BOARD OF EDUCATION
NORTHBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT 27
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Regular Meeting of 4/24/25	The Regular Meeting of April 24, 2025 of the Board of Education, School District 27 was called to order at 6:30 p.m., in the Wood Oaks Commons, 1250 Sanders Road, in said district.

Regular Meeting at 6:30 pm
Wood Oaks Commons

Board President Melissa Copeland called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Roll Call On call of the roll, the following members were present:

Present: Mrs. Melissa Copeland, President
Mr. Opi Akuffo
Mr. Matthew Basinger, Vice President
Mrs. Martha Carlos
Dr. Gali Oren-Amit (arrived at 6:35 p.m.)
Mr. Daniel Terrien (arrived at 6:40 p.m.)
Mr. Jack Waddle

Staff: Dr. John Deiter, Superintendent
Dr. Kimberly Rio, Asst. Supt. of Business/Operations
Dr. Katharine Olson, Asst. Supt. of Curriculum/Instruction
Dr. Robert McElligott, Director of Human Resources

Absent: None

Student Presentation - Shabonee - Sensory Room
Dr. Panozzo, the Principal of Shabonee school introduced two Shabonee students who explained the new Sensory Room to the Board of Education. The students described what the various activities are used for throughout the day. This room offers a safe, calming space for students who need to take a break and self-regulate during the school day. The room features an inviting textured art mural and a variety of activities designed to promote either relaxation or movement, depending on the student's need.

Community Comments for Items on the Agenda - No Public Comment was made.

Board Reports - Report on the True North Leadership Council Meeting on April 9, 2025
Mr. Basinger stated that the Leadership Council discussed the recent petition to withdraw from TrueNorth and how this will impact the existing member Districts of the consortium. During the next fiscal year, Mr. Jack

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Waddle will take over as our NB27 representative for TrueNorth and Dr. Deiter has been nominated to replace Dr. Charles Johns on the TrueNorth council.

Staff Reports

- Recognition for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for Fiscal Year 2024 from the Government Finance Officers Association

For the 16th year in a row Northbrook 27 have received the Certificate of Achievement from the GFOA. This award is the highest recognition for government accounting and financial reporting and it represents significant accomplishment by a government and its management. District 27 has received these awards for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report each fiscal year from 2009 through 2024.

- Report on the Technology Plan & Budget for 2025-26

Mr. Trevor Hope, the Director of Technology presented the technology plan and its budget for the upcoming school year. Items discussed were risk management, building entry and a new visitor management system. A new projector was installed in the Commons, new microphones will be coming soon. New microphones were installed at Hickory Point. Thanks to the PTA gift we were able to purchase and install a large projector in the Shabonee Flex space. Some of the updates to infrastructure are virtual server replacements, battery backup replacements, phone server migration. Additional redundancy creates a more secure process with fewer servers to maintain. An unplanned project came up in which the phone servers were going end-of-life immediately. During spring break the servers were upgraded to be a cloud server. Each year, a portion of chromebooks are replaced for one grade and a portion of them are used for new laptops for staff. Shabonee school was switched to MAC devices and Smart white interactive boards were installed at Hickory Point.

Upcoming technology updates will be adding smart panels in the RLA rooms. Thank you to the Tech Coordinators for all of their support. For operational technology; there will be new firewalls at all three buildings. This will create a more secure network, with AI integration and added network redundancy. For added security: Centegix security platform will be implemented for staff use. The budget and cost of the listed upgrades were discussed, as well as licensing fees and the potential impact of tariffs on prices in June. A large project over the next several years will be replacing the building's infrastructure wiring and the conduit. The upgrades, along with annual expenses and contract renewals, are estimated to cost $1.3M. This is about 3.68% of the District's overall budget (0.4% decrease compared to last year's overall budget). The Board will vote on the plan and budget during its next meeting on May 8. The technology budget will be revisited in July.

- Review of Strategic Plan 2025-2030

Dr. Deiter explained how the strategic planning process is conducted and the breakdown into key success factors. Each department has a portion of the Strategic Plan. With incoming information expected regarding TrueNorth, those relevant items remain in blue for further analysis. Several items remain on the plan in perpetuity; changes are highlighted as follows.

Outstanding student performance: the pandemic language has been removed, grades have recovered in all

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areas. Changes have been made in assessments.
Coherent and rigorous programs and services: there are changes in legislation which may affect our services, many items are outside our control, as such, the plan is to stay as agile as possible in the face of these changes. Language was added for the planning of services with regard to the TrueNorth cooperative.
AI continues to be a significant goal for us, the plan is to use it with integrity. Guidelines for staff and student usage have been established. The ISBE will be requiring plans in the future (optional first) and NB27 is ahead of those mandates. Continuing practices of creating an environment of belonging in the classroom and instructional materials. The area that will be impacted by the changes in the cooperative is: the continuum of services for District 27 students. The District will build capacity within the District, and evaluate available partnerships. NB27 is proactively planning for the reorganization of our special education cooperative, TrueNorth will be staffing our transition rooms next year, and we have to be flexible enough to be able to hire those staff members.
Highly Qualified staff: A bullet point has been added to address the reorganization of TrueNorth.
We will be implementing the revised teacher evaluation model from Danielson. For hiring, the state and federal legislation are not in agreement at this time; so we will continue to follow best practices. Implement a flexible student services delivery model, including cooperative service agreements and District staffing, to most effectively support diverse learners. NB27 will reinvest in the processes and foundations existing in the District to maintain our Core Values, Core Competencies, cultural foundations and processes.
Social / Emotional Well-Being: Moo Zoom is a newer product that the District has started utilizing and it is showing promise. An update for the RULER program will be shared with Board members in the future. Continue to collect data from staff and students regarding mental health-wellness in guiding the work.
Next year there will be a Perspectives survey in October, those results will be evaluated and shared with the Board of Education. The health life safety work will continue to ensure a safe and healthy work environment.
Healthy Financial Position: The status of TrueNorth and the expected changes to the cooperative and how this will impact special education will continue to be monitored. Manage debt financing to ensure funding for health-life safety needs and future instructional and support services programming needs. With the passing of the referendum, the District has contracted with Speer Financial to assist with the levy process and bond information will be ready to share with Board members soon. Thank you to the Administration team for all of their work on updating the District's Strategic Plan, it will be listed on the May 8 agenda for Board approval.

- Report on Summer 2025 Curriculum Projects and Budget

Dr. Katharine Olson, the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction thanked the Board of Education for supporting the summer professional development work for the staff. The summer activity is specifically designed for staff members to come in to work on certain projects. Dr. McElligott brings in new teachers or staff members who are teaching new areas to provide that professional development.
To accomplish all of the summer work is the equivalent of 40 days. There are seven main areas that curriculum work is focusing on and those will be reviewed in May. One is the primary reading curriculum revision, that resource will be launched in the fall. There will be a committee to work on the K-8 social

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studies curriculum revision, as well as the reading and math achievement plans. There will also be committees dedicated to AI work, and social emotional learning. The robotic team comes in to work on their robots. The curriculum work is strictly tied to the District's strategic plan. The budget this year is $65,000, this includes professional development for every staff member to be able to attend summer sessions; as staff availability is determined, this amount will be refined. The Title II grant application was modified with an amendment as there were areas of PD which would have needed substitutes to cover attending staff during the school year. This should reduce the summer PD budget to approximately $45,000.

- FOIA Request, Allison Hester, Data Branch Research Team
- FOIA Request, Kalah Love, Postal Source

Ms. Tarah O'Connell explained the FOIA requests and the District's response.

Consent Agenda
Board President Melissa Copeland called for Review of the Consent Agenda items.

Upon review Mr. Basinger moved and Mr. Akuffo seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Agenda with a roll call vote as listed below.

On roll call vote, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Opi Akuffo, Matthew Basinger, Martha Carlos, Melissa Copeland, Dr. Gali Oren-Amit, Daniel Terrien, and Jack Waddle.

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

No. 20336 Approval of the Minutes of Board of Education Regular Meeting of March 20, 2025

No. 20337 Approval of the Minutes of Board of Education Closed Session of March 20, 2025

No. 20338 Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting of April 3, 2025

No. 20339 Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Closed Session of April 3, 2025

Personnel Transactions - Employment/Dismissal/Evaluation/Resignation/Leave of Absence/Compensation

No. 20340 Approval of Hire, Shabonee Assistant Principal

Name	Position	Location	Start Date	Salary
Joseph O'Malley	Assistant Principal	Shabonee	8/1/2025	Contract

No. 20341 Approval of Hire, 2nd grade Teacher, Hickory Point

Name	Position	Location	Start Date	Salary
Carly Andrews	2nd Grade Teacher	Hickory Point	August 18, 2025	MA, Step 4, $72,830/yr

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No. 20342 Approval of Hire, 2nd grade Teacher, Hickory Point

Name	Position	Location	Start Date	Salary
Claire Manetta	2nd Grade Teacher	Hickory Point	August 18, 2025	MA, Step 14, $97,018/yr

No. 20343 Approval of Hire, Kindergarten Teacher, Hickory Point

Name	Position	Location	Start Date	Salary
Monika Kurzac	Kindergarten Teacher	Hickory Point	August 18, 2025	MA, Step 12, $90,580/yr

No. 20344 Approval of Hire, Special Education Teacher, Wood Oaks

Name	Position	Location	Start Date	Salary
Sara Schwartz	Special Education Teacher	Wood Oaks	August 18, 2025	BA, Step 1, $59,340/yr

No. 20345 Approval of Hire, Instructional Assistant, Wood Oaks

Name	Position	Location	Start Date	Salary
Ewa Behrooz	Instructional Assistant	Wood Oaks	April 24, 2025	$22.61/hr

No. 20346 Acceptance of Retirement, Language Arts, Wood Oaks, FY2029

No. 20347 Acceptance of Retirement, Reading Specialist, Hickory Point, FY2029

No. 20348 Acceptance of Resignation, Instructional Assistant, Hickory Point, June 3, 2025

No. 20349 Acceptance of Resignation, Technology, District Office, June 30, 2025

No. 20350 Acceptance of Resignation, Librarian, Hickory Point, June 3, 2025

Staff and Board members welcomed Mr. Joe O'Malley as the incoming assistant principal for Shabonee School during its meeting. Mr. O'Malley brings a wealth of leadership experience across all grade levels. Mr. O'Malley will officially begin his role at Shabonee this fall.

Financial Reports

No. 20351 Statement of Claims for April, 2025 in the amount of $1,016,816.02 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20352 Statement of BMO Claims for April, 2025 in the amount of $14,858.81 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20353 Statement of Position for March, 2025 in the amount of $20,945,569.20 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

Copies of the Statement of Investments for the period ending March, 2025 were distributed to Board members for their review. This report shows that as of this date, the district has $20,908,695.80 invested in funds that are earning interest at rates that range from 4.29 to 4.65 percent. This report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20354 Statement of Receipts for March, 2025 in the amount of $8,448,969.58 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20355 Status of Appropriations for March, 2025 in the amount of $3,112,901.23 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

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No. 20356 Wood Oaks Activity Report, April, 2025 in the amount of $31,069.56 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20357 Revolving Fund Report, April, 2025 in the amount of $2,592.46 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20358 Payroll Dated March 31, 2025, in the amount of $1,005,449.25 be ratified and that the report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20359 Payroll Dated April 15, 2025, in the amount of $1,004,128.27 be ratified and that the report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20360 Payroll Dated April 17, 2025, in the amount of $1,928.03 be ratified and that the report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20361 Approval of Final 2024-25 School Calendar

No. 20362 Approval of Voluntary Student Accident Insurance for 2025-26

No. 20363 Approval of Summer 2025 Curriculum Projects and Budget

No. 20364 Resolution Reauthorizing Participation in the Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund, with PMA Securities

No. 20365 Acceptance of Engagement Letter for Speer Financial, Inc., Independent Municipal Advisors

Unfinished Business - None Scheduled

New Business - None Scheduled

Good and Welfare - The play was amazing! Beetlejuice Jr. is a big success. Jon Lee from the technology department is directing this year in partnership with Genevieve Klein for the musical score. The actors, set and music are all wonderfully entertaining!

Community Comments - Mr. Warner provided public comment to explain the two documents furnished to the Board of Education this evening. The proposal for the inclusion of the modern Hebrew language option at Wood Oaks and an updated petition asking for the District to form an exploratory committee to determine their findings and respond back to the Board by September. They believe that providing the Hebrew language at Wood Oaks would augment the program at GlenBrook high school. Shepherd and Caruso Middle schools both offer a Hebrew language option.

Superintendent Comments / Update
Dr. Deiter stated that the Staff Appreciation event will be held on May 15th at The Glen Club starting at 4:00 p.m. The incoming president of the Board will be asked to come and say a few words.
On May 29th will be the 8th grade graduation at 6:00 p.m. held at GlenBrook North campus.
Tomorrow, there will be a tree planting event at Shabonee to plant several trees at 12:30 p.m.

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Closed Session 8:05 p.m.

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and
- Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)

No. 20366 Mr. Akuffo made a Motion to go into Closed Session, seconded by Mr. Waddle, followed by a roll call vote.

On roll call vote, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Opi Akuffo, Matthew Basinger, Melissa Copeland, Dr. Gali Oren-Amit, Daniel Terrien, and Jack Waddle

NAY: None

ABSENT: Martha Carlos

No. 20367 Reconvene to Open Session.
Mr. Akuffo made a motion to reconvene to Open Session, seconded by Mr. Waddle, followed by a voice vote. All in favor.

No. 20368 Motion to Adjourn the Board of Education Meeting

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board at this time Mr. Terrien moved and Dr. Oren-Amit seconded the motion that the open meeting be adjourned. A voice vote was taken, all in favor.

The motion was unanimously approved, and Board President Melissa Copeland called the meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

CERTIFIED TO BE CORRECT:

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PRESIDENT SECRETARY

MINUTES APPROVED ON 5/22/25

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