BOARD OF EDUCATION
NORTHBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT 27
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Regular Meeting of 5/22/25	The Regular Meeting of May 22, 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.

Science Fair Presentations at 6:00 PM
Regular Meeting at 6:30 pm
Wood Oaks Commons

Board President Matthew Basinger called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

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

Present: Mr. Matthew Basinger, President
Dr. Gali Oren-Amit, Vice President
Mrs. Martha Carlos
Ms. Marlyse Cohen
Mr. Jack Waddle
Mr. Dan Walsh

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

Absent: Mr. Opi Akuffo
Dr. Kimberly Rio, Asst. Supt. of Finance/Operations

Student Presentation - Wood Oaks Science Presentations
Mr. Lucht, Wood Oaks Science teacher congratulated the Wood Oaks students for all of their hard work and also thanked their parents for supporting them. All of the students have improved in several areas throughout the process. Eight students advanced to the Illinois Junior Academy of Science State Exposition, after qualifying at the regional competition in March. At the state level, every Wood Oaks participant earned a gold award, with several students also receiving special recognition

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

Board Reports - None Scheduled

Staff Reports

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Pres. Secy.

- D27 Facility Dog Proposal

Ms. Kramer and Ms. Miehl presented therapy dog Nico. After a two-year process from initial brainstorming to being matched with our facility dog in April, his handlers, two NB27 administrators, will be trained on how to manage the needs that the canine requires as well as the best use of his therapy services for the students. Other sites were visited as part of the research into this program. At the end of 2024, 41 dogs have been placed amongst police and fire departments, and schools. Elizabeth discussed the classroom and student needs; the goal is to achieve impactful, educational outcomes. The program outcomes have been outlined and the Canines for Comfort contract is being reviewed and is scheduled to be on the June agenda asking for Board approval.. Allergies, liabilities, etc. will continue to be explored until June. Nico will start predominantly in the Hickory Point school.

- Primary Reading Curriculum Revisions Update

Dr. Katharine Olson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, and Dr. Elizabeth Stauffer, K-8 Literacy Coordinator and Coach, presented the Board with an update on revisions to the kindergarten and first-grade reading curriculum. Guided by the District's Research Design and Improvement Model, the curriculum has undergone a multi-year evaluation process. As a result, a new core reading resource, *Being a Reader* by Collaborative Classroom, will be implemented in all kindergarten and first-grade classrooms beginning in the 2025-26 school year. This resource was selected for its strong foundational skills instruction, high-quality literature, and support for small-group, differentiated instruction. Its emphasis on student engagement and collaboration aligns closely with the District's instructional priorities. To ensure successful implementation, the District will continue to invest in professional learning and coaching throughout the next three years as part of its commitment to ongoing curriculum refinement and educator support.

- Social Studies Curriculum Revision Update

Dr. Olson also updated the Board on revisions to the social studies curriculum across all grade levels. Following the same Research, Design, and Improvement Model used across content areas, the District is in the process of implementing new resources to better align with state standards and best practices in social studies education. For grades 3-5, the District will adopt *Inquiry Journeys* beginning in the 2025-26 school year, while Grades K-2 will start using the third edition of the *Teacher's Curriculum Institute* in 2026-27. At the middle school level, grades 6-8 will continue to cover ancient civilizations, American studies, and global studies. A new *Personal Financial Literacy* unit will be added to the eighth-grade curriculum in 2025-26. Additionally, the middle school team is refining some instructional units and approaches with a focus on incorporating more inquiry-based components into learning.

- Review Summer Professional Development Projects

Dr. McElligott, Human Resources Director, explained that the budget for the Staff professional development projects is attached which is included on the consent agenda for Board approval tonight. This professional development is focused on new teachers. Staff feedback is that new teachers really appreciate having the time in the summer to get acclimated to Northbrook. TrueNorth staff who are assigned here are also included and will be provided with inclusion training for the SEL classrooms. The final budget shared in the fall is usually in the $18,000 to $20,000 range; staff subject changes and the training covered for social emotional learning

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(SEL) classrooms have increased the budget somewhat.

- Review of Facilities Improvement Plan Update 2025

Mr. Hansen, Director of Facilities shared the latest updates to the Facilities Improvement Plan. The improvements directed by the Ten Year health life safety plan conducted in 2022 are continuing which include roof, mechanical and electrical upgrades. This summer routine building cleaning and maintenance will be done and the Shabonee playground will be removed, regraded and replaced with new playground equipment, that timeline was shared with the Board and the anticipated completion date is before the start of school next year. The Capital Projects planning budget is $43.5 million and will be implemented across a few years in phases of priorities, infrastructure, and safety.

The planning stage is underway for much of the project, the goal is to time contractors and construction work as efficiently as possible so that multiple contractors may work in tandem. The bid process will go forward and this fall in August or September they will be presented to the Board for approval. Other items to be reviewed and selected are classroom furniture, fixtures, and equipment for planned installation during the 2026/2027 years.

Hickory Point school will be getting a new addition, gymnasium, and three roof sections will be replaced.
Shabonee school will have roof sections replaced, and HVAC and electrical service upgrades.
Wood Oaks school plans to expand the parking lot and separate the bus lanes from car traffic. There will be an open house for the nearby community to learn more about the parking lot expansion plan.

The District is working with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to get a waiver approved which would allow for six million dollars in funds already spent on health life safety updates at Hickory Point school to be offered as bonds which would then go back into the funding for the remaining planned work. Next October the bonds will be issued for the Capital Improvement Projects, after which there will be three years to complete the planned projects.

- Enrollment Update

Dr. Deiter explained that every fall an enrollment study is conducted. There will be seven sections of kindergarten this year. The largest class currently in third grade will be transitioning up to fourth grade next year. There are currently 130 first graders which is often the grade with the most growth in our area, but it has not increased in the current enrollment data as of yet. Hickory Point will be remaining stable with 17 to 20 students per classroom. The enrollment figures for Wood Oaks are stable. The projected enrollment for kindergarten is 130. A more detailed projection will be shared in the fall.

Consent Agenda
Board President Matthew Basinger called for Review of the Consent Agenda items.

Upon review Mr. Waddle moved and Mrs. Carlos 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:

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Pres. Secy.

AYE: Matthew Basinger, Martha Carlos, Ms. Marlyse Cohen, Dr. Gali Oren-Amit, Daniel Walsh, and Jack Waddle.

NAY: None

ABSENT: Opi Akuffo

No. 20380 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on April 24, 2025

No. 20381 Approval of the Closed Session Minutes on April 24, 2025

No. 20382 Approval of the Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2025

No. 20383 Approval of the Reorganizational Meeting Minutes on May 8, 2025

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

No. 20384 Approval of Hire

Name	Position	Location	Start Date	Salary
Mark Dizon	Technology Services Manager	District Office	July 1, 2025	$88,000/yr

No. 20385 Approval of Hire

Name	Position	Location	Start Date	Salary
Marissa Zanon	Special Education Teacher	Hickory Point	August 18, 2025	BA, Step 1

No. 20386 Approval of Hire

Name	Position	Location	Start Date	Salary
Lindsey Dahlberg	Special Education Teacher	Hickory Point	August 18, 2025	MA+15, Step 11

No. 20387 Acceptance of Retirement, 5th Grade Special Education, Shabonee, 2025-2026

No. 20388 Acceptance of Resignation, Instructional Assistant, Hickory Point, May 13, 2025

No. 20389 Acceptance of Resignation, Instructional Assistant, Wood Oaks, June 3, 2025

Financial Reports

No. 20390 Statement of Claims for May, 2025 in the amount of $615,126.30 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20391 Statement of BMO Claims for May, 2025 in the amount of $27,759.15 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20392 Statement of Position for April, 2025 in the amount of $21,511,419.12 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

Copies of the Statement of Investments for the period ending April, 2025 were distributed to Board members for their review. This report shows that as of this date, the district has

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$21,473,701.97 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. 20393 Statement of Receipts for April, 2025 in the amount of $3,586,876.89 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20394 Status of Appropriations for April, 2025 in the amount of $3,021,026.97 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20395 Wood Oaks Activity Report, April, 2025 in the amount of $31,300.56 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

Revolving Fund Report - No Revolving Fund Report this month.

No. 20396 Payroll Dated April 30, 2025, in the amount of $967,786.89 be ratified and that the report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20397 Payroll Dated May 15, 2025, in the amount of $990,827.04 be ratified and that the report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20398 Approval of Summer Professional Development Budget for $20,916

No. 20399 Approval of Contract with CAGE Engineering for $28,800 to complete site and engineering work at Wood Oaks Junior High.

No. 20400 Approval of the Consolidated District Plan, 2025-26

Unfinished Business - None Scheduled

New Business

1. First Read of Policy Revisions included on the Illinois Association of School Boards, PRESS Issue 118

- Policy 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure
- Policy 2:265, Title IX Grievance Procedure
- Policy 4:15, Identity Protection
- Policy 4:80, Accounting and Audits
- Policy 5:10, Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
- Policy 5:20, Workplace Harassment Prohibited
- Policy 5:100, Staff Development Program
- Policy 6:150, Home and Hospital Instruction
- Policy 6:235, Access to Electronic Networks
- Policy 7:10, Equal Educational Opportunities
- Policy 7:20, Harassment of Students Prohibited
- Policy 7:50, School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools
- Policy 7:60, Residence
- Policy 7:70, Attendance and Truancy

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- Policy 7:180, Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
- Policy 7:185, Teen Dating Violence Prohibited
- Policy 7:200, Suspension Procedures
- Policy 7:210, Expulsion Procedures
- Policy 7:250, Student Support Services
- Policy 7:255, Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence
- Policy 7:270, Restrictions on Publicans; Elementary Schools
- Policy 7:315, Restrictions on Publications, High Schools
- Policy 7:340, Student Records
- Policy 8:30, Visitors to and Conduct on School Property

● Annual Review: Policy 7:190; Student Behavior

No. 20401 Resolution for the Proposed Withdrawal of District 225 from the TrueNorth Cooperative 804

There are 18 member school districts in the TrueNorth cooperative, they provide Physical therapy, hearing and vision experts, and they conduct academies for staff on their site in Highland Park. District 34 is approved to withdraw effective June 30, 2026. District 225 only utilizes transition services, they have purchased a new site to house those services and are now looking to withdraw as well. District 225 is going forward with their intent to withdraw from TrueNorth 804.

Board President Matthew Basinger called for a Motion to Approve the Withdrawal of District 225 from TrueNorth Cooperative 804.

Upon review Mrs. Carlos moved and Dr. Oren-Amit seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the items on the District 225 Withdrawal from TrueNorth 804 with a roll call vote as listed below.

On roll call vote, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Matthew Basinger, Martha Carlos, Dr. Gali Oren-Amit, Daniel Walsh, and Jack Waddle.

NAY: None

ABSENT: Opi Akuffo

ABSTAIN: Marlyse Cohen

Board of Education Committee Appointments - The Board Members Committee appointments were discussed and the appointments will be finalized at the next Board of Education meeting.

Good and Welfare - The concert on Wednesday was really good! The Board President did a nice job expressing gratitude for the teachers at the retirement event; in the future, all of the Board members will be invited to attend the retirement events. The open house event at Hickory Point was really nice to welcome

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incoming students. The graduation ceremony for graduates will be a week from today at Glenbrook North High School at 6:00 p.m. There was a suggestion given to have graduates pose a question which they would then answer as an adult at a future time. The logistics of implementing something like this will have to be determined.

Community Comments - No public comment was given.

Superintendent Comments / Update
Dr. Deiter stated that TrueNorth District 34 was approved to officially withdraw and District 225 starting the withdrawal process has started the domino effect of member Districts to withdraw. By June 30th three more Districts are planning to begin the process to withdraw. It is time for NB27 to start the withdrawal process as well; it is a minimum of an 18 month process. If two-thirds of the members withdraw, the TrueNorth collaborative will dissolve. NB27 needs to complete a needs assessment, which will include the therapeutic day school environments. There has been a recent increase in enrolled students who have placement in a Therapeutic day schools. Our District does currently utilize that program at TrueNorth, when needed. Next year, TrueNorth is scheduled to staff our SEL programs; but due to the recent course of events, NB27 is exploring the possibility of hiring our own staff for that program.

Closed Session - None Scheduled

No. 20402 Motion to Adjourn the Board of Education Meeting

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board at this time Dr. Oren-Amit moved and Mr. Walsh 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 Matthew Basinger called the meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

CERTIFIED TO BE CORRECT:

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PRESIDENT SECRETARY

MINUTES APPROVED ON 6/26/25

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Pres. Secy.