

School District U-46

Elgin, Illinois

April 14, 2025

The video of the April 14, 2025 meeting can be found here:

[April 14, 2025 BOE Meeting](#)

The 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, Samreen Khan, Dawn Martin, Veronica Noland, Chanda Schwartz, 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. Noland, second by Ms. Martin, Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

Ms. Thommes joined the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

Cabinet members were excused at 6:28 p.m.

A motion was made at 6:58 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, Kathleen Cox, Sheila Downs, Brian Lindholm, Lela Majstorovic, Pam Maxey, Deb McMullen, Mark Moore, Frankie Valenzia, Jacob VandeMoortel, Dr. Ann Williams, Dr. Frank Williams, and Jim Wolf.

President Owens led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Accent on Achievement - Dr. Johnson

A. School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

In recognition of School Bus Driver Appreciation Day, April 22, 2025, a Proclamation of Appreciation was presented to representatives of the U-46 Transportation Department. Members of the U-46 Transportation Department, including drivers, assistants, mechanics, shop staff, trainers, and office staff, work together to safely transport approximately 24,000 children to and from 58 in-district and approximately 20 out-of-district sites each day. To accomplish this, U-46 drivers travel more than four million miles every school year.

B. National Merit Scholarship Program

As part of the Board of Education's Accent on Achievement, the Board of Education recognized Kyle B. Depakakibo, Frederick Lorek, and Nina F. Mangriotis of Bartlett High School. These students were recently named finalists in the prestigious 70th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Their selection keeps these students in the competition for approximately 7,500 scholarships that will be offered in Spring 2025. To qualify, the students took the 2023 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. They advanced to the finals based on their academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received.

2. Comments from the Audience - Ms. Owens

A. Public Comments

Bettina Perillo, Elgin resident, requested a table at high schools to offer students alternative options to the military. She also discussed AmeriCorps.

Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, Elgin resident, similarly requested a table at high schools to share alternative options to military enrollment. Additionally, she shared military statistics and sources.

Earl Silbar, discussed additional military statistics and information that he felt students should be aware of before military enrollment.

Mary Shesgreen, Chair of Fox Valley Citizens for Peace and Justice, requested readmission into high schools to offer information and alternative options to military enrollment.

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

A. Additional Information

Ms. Kerr thanked Dr. Johnson and her team for giving herself and Ms. Schwartz a tour of Kimball Middle School construction. She stated that it looks promising.

Ms. Martin stated that Board members have been very busy attending, the Kenyon Woods groundbreaking, the Kimball Middle School groundbreaking, and the Student Summit. Ms. Martin thanked the community and administration for all the events coming up in the next few weeks.

Mahitha Ratakonda stated that the Student Summit went really well with two hundred students participating. She said there would be a recap presentation at the next Board meeting. She thanked everyone who made it possible.

President Owens thanked Mahitha for all the work she put in for the Student Summit. President Owens also thanked Dr. Johnson for the tour she and Ms. Noland got of the new construction sites. She also thanked Anna Moeller's office for hosting the Education Policy Meeting.

Dr. Johnson stated that this is a great time of year. She thanked everyone that is currently working on the networking event for the Superintendent Scholarship recipients. She also thanked everyone that has made donations to the scholarship funds. Dr. Johnson recognized KCT and The Seigle Foundation for being significant donors to the Education Foundation.

4. Consent Agenda - Dr. Johnson

- A. Personnel Report and Workers' Compensation Cases
- B. Minutes of Board Meeting February 10, 2025
- C. Termination of Wasif Ali – Driver's Assistant
- D. Termination of Matthew G. Smith – Bus Driver-Route
- E. Termination of Terrance Miller Allen – Student Success Advocate

- F. Resolution for the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property
- G. Bid - Plant Operations - Larkin High School Roof Replacement, Project #274-25
- H. Bid - Plant Operations - Integrated Pest Control Management Services
- I. Proposal - Assessment, Accountability, and Student Success - Kane County Regional Office of Education Learning Partner
- J. Proposal - Equity and Innovation - Northern Illinois University Social Justice Camp
- K. Proposal - Information Services - 2025 Student Chromebooks
- L. Proposal - Information Services - Network Equipment Refresh
- M. Proposal - Operations - Unite U-46 Kimball Middle School Project
- N. Proposal - Operations - Unite U-46 New Elgin Middle School Project
- O. Contract Renewal - Assessment, Accountability, and Student Success - Panorama Student Success Dashboard and Surveys
- P. Contract Renewal - Chief of Staff - Projection, Staffing, and Mapping Software
- Q. Contract Renewal - Curriculum and Instruction - Canvas
- R. Contract Renewal - Specialized Student Services - Care Solace
- S. Contract Renewal - Specialized Student Services - News2You
- T. Statements of Completion – 3
- U. Occupancy Permit – 1
- V. Approval of Settlement Agreement and General Release in the matter of *Alikhodjaev v. School District U-46*

Motion by Ms. Kerr, second by Ms. Martin, to approve the Consent Agenda items A-V as presented. 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.

5. Discussion/Action - Dr. Johnson

A. Itemized Bills – April 14, 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 \$26,951,187.68.

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Noland, to approve the List of Bills in the amount of \$26,951,187.68. 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. Attendance Boundary Proposal

Brian Lindholm, Chief of Staff, Mark Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, and Lela Majstorovic, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, presented the attendance boundary change proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended the Board of Education vote to accept the attendance boundary changes.

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Noland, to accept the revised attendance boundary proposal dated April 14, 2025 as presented.

The team reviewed the proposal presented on March, 24, 2025, recommended adjustments to that proposal, provided more details on the residency exception request process, and reviewed the next steps.

Board members thanked administration, staff and families.

President Owens discussed commuting concerns.

Dr. Johnson thanked the Board, the community, and the administrative team.

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. Renewal of School District U-46 High School Membership in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) 2025-2026

Dr. Annette Acevedo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, presented a request to the Board of Education to certify the renewal of membership in IHSA. IHSA Membership will not require payment of dues. The District's five high schools participate in this organization and the District will submit five signed membership copies due by June 30, 2025.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Kerr, to approve the renewal of the School District U-46 High School membership in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) 2025-2026. 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. Biology Curriculum Resource Proposal

Lela Majstorovic, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Deb McMullen, Coordinator of K-12 Science and

Planetarium, and Frankie Valenzia, Secondary Science Instructional Coach, were available for questions relating to the Biology Curriculum Resource Proposal.

Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Thommes, to approve the Biology Curriculum Resource Proposal with an associated estimated cost of \$728,910.76.

Ms. Kerr stated that she would be voting yes. She liked that the resource was open and she was able to take a deep dive into it. She was very impressed. Ms. Kerr asked about some references that state students should have had this background in middle school. She asked if the team was confident that students would have that background. The team responded that they feel very strongly that students will have had that background in middle school. Ms. Kerr also asked if the team feels that this course will prepare students for AP Biology. The team responded yes, they do feel like students will be prepared.

Ms. Schwartz stated that she would be voting yes, but she does have some concerns that were raised in the memos from Instructional Council. The team stated that at the time the memos were written, there were some misunderstandings.

President Owens agreed with Ms. Kerr about the resource.

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.

E. Chemistry Pilot Proposal

Lela Majstorovic, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Deb McMullen, Coordinator of K-12 Science and Planetarium, and Frankie Valenzia, Secondary Science Instructional Coach, were available for questions relating to the Chemistry Pilot Proposal.

Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Kerr, to approve the Chemistry Pilot Proposal with an estimated cost for full implementation of \$593,697.24.

Ms. Kerr asked if teachers would be able to pilot only one of the lessons or would they have to pilot the whole thing. The team replied that teachers would need to pilot the whole thing.

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.

F. Physics Pilot Proposal

Lela Majstorovic, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Deb McMullen, Coordinator of K-12 Science and Planetarium, and Frankie Valenzia, Secondary Science Instructional Coach, were available for questions relating to the Physics Pilot Proposal.

Motion by Ms. Schwartz, second by Ms. Thommes, to approve the Physics Pilot Proposal with an estimated cost for full implementation of \$549,617.84. 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.

G. German, French, and Spanish Curriculum Proposal

Lela Majstorovic, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Jacob VandeMoortel, Coordinator of K-12 Social Studies and World Languages, were available for questions relating to the German, French, and Spanish Curriculum Proposal.

Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Kerr, to approve the German, French, and Spanish Curriculum Proposal with an estimated cost of \$929,737.41. 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.

H. High School Civics, Economics, United States History and American Studies, World Geography, and World History Social Studies Curriculum Resource Proposal

Lela Majstorovic, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Jacob VandeMoortel, Coordinator of K-12 Social Studies and World Languages, were available for questions relating to the High School Civics, Economics, United States History and American Studies, World Geography, and World History Social Studies Curriculum Resource Proposal.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes, to approve the High School Civics, Economics, United States History and American Studies, World Geography, and World History Social Studies Curriculum Resource Proposal with an associated cost of \$1,132,125.00. 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.

I. High School Advanced Placement Social Studies Curriculum Resource Only Proposal

Lela Majstorovic, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Jacob VandeMoortel, Coordinator of K-12 Social Studies and World Languages, were available for questions relating to the High School Advanced Placement Social Studies Curriculum Resource Proposal.

Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Kerr, to approve the High School Advanced Placement Social Studies Curriculum Resource Only Proposal with an associated cost of \$136,871.69. 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.

J. Proposal - Chief of Staff - Annexation Agreement

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 approval of the annexation agreement with the City of Elgin for the property located at 2604 Rohrssen Road in Elgin, Illinois, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Kerr, to approve the annexation agreement with the City of Elgin for the property located at 2604 Rohrssen Road in Elgin, Illinois, and authorize District administration to execute related documents.

Brian Lindholm reviewed the agreement.

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.

K. Minutes of Board Committee Meetings

Administration recommended the Board of Education accept the minutes from the February 24, 2025 Board of Education Finance Committee Meeting.

Motion by Ms. Schwartz, second by Ms. Noland, to accept the minutes from the February 24, 2025 Board of Education Finance Committee meeting. 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.

Ms. Thommes and Ms. Schwartz left the meeting briefly and returned at 8:25 p.m.

President Owens left the meeting at 8:25 and returned at 8:28 p.m.

Ms. Thommes left the meeting at 8:28 p.m. and returned at 8:30 p.m.

6. Other Business - Dr. Johnson

A. February Financial Report

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

7. Work Session – Dr. Johnson

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

Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Doreen Roberts, Coordinator of Career and Technical Education, and Lela Majstorovic, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, provided the Board of Education with information relating to the High School Career and Technical Education Childhood Education Curriculum Resource Proposal.

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

Celia Banks Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Doreen Roberts, Coordinator of Career and Technical Education, and Lela Majstorovic, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, provided the Board of Education with information relating to the High School Career and Technical Education Culinary Arts Curriculum Resource Proposal.

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

A. 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

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, Newcastle

Electric, Inc., in the amount of \$1,728,000.00, 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.

B. Bid - Early Learner Initiatives Department - Early Learners Furniture Bid - Plant Operations - Integrated Pest Control Management Services

Lela Majstorovic, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, Kathleen Cox, Director of Early Learner Initiatives, and Pam Maxey, Early Learner Admin of Curriculum, Assessment, and Student Success, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended award to the lowest responsible bidders, Discount School Supply in the amount of \$1,439.95, Frank Cooney Company in the amount of \$30,168.70, Kaplan Early Learning Company in the amount of \$18,544.44, Lakeshore Learning Materials in the amount of \$15,348.60, School Outfitters in the amount of \$1,102.86, and School Specialty in the amount of \$112,758.59, for the total amount of \$179,363.14, 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 2024-2025 fiscal year.

C. Bid - Plant Operations - Bartlett, Elgin, Larkin, South Elgin, and Streamwood High Schools Backstop Replacement, Project #2072-25

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, Omni Commercial Group, Inc., in the amount of \$820,000.00, 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 and 2025-2026 fiscal years.

D. Bid - Plant Operations - Highland Elementary Domestic Water Piping Replacement, Project #902-25

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, Northwest Contractors, Inc., in the amount of \$913,682.00, 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 and 2025-2026 fiscal years.

- E. Bid - Plant Operations - Bartlett High School Pathways Phase One: Automotive and Engineering and Phase Two: Culinary Arts and Healthcare Science Renovation, Project #210-25

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, The George Sollitt Construction Company, in the amount of \$3,791,973.00, 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 and 2025-2026 fiscal years.

- F. Bid - Plant Operations - Coleman Elementary School Roof Replacement, Project #686-25

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, Crowther Roofing and Sheet Metal, in the amount of \$1,643,000.00, 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 and 2025-2026 fiscal years.

- G. Proposal - Plant Operations - Vermeer Brush Chipper

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 Vermeer Midwest in the amount of \$70,250.00, 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 fiscal year.

- H. Proposal - Plant Operations - Hilltop Elementary Playground Playset Replacement

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 \$93,308.65, 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.

I. Proposal - Plant Operations - Pre-K Playground Playsets and Surfacing

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 \$1,470,140.62, 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.

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

A. Contract Renewal - Information Services - Microsoft Licenses

Jim Wolf, Director of Information Services, presented the proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract renewal with CDW Amplified in the amount of \$149,027.20, 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 2024-2025 fiscal year.

B. Contract - Information Services - Google Workspace

Jim Wolf, Director of Information Services, presented the proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract with CDW Amplified in the amount of \$404,806.68, 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 2024-2025 through 2026-2027 fiscal years.


C. Contract - Information Services - Mindsight/Fortinet Firewall

Jim Wolf, Director of Information Services, presented the proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract with Mindsight, Inc. in the amount of \$1,054,985.00, 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.

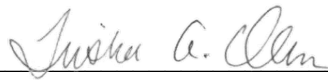
10. Adjournment - Ms. Owens

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Martin, to adjourn the Board meeting of April 14, 2025, at 8:50 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 16th day of June, 2025.



President



Secretary