

School District U-46
Elgin, Illinois

February 24, 2025

The video of the February 24, 2025 meeting can be found here:

[February 24, 2025 BOE Meeting](#)

The Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 5:45 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago Avenue, Elgin, Illinois. The following Board Members answered roll call: Sue Kerr, Dawn Martin, Chanda Schwartz, Kate Thommes, and Melissa Owens. Samreen Khan and Veronica Noland were absent.

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 5:46 p.m. by Ms. Kerr, second by Ms. Thommes. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Martin, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

A motion was made at 6:55 p.m. by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Kerr, to move into open session. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Martin, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

Present for the business session were Board members Sue Kerr, Dawn Martin, 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: Sheila Downs, Zachary Geller, Jaimie Abney-Giraldo, Dr. Michelle Graham, Amy Ingente, Brian Lindholm, Brian Tennison, Dr. Ann Williams, and Dr. Frank Williams.

President Owens led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

A. Facility Planning Update

Brian Lindholm, Chief of Staff, and Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, presented to the Board of Education an update on facility planning. The update included a recap of the “Mapping our Future” sessions, next steps for boundaries, a bond sale update, and updates on the middle school construction projects.

B. Strategic Plan Update

Mutiu Fagbayi, Performance Fact President/CEO, and Lauren Klaffky, Performance Fact Vice President/Chief Program Officer, presented to the Board of Education a Strategic Plan update.

2. Comments from the Audience - Ms. Owens

A. Public Comments

Laura Connery shared her concerns about the proposed middle school boundary change for Nature Ridge Elementary School students.

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

A. Additional Information

Ms. Kerr reported that there had been a Finance Committee meeting earlier that day where Dr. Ann Williams and Dr. Frank Williams presented a five-year financial projection. They discussed Local, State, and Federal revenues, expenditures and expected fund balances, and scenarios of what the next five years could look like. She stated that it was a very interesting presentation and that it will be available publicly.

Ms. Schwartz reported that for the second year in a row, she attended the Soul of Heritage event and it was phenomenal. She thanked everyone that put it on and encouraged everyone to attend next year.

President Owens thanked the staff and students at Streamwood High School for showing her some of the renovations that have been made. The new spaces are awesome.

Dr. Suzanne Johnson stated that she is excited to acknowledge colleagues and students that are being recognized this time of year. Last week the District celebrated team members that have committed twenty-five, thirty, thirty-five, and forty years of service and it was a really fun event. She also reported that Staff were recognized for various awards through the Illinois State Board of Education and that the District also has a finalist in the Golden Apple award for Excellence in Teaching.

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.

4. Consent Agenda - Dr. Johnson

- A. Personnel Report and Workers' Compensation Cases
- B. Minutes of Board Meeting January 13, 2025
- C. Termination of Donald Dowell - PARA-ED SE
- D. Resolution for the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property
- E. Proposal - Operations - Unite U-46 Kimball Middle School Project - Third-Party Inspections
- F. Proposal - Operations - Unite U-46 New Elgin Middle School Project - Third-Party Inspections
- G. Proposal - Operations - Unite U-46 Kimball Middle School Project - Construction Material Testing Services
- H. Proposal - Operations - Unite U-46 New Elgin Middle School Project - Construction Material Testing Services
- I. Proposal - Operations - Construction Management Services
- J. Proposal - Plant Operations - Vehicle Purchase - Additional Ford Transit 350 Vans
- K. Occupancy Permit - 1

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Kerr, to approve the Consent Agenda items A-K as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Martin, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

5. Discussion/Action - Dr. Johnson

A. Itemized Bills – February 24, 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 \$25,778,189.48.

Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Kerr, to approve the List of Bills in the amount of \$25,778,189.48. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Martin, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

B. 2025-2026 School Fees

Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Dr. Frank Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, presented the school fees and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Information on Student Insurance (School Time Coverage, 24 Hour Coverage, Optional – 24-Hour Dental) is posted on the District website each July. Student meals will remain free of charge for all students for calendar year 2025-2026. Administration recommended approval of the School Fees for the 2025-2026 School Year.

Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Thommes, to approve the 2025-2026 School Fees. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Martin, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

C. High School Introduction to Instrumental Music Curriculum Proposal

Jaimie Abney-Giraldo, Fine Arts Coordinator, and Brian Tennison, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, were available for questions relating to the High School Introduction to Instrumental Music Curriculum Proposal.

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Kerr, to approve the High School Introduction to Instrumental Music Curriculum Proposal with an estimated cost of \$17,850.00 per year starting in the 2026-2027 school year. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Martin, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

D. Resolution Authorizing Individuals to Act on Behalf of Plan [403(b)]

Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Dr. Frank Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, reviewed the Resolution Authorizing Individuals to Act on Behalf of Plan. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the Resolution.

Motion by Ms. Schwartz, second by Ms. Kerr, to approve the Resolution Authorizing Individuals to Act on Behalf of Plan [403(b)]. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Martin, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

E. Resolution Authorizing Individuals to Act on Behalf of Plan [457(b)]

Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Dr. Frank Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, reviewed the Resolution Authorizing Individuals to Act on Behalf of Plan. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the Resolution.

Motion by Ms. Kerr, second by Ms. Schwartz, to approve the Resolution Authorizing Individuals to Act on Behalf of Plan [457(b)]. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Martin, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

F. Proposal - Operations - Builder's Risk Insurance

Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Brian Lindholm, Chief of Staff, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the proposal from Chubb Insurance Company in the amount of \$425,761.00, 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 2024-2025 through 2027-2028 fiscal years.

Motion by Ms. Schwartz, second by Ms. Thommes, to approve the proposal from Chubb Insurance Company in the amount of \$425,761.00 and for District administration to execute related documents. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Martin, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

G. Proposal - Operations - Owners Controlled Insurance Program

Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Brian Lindholm, Chief of Staff, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the proposal from Alliant Insurance Services in the amount of \$2,601,759.00 for Program One, and \$529,580.00 for Program Two, 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 2024-2025 through 2027-2028 fiscal years.

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Martin, to approve the proposal from Alliant Insurance Services in the amount of \$2,601,759.00 for Program One, and \$529,580.00 for Program Two and for District administration to execute related documents. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Martin, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

H. Board Agreements

Melissa Owens, Board of Education President, presented the Board Agreements.

Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Thommes, to accept the revised Board Agreements as written on January 25, 2025.

President Owens discussed the changes to the Board agreements.

Ms. Kerr suggested a revision.

Upon roll call yes votes: 0. No votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Martin, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. The motion failed by a vote of 0-5.

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Schwartz, to accept the revised Board agreements as written on January 25, 2025 with the change stated by Ms. Olson February 24, 2025. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Martin, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

I. Minutes of Board Committee Meetings

Administration recommended the Board of Education accept the minutes of the January 13, 2025 Board of Education Policy Committee meeting.

Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Kerr, to accept the minutes of the January 13, 2025 Board of Education Policy Committee meeting. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Martin, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

6. Other Business - Dr. Johnson

A. Secondary Schools Financial Report for the Second Quarter

Dr. Frank Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, reviewed the Secondary Schools Quarterly Financial Report and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education.

7. Work Session – Dr. Johnson

A. High School Mathematics Resource Adoption Proposal

Amy Ingente, Math Coordinator, and Brian Tennison, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, provided the Board of Education with information relating to the High School Mathematics Resource Adoption Proposal.

B. Larkin High School Visual and Performing Arts Art Magnet Academy Curriculum Proposal

Jaimie Abney-Giraldo, Fine Arts Coordinator, Zachary Geller, Teacher Leader for Fine Arts, Dr. Michelle Graham, Larkin High School Assistant Principal of Innovation, and Brian Tennison, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, provided the Board of Education with information relating to the Larkin

High School Visual and Performing Arts Art Magnet Academy Curriculum Proposal.

C. Larkin High School Visual and Performing Arts Dance Magnet Academy Curriculum Proposal

Jaimie Abney-Giraldo, Fine Arts Coordinator, Zachary Geller, Teacher Leader for Fine Arts, Dr. Michelle Graham, Larkin High School Assistant Principal of Innovation, and Brian Tennison, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, provided the Board of Education with information relating to the Larkin High School Visual and Performing Arts Dance Magnet Academy Curriculum Proposal.

D. Larkin High School Visual and Performing Arts Music Magnet Academy Curriculum Proposal

Jaimie Abney-Giraldo, Fine Arts Coordinator, Zachary Geller, Teacher Leader for Fine Arts, Dr. Michelle Graham, Larkin High School Assistant Principal of Innovation, and Brian Tennison, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, provided the Board of Education with information relating to the Larkin High School Visual and Performing Arts Music Magnet Academy Curriculum Proposal.

E. Larkin High School Visual and Performing Arts Theatre Magnet Academy Curriculum Proposal

Jaimie Abney-Giraldo, Fine Arts Coordinator, Zachary Geller, Teacher Leader for Fine Arts, Dr. Michelle Graham, Larkin High School Assistant Principal of Innovation, and Brian Tennison, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, provided the Board of Education with information relating to the Larkin High School Visual and Performing Arts Theatre Magnet Academy Curriculum Proposal.

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

A. Proposal - Operations - Unite U-46 - New Elgin Middle School Project - Bid Packages 31A, 33A, and 33B

Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Brian Lindholm, Chief of Staff, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the bid packages as described in the proposal from Berger Contractor, Inc. and TCI Companies, in the total amount of \$11,649,000.00, 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 2024-2025 through 2027-2028 fiscal years.

B. Proposal - Operations - Unite U-46 - Kimball Middle School Project

Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Brian Lindholm, Chief of Staff, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the bid packages as described on the proposal from Alpine Demolition, Parkway Forming, Jimmy Z Masonry, TA Bowman Constructors, Hargrave Builders, A-1 Roofing Company, Oakton Architectural Glass, LJ Morse, Integral Flooring, Nedrow Painting and Decorating, Just Rite Acoustics, Diverzify, Inc., MS Sebastian Painting, H2i, Great Lakes Hotel Supply, Absolute Fire Protection, A&H Plumbing, AMS Industries, Inc., American Electric, Berger Contractors, Abbey Construction, and Twin Oaks Landscape, in the total amount of \$40,267,543.00, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. The majority of these expenditure will be charged to the Capital Projects Fund. Alternate 1B will be charged to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2024-2025 through 2026-2027 fiscal years.

9. Work Session - Change Orders (Board Policy 4:60 - Purchases and Contracts)

A. Change Order - Plant Operations - Creekside Elementary School Fire Alarm Replacement, Project #701

Sheila Downs, Executive Director of Facilities, presented the change order and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the change order from iWire Technologies, LLC. in the amount of minus \$45,000.00.

B. Change Order - Plant Operations - Heritage Elementary School Fire Alarm Replacement, Project #878

Sheila Downs, Executive Director of Facilities, presented the change order and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the change order from iWire Technologies, LLC. in the amount of minus \$30,000.00.

C. Change Order - Plant Operations - Horizon Elementary School Fire Alarm Replacement, Project #979

Sheila Downs, Executive Director of Facilities, presented the change order and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the change order from iWire Technologies, LLC. in the amount of minus \$40,000.00.

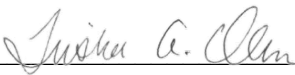
10. Adjournment - Ms. Owens

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Martin, to adjourn the Board meeting of February 24, 2025, at 9:10 p.m. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Martin, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

Approved this 28th day of April, 2025.



President



Secretary