



Regular Meeting
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 98
May 29, 2025 – 5:00 PM
Prairie Oak Elementary School
Please Enter Through the Main Entrance (Oak Park Ave.)
1427 S Oak Park Ave.
Berwyn, IL 60402

Live Stream Vimeo Information:

Meeting Link: <https://vimeo.com/event/5160963> **Passcode:** May2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Bruno at 5:07 PM

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Ms. Reyes, Ms. Brito, Mrs. Gallegos, Dr. Mouritsen, Ms. Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, Mrs. Smith and Ms. Bruno

Absent: None

Also in Attendance: Dr. Michelle Smith Superintendent, and Regina Johnson CSBO.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Bruno.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Barrier Buster Award-Antonia Galan

Mrs. Galan spoke to the board and the community about the updates to the playground areas, specifically the new communication boards that students are learning to use now. She awarded Nina Marco and Kayla Heine with certificates of recognition for their hard work in creating the communication boards.

B. Elementary School Gifted Fairs Video-Stephanie Barba

Stephanie Barba presented the board and community with a video highlighting the student's Gifted Fair activities which board members also attended.

V. NEW BUSINESS

None stated.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None stated.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Debra Proska, a Science Teacher at Berwyn North School District, communicated information regarding the composition of co-taught teams for students with IEPs and the need for Special Education support in two of her classes.

Maura Waldron, a Berwyn North parent, shared her experience with Pre-K registration, specifically mentioning her recent experience with the pre-k registration process.

Marta Rodriguez, a Paraeducator at Jefferson Elementary School, extends her thanks for the District swag received by staff. She encourages everyone to wear their new jerseys for the "Corrida del Mariachi." She encouraged staff and community to participate and asked anyone with questions to email her at mrodriguez2@bn98.org.

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

Board Member Alejandra Reyes expressed deep gratitude to all Berwyn North staff for their hard work and commitment throughout the school year. She noted the inherent difficulties of their roles and wished them a fantastic last day and a restful summer break.

Board President Clara Bruno shared her deep appreciation for the staff at Jefferson Elementary School, noting her long-standing relationship with them. As this marks her last student attending Berwyn North schools, she extended a heartfelt thank you to everyone. She also wished all Berwyn North staff an enjoyable final day of school and a wonderfully relaxing summer break.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Meeting Minutes April 24, 2025.

B. Approval of Personnel

1. New Hires

- a. Devin Hurtado, Physical Education Teacher at Prairie Oak Elementary School effective August 18, 2025.
- b. Leidy Ramirez, Dual Language Teacher at Jefferson Elementary School, effective August 18, 2025.
- c. Ashley Smith, Physical Therapist at the District Office, effective August 18, 2025.
- d. Yahaira Torres, Dual Language Teacher, Prairie Oak Elementary School, effective August 18, 2025.
- e. Stephen Veach, Special Education Specialist, District Office, effective August 18, 2025.

2. Reassignments

- a. Dina Manzanero, from Paraeducator to Pre-K Teacher at Havlicek Elementary School, effective August 18, 2025.

3. Resignations

- a. Brenda Escobedo, 4th Grade Dual Language Teacher at Prairie Oak Elementary School, is resigning effective the end of the 24-25 school year.
- b. Rosemary Lopez-Martinez, Special Education Teacher at Prairie Oak Elementary School, is resigning effective July 3, 2025.
- c. Allison Rogers, ESL Teacher at Prairie Oak Elementary School, is resigning effective the end of the 24-25 school year.
- d. Sara Tlusty, Special Education Specialist at Lincoln Middle School, is resigning effective the end of the 24-25 school year.
- e. Andria Wilson, Special Education Teacher at Lincoln Middle School, is resigned effective May 6, 2025.

4. Leaves of Absence

- a. Noemi Rios Cardenas, Pre-K Teacher at Havlicek Elementary School, is taking FMLA Leave of Absence beginning August 18, 2025 through September 29, 2025.
- b. Alyss Hollinger, Special Education Teacher at Jefferson Elementary School, is taking an FMLA Leave of Absence beginning approximately August 18, 2025 through November 12, 2025.
- c. Hillary Thomas, School Social Worker at Jefferson Elementary School, is taking FMLA Leave of Absence beginning approximately October 6, 2025 through January 16, 2025.

5. Approval of Academic and Fine Arts Summer School and Extended School Year (ESY) Staff:

1. Summer School Coordinator(s) Staff:

- Sarah Blecha-Norwich, Academic Summer School Coordinator
- Michelle Brown, ESY Summer School Coordinator
- Yesenia Rodriguez, Fine Arts Coordinator

2. Academic Summer School Teaching Staff:

- Alicia Aguirre
- Niamh Brophy
- Lauren Conners
- Elizabeth Dean
- Marlene Galvez
- Kyra Gonzalez
- Gittel Halikman (Partial Fine Arts)
- Nichelle Hibbler
- Margarita Jaime (Partial Fine Arts)
- Osvaldo Jaime (Partial Fine Arts)
- Evelyn Martinez
- Nola McCallion
- Jacinta O'Martin
- Joslyn Ramirez (Partial Paraeducator)
- Emily Ryan
- Sherin Saleh
- Alejandra Serrano
- Marisol Soto
- Lia Villagomez
- Carolina Villalon
- Rosemary Wood-Nygren

3. Summer School Fine Arts Teaching Staff:

- Gema Barba
- Ryan Camarena
- Nichelle Hibbler (Partial Academic)
- Margarita Jaime (Partial Academic)
- Ozzie Jaime (Partial Academic)
- Josephine Lewis
- Amanda Patenoude

4. Summer School Paraeducator Staff:

- Paola Aguayo
- Raquel Aguilera
- Elizabeth Arteaga
- Danielle Bender
- Sarah Blecha-Norwich (Partial Academic Coordinator)
- Marisol Cazares
- Lacey Ann Cox
- Yunuen Estrada
- Laura Gonzalez Gomez
- Rosenice Howard-Evans
- Jessica Hughes
- Angelica Lechuga
- Dina Manzanero
- Evelyn Martinez
- Melissa Mayorga
- Logan McKee

- Evelyn Mercado
- Jaida Parker
- Joslyn Ramirez (Partial Teacher)
- Jessica Salgado
- Alejandra Sanchez
- Imelda Sanchez
- Michelle Soto
- Michaela Thomas

5. Summer School Support Services Staff:

- Nina Marco (SLP)
- Criselda Ruiz (Secretary)

C. Approval of Authorization of Next Month's Invoices and Payroll

1. Approval of Invoices \$ 2, 923, 002.92
2. Approval of Monthly Payroll \$ 2, 093, 475.49
3. Approval of Authorization of Next Month's Payroll—June 2025

APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Board Member Dr. Mouritsen moved and was seconded by Board Member Mrs. Smith that the Board approve the items on the Consent Agenda: A. Approval of Minutes; B. Approval of Personnel, items 1-5, including Approval of Academic and Fine Arts Summer School and Extended School Year (ESY) Staff, and C. Approval of Next Month's Payroll, items 1-3 as submitted.

Roll Call:

Ms. Reyes, Ms. Brito, Mrs. Gallegos, Dr. Mouritsen, Ms. Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, Mrs. Smith and Ms. Bruno

X. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of FY 26 Annual Increase for Non-Contractual Staff

APPROVAL OF FY26 ANNUAL INCREASE FOR NON-CONTRACTUAL STAFF

Board Member Ms. Reyes moved and was seconded by Board Member Ms. Brito that the Board approve the FY 26 annual increase for non-contractual staff.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Ms. Reyes, Ms. Brito, Mrs. Gallegos, Dr. Mouritsen, Ms. Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, Mrs. Smith and Ms. Bruno

B. Approval of the contract with Urban Elevator Services

APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT WITH URBAN ELEVATOR SERVICES

Board Member Dr. Mouritsen moved and was seconded by Board Member Mrs. Smith that the Board approve the contract with Urban Elevator Services.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Ms. Reyes, Ms. Brito, Mrs. Gallegos, Dr. Mouritsen, Ms. Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, Mrs. Smith and Ms. Bruno

C. Approval of the Warehouse Direct proposal for School Lockers

APPROVAL OF THE WAREHOUSE DIRECT PROPOSAL FOR SCHOOL LOCKERS

Board Member Dr. Mouritsen moved and was seconded by Board Member Mrs. Smith that the Board approve the contract with Urban Elevator Services.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Ms. Reyes, Ms. Brito, Mrs. Gallegos, Dr. Mouritsen, Ms. Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, Mrs. Smith and Ms. Bruno

D. Approval of the contract with R. A. James Construction for Lincoln Middle School's restrooms
APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT WITH R. A. JAMES CONSTRUCTION FOR LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL'S RESTROOMS

Board Member Dr. Mouritsen moved and was seconded by Board Member Mrs. Smith that the Board approve the contract with R. A. James Construction for the repairs to Lincoln Middle School's restrooms.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Ms. Reyes, Ms. Brito, Mrs. Gallegos, Dr. Mouritsen, Ms. Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, Mrs. Smith and Ms. Bruno

E. Approval of Phase II HVAC-Wight & Company construction fees
TABLED FOR A LATER MEETING: APPROVAL OF PHASE II HVAC-WIGHT & COMPANY CONSTRUCTION FEES

Board Member Dr. Mouritsen moved and was seconded by Board Member Mrs. Smith that the Board table the approval of the Phase II HVAC-Wright & Company construction fees.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Ms. Reyes, Ms. Brito, Mrs. Gallegos, Dr. Mouritsen, Ms. Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, Mrs. Smith and Ms. Bruno

F. Approval of the Spindle addition, BID Group 6, packages 17-20
APPROVAL OF THE SPINDLE ADDITION, BID GROUP 6, PACKAGES 17-20

Board Member Dr. Mouritsen moved and was seconded by Board Member Mrs. Smith that the Board approve the Spindle addition, BID Group 6, Packages 17-20.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Ms. Reyes, Mrs. Gallegos, Dr. Mouritsen, Ms. Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, Mrs. Smith and Ms. Bruno
Abstained: Ms. Brito

XI. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Monthly Fund Report

Regina Johnson, Chief Business Official presented the Monthly Fund Report to the Board and community.

B. Preliminary FY26 Budget Presentation

Regina Johnson, Chief School Business Official presented the Board and community with the preliminary first draft of the FY26 Budget.

C. FOIA Requests

1. A FOIA Request was made by Abbas Khan of Civic IQ Inc. for all purchasing records from January 1, 2022 through May 8, 2025 on May 8, 2025.
 - This request was completed on May 8, 2025.
2. A FOIA Request was made by Kerri Arnold of Perspective HR, LLC, for a list of non-union job titles, pay grades, management and executive roles for the current 24-25 school year on May 13, 2025.
 - This request was completed on May 15, 2025.
3. A FOIA request was made by Kristin Wasilewski of Ascending Sprouts Pediatric Therapy, LLC, for a list of vendors the district has contracted with to provide speech and language services for the 23-24 and 24-25 school years on May 19, 2025.
 - This request was completed on May 28, 2025.
4. A FOIA request was made by Thomas Haley of Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting, for bid tabulations, of awarded the 16th Street Student Center – Bid Group 6 project, including project award dates, estimated start and end dates, list of sub-contractors and contract values on May 22, 2025.
 - This request was completed on May 22, 2025.

XII. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A. Upcoming Events in February:

June 19

Juneteenth – District Office Closed

June 26

Board Meeting – Prairie Oak Elementary School (6:30 PM)

D. EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION TO FOLLOW

ADJOURNMENT MOTION TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board Member Dr. Mouritsen moved and was seconded by Board Member Mrs. Smith that the Regular Meeting of the District 98 Board of Education adjourn to Executive Session at 6:38 PM, Thursday, May 29, 2025, for the purpose of

the following items:

a. OPEN MEETINGS ACT EXCEPTIONS - CLOSED MEETINGS

1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase, Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).
2. Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
3. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).
4. Litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding must be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).
5. Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21).
6. The selection of a person to fill a public office, including a vacancy in a public office, when the District is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance, or removal of the occupant of a public office when the District is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. 5 ILCS 120/2 2 (c)(3).
7. Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).

Roll Call:

Ms. Reyes, Ms. Brito, Mrs. Gallegos, Dr. Mouritsen, Ms. Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, Mrs. Smith and Ms. Bruno

MOTION TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Board Member Dr. Mouritsen moved and was seconded by Board Member Ms. Kulis-Kearns Valeriano that the Regular Meeting of the District 98 Board of Education reconvene from Executive Session at 8:16 PM.

E. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Board Member Dr. Mouritsen moved and was seconded by Board Member Ms. Kulis-Kearns that the Regular Meeting of the District 98 Board of Education adjourn at 8:16 p.m., Thursday, May 29, 2025.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Ms. Reyes, Ms. Brito, Mrs. Gallegos, Dr. Mouritsen, Ms. Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, Mrs. Smith and Ms. Bruno

Visitors:

Monica Deenihan, Debra Proska, Ozzie Jaime, Lori Volin, Liz Abrantes, Jolene Yakes, Kayla Heine, Nina Marco, Yajira Diaz, Maura Walden, Marta Rodriguez, Vince Cefali, Dana Beathie, Abbie Montes