

Highlights from the December 13, 2021, U-46 Board of Education meeting

The Board of Education meeting was held at 355 East Chicago Street, Elgin.

The Board Finance Committee met prior to the regular Board meeting. The Finance Committee received an update on the draft audit for 2021, as well as a [presentation](#) on the levy/abatement and the possibility of refunding certain outstanding bonds for a savings to taxpayers.

The regular Board Meeting began with an update on [U-46 Rising](#). The presentation included an update on what U-46 Rising is, what has been accomplished so far in the 2021-22 school year, and the initial results of rigor diagnostics at the five Schools for Rigor and Equity (Channing, Creekside, Laurel Hill, Parkwood, and Willard). The principal and two teachers from Creekside discussed what the results have been so far in their classrooms.

There were thirteen public comments. The majority of public comments were from U-46 school social workers who discussed the increased mental health needs, behavioral issues, and stress the schools have seen this year. They believe the district needs more social workers and expressed concerns about the removal of MTSS leads and the secondary reading strategies courses.

Ms. Barbara Bettis, president of the Elgin Teachers Association, and other association members addressed the Board as well. They emphasized the stress teachers have been under this year, concerns about the elimination of MTSS leads and secondary reading strategies courses, and the need for collaboration.

The Board approved in the Consent Agenda and during Discussion/Action

- Personnel report of 12/13/21 and Board meeting minutes of 11/15/21
- Bills in the amount of \$15,288,290.
- A [contract](#) with NIU for the LEAP (Licensed Educators' Accelerated Pathway) program.
- The [Tax Levy Resolution](#) and the [Certificate of Tax Levy](#).
- [Minutes](#) of the 10/18/21 Board Finance Committee.
- An [application](#) to IHSA (Illinois High School Association) for a cooperative boys' lacrosse team.
- A [contract](#) with Pace Systems to provide systems engineer services.
- Bids, contracts, change orders, and proposals that were presented at the November 15 meeting.

Community Advisory Council (CAC) Chairperson Chanda Schwartz updated the Board on future CAC meetings and thanked board members and administration for their participation in the December CAC roundtable.

During the Work Session the Board reviewed contracts with [Panorama Education](#) for an Equity and Inclusion Survey and with [MyOn](#) for digital books. The Board also reviewed a [proposal](#) for a natural gas procurement contract.

A link to the video of the Board meeting can be found [here](#). A link to the complete Board meeting packet can be found [here](#).

The next Board of Education meeting will be held on Monday, January 10, at 7:00 p.m., at 355 E. Chicago St., Elgin.