4s: We'll work to put something together for that.
- <u>52m8s</u>: We are still needing to connect with the city bus routes.
- 52m11s: They have them outlined, but they had to pull a bus that's on, I believe, a Jasper route to assist us.
- <u>52m17s</u>: So we're still working out the kinks for that.
- 52m20s: Just a reminder that the Tier 3 bail schedule changed for Montessori and Stephen Cater.
- 52m26s: Pershing stayed the same.
- 52m28s: So that new time is 9.15 to 3.35 p.m.
- 52m35s: We want to make sure that we keep updating the timelines and you see a lot of green checks here.

- <u>52m40s</u>: So we are really moving along here.
- 52m43s: I'm going to jump all the way down to number 4 because we did receive the last modular and it is together,
- 52m49s: but you still have to go through all of the networking, the water, the sewer, all of those things still need to be connected, the flooring and all of that.
- 52m58s: Jump down to number 8.
- 53m0s: We're looking at August 25th as a completion date for the installation and the 31st as the targeted move-in phase.
- 53m11s: Number 10, looking at completing the parking lot because we have to expand parking for staff and that would be September 3rd as the anticipated date.
- 53m22s: And then again, we have ordered the sign number 12, ordered the signage for Dennis and we're just waiting for it to arrive.
- 53m30s: Any questions about the timeline?
- 53m35s: One of the things we put online was something active that people can see.
- 53m39s: So they don't have to go through like the checklist.
- 53m41s: This is just something quick.
- 53m42s: Is it ready basically?
- 53m44s: And so now the check marks show you how close we are to saying, okay, everybody, let's go move your things in.
- 53m51s: So you can see where we still have two work-in-progresses, one in the six modular and one in the four modular.
- 53m59s: But for the majority of this, we're looking really good.
- <u>54m3s</u>: And we're on target for our September 5th student start date.
- <u>54m11s</u>: And here is a little video of the work that is being done.
- 54m15s: So you can see the walkway.
- 54m17s: This particular ramp has not just stairs, but it also has a ramp in case we have students that need wheelchair accessibility.
- <u>54m27s</u>: And you are not able to access this on the parking site where cars are entering to make sure that there is no crossover, right?
- 54m37s: So am I just pressing this into the play or are they going to press it?
- 54m41s: Let's see.
- 54m42s: Okay.
- 54m47s: And this is just really for you to see photos of how things have come along since we started this.
- <u>55m12s</u>: The rooms are huge.
- 55m27s: The rooms are huge.
- 55m57s: So I was able to finally go inside.
- 56m18s: I couldn't get in before because, you know, they were using a ladder and that's just not my thing.
- 56m23s: So once I was able to go up the stairs and look inside, it is just amazing.
- 56m29s: And it was funny because I'm looking at the window and looking at all the space.
- 56m33s: And I looked at the modular across from me and I said, who is somebody's in there already?
- <u>56m38s</u>: They were like, your reflection, we're did that purposely so students can stay focused.
- <u>56m43s</u>: So they have like maybe like a covering on the front end, like a darkening on the windows on the outside.
- 56m50s: So we can see outside, but no one is seeing inside.
- <u>56m53s</u>: So that kind of helps with keeping kids focused.
- <u>56m56s</u>: So I thought that was pretty cool.
- 56m58s: And then we talked about how cold it is.
- <u>57m0s</u>: So the air does work.
- 57m3s: They have bathrooms already set up and ready to go inside.
- 57m6s: I thought that was pretty cool.
- 57m8s: Office for administration in the modular so they don't have to go back and forth to the the actual physical building original building.
- <u>57m18s</u>: They can go to someone that's in the modular units and they have it set up to where when the kids come up the steps, they're able to go to their individual classes.
- 57m27s: And I believe they're going to have certain activities where adults go to the children instead of the children coming out.
- 57m34s: The playground is already up and ready to go.
- <u>57m37s</u>: And they've already, as you can see, started building the walkways and they are leveling out, you know, the rest of the green space.
- 57m45s: And I think it's going to be amazing.
- 57m47s: The kids will be able to utilize that entire area.
- 57m51s: I think they're going to really enjoy this.
- 57m53s: I don't know if anybody else wanted to comment, but we just wanted you to see where we are at this point in time.
- 58m0s: I think it's coming along very well.
- 58m4s: Yes, go ahead.
- 58m8s: Good evening, board.
- <u>58m10s</u>: Kent Metzger, director of building the grounds.
- 58m12s: Everyone knows we're going to start moving contents into the modules tomorrow.
- 58m17s: And so it may possibly the two six pack modules will get contents tomorrow.
- 58m24s: And it looks like the four pack modular probably putting a wrap pretty much on most of that by the end of the week.
- 58m30s: Wow.
- 58m31s: We've spoken with Kami Meter about getting teachers in there start putting the rooms together and stuff.
- 58m37s: So I think we're going to do we're going to do it the September 5th is going to happen.
- 58m44s: Mr. Craig is like, yeah, it has been amazing.
- 58m48s: I don't know how many of you had the opportunity to go out or whoever is going out.
- 58m52s: But I go out there regularly like they they know my car is like she's back again.
- 58m56s: But just to see the work.
- 58m58s: I don't care what time of day I go after work on a Saturday early in the morning.
- 59m4s: They're working and it's just amazing the amount of work that they've you know have been able to do in a short period of time.
- 59m11s: So I am very appreciative of all of them that have worked B and G the companies.

59m16s: Everybody thank you for your hard work. 59m23s: We're still on the analysis piece. 59m25s: The board did task us with getting the analysis started and making sure that we bring you recommendation for specifically Dennis as soon as possible. 59m34s: So we're still working on that. 59m35s: I haven't forgotten. 59m36s: So I just wanted you to know we're still there on that. 59m40s: Any questions from the board at this time. 59m44s: Any board member thoughts or comments? 59m46s: I did have one. <u>59m47s</u>: Could you talk for just a minute about preview opportunities?

59m51s: Oh yes.

59m53s: Who I believe we're doing up.

59m55s: You want to talk about the open house.

59m57s: Thank you.

60m0s: Yeah we thought that because of the transitions that people would be pretty anxious about seeing their school

especially as some students may have always been just walkers to us.

60m10s: So the idea of putting their kids on the bus for the first day and sending them someplace they didn't know we thought would be pretty anxious.

60m16s: So we worked with human resources and the DEA to help be able to provide two different options for open houses.

60m25s: So we have one scheduled for Wednesday September 30th.

60m28s: Nope not September.

60m31s: Wednesday August 30th 5 to 7. 60m36s: And then the following Thursday.

60m38s: And then teachers are able to do one or the other.

60m41s: So we were thankful that we were able to work that out to provide an opportunity before or after whichever parents prefer or both.

60m48s: However it may be.

60m49s: Thank you.

60m50s: Bless you.

60m51s: Keith.

60m52s: When you say the following Thursday do you mean the next day Thursday or the week.

60m55s: I meant September 7th. 60m57s: Yes thank you for clarifying.

60m58s: September 7th once students have started because some parents may prefer you know to have that opportunity.

61m3s: And that would be 5 to 7 also.

61m4s: Yes.

61m5s: Thank you.

61m6s: And Miss Matter I have a question for you if you want to come up to the podium.

61m13s: And I know you've been working with staff as well so can you talk about you know the classrooms everybody has their

<u>61m19s</u>: They know where they're going that kind of thing.

61m21s: We do.

61m22s: We have created a map.

61m23s: We shared that with teachers.

<u>61m24s</u>: We let them know where their building was going to be assigned.

61m27s: We were waiting to see if the six pack or the four pack was going to be delivered on time.

61m32s: It is here and it is on time so that way we don't have to have some temporary rooms in the primary building.

61m38s: So we're excited to just work with Kent and get things moved in.

61m43s: Teachers are excited.

61m44s: They're anxious.

<u>61m45s</u>: The main building teachers have already been in working on those rooms.

61m49s: We just have a couple designated areas of when we do get into the modulars that we're able to move those things into the classroom.

61m56s: And we're just waiting for the last things from Clydescope and Mosaic.

<u>61m59s</u>: And I just want to say thank you to you and all of you.

62m2s: This has been a process.

<u>62m4s</u>: This has been difficult but well organized, well planned.

62m8s: We have all the things.

62m9s: We are excited.

<u>62m10s</u>: The modulars look fantastic.

62m12s: I agree.

<u>62m13s</u>: Every time I go out there and I did hike up that ladder in my skirt and my heels and they were all talking about who was that?

62m18s: It was me.

62m19s: But it was raining and I just wanted to capture some things to share with my teachers to get them excited.

62m24s: Change is coming.

62m25s: We have been through this process and we are going to come out shining like the monarchs that we are.

62m30s: Thank you.

62m31s: So thank you. 62m32s: Thank you.

62m33s: Any other questions from the board?

<u>62m37s</u>: Hearing none.

62m38s: Thank you.

62m39s: Kent, big note of appreciation for coordinating and keeping this on time.

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62m45s: It is a monumental task for anybody who has not been involved in construction and logistics.
62m52s: It is a monumental task to put something like this together in such a short period of time.
62m57s: So hats off to all of our staff at all levels that they are working diligently to put this together because we all keep in mind
what we are here for.
63m6s: And that is seeing our kids have a good experience.
63m8s: I am going to step out and turn.
63m10s: I have to say this has been a phenomenal team effort.
63m13s: And it is just funny one of the very first days we started one of the main disguises.
63m17s: We are never going to do this.
63m19s: And the other guy next to him says, oh yes, we are going to make this happen.
63m23s: And they have made it happen.
63m24s: And so hats off to those guys.
63m27s: They are phenomenal.
63m28s: And the heat and everything they are out there getting after it.
63m31s: Yes.
63m32s: Yes.
63m33s: So the existing Dennis buildings, are they empty?
63m38s: Have the teachers gotten everything out of the buildings that they needed to get?
63m42s: Did we get all of our equipment out?
63m47s: I will step back up.
63m49s: Basically we have gotten out all of the critical things.
63m52s: We are still kind of using the gymnasium as a reservoir for things if we need them.
<u>63m56s</u>: But I think maybe the things are moving in tomorrow.
<u>64m1s</u>: Some of those are still coming out of the Dennis buildings.
<u>64m3s</u>: But yeah, pretty much everything has been retrieved.
64m6s: It has been brought back down to the lowest level.
64m8s: So it is easy to access.
64m9s: And I think we are good to go.
64m11s: Thank you.
64m13s: And I know we will hear about it if it is not.
64m16s: Cammy or either Keith will tell us.
64m20s: Thanks, Kent.
64m22s: Okay, we will now move on to our consent items.
64m25s: Does anyone want any individual item pulled from the consent calendar to vote on separately?
64m31s: And do we have a recommendation for the consent items?
64m36s: Yes, I recommend the Board of Education approve the consent items as presented, which includes
64m41s: A, minutes, open close meetings, August 8, 2023, B, treasurer's report, C, financial conditions report,
64m51s: D, out of line bills, E, resolution authorizing the sale of technology equipment.
65m0s: Do I have a motion?
65m1s: So moved.
65m2s: Second.
65m3s: So what are out of line bills?
65m6s: What does that mean?
65m8s: Are they outside of budget or?
65m12s: Good evening.
65m17s: I have my stack of notes for you guys.
65m20s: So my understanding is the out of line check is a bill that kind of got lost in the approval process.
<u>65m26s</u>: And we are trying to ensure that the vendor is getting paid.
65m29s: And if you have any other questions, Dr. Curry would love to answer them when he returns.
65m36s: Thanks for stepping in tonight.
65m38s: No problem.
65m44s: Ms. Bradford.
65m45s: Mr. Clevenger.
65m46s: Hi.
65m47s: Mr. Dion.
<u>65m48s</u>: Hi.
65m49s: Mr. Reynolds.
<u>65m50s</u>: Hi.
65m51s: Dr. Collins-Brown.
65m52s: Hi.
65m53s: And Mr. Scheider.
65m54s: Hi.
65m55s: 5-i, 0-nay, 2-absent, motion carried.
65m56s: We'll now move on to our roll call action items.
66m0s: Do we have a recommendation for a possible settlement agreement with a former custodial employee?
66m5s: One moment.
66m8s: I forgot to have some.
66m10s: I'm so sorry.
66m12s: It's okay.
66m19s: Yes.
66m20s: I recommend the Board of Education approve the settlement agreement with Rob Lane, a former custodial employee,
as presented.
66m27s: Do I have a motion?
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66m28s: So moved. 66m29s: Second.

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66m31s: Discussion?
66m34s: Ms. Bradford.
66m35s: Mr. Reynolds.
66m36s: Hi.
66m37s: Mr. Clevenger.
66m38s: Hi.
66m39s: Mr. Dion.
66m40s: Hi.
66m41s: Mr. Scheider.
66m42s: Hi.
66m43s: And Dr. Collins-Brown.
66m44s: Hi.
66m45s: 5-i, 0-nay, 2-absent, motion carried.
66m46s: Thank you.
66m47s: Do we have a recommendation for the personnel action items?
66m50s: Yes.
66m51s: I recommend the Board of Education approve the personnel action items listed in the memo from Dianne Healman,
Interim Director of Human Resources and the Human Resources Department as presented.
67m2s: Go to motion.
67m3s: So moved.
67m4s: Second.
67m5s: Discussion?
67m8s: Ms. Bradford.
67m9s: Mr. Reynolds.
67m10s: Hi.
67m11s: Mr. Scheider.
67m12s: Hi.
67m13s: Dr. Collins-Brown.
67m14s: Hi.
67m15s: Mr. Dion.
67m16s: 5-i, 0-nay, 2-absent, motion carried.
67m18s: Thank you.
67m19s: Do we have a recommendation for the FY 2023-2024 Decatur Public School District 61 tentative budget?
67m28s: Yes.
67m29s: I recommend the Board approve the FY 2023-2024 Decatur Public School District 61 tentative budget as presented.
67m38s: Also, after the vote on the FY 2023-2024 Decatur Public School District 61 tentative budget, I will ask the Board of
Education to set the public hearing date for Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 6.30 p.m. at the Cow Administration Building.
67m57s: And please note that action on the final DPS61 budget will take place at that meeting.
68m4s: Also, a presentation will take place during the September 12, 2023 Open Session Board of Education meeting by Dr.
Mike Curry, Chief Operational Officer.
68m15s: Do I have a motion?
68m17s: So moved.
68m18s: Second.
68m19s: Discussion?
68m22s: Ms. Bradford.
68m23s: Mr. Scheider.
68m24s: Hi.
68m25s: Mr. Dion.
68m26s: Hi.
68m27s: Mr. Clevenger.
68m28s: Hi.
68m29s: Mr. Reynolds.
68m30s: Hi.
68m31s: And Dr. Collins-Brown.
68m32s: Hi.
68m33s: And I have a motion, Kerry.
68m35s: Thank you.
68m36s: We're going to set another public hearing date here.
68m39s: Could I have a motion from the Board of Education to set a public hearing date for the FY 2023-2024 Decatur Public
School District 61 tentative budget for 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at the Cow Administration Building.
68m56s: So moved.
68m57s: Second.
68m59s: Discussion?
69m2s: Ms. Bradford.
69m3s: Those opposed, say aye.
69m6s: Signify, aye.
69m8s: Aye.
69m9s: Those in favor, say aye.
69m10s: Aye.
69m11s: See, that's not my role.
69m12s: Those opposed, same sign.
69m14s: Okay.
69m15s: Motion, Kerry.
69m16s: Caught us off guard there.
69m18s: Sorry about that.
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69m20s: Do we have a recommendation to approve the FY 2023-2024 Makin' Pye at Special Education District Budget?
69m29s: So moved.
69m31s: Second.
69m33s: Thank you.
69m34s: You're welcome.
69m35s: We're a team here.
69m37s: Yes, I recommend the Board of Education approve and adopt the FY 2023-2024 Makin' Pye at Special Education
District Budget as presented.
69m47s: You already got a motion and a second on the table.
69m51s: Okay.
69m52s: Any discussion?
69m54s: Ms. Bradford.
69m55s: Mr. Clevenger.
69m56s: Aye.
69m57s: Mr. Reynolds.
69m58s: Deion.
69m59s: Aye.
70m0s: Mr. Scheider.
<u>70m1s</u>: Aye.
70m2s: And Dr. Collins-Brown.
70m3s: Aye.
70m4s: 5-i-0-nay-2-absent.
70m5s: Motion, Kerry.
70m6s: Thank you.
70m7s: We made it through that one.
70m8s: Yes.
70m9s: Now, do we have a recommendation to award the bid for the new parking lot on the Garfield campus?
70m14s: Yes.
70m15s: I recommend the Board of Education award the bid for the new parking lot on the Garfield campus as presented.
70m21s: Go have a motion.
70m23s: So moved.
70m24s: Second.
70m25s: Discussion?
70m27s: Ms. Bradford.
70m29s: Dr. Collins-Brown.
70m30s: Aye.
70m31s: Mr. Scheider.
70m32s: Aye.
70m33s: Mr. Reynolds.
70m34s: Aye.
70m35s: Mr. Clevenger.
70m36s: Aye.
70m37s: And Mr. Deion.
70m38s: Aye.
70m39s: 5-i-0-nay-2-absent.
70m40s: Motion, Kerry.
70m41s: Thank you.
70m42s: Do we have a recommendation to award the bid to Aramark Food Service for the Fresh Fruits
70m47s: and Vegetable Program for the 2023-2024 school year?
70m53s: Yes.
70m54s: I recommend the Board of Education award the bid to Aramark Food Service for the Fresh
70m58s: Fruits and Vegetable Program for the 2023-2024 school year as presented.
71m5s: So moved.
71m6s: So moved.
71m7s: Second.
71m8s: Discussion?
71m12s: Ms. Bradford.
71m13s: Mr. Deion.
71m14s: Aye.
71m15s: Mr. Reynolds.
71m16s: Aye.
71m17s: Mr. Clevenger.
71m18s: Aye.
71m19s: Dr. Collins-Brown.
71m20s: Aye.
71m21s: And Mr. Scheider.
71m22s: Aye.
71m23s: Motion, Kerry.
71m24s: I think you'll see on the screen coming up here our announcements and upcoming dates
71m30s: are listed.
71m32s: You can take a look at those.
71m33s: And then some special announcements here.
71m36s: We have Richard Russell passed away Saturday, July 29.
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71m42s: Mr. Russell was the grandfather of Allison Lancaster, secretary to the principal at Franklin

71m48s: Grove Elementary.

- 71m50s: Richard Mallory passed away Wednesday, August 9, 2023.
- 71m54s: Mr. Mallory was a brother of Lisa Larry, first grade teaching assistant at Johns Hill Magnet
- 72m0s: School.
- 72m2s: Jane Wright passed away Thursday, August 17, 2023.
- 72m7s: Mrs. Wright was the mother-in-law of Will Wetzel, DPS board member.
- 72m13s: Mr. Clevenger, just for clarification, that's Richard Malloy, not Richard Mallory.
- 72m17s: Sorry. 72m18s: That is okay.
- 72m20s: Out of respect for Ms. Larry, I just want to show you how to make that.
- 72m22s: I appreciate that.
- 72m23s: Thank you.
- 72m25s: Can you note that correction?
- 72m27s: Thank you.
- 72m28s: Yeah, I'll have Mallory.
- <u>72m29s</u>: Some important dates that you can see on the screen.
- 72m33s: I'm not going to go through all of these, but tentative first day, remember, for Dennis
- 72m37s: Lab School is the 5th of September.
- 72m43s: That one is highlighted for me for the night.
- 72m45s: I think it's going to be a happy day for everyone when those doors open.
- 72m52s: We will have the induction of athletes and coaches to the Decatur Public Schools Athletic
- 72m56s: Hall of Fame, and that will be the halftime of Eisenhower-McArthur High School football
- 73m1s: game.
- 73m2s: That starts at 5 p.m. and is at MacArthur High School this year.
- 73m9s: Mr. Clevenger, correction, it's going to be at Eisenhower.
- 73m11s: Oh, it's going to be at Eisenhower.
- 73m13s: Yes, I have MacArthur, but it's Eisenhower.
- 73m15s: Okay.
- 73m16s: Please correct that.
- 73m17s: It will be at Eisenhower.
- 73m18s: Eisenhower.
- 73m19s: Will the banquet be at Eisenhower?
- 73m22s: Eisenhower?
- 73m23s: Yes, sir.
- 73m28s: And a final note here, October 16th.
- 73m31s: Just please a reminder to parents, October 16th, the deadline for the required immunizations
- 73m37s: and physicals for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 73m42s: The next regular meeting, the Board of Education, will be at 6.30 p.m. Tuesday, September 12th,
- 73m49s: 2023 at the Kyle Administration Building.
- 73m53s: Do I have a motion to adjourn?
- 73m54s: So moved.
- 73m55s: And a second.
- 73m56s: Second.
- 73m57s: All in favor signify by saying aye.
- 74m0s: Aye.
- 74m1s: Opposed?
- 74m2s: Same sign.
- 74m3s: We are adjourned.