

# Board Meeting - Public Participation

The Board of Education of Community High School District 94 provides an opportunity for public comments at each open meeting in accordance with Board Policy 2:230.

Board Policy 2:230 states that comments by any one member of the public shall be limited to five (5) minutes and the total time allotted to public comment shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes. Personal charges or complaints against individual employees, volunteers or students of the District should not be initiated during public comment.

You may address the Board at each open meeting in person or you may submit your comments electronically via completion of this form.

COMPLETION OF THIS FORM MUST OCCUR NO LATER THAN 2 HOURS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MEETING TO BE READ AT THAT MEETING.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Cheryl Glunt, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, at [cglunt@d94.org](mailto:cglunt@d94.org) or at 630-876-6210.

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## Reunión de la Mesa Directiva – Participación del Público

La Mesa Directiva de la Escuela Preparatoria (High School) del Distrito 94 ofrece una oportunidad para comentario público en cada sesión abierta de acuerdo con la Política de la Directiva 2:230.

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Se puede uno dirigir a la Mesa Directiva en cada sesión abierta en persona o puede presentar sus comentarios de manera electrónica por medio de esta forma.

DEBEN LLENAR ESTE FORMULARIO NO MÁS TARDE DE 2 HORAS ANTES DEL COMIENZO DE LA REUNIÓN PARA LEIDO EN ESA REUNIÓN.

Si tiene usted alguna pregunta, por favor comuníquese con Cheryl Glunt, Asistente Administrativa del Superintendente a [cglunt@d94.org](mailto:cglunt@d94.org) o llamando al 630-876-6210.

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David

Last Name / Apellido \*

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Email Address / Dirección Electrónica \*

[REDACTED]

Date of Meeting for comment to be read / Fecha de la reunión para la lectura de los comentarios \*

5.16.23

Topic / Tema \*

Working Together

## Comments / Comentarios \*

Monday, May 15, 2023

Esteemed D94 School Board Members:

Thank you for your commitment to creating a culture of educational excellence in West Chicago. Thank you for creating a space in which members of this community can voice concerns and know that they will be heard, considered, and acted upon. Ensuring all stakeholders understand that schools work best when they play an active, contributive role within the educational space is an important and meaningful responsibility. Thank you for giving of your time to shoulder it and thereby make Community High School the best instructional institution it can be.

I know that honesty and transparency are declared values of this board. I could not agree more that these ought to be priorities in every school district. The degree to which a community feels it can fully trust the educational leadership it has empowered to do right by its student learners is a condition of which it would be difficult to overstate the value.

I gather that a number of District 94's constituent stakeholders may have shown up this evening to express their concern that this trust has been called into question and to seek answers to important questions. I will leave it to you to address these concerns and to offer answers, having full confidence in your ability to capably present the facts of this situation divorced from any agenda-driven narratives.

The old aphorism is true: facts don't have motives. But the way in which they are presented matters profoundly.

Where West Chicago Community High School has underserved any constituent members of its population, it would do well to own its shortcomings, apologize for them, and take steps to ensure that these sorts of mistakes are not repeated in future.

But you will notice in the fixated posture of certain persons toward this district a more vindictive, consequence-seeking enthusiasm that parades itself in the robes of a justice crusade, all the while abusing this board's real capacity to govern and lead under the guise of guiding it toward a purer pursuit of its own stated objective of operating with honesty and transparency.

For much of the past two years, this has involved cannibalizing board meeting minutes to openly disparage members of the district's present administration; encouraging members of the community to likewise attend and demand opportunities to see and examine the employment contracts of as many employees as can be called into question on whatever grounds suggested; and now, as of last week, a demonstrated willingness to try and stoke fervor via social media platforms by sharing this district's internal communications publicly, calling into question the motivations of its leadership, and antagonistically engaging members of this board.

You have all attended as many board meetings as I have streamed from home –this practice itself being a great example of a board looking for more and better ways to demonstrate its commitment to transparency– so I know you know of what and of whose actions I am speaking. But I am worried many who have been encouraged to attend this meeting tonight do not.

Everyone should have an opportunity to speak their mind and to present concerns relative to District 94's policies and practices this evening. My concern is that many who will might do so entirely unaware of the personal drama into which an unhelpful, bad faith narrative framing of the situation has embroiled them.

Only a cursory review of one person's behavior in the comment section beneath Senator Villa's recent Facebook post should help to demonstrate the degree to which -for certain parties- what purports to be a displeasure and

It is incumbent upon this board to ensure all the student learners for which it is responsible are served with integrity and impartiality. But the leaders present this evening are by no means obligated to confuse a personal vendetta against a past employer with a campaign for justice simply because that happens to be what someone has written on the label they themselves have affixed to the package they wish to deliver.

This board should hear and weigh concerns from its constituency with an open eagerness to effect real change where its implementation is necessary. But it also owes its stakeholders the assistance necessary to help them rightly perceive what the ISBE's investigation does and does not indicate, removed from the nuance-less space of a social media platform and divorced from a narrative-driven agenda too tied to one person's past history with a previous employer.

I wish to leave you with one last point to ponder this evening: have the members of the district's present administration not shown a demonstrated willingness to continue to work for the betterment of its students, even and especially during a prolonged season of criticism? Speaking as someone who has been fortunate to call West Chicago his professional home for two decades now, I hope you will hear me say with both certainty and conviction that I sincerely believe that they have, and routinely with quiet humility.

It is important to establish this fact early this evening because it is my strong suspicion that everything that follows, in keeping with the past practices of persons to whom I have already alluded, will seek to call it into question. Please recognize that these efforts have only ever had one scapegoat-seeking objective (although it is worth noting that the focus of their scrutiny seems to have had ever-moving goal posts): to either fatigue or goad the members of this school board into taking the actions deemed by one nonmember of our community to constitute a right and just course of policy.

Please do not take that bait. Too-easy solutions often only further complicate the problems they propose to solve. Whatever corrective policy work we have to do, we would be wise to do it with input from our constituents and multiple members of our administrative and certified staffs.

I am hopeful that tonight's focus can be placed squarely upon taking a first step toward these important ends. I am also hopeful that the members of our community gathered here tonight can still see and celebrate how many administrators and teachers such as myself are proud to call West Chicago their professional home and will gratefully continue to serve this district by daily welcoming, accommodating, teaching, helping, and otherwise promoting the well-being of all of the students who walk through our doors without discrimination.

Respectfully,

David Jennings  
Broadcast Production / Media Literacy and Composition Teacher

This form was created inside of West Chicago Community High School District 94.

Google Forms

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First Name / Nombre \*

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Email Address / Dirección Electrónica \*

[REDACTED]

Date of Meeting for comment to be read / Fecha de la reunión para la lectura de los comentarios \*

5/16/2023

Topic / Tema \*

Administrative disloyalty and neg

## Comments / Comentarios \*

First of all, it's a sad day to see this neglect has continued for our students after so many years! With all the 'promotions, raises, and creation of new positions' I would expect that some progress could have/should have been made! My only wish is that the information that was used to conduct these interviews were of years prior to 2019. During my tenure at the HS, I repeatedly voiced concern for some of the practices in many areas! It was evident to me that for many Administrators; showing up to work, and getting paid, was far more important than capably serving our students. I saw more and more reliance on using loopholes as a means of 'getting rid of' problematic students, regardless of their ages. I saw us go from an Administration that created opportunity by 'doing all we could working with students and parents', to a cavalier 'get them out attitude!' The participants of what I call the 'Good Ole Boys Club'; could care less, because they would require actual work! If you allow those with work ethic to work, 'clubbies' could then play! Every Day! Why interrupt the DAILY office parties, to actually do what the apparently complicit BOARD would expect them to do? Who would dare to confront this practice, without risking being railroaded under some trumped up allegation. To build 'loyalty'; they then hired 'personal friends' for available positions, who would further aggravate the situation, or themselves become part of the problem.

Fed up, I made an appointment (along with one of their insiders who accompanied me), with Kathy Doremus at her office. We had previously exchanged some concerns with her, on the direction of our school, and she suggested that we speak in her office. I asked this trusted person to come, to corroborate concerns, he did (especially being on the fringe as a group insider who was growing weary of the situation). At great risk for my own personal work survival, we had a lengthy and open conversation about the toxic environment that was well ingrained in our school, especially since the ascent of certain Administrators. We gave numerous examples of how little 'work' was being done, despite everyone receiving very good pay. We spoke of how the Board was being shielded from the truth over so many things, and how they needed to get more information about various reports and stop rubber stamping what was being presented. We even spoke of some of the underage students being put on homeschool status. I gave several examples of Spanish speaking parents that were 'intimidated' into signing the papers. Some without fully understanding their rights, or in some cases because they were undocumented, did not want to be involved in any wrangling that could expose/risk their lives. I became so disgusted by this whole deal, that I became reluctant to 'assist' with the meetings that would lead to this illegal action. Yes, I caught flack!

By the time we returned to the building from meeting with Mrs Doremus, Pete Martino was in my office confronting me about my meeting and upset that I would betray him! The conversation was heated! I was both disappointed and disgusted, but I then realized that this situation was 'David and Goliath'! I felt that the Board was obviously neglecting their responsibilities, and that a 'lowly' employee like me was NOT going to be able to upset the apple cart! Rules and policies to 'hurt' me was put in place to frustrate me (it did). My counterpart who is nearing retirement; is experiencing the financial boost that I was denied, but that's to be expected as he's a confirmed foot soldier in the inner circle! I could go on and on, but who has that kind of time? I simply hope that we can change course; and go back to fulfilling the purpose of doing what's right for our students, parents, teachers, community, and country! As I once said to a particular Administrator, 'if the Board is foolish enough to pay you a million dollars; take it, once you do, then do the job that's expected of you'.

Thanks.