

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

April 28, 2025

**The video of the April 28, 2025 meeting can be found here:**

[April 28, 2025 BOE Meeting](#)

The Regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago Avenue, Elgin, Illinois.

The following Board Members answered roll call: Sue Kerr, Dawn Martin, Veronica Noland, Chanda Schwartz, Kate Thommes, and Melissa Owens.

President Owens 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 5:31 p.m. by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Noland. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

Ms. Khan joined the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

A motion was made at 6:55 p.m. by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Martin, to move into open session. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

Present for the business session were Board members Sue Kerr, Samreen Khan, Dawn Martin, Veronica Noland, Chanda Schwartz, Kate Thommes, Melissa Owens, Superintendent, Dr. Suzanne Johnson, and Chief Legal Officer, Trisha Olson. Also present was Student Board member Mahitha Ratakonda. The following were also present at the District's central office: Dr. Annette Acevedo, Celia Banks, Michele Chapman, Sheila Downs, Tracey Jakaitis, Jacquelyn Johnson, Brian Lindholm, Lela Majstorovic, Mark Moore, Aaron Nowak, Doreen Roberts, Dr. Leatrice Satterwhite, Brian Tennison, Dr. Ann Williams, and Dr. Frank Williams.

President Owens led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46 WAIVERS - Administration presented the following information regarding Waivers

A. Courses in Physical Education

Dr. Suzanne Johnson, Superintendent, stated that the requested waiver allows for elementary physical education to take place less than the required 3 days per week in grades 1-6 due to physical space constraints.

2. PUBLIC HEARING PROCESS - Dr. Johnson

A. Presentation of Waiver

The Hearing was opened by a single declaration by Board President Owens.

Lela Majstorovic, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, Brian Tennison, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Tracey Jakaitis, Coordinator of Student Wellness and Physical Education, were present to explain the Waiver and answer any Board questions.

B. Comments from the Public

There were no public comments.

C. Close of Public Hearing

The Hearing was closed by a single declaration by Board President Owens.

3. Strategic Plan Report - Dr. Johnson (Board Policy 2:20 - Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification)

A. U-46 Student Summit

Mahitha Ratakonda of Elgin High School, Thomas Akemann of Larkin High School, Dhanvi Dhandapani of Bartlett High School, Logan Iott of South Elgin High School, as well as Leonor Nevarez of Streamwood High School provided the Board of Education with a report on the U-46 Student Summit held on March 27, 2025.

4. Comments from the Audience - Ms. Owens

A. Public Comments

Teresa Punnoose, spoke highly of her previous teacher, Ms. Pappas who was diagnosed with kidney failure. She also shared Ms. Pappas' ongoing search for a living donor.

Dan Palmer, previous U-46 student, spoke of his class experience and knowledge he gained in the trades while attending U-46. He encouraged the Board to provide trade education to students.

5. Other Business - Board Member and Superintendent Update, If Necessary

A. Additional Information

Ms. Martin spoke about attending the ground breaking ceremony at the new middle school in Elgin, the Bartlett and Hanover Park Annual Breakfasts, and the Kimball Middle School renovation project. Ms. Martin also spoke about the latest IASB monthly updates.

Ms. Schwartz spoke highly of the United Black Scholarship dinner that she attended.

Ms. Noland spoke about attending many of the mentioned events. She also attended the Superintendent Scholarship event, which she said was incredible.

President Owens thanked the United Black Scholarship Committee for putting on a wonderful scholarship dinner.

Dr. Johnson thanked the community and the individual donors and sponsors, as well as the large donors and sponsors for all of these events. She also thanked the U-46 team for making these opportunities possible. She stated that it is wonderful to see the communities come together to celebrate students. Dr. Johnson also attended the Illinois Principals Association Leadership Breakfast, where twelve students were recognized.

B. FOIA Requests – 5

Dr. Johnson stated that there were five Freedom of Information Act requests, which would be available on BoardDocs and the District's website.

6. Consent Agenda - Dr. Johnson

- A. Personnel Report and Workers' Compensation Cases
- B. Minutes of Board Meeting February 24, 2025
- C. Termination of Betty J. Bass – Driver's Assistant
- D. Termination of Diana I. Estrada – Food SVC Asst Lead
- E. Termination of Alexander G. Garcia – Food SVC Technician
- F. Termination of Victor P. Cuevas – Bus Driver-Route
- G. Bid - Plant Operations - Bartlett Elementary School Emergency Generator Installation, Clinton Elementary School Emergency Generator Installation, and Hillcrest Elementary School Emergency Generator Replacement, Project #s 535-25, 653-25, and 929-25

- H. Bid - Early Learner Initiatives Department - Early Learners Furniture
- I. Bid - Plant Operations - Bartlett, Elgin, Larkin, South Elgin, and Streamwood High Schools Backstop Replacement, Project #2072-25
- J. Bid - Plant Operations - Highland Elementary Domestic Water Piping Replacement, Project # 902-25
- K. Bid - Plant Operations - Bartlett High School Pathways Phase One: Automotive and Engineering and Phase Two: Culinary Arts and Healthcare Science Renovation, Project # 210-25
- L. Bid - Plant Operations - Coleman Elementary School Roof Replacement, Project # 686-25
- M. Proposal - Plant Operations - Vermeer Brush Chipper
- N. Proposal - Plant Operations - Hilltop Elementary Playground Playset Replacement
- O. Proposal - Plant Operations - Pre-K Playground Playsets and Surfacing
- P. Contract Renewal - Information Services - Microsoft Licenses
- Q. Contract - Information Services - Google Workspace
- R. Contract - Information Services - Mindsight/Fortinet Firewall
- S. Building Permit - 1

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

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

7. Discussion/Action - Dr. Johnson

A. Itemized Bills – April 28, 2025

Dr. Frank Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education regarding the itemized bills. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the List of Bills in the amount of \$27,407,559.98.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Kerr, to approve the List of Bills in the amount of \$27,407,559.98. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

B. Recommendation for 2025-2026 Student Advisor to the Board of Education

Members of the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council, Mahitha Ratakonda of Elgin High School, Thomas Akemann of Larkin High School, as well as Logan

Iott of South Elgin High School, joined Dr. Suzanne Johnson, Superintendent, in recommending the two finalists, in order of preference, to be the 2025-2026 Student Advisor to the Board of Education.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Martin, to approve Dhanvi Dhandapani as the 2025 - 2026 Student Advisor to the Board of Education and Aashna Gandhi as the Alternate Advisor. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

C. High School Career and Technical Education Childhood Education Curriculum Resource Proposal

Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Doreen Roberts, Coordinator of Career and Technical Education, were available for questions relating to the High School Career and Technical Education Childhood Education Curriculum Resource Proposal.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes, to approve the High School Career and Technical Education Childhood Education Curriculum Resource Proposal with an estimated implementation cost of \$378,237.74 and an annual consumable estimate of \$30,176.64 for each year thereafter. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

D. High School Career and Technical Education Culinary Arts Curriculum Resource Proposal

Celia Banks Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Doreen Roberts, Coordinator of Career and Technical Education, were available for questions relating to the High School Career and Technical Education Culinary Arts Curriculum Resource Proposal.

Motion by Ms. Schwartz, second by Ms. Martin, to approve the High School Career and Technical Education Culinary Arts Curriculum Resource Proposal with an initial implementation cost of \$397,511.73 and an estimated cost of \$73,767.65 for consumables each year thereafter. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

8. Other Business - Employee Matters (Board Policy 5.290 - Suspension and Dismissal of Support Staff Members)

A. DUTU Grievance #01-01-25 Step III

Motion by Ms. Kerr, second by Ms. Thommes, to Deny the DUTU Grievance #01-01-25 Step III. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Martin, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes: Ms. Khan, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz The motion was carried by a vote of 4-3.

9. Other Business - Dr. Johnson

A. Investment Report for the Third Quarter

Dr. Frank Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, presented the Investment Report for the third quarter and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education.

10. Work Session - Resolutions

A. Resolution Amending the Current Administrators' Employment Contract

Trisha Olson, Chief Legal Officer, and Mark Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education regarding the attached resolution. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve this Resolution Amending the Administrators' Contract and Benefits Document.

B. Resolution Declaring the Need to Continue Usage of Temporary Classrooms

Sheila Downs, Executive Director of Facilities, presented the Resolution and updated summary list of mobile classrooms that will be used in the FY 2026 school year, and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the Resolution Declaring the Need to Continue Usage of Temporary Classrooms.

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

A. Bid - Operations - Unite U-46 Kimball Middle School Project Abatement - Phase 1B and 1C

Brian Lindholm, Chief of Staff, and Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended award to the lowest responsible bidder, CEC Environmental, Inc. in the amount of \$282,025.00, including partial Alternate #1, and full Alternates #2, #3, and #4, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Capital Projects Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

B. Bid - Operations - Unite U-46 Kimball Middle School Project - Electrical and Technology Infrastructure

Brian Lindholm, Chief of Staff, and Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended award to the lowest responsible bidder, Low Voltage Solutions, in the amount of \$639,616.00, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Capital Projects Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

C. Bid - Operations - Unite U-46 New Elgin Middle School

Brian Lindholm, Chief of Staff, and Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended awarding the following bidding packages to the lowest responsible bidders, in the total amount of \$67,427,140.00, in addition to the award of Alternate 1 in the amount of \$16,068.00, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents.

<b>Recommended Bidder</b>	<b>Low Base Bid</b>
Premium Concrete, Inc	\$ 4,870,000.00
Midwest Masonry, Inc.	\$ 6,985,900.00
Affordable Welding US, Inc.	\$ 5,824,000.00
Straub Builders, Inc.	\$ 2,818,450.00
Straub Builders, Inc.	\$ 2,578,450.00
Straub Builders, Inc.	\$ 1,497,450.00
Adler Roofing & Sheet Metal Inc.	\$ 4,144,700.00
H&Z Fireproofing Inc.	\$ 57,884.00
C.A.D. Contract Glazing Inc.	\$ 2,454,500.00
Security Builders Supply Co.	\$ 1,142,190.00
LJ Morse Construction Co.	\$ 4,198,845.00
K&J Painting, LLC	\$ 573,680.00
E&K Companies	\$ 1,449,750.00
H2I Group	\$ 260,050.00
CCI Flooring Inc.	\$ 163,700.00
H2I Group	\$ 508,175.00
Straub Builders, Inc.	\$ 236,450.00
H2I Group	\$ 500,197.00
Great Lakes Hotel Supply Co	\$ 766,694.00
TK Elevator Corp.	\$ 165,000.00
Absolute Fire Protection Inc.	\$ 588,400.00
CR Leonard Plumbing	\$ 3,446,750.00

Flo-Tech Mechanical Systems	\$ 6,969,000.00
Hy-Power Electric Company	\$ 12,350,000.00
Berger Contractors, Inc.	\$ 1,297,000.00
Abbey Construction Co., Inc.	\$ 759,925.00
Twin Oaks Landscaping	\$ 820,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$67,427,140.00</b>

This expenditure will be charged to the Capital Projects Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2024-2025 through 2026-2027 fiscal years.

D. Bid - Food and Nutrition Services - Food Service Equipment, Bid #344

Aaron Nowak, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, presented the proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended award to the lowest responsible bidders, Sam Tell and Son, Inc. in the amount of \$21,494.97, and TriMark Marlinn, in the amount of \$343,582.99, for the total amount of \$365,077.96, and requested 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 2024-2025 fiscal year.

E. Bid - Plant Operations - Warehouse Roof Replacement, Project #2073-25

Sheila Downs, Executive Director of Facilities, presented the proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended award to the lowest responsible bidder, Alder Roofing and Sheet Metal, Inc., in the amount of \$742,325.00, and requested 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 2024-2025 through 2025-2026 fiscal years.

F. Bid - Office of Schools - Elementary Supply Kits

Dr. Annette Acevedo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, presented the proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended award to the lowest responsible bidder, Pala Supply Company, Inc. in the amount of \$599,688.00, and requested 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 2025-2026 fiscal year.

G. Proposal - Plant Operations - Picnic Pavilion Phase Two: Elgin High School Memorial Field

Sheila Downs, Executive Director of Facilities, presented the proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the proposal from GameTime c/o Cunningham Recreation in the amount of \$173,715.24, and requested 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 2024-2025 fiscal year.

H. Proposal - Curriculum and Instruction - Character Strong

Dr. Leatrice Satterwhite, Assistant Superintendent of Equity and Innovation, Michele Chapman, Director of Post-Secondary Success, and Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the proposal from CharacterStrong in the amount of \$32,686.85, and requested 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 2025-2026 fiscal year.

12. Work Session - Contracts Over \$35,000.00 (Board Policy 4:60 - Purchases and Contracts)

A. Contract Renewal - Curriculum and Instruction - Britannica Education Subscription

Brian Tennison, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Jacquelyn Johnson, Coordinator of Literacy and Libraries, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract renewal with Britannica Education in the amount of \$75,449.22, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. This cost is included in the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

B. Contract Renewal - Curriculum and Instruction - Learning A-Z

Brian Tennison, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Jacquelyn Johnson, Coordinator of Literacy and Libraries, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract renewal with Learning A-Z in the amount of \$1,839,300.00, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. This cost is included in the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

C. Contract Renewal - Curriculum and Instruction - Scholastic Classroom Magazines

Brian Tennison, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Jacquelyn Johnson, Coordinator of Literacy and Libraries, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract renewal with Scholastic Classroom Magazines in the amount of \$174,788.24, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. This cost is included in the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

D. Contract - Curriculum and Instruction - Better Lesson

Brian Tennison, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Jacquelyn Johnson, Coordinator of Literacy and Libraries, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract with Better Lesson in the amount of \$266,000.00, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. This cost is included in the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

13. Move to Closed Session

President Owens 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 8:14 p.m. by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Martin. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.


14. Move to Open Session

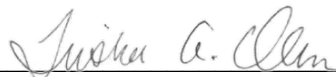
Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Noland, to move to open session at 8:54 p.m. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

15. Adjournment - Ms. Owens

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Noland, to adjourn the Board meeting of April 28, 2025, at 8:56 p.m. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

Approved this 21st day of July, 2025.

  
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President

  
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Secretary