

Minutes of Committee of the Whole

The Board of Education

Harlem Consolidated School District # 122

A Committee of the Whole of the Board of Education of Harlem Consolidated School District was held Wednesday, September 3, 2025, beginning at 4:30 PM in the Harlem Administration Center - Board Room 8605 North Second St Machesney Park, Illinois 61115.

1. **EQUITY:** (Approximately 60 minutes) Started at 4:32PM

Administrator: Jason Blume, Assistant Superintendent for Communications & Community Relations

A. Roll Call: Evelyn Meeks, Jason Blume, Terrell Yarbrough, Pam Cook,

Union: Elana-Schelling-Tufte/designee

E Team members:

Loves Park- Mike Valentine; Christy Grace

Machesney-Abigail Edwards

Maple-Tammy Poole

Marquette- Brock Morlan

Olson Park-Marya Nelson

Parker Center-Brad Breakfield

Ralston-Scott Rollinson

Rock Cut-Gloria Martinez

Windsor-Kelsey Scarpetta

Middle School-Jerry Harris

High School-Jerenmy Bois

B. Approve Equity Meeting Minutes by Consensus for August 13, 2025 -yes

C. Goal Statements

D. Public Comments (if any)

E. Discussion Items

1. Sense of Belonging

The schools tied the theme of Sense of Belonging with back to school activities and initiatives.

HHS-focused on ninth graders 1st day of attendance. First half of the day, they ran through their schedule, and the second half of the day we did kind of more fun activities, scavenger hunts, team building, stuff, that kind of thing, introducing to our behavioral expectations.

HMS-focused on sixth graders 1st day of attendance, sixth grade boot camp. Stations were set up and divided into groups, transitioned the kids at different times to different stations.

There was some a tie dye shirt station, lockers, where they can work on their combos, as well as getting a tour to building and learning the building.

LP- had an anonymous donor donate the Buddy Bench in the playground for students to sit down when they are looking to make a friend. Former LP student Dustin Eckhart painted a mural on the school wall.

MC-Throughout the building teachers have different items hanging on walls that helps students feel included. For instance there is pre flight checklist that is just for the cafeteria but it is in English and Spanish.

MP-School wide popsicle celebration; state line church come and paint. There 33 volunteers got several classrooms painted, the GPA room, the teachers lounge, the rest of the library.

MR- Starbucks will be sponsoring the three teachers of the week that they choose along with their Smarties of the week. Those are the students this year's theme is Candy Land, and life is sweet at Marquette. A survey will be given to student three times a year to see if students like coming to school, are they making friends, are other students being nice to them. This data will be collected and reviewed to see how students are feeling and if students need to be checked in with.

OP- Teachers have been working to build that sense of belonging and that feeling of community. Olson Park has a student birthday board whose birthdays are that month.

PC- A Welcome Board has welcome in all the languages represented Parker. Then by each classroom welcome was put in the language that represents that classroom and some were sign language. Teachers volunteered their time in helping clean up the the sign in from of Parker Center by taking out bushes and overgrown weeds,

RA- Ralston focused on third grade and did All About Me bags. They were able to bring items from home to school to help explain what makes them unique. If you were brand new in a different grade level you received a tshirt and slime. Ralston is also going to use "Brock's" survey with the students.

RC- The librarian created a display related to the equity theme and students are given the opportunity to check out those books. Every classroom in the building has a morning meeting, it's a way that students feel that they contribute to the sense of belonging.

WN- Theme at Windsor is You Matter this year. Throughout the year, teachers are going to write every student in their class a little card telling them why they matter to send home.

PBIS rotations, where expectations were taught at every location, and then celebrated on Friday with a popsicle party. Also going to administer a survey three times a year, similar to the one that Brock shared.

F. New Business

1. Other Items

G. Announcements and Updates

1. Next Meeting Date: October 8, 2025

2. Equity Monthly Themes

H. Adjourn at 5:00PM