

**School District U-46**  
Elgin, Illinois

September 11, 2023

**The video of the September 11, 2023 meeting can be found here:**  
[September 11, 2023, BOE Meeting](#)

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago Ave, Elgin, Illinois. The following Board Members answered roll call: Dawn Martin, Veronica Noland, Melissa Owens, Chanda Schwartz, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr. Samreen Khan was absent from roll call and arrived at 6:04 p.m.

President Kerr requested a motion to move into closed session to discuss individual student disciplinary matters; pending, probable or imminent litigation; the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public, or legal counsel for the public body; the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the School Board; the setting of a price for the sale or lease of real property owned by the School Board; an internal audit, control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews; collective negotiating matters between the School Board and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; review of Closed Session Minutes; and individual student matters.

The motion was made at 5:01 p.m. by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

Samreen Khan arrived at 6:04 p.m., during closed session.

A motion was made at 6:58 p.m. by Ms. Noland second by Ms. Thommes, to reconvene into open session. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

Present for the business session were Board members Dawn Martin, Veronica Noland, Melissa Owens, Samreen Khan, Chanda Schwartz, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr, Student Board member Asraar Ahmed Siddiqui, Superintendent Dr. Suzanne Johnson, and Chief Legal Officer Trisha Olson. The following were also present at the District's central office: Dr. Annette Acevedo, Celia Banks, Richard Bosh, Dale Burnidge, Natasha Giraldo, Jacquelyn Johnson, Matt Hovey, Brian Lindholm, Mark Moore, Jacob VandeMoortel, Patricia Waldau, and Dr. Ann Williams. Present for the meeting via Zoom were other administrators and members of the public.

President Kerr led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was had for two U-46 students who passed away.

1. Accent of Achievement – Dr. Johnson

A. Future Problem Solvers

As part of the Board of Education's Accent on Achievement, the Board of Education honored fifteen students for earning first place at the Illinois Future Problem Solving Bowl, held in Bloomington-Normal in April and/or the Future Problem Solvers International Competition, held at the University of Massachusetts in June. The Illinois Future Problem Solving Bowl is associated with Future Problem Solving Program International, an organization that seeks to develop the ability of young people to design and achieve positive futures through problem solving using critical and creative thinking. The students recognized at the state competition were coached by Ellen Smith, a 4th grade teacher at Glenbrook Elementary School. The students recognized at the Community Problem Solver competition were coached by parent volunteers, Madhuri Ganne and Uma Sangam. Aiken Navarro of Ellis Middle School as well as Sophia Lee, Andrew Punnoose, and Zinnia Saher of Larsen Middle School were honored with the Bucky Award (named for architect and inventor Buckminster Fuller) for their creative and futuristic solution to a problem. Zinnia Saher of Larsen Middle School placed first in the middle level and Neda Bazys of Bartlett High School placed first at the senior level in the Global Issue Problem Solving individual competitions. Eleven students won the grand championship in the Community Problem Solver category in the middle division at the Future Problem Solvers International Competition. They are Andrew Punnoose of Larsen Middle School, Yuwan Ganne, Nishi Sheth, Jaivir Singh, Krish Soni, and Katelyn Wong of Bartlett High School as well as Mannat Ashta, Michelle Cardozo, Veer Gupta, Risha Lakkadi, and Svanik Yachavaram of Elgin High School.

2. Comments from the Audience – Ms. Kerr

A. Public Comments

Nathan Botkin stated that Mrs. Green's second grade class at Bartlett Elementary School, is being consolidated and she is being transferred to a different school. He asks that the District hold this change and stop it from happening.

Deanna Baxa stated that she is concerned about Mrs. Green's second grade class at Bartlett Elementary School being consolidated. She is concerned about the number of students in each section and why this decision was not made sooner. She asks the Board to reconsider this decision.

Lincoln Marunde stated that he is concerned about the decision to consolidate Mrs. Green's second grade class at Bartlett Elementary School. He said parents were given no opportunity for discussion and is concerned about students' one-on-one time being diminished.

Milton Ramos stated that he does not think it is fair to take away his teacher, Mrs. Green. He feels she is one of the best teachers that he has had and it is unfair that she is being taken away due to class size.

President Kerr stated that they have received many emails regarding this matter. They may not have been able to respond to everyone, but the messages have been received. She stated that the Board has asked the District to look at their timeline, so situations like this can be prevented in the future. Dr. Johnson thanked everyone for emails and those that have attended this meeting. Dr. Johnson said that class sizes are reviewed at the start of the school year and then again at the start of second semester. She mentioned that often times there is an influx of students who arrive and join classrooms after the school year starts. She stated that there are unfilled teaching positions within the District, which relates to the national/local teacher shortage. She stated that Administration including Dr. Annette Acevedo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, and Natasha Giraldo, Assistant Principal of Bartlett Elementary School, would be available to assist with questions outside of the Board meeting format.

### 3. Other Business – Board Member and Superintendent Update, If Necessary

#### A. Additional Information

Student Board member, Asraar Ahmed Siddiqui stated that he participated in his first Principal Student Advisory Council Meeting which had a great turn out and is looking forward to the rest of the year. He also stated there is the first Superintendent meeting with Dr. Johnson on Wednesday. Ms. Thommes mentioned that President Kerr, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Nolan, and she toured the Elgin Historic House Tour. Dr. Johnson thanked the schools, communities, and organizations who have invited and supported our student participation today, in the remembrance of 9/11.

#### B. FOIA Requests – 11

Dr. Johnson stated that there were eleven Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests that are available on BoardDocs and those requests will also be available on the District's website.

4. Other Business – Community Advisory Council (CAC) Update (Board Policy 2:150 – Committees)

A. Community Advisory Council (CAC) Update

Matt Hovey provided an update regarding the Community Advisory Council (CAC). He stated that CAC had their first welcome back general council meeting. He thanked all the community members who attended as well as acknowledging Dr. Johnson and her staff for their continued attendance and support. He mentioned that the CAC is still seeking representatives and also listed the upcoming CAC meetings.

5. Consent Agenda – Dr. Johnson

- A. Minutes of the Board Meeting August 21, 2023
- B. Termination of Chiaunte Campbell – Driver’s Assistant
- C. Termination of James Fash – Teacher
- D. Termination of Aileen Rios – Noon Hour Supervisor
- E. Contract Renewal – Financial Operations – Microsoft Business Solutions
- F. Change Order – Plant Operations – Heritage Elementary School, Independence Center for Early Learning, and Ronald D. O’Neal Elementary School Boiler Replacements – Project Numbers 877, 1052, and 1402
- G. Change Order – Plant Operations – Larkin High School Tennis Courts Replacement – Project #269
- H. Change Order – Plant Operations – Plant Operations Parking Lot Replacement – Project #2064

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes to approve the Consent Agenda items A-H, as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

6. Discussion/Action – Dr. Johnson

A. Itemized Bills – September 11, 2023

Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations, was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education regarding the attached bills. Administration recommends the Board of Education approve the List of Bills in the amount of \$15,004,814.26.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Martin, to approve the Itemized Bills in the amount of \$15,004,814.26. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

B. Personnel Report and Workers' Compensation Cases

Mr. Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, was available to answer questions regarding the Personnel Report with the Board of Education.

Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Thommes, to approve the Personnel Report and Workers' Compensation Cases. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

C. Contract Renewal - School Safety - Renewal of School Resource Officer Contracts

Mr. Bosh, Coordinator of School Safety, and Mr. Lindholm, Chief of Staff, were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the contract renewals with the City of Elgin, the Village of Bartlett, the Village of South Elgin, and the Village of Streamwood, in the amount of \$1,153,448.63, and requests authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Owens, to approve the Renewal of School Resource Officer Contracts. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

D. Social Media Litigation (Franczek and Frantz Law Group)

Ms. Olson, Chief Legal Officer, was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends the Board of Education approve the Resolution Authorizing Commencement of Social Media Litigation.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes, to approve the Resolution Authorizing Commencement of Social Media Litigation. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

E. Notice to Remedy - Tenured Teacher A

Mr. Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, was available to answer questions regarding the Notice to Remedy - Tenured Teacher A.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes, to approve the Notice to Remedy - Tenured Teacher A, Jeffrey Szukala. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

F. Board Policy Updates

Ms. Olson, Chief Legal Officer, presented proposed changes to the following Board policies. Administration recommends adoption of the proposed changes.

IASB PRESS Issue 112 Updates:

2:80	Board Member Oath and Conduct
6:10	Educational Philosophy and Objectives
6:240	Field Trips
7:305	Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries
8:25	Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Martin, to approve the Board Policy Updates. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

7. Other Business – Dr. Johnson

A. Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report - School Year 2023

Mr. Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presented the attached report and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Also attached is Public Act 097-256 amending Sections 105 ILCS 5/10-20.47 and 5/34-18.38 requiring school districts to report to ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education), on or before October 1st of each year, the base salary and benefits of all administrators and teachers employed by the school district; present the report at a school board meeting; submit it to the district’s regional superintendent of schools; and post the report on the District’s internet website. For consistency across school districts, once the information is entered into IWAS (ISBE Web Application Security), the State’s reporting system, a report is generated and sent back to the school district to be posted on their website.

8. Work Session – Dr. Johnson

A. Ms. Olson, Chief Legal Officer, presented proposed changes to the following Board policies. Administration recommends adoption of the proposed changes.

IASB PRESS Issue 112 Updates:

2:170	Procurement of Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying Services
4:45	Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery
4:100	Insurance Management
5:230	Maintaining Student Discipline
6:190	Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities
7:330	Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access

9. Work Session - Bids/Proposals (Board Policy 4:60 - Purchases and Contracts)

A. Proposal - Plant Operations - Picnic Pavilion Phase 1: Streamwood High School Millennium Field

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the attached proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the proposal from Game Time c/o Cunningham Recreation in the amount of \$161,617.22, and requests authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

B. Proposal - Plant Operations - Equipment Purchase - Mini Skid Steer

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the attached proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the proposal from Vermeer Midwest in the amount of \$43,447.00, and requests authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

C. Proposal - Plant Operations - Equipment Purchase - New Holland Skid Steer

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the attached proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the proposal from Alta Equipment in the amount of \$89,211.00, and requests authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

10. Work Session – Contracts over \$25,000 (Board Policy 4:60 – Purchases and Contracts)

A. Contract Renewal - Curriculum and Instruction - Newsela

Mrs. Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Ms. Johnson, Coordinator of K-12 Literacy and Libraries, and Mr. VandeMoortel, Coordinator of K-12 Social Studies and World Languages, presented the attached proposal and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the five-year contract renewal with Newsela in the total amount of \$2,189,340.10 and requests authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Educational Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

B. Contract - Office of Schools - Illinois Principals Association Coaching and Mentoring

Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, presented the attached proposal and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the contract with Illinois Principals Association in the amount of \$48,509.63 and requests authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Educational Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

11. Work Session – Change Orders (Board Policy 4:60 – Purchases and Contracts)

A. Change Order - Plant Operations - Streamwood High School Pathways Phase One: Early Childhood, Healthcare Science, Business Incubator, and Science Lab Renovation - Project #319

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the attached change order and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends the Board of Education approve the change order from Northwest Contractors, Inc. in the amount of minus \$246,790.28.

President Kerr requested a motion to move into closed session to discuss individual student disciplinary matters; pending, probable or imminent litigation; the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public, or legal counsel for the public body; the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the School Board; the setting of a price for the sale or lease of real property owned by the School Board; an internal audit, control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews; collective negotiating matters between the School Board and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; review of Closed Session Minutes; and individual student matters.

A motion was made at 8:02 p.m. by Ms. Noland second by Ms. Owens. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

A motion was made at 9:54 p.m. by Ms. Thommes second by Ms. Noland, to reconvene into open session. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

12. Adjournment – Ms. Kerr

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Khan, to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of September 11, 2023 at 9:57 p.m. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Approved this 25th day of September, 2023.

  
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President

  
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Secretary