

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of
Community Consolidated School District 15 Palatine, Cook County, Illinois
Held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025
at Walter R. Sundling Middle School
1100 N. Smith Street, Palatine, Illinois 60067
Closed Session 6:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting of the Board: 7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 15, Palatine, Cook County, Illinois, was held on February 19, 2025, at Walter R. Sundling Middle School located at 1100 N. Smith Street, Palatine, Illinois 60067. Board Members were notified of the meeting by email sent electronically on Friday, February 14, 2025.

Roll Call

Board President Szczupaj called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members physically present: Szczupaj, Khan, Hunt, Taylor, and Annerino

Board Members absent: Wang and Ader

Also present were Laurie Heinz, EdD, Superintendent of Schools; Associate Superintendent, Shari Lazor, EdD; CSBO, Diana McCluskey; Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, Lori Lopez, PhD; Assistant Superintendent for Students Services, Mindy McGuffin, EdD; Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, Tom Edgar, PhD; Chief Communication Officer, Ahmad Gibson; Chief Technology Officer, MJ Warden; and Assistant Superintendent for Multilingual Programs, Renee Urbanski. Additionally, James Kaplanes, Director of Facilities and Operations; and Mr. Mike Eichhorn, Associate at Wold Architects & Engineers.

Closed Session

Board President Szczupaj called the closed session to order at 6:13 p.m. with board member Hunt making a motion, seconded by board member Taylor. The Board convened to discuss:

- 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 body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).
- Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probably or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into minutes of the closed meeting. 5ILCS 120/2(C)(11).

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Khan, Szczupaj, Taylor, Annerino, and Hunt

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Wang and Ader

Motion Carried: (5-0)

Adjourn Closed Session and Convene in Open Session

Board President Szczupaj adjourned the closed session and convened into open session, at 6:48 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call Vote

A voice vote was taken and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried (5-0)

Mission Statement

To open the meeting, Board President Szczupaj recited the District's Mission Statement.

President's Welcome & Remarks

Board President Szczupaj opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanked them for attending.

She requested a moment of silence in honor of Jojo Freeman, a second grader who tragically lost his life.

Pledge of Allegiance: Plum Grove Middle School - Student Council

Mrs. Faith Rivera, Principal of Plum Grove Middle School, introduced the Student Council's students that lead the Board of Education in the Pledge of Allegiance at this month's meeting. Guided by PGMS Social Worker Janelle Morse, Mrs. Rivera shared that the Student Council plays a crucial role in fostering a strong and inclusive school community. These students take the lead on key initiatives such as Spirit Week, Kindness Week, and Cereal Wars, a student-led food drive that supports families in need.

Students: Jacob B., Varshini B., Vedhika H., Aadith V., Aadhav V., Grace B., Mikayla M., and Sitara C.

Student Recognition: Pleasant Hill Students: SIP Program

A group of students from Pleasant Hill Elementary School have gone above and beyond to promote kindness, inclusion, and a sense of belonging for all students. He shared that Pleasant Hill is one of three elementary schools in the district that houses the self-contained special education program, known as the Structured Independent Program (SIP), and new to PH this year. Dr. Morris shared that from the beginning of the school year, the students have embraced their SIP classmates, ensuring they feel valued, and an integral part of the Pleasant Hill school community. Dr. Morris shared that their dedication to inclusion has been truly inspiring to everyone in Pleasant Hill. These students have taken the initiative to spend their lunch periods with their SIP classmates, building friendships and learning to use communication devices to connect with their peers. The District is proud to recognize the following students for their outstanding leadership and dedication to fostering an inclusive school

environment. **Students:** Avalyn B., Gianna K., Deepika K., Chiyo O., Srinika L., Owen F., Cahlan C., and Elise C.

Student Recognition: Special Olympics Snowshoeing

District 15 is proud to recognize this month's *Above and Beyond* students for their exceptional performance in the Illinois Regional Special Olympics Snowshoeing competition on January 11, 2025. Despite the challenging conditions, including practicing without snow, these student-athletes, along with their dedicated coaches, showed remarkable perseverance and sportsmanship. Maggie earned two gold medals, James placed third, and Gehring secured fifth, all of which reflect their athleticism and commitment to hard work. We celebrate their achievements as a shining example of what can be accomplished with a positive and determined spirit. **Students:** Maggie W., James L., and Gehrig N.

Staff Recognition: Laurie Olson from Carl Sandburg Middle School

Erika Johansen, Principal of Carl Sandburg Middle School, presented Laurie Olson as this month's *Above and Beyond* honoree. Principal Johansen shared that Laurie's dedication to student success extends beyond her role as a Reading Specialist; she also coaches three sports and plays a key part in supporting the school's Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) teams. Her leadership, creative problem-solving, and unwavering commitment to student growth make her an invaluable member of the CSMS community. Mrs. Olson's ability to connect with students, both academically and athletically, makes her a true role model and mentor for so many at CSMS. We are grateful for her exceptional contributions to the school and district. We appreciate you, Mrs. Olson.

Public Comments

Board President Szczupaj opened Public Comment.

1. Lori Gonzalez: Has children attending Virginia Lake and Winston, she shared her desire for 6th-grade students to be able to participate in Track and Field.
2. Minh Deip: Palatine resident, has a child at Winston and he shared his support for 6th graders to have a track team at Winston.
3. Madelyn Gonzalez: A student at Winston Middle School, requested the Board allow 6th graders to have track and provided many reasons as to why she thought it was important.
4. Kelly Eterno: has a child at Winston. She asked the Board to reconsider having a 6th grade track.
5. Lindsay Consdorf: Palatine resident, also shared the importance of 6th-grade involvement in track.
6. Rick St. Joseph: Palatine resident, addressed the Board and shared his opinions about the proposed changes to the Dual Language program and asked the Board to reconsider.

Superintendent's Reports

The Superintendent Report provides the Board with a monthly departmental update:

Superintendent's Office

- Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Interviews
- Principal Check-In meetings
- Insurance Committee meeting
- Preschool planning meetings

Administrative Services

- Completed all Principal second round observations
- Participated in staffing conversations with building principals
- Insurance Committee meeting
- Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Interviews and Preparation
- Prepared Conditions of Teaching Survey and Staff Support Survey

Business and Operations

- Electronic timesheet implementation
- Facility Master Plan and Health Life Safety projects identified and updated
- Preparing for a \$14M bond sale this month

Communications Department

- Training, implementation, and launch plan for ParentSquare
- Launched D15 Spirit Wear store as a part of our #Feed15 campaign
- Conducted a district-wide Web & Communications Survey (data review in progress)

Educational Services

- Launching a Restorative Practices cohort with five elementary schools
- Updated Restraint and Time Out Reduction Plan (schools reduced incidents by 50%)
- Providing proactive behavior support training for teachers during the March 11 PD
- Provided crisis team support to students/schools impacted by the recent apartment fire in AH

Human Resources

- Concluded staffing meetings with building-level administration
- Calculated base-level staffing projections for the 2025-26 school year
- Continued to assess the potential need and scope of the Reduction in Force

Multilingual Programs

- Received the Immigrant Education Student Program Grant
- Completing 2025 ACCESS testing
- Hosting Dual Language Information Nights for incoming kindergarten students
- Hosted Spanish BPAC Meeting: ISBE's Guidance with Respect to Schools & Immigration

Student Services

- Planning for March 11 Institute Day activities
- Preparations for Extended School Year
- Recruiting and Hiring Staff

Teaching, Learning & Assessment

- Supporting teachers with pilot of 6-8 Math and 6-8 Social Studies resources; launching K-5 Health resource review; exploring best practices in 3rd-5th grade reading; reviewing MTSS resources
- Creating guidelines for standards-based reporting in grades 3-5 and refining common assessments in middle school science
- Collaborating with all departments to plan March 11 and May 2 professional learning activities
- Partnering with APs to plan for IAR and ISA administration in April

Technology Department

- Setting up and training different roles in Registration, which launches on February 11, 2025
- In-classroom support for the use of iPads for instruction in kindergarten
- Continuation of PowerSchool SIS migration

Informational Reports/Board Discussion

6.1 Presentation: Beyond Moving 15 Forward and Master Facility Plan Update

Dr. Laurie Heinz, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Diana McCluskey, Chief School Business Officer; Mr. Jim Kaplans, Director of Facilities and Operations; and Mr. Mike Eichhorn, Associate at Wold Architects & Engineers, provided an update on the completed Moving 15 Forward construction projects and the 5-Year Master Facility Plan. The presentation highlighted progress in key areas based on the referendum agenda's three gears: Repairing and Restoring Schools, Upgrading Learning Spaces, and Improving Student Transitions. With \$186 million allocated for these efforts, the district has made significant strides while maintaining a strategic long-term vision for facility needs. Key topics discussed included the M15F construction costs, completed projects for FY21 through FY24, upcoming projects from FY25 to FY27, which will be covered under the \$186 million, with potential bonds needed for projects in FY28 and FY29. The Board will receive further updates and recommendations on funding and upcoming projects in the months ahead.

6.2 Update on Student Service Department

Dr. Mindy McGuffin, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; and Dr. Michelle Robinson, Director of Student Services presented an update on various departmental structures and ongoing initiatives. The district continues its efforts to provide special education services closer to students' home schools, with the LEAP program expanding to all middle schools next year, and a new Reading

Resource option being added to support specialized instruction. A pilot transitional self-contained classroom is also underway at Gray M. Sanborn Elementary. Early childhood services are transitioning under a new Illinois state agency by 2026, with the district reviewing current preschool programming and funding models in preparation for these changes. Additionally, the Structured Independence Program (SIP) review, in collaboration with NSSEO consultants, is nearing completion. In professional learning, Student Services is prioritizing literacy support through collaboration with NSSEO consultants and piloting new resources such as ReadtopiaGO/Readtopia and IXL for middle school students. The health services team is exploring wellness initiatives like a community garden and updating resources for schools, while family and community engagement efforts, such as sensory nights and adapted book donations, continue. The district's assistive technology team has seen significant growth in service, while efforts to digitize student records are underway. Furthermore, Medicaid billing for occupational and physical therapy services has expanded, with an increase in returned prescriptions enabling the district to bill for 400 additional students. These efforts highlight the district's ongoing commitment to improving services, resources, and funding opportunities to support students, staff, and families across District 15.

6.3 Transitioning from Finalsite Mass Communications to ParentSquare

Chief Communications Officer Ahmad Gibson presented a proposal to transition from Blackboard/Finalsite Mass Communications to ParentSquare as the District's new mass communication platform. This decision follows a comprehensive evaluation of the district's current communication systems and a review of platforms that best meet the needs of District 15's schools, staff, and families. Mr. Gibson highlighted the key features of ParentSquare, which consolidates district, school, classroom, and individual communications into a single platform. ParentSquare also supports two-way communication, ensuring better interaction between parents, teachers, and staff, and offers instant translation in over 180 languages to ensure equitable access for all families. Additionally, the platform includes integrated tools like newsletter, event calendars, and conference sign-ups, all designed to simplify school-wide coordination. ParentSquare's robust analytics and contact verification features also improve communication efficiency. After reviewing multiple solutions and gathering feedback from stakeholders, ParentSquare was identified as the best fit for the district's evolving communication needs. The district plans to fully transition to ParentSquare by July 2025, with training and onboarding for staff, students, and families scheduled throughout the spring and summer.

6.4 First Reading for Board Policy 4:080 Accounting and Audits, and Update on Board Policy 7:150 Agency and Police Interviews, AP1 and AP2

Dr. Shari Lazor, Associate Superintendent, presented the first reading of updates to Board Policy 4:080 - Accounting and Audits, which involved correcting an outdated threshold amount for financial transactions. This update aligns the policy with the Board approved amount from a 2023 consent agenda item. Additionally, updates to Board Policy 7:150 - Agency and Police Interviews was reviewed in response to recent executive orders affecting immigration enforcement in schools. The District has formalized procedures to ensure that school staff follow a structured response if immigration enforcement agents request access to students. These protocols prioritize student safety and require

immediate communication with the District office and legal counsel before any action is taken. Board members acknowledged the updates and emphasized the importance of clear, legally compliant procedures in both financial matters and student protection. A second reading for Policy 4:080 will take place at the March 12, 2025 meeting.

Acceptance of Minutes

Board member Hunt made a motion, seconded by board member Annerino, to approve the minutes from January 15, 2025, Regular Board of Education Meeting and Closed Session Meeting Minutes, placed on file:

Roll Call Vote

A voice vote was taken and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried (5-0)

Board Committee Reports

ED-RED Committee

Board member Annerino provided an update on the Illinois Legislature's activities, noting that the session resumed in February with a key initiative aimed at reducing the use of schools as polling places. A newly introduced bill, modeled after similar legislation for park districts, outlines a process for school districts and election authorities to collaborate on identifying alternative polling locations. In the event that an agreement cannot be reached, the matter would be escalated to the County Board of Commissioners, who would consider factors such as voter turnout, proximity to nearby polling places, and early voting options. Additionally, Mr. Annerino highlighted a proposal from Governor Pritzker's State address, which includes a potential mandate for schools to restrict cell phone use in classrooms, a policy change that could impact local district regulations.

one-five Foundation

Board member Taylor provided an update on the 50/50 Raffle, which serves as the foundation's biggest fundraiser of the year. The raffle is now live, with the winner set to be drawn on March 17 at noon. Last year's winner took home over \$16,000 before taxes. All proceeds from this year's raffle will go directly toward funding the foundation mini-grant program, which supports innovative projects in District 15 schools. Taylor encourages everyone to participate and support this important initiative.

Finance Committee

Board member Hunt shared that there are no new updates at this time. However, she reiterated that, as mentioned during the Beyond Moving 15 Forward and Master Facility Plan Update presentation, the district is on track to finish under budget by a significant margin. This positive outcome is attributed to careful financial planning and oversight. The committee will continue to monitor financial developments and track any final expenses as they are reconciled.

Equity Committee

Board member Khan shared on the ongoing collaboration with administration to address concerns related to recent immigration policy changes. Efforts have been made to reassure families and ensure that students feel safe and welcome at school. Attendance trends are showing gradual improvement, reflecting the positive impact of these efforts. Additionally, legal guidance continues to inform the district's approach to ensuring compliance with both state and federal regulations.

Action Items

9.1 Approval of the Personnel Report: Recommendations for Administration, Certified, and Non-Certified staff members

Board member Taylor made a motion, seconded by board member Hunt, motion to approve the Personnel Report: Administration, Certified, and Non-Certified, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Hunt, Khan, Szczupaj, Taylor, and Annerino

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Wang and Ader

Motion Carried: (5-0)

9.2 Approval of 2025-2026 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

Board member Hunt made a motion, seconded by board member Taylor, motion to approve the 2025-2026 Board of Education Meeting Schedule, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Khan, Szczupaj, Taylor, Annerino, and Hunt

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Wang and Ader

Motion Carried: (5-0)

9.3 Approval of Second Reading of PRESS 117 and New! PreK Expulsion Suspension

Board member Annerino made a motion, seconded by board member Taylor, motion to approve the second reading of PRESS 117 and the new PreK expulsion suspension, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Szczupaj, Taylor, Annerino, Hunt, and Khan

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Wang and Ader

Motion Carried: (5-0)

9.4 Rejection of Bid Award #25-009 Emergency Transportation Services for Unassigned Bus Routes

Board member Hunt made a motion, seconded by board member Taylor, motion to reject bid award#25-009 Emergency Transportation Services for Unassigned Bus Routes, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Taylor, Annerino, Hunt, Khan, and Szczupaj

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Wang and Ader

Motion Carried: (5-0)

9.5 Approval of Agreement for ParentSquare

Board member Khan made a motion, seconded by board member Hunt, motion to approve the ParentSquare agreement, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Annerino, Hunt, Khan, Szczupaj, and Taylor

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Wang and Ader

Motion Carried: (5-0)

9.6 Approval of Settlement Agreement with Former Teacher

Board member Taylor made a motion, seconded by board member Hunt, motion to approve the settlement agreement with a former special education teacher concerning her EEOC/IDHR discrimination charge, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Hunt, Annerino, Khan, Szczupaj, and Taylor

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Wang and Ader

Motion Carried: (5-0)

Consent Calendar

Board member Annerino made a motion, seconded by board member Khan, motion to approve the consent calendar items, as presented:

- 10.1 Budget Report
- 10.2 Investment Report
- 10.3 Report of Payroll Vouchers and Invoices
- 10.4 Student Activities Fund Report
- 10.5 Treasurer's Report
- 10.6 Approval of Agreement for MOU - The Bridge Youth and Family Services
- 10.7 Approval of Agreement for Professional Vision Services - Clear Vision
- 10.8 Donation - Barrington Bank and Trust/Wintrust Financial Corporation
- 10.9 Approval of Nonpublic Facility Contract for South Campus in Palatine
- 10.10 Approval of Agreement for Professional Therapy Services - SP

- 10.11 Approval of Nonpublic Facility Contract for Child's Voice in Wood Dale
- 10.12 Approval of Nonpublic Facility Contract for Parkland Preparatory Academy in Bartlett
- 10.13 Approval of Nonpublic Facility Contract for High Road School in Mt. Prospect (1 student)

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Szczupaj, Khan, Hunt, Annerino, and Taylor

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Wang and Ader

Motion Carried: (5-0)

12. Correspondence

Dr. Heinz included a summary of Freedom of Information Act requests and associated fees, where applicable.

13. Closing Items

Adjournment

At 9:20 p.m., board member Annerino made a motion, seconded by board member Taylor to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call Vote

A voice vote was taken and the vote was unanimous. The motion carried (5-0).

Lisa Beth Szczupaj, Board President
Board of Education

Anthony Wang, Secretary
Board of Education

