

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 28
HELD TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, District 28, Cook County, Illinois, was held in the HOH Conference room in said district on Tuesday evening, September 30, 2025, and streamed on the district's YouTube Channel.

President Silver-Schack called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with the following members present at roll call:

DeShawn Arms
Christine Beeftink
Diana Horwitz
Eve Pfanzelter
Mara Silver-Schack
Adam Weinstock

Absent: Beth Bazer

Also present were Dr. Jason Pearson, Superintendent; Dr. Kris Raitzer, Assistant Superintendent; Jessica Donato, Chief School Business Official, Dr. Kelly Sculles, Director of Student Services; Edward Brophy, Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services; Michelle Jackson, Director of Learning; Samantha Scheinman, Director of Communications; Chrissy Yonaites, Recording Secretary and Jeremy Bartunek, Greenbriar Teacher/Streaming Tech.

Public Attendees: Tim Keenan and David Ramirez (Organic Life).

VISITORS COMMENTS / PRESENTATIONS

None.

2025-26 BUDGET HEARING

Annually the District presents a legal budget, and after the required 30-day period for public access, the Board of Education calls for a hearing in order to receive public comment.

At 7:02 pm, it was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Weinstock to open the public hearing on the District 28 budget for 2025-2026.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzer, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

Chief School Business Official Jessica Donato provided an overview of the 2025-26 budget, including a summary of revenues and expenditures, capital projects and other initiatives. Approximately 86% of District 28's revenue comes from local property taxes. The balance comes from corporate personal property replacement taxes, other local sources, state grants, and federal programs. Spending can be divided into the following areas:

- Education: \$49.0 million
- Operations & Maintenance: \$3.4 million
- Transportation: \$2.5 million
- IMRF/Social Security: \$1.7 million
- Capital Projects: \$26.6 million

There was no public comment.

At 7:10 p.m., it was moved by Member Weinstock and seconded by Member Arms that the budget hearing close.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzer, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Construction Updates

Dr. Pearson, Superintendent, provided the Board with an update on the District's construction projects. Masonry work is under way at Meadowbrook. The other schools are in the design and development phase. These final designs are expected to be shown at the October meeting. Bidding for the Meadowbrook School project will occur before the winter break.

Dr. Pearson updated the Board on TrueNorth, summarizing the presentation by cooperative Superintendents. The recommended path is reorganization with a new, tuition-based business model, replacing membership fees. This will result in a smaller cooperative with a single therapeutic day school. The proposed articles of agreement will be read at the next TrueNorth meeting, and a resolution will be presented for approval in December. Dr. Pearson anticipates that most current districts will remain with the restructured cooperative.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Member Beeftink and seconded by Member Pfanzteler that the Board of Education approve the minutes for Regular Meeting on August 26, 2025 and Closed Meeting on August 26, 2025.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzteler, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: Arms. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Weinstock that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda:

Payroll

The payment of employee salaries for the last half of August 2025, in the amount of \$1,963,656.62 and covered by check numbers 68516 through 68546 & 68565 and deduction check numbers 68547 through 68564 inclusive, as outlined in detail on the Payroll Summary, confirmed by the signatures of the President and Secretary of the School District Board of Education, and dated September 30, 2025;

The payment of employee salaries for the first half of September 2025, in the amount of \$1,952,535.17 and covered by check numbers 68566 through 68582 and deduction check numbers 68583 through 68591 inclusive, as outlined in detail on the Payroll Summary, confirmed by the signatures of the President and Secretary of the School District Board of Education, and dated September 30, 2025.

Bills

Vendor invoices totaling \$760,308.73 and Warrants listed as Numbers 65243 through 65461 and the following voids: none, confirmed by the signature of the President of the School District 28 Board of Education, and dated September 30, 2025.

Personnel Report: Contract Changes, Employment of Staff, Leaves, Resignations and Dismissals

Staff Recommended for Employment				
Name	Position	Location	Salary	Effective Date
Kaniya Bell	Classroom Asst.	WM	C/R-2 \$20,417	9/4/25

Michael Klotz*	Special Educ Teacher	NBJH	M+12-10 \$75,678.46 (prorated)	9/8/25
Robert Weiss	Foundational Asst.	GB	\$25.16/hr	9/15/25
Aaron Ireland	Foundational Asst (part-time)	GB	FNDN \$28.07/hr	9/16/25
Porfirio Palillero Navarro	Custodian (part-time)	GB	\$20/hr	9/24/25
Yanni Kousiounelos	Owner's Rep/Construction Manager	District	\$91,846	9/24/25
Matthew Meaney*	8th Gr Math Teacher	NBJH	M+00-22 \$89,995.23 (prorated)	9/29/25
Dalia Shapiro	Foundational Asst. (part-time)	GB	FNDN \$24.42/hr	10/24/25
Mariely Zamudio	Admin. Asst. to Assistant Superintendent	DO	\$25.00/hr \$48,750	10/06/25

* Certified Candidate details below

Staff Resignations, Retirements and / or Terminations				
Name	Position	Location	Reason	Effective Date
Elizabeth Massa	Special Educ Teacher	NBJH	Resignation	8/27/25
Binci Thomas	Special Educ Asst.	GB	Resignation	9/9/25
Alejandro Rocha	Custodian	NBJH	Resignation	9/10/25
Erin Thunholm	Classroom Asst	WM	Resignation	6/3/25
Jill Witt	EC YE Assistant	WM	Retirement	12/19/25

Staff Leave of Absence				
Name	Position	Location	Reason	Effective Date

Meghan Pukszta	6th Gr Math Teacher	NBJH	Parent Leave	1/29/26
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Staff Lane Changes 2025-26				
Name	Position	Location	Current Salary	New Salary
Dexi Karabatsos	Teacher	MB	M+00-12 \$83,646	M+12-12 \$87,524
Taraneh Tompkins	Teacher	MB	M+00-09 \$76,168	M+12-09 \$79,215
Laura Van Dien	Special Educ Teacher	GB	M+12-17 \$101,373	M+30-17 \$104,974
Sydney Berg	Special Ed Teacher	NBJH	B+12-07 \$65,366	M+00-07 \$71,737
Christine Kim	Teacher	MB	B+12-17 \$84,754	M+00-17 \$96,387

Staff Salary Placement Changes 2025-26				
Name	Position	Location	Current Salary	New Salary
Samuel Soltwisch	Teacher	MB	M+00-01 \$60,658	M+00-05 \$67,305

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzer, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Finance Report

Ms. Donato, Chief School Business Official, provided the finance report for the month ending July 31, 2025, and the list of bills paid in August was included in the Board

packet. Ms. Donato also provided updates on the state-required compensation reports that must be posted on the website after the budget is approved by the board.

Food Service Sales

NBJH food services for the month of August totaled \$16,040. Organic Life's operating statement has a deficit of \$17,761 for the month. This is typical due to the beginning of the year opening inventory purchases.

Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report (105 ILCS 5/10-20.47)

On or before October 1 of each year, the Board is required to report to ISBE the base salary and benefits paid to all administrators and all teachers in the prior fiscal year. Before the report is submitted to ISBE, the information must be presented at a regular Board meeting, subject to applicable notice requirements, and then posted on the website.

Total Compensation Packages Over \$75,000 (5 ILCS 120/7.3)

Within six days of approving the budget, the Board must post on its website the total compensation package for each employee having compensation that exceeds \$75,000 per year.

Local, State & Federal Requirements

Since the August Board of Education Meeting, District 28 submitted the following:

- Completed the annual application to participate in the Illinois Free Lunch and the Federal Special Milk programs
- Filed monthly claims for the Illinois Free Lunch and the Federal Special Milk programs
- Completed Annual Direct Certification for students eligible for free lunches
- Filed monthly Bureau of Labor Statistics Report on Current Employment
- Submitted monthly Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund Wage Report

It was moved by Member Beeftink and seconded by Member Weinstock that the Board of Education approve the Finance Report for July 2025.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzer, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

Adoption of Budget for 2025-26

Having reviewed the budget and concluded the public hearing, it was moved by Member Weinstock and seconded by Member Arms that the Board of Education adopt the budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year, as was on display and which is attached to and made part of the minutes and posted on the district website financial documents page.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzer, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Edward Brophy, Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services informed the Board that there are two open positions, one classroom assistant and one school psychologist.

STUDENT SERVICES

No report.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

No report.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Ms. Donato presented the Memorandum of Understanding for the four schools. This summarizes the four proposed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with DLA Architects, Ltd., for their work on the school projects identified in the District's Facility Master Plan. These MOUs outline the scope, estimated budget, and architectural compensation.

It was moved by Member Pfanzerter and seconded by Member Horwitz that the Board of Education approve the Memorandum of Understanding for New Meadowbrook School, Greenbriar, Westmoor and Northbrook Junior High renovations and additions.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzerter, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

LEGISLATION

No report.

POLICY

Mr. Brophy noted that the Policy Committee has a meeting on October 14th and the PRESS 119 policies will be on the agenda for approval at the October 28th Board Meeting.

COMMUNICATION

Samantha Scheinman, Director of Communications, explained to the Board she will be creating monthly podcasts this year all related to Build 28.

There were no FOIA's this month.

TRUENORTH EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE 804

Discussed during the Superintendent's report.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

In

At 7:47 p.m., it was moved by Member Horwitz and seconded by Member Weinstock that the Board of Education go into a Closed Session to discuss the following:

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity as authorized by 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzelter, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

Out

At 8:38 p.m., it was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Pfanzelter that the meeting return to Regular Session. All members present voted Aye. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:39 p.m., it was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Horwitz to adjourn the meeting. All members present voted Aye. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.