

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

November 11, 2025 at 6:00 PM
Palos Central Office
8800 W. 119th St.
Palos Park, IL

- 1. Call to Order. Pam Paris, Board President,** called the Regular Meeting of November 11, 2025, to order at 6:00 p.m.
- 2. Roll Call.** Board members present: Pam Paris, Board President, Mike Pizur, Vice President, Susan Szafranski, Secretary; Dr. Tim Baker, Dan Cox, Jennifer Jensen, Kevin Quinn. Others Present: Dr. Anthony Scarsella, Superintendent of Schools; Erin Deval, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Scott Fox, Director of IT; Terri Dodds, Assistant Director of Student Services; Dr. Huwaida Hamed, Director of EL; Rob Szklanecki, Director of Teaching and Learning; Justin Veihman, Chief School Business Official; Allison Grasso, Palos East Principal; Jennifer Peloquin, Palos West Principal; Dr. Stuart Wrzesinski, Palos South Principal; Sara Leahy, Palos South Assistant Principal; Andrea Ramoley, Palos East Assistant Principal; Kristie Tieri, Palos West Assistant Principal; Brock Stein, Director of Communications; Members Absent: None
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance.** The Board the assembled audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4. Public Comment - (Agenda Items).** None
- 5. President's Report.** Mrs. Paris asked Mr. Pizur to read a section of the Oath of Office/Code of Conduct as a reminder and affirmation of the commitment of each board member to faithfully discharge their duties in pursuit of fulfilling the school district's mission and vision. Mrs. Paris reminded those in attendance of the following upcoming dates: November 18th Student Outcomes & Accountability Meeting at 6pm; November 24-25 No School (Parent Teacher Conferences); November 26-28 No School (Thanksgiving Break); December 2nd Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting at 6pm; December 5th Senior Breakfast at Palos South; December 11th Winter Band Concerts at Palos South; December 19th Early Dismissal; December 22-January 2 No School (Winter Break)
- 6. Administrative Report.** In his report to the Board of Education, Dr. Scarsella congratulated Palos East and Palos South, which were both named exemplary schools on the most recent Illinois State Report Card. He thanked the MPA volunteers who organized this year's Harvest Fest. He also thanked the Palos South staff and students for hosting a Veteran's Day assembly on November 11 and thanked area veterans for their service. He recognized parent volunteers who organized our most recent Halloween Themed spirit lunch at Palos South and all the fun Halloween classroom parties at Palos East and West at the end of October. He congratulated the middle schoolers who designed winning bookmarks for the Palos South media center bookmark design contest which included Aubrey Person, Anna Drapa, and Bella Slack. He congratulated District 118 Data Coordinator Shea Schaaf for completing her third Chicago Marathon. He recognized Palos South which held its First Quarter Hawaiian-themed PBIS celebration. He closed by recognizing November 15 as School Board Members Day and thanked the board of education for their dedication and leadership.
- 7. Committee Reports**
 - 7.1 Student Outcomes and Accountability**

Committee chair Jennifer Jensen, reported that the Student Outcomes and Accountability Committee met on October 21 and Mr. Szklanecki, Director of Teaching and Learning, shared with the Committee student outcome data from Spring 2025 and Fall 2025. He informed the

Committee that student performance remains high across all grade levels in reading, math and science. Mr. Szklanecki shared focus areas for the coming school year and preliminary school ratings.

7.2 Finance and Facilities Committee

Finance Committee Chair Mr. Pizur reported that the Finance and Facilities Committee met on November 4 where Chief School Business Official Justin Veihman presented the tentative levy to the committee. He reported the CPI for the 2025 Levy is 2.9% and recommended a balloon levy to accommodate the 2.9% CPI and any new property in the school district. Mr. Veihman also recommended the Board schedule a public hearing on the proposed levy for December 9, 2025. Mr. Veihman shared with the Committee updated financial projections, which included balanced budgets for the next five years. Mr. Veihman also recommended \$2.5 million in capital improvements for the upcoming summer. Projects include the completion of classroom renovations at Palos East and Palos West, and a new roof for the boardroom at Central Administration as well as bathroom renovations. Mr. Veihman asked for permission to apply for a School Maintenance Grant through ISBE. Mr. Veihman presented the 2026-2027 school bus lease recommendation for next school year, which includes the lease-purchase of (5) 2027 model year 72-passenger buses and (1) 2027 model year 36-passenger buses. Dr. Scarsella and Mr. Veihman discussed with the Committee a recommendation for changes in the pay structure for substitutes.

7.3 Foundation. Mrs. Sheila Pacholski, Palos 118 Educational Foundation director, reminded everyone in attendance that the Foundation Trivia Night Fundraiser would be held on January 31.

7.4 Parent Faculty Association (PFA). Mrs. Jensen read a report on behalf of the PFA, which included a thank you to all the volunteers who helped with Halloween class parties at Palos East and Palos West and Halloween theme lunch at Palos South. The PFA's Charleston Wrap fundraiser closes this November 14th and the sale can be found at www.RegisterCW.com using registration code 21020 to shop. The PFA will host an adults-only spring fundraiser on Friday, March 6th at Signature Barn in Orland Park with an 80s theme of "Forever Young." More will be coming soon, and tickets will go on sale in January.

7.5 MPA. No report.

8. New Business. A motion was made by Mr. Pizur and seconded by Dr. Baker for the board to approve the 2025 Tentative Levy and Set Public Hearing Date for December 9. The roll call vote was, Aye votes: Mrs. Paris, Mr. Pizur, Mrs. Szafranski, Dr. Baker, Mr. Cox, Mrs. Jensen, Mr. Quinn. Nay votes: None. The motion passed.

9. Secretary's Report

- a. **Correspondence Received.** Mrs. Szafranski reported that the District received Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests from SEIU Local 1 and Justin Wenig and that both requests have been completed.
- b. **Correspondence Sent.** None

10. Recommended For Consent Agenda. A motion was made by Mrs. Jensen and seconded by Mr. Quinn for the Board to approve the following agenda items 10.1 through 10.7 under a consent agenda.

- 10.1** Approval of the application to participate in the School Maintenance Grant Program
- 10.2** Approval of the five-year lease-purchase agreement with Midwest Transit for (5) 2027 model year 72-passenger buses and (1) 2027 model year 36-passenger bus for \$202,230 per year
- 10.3** Approval of the contracts for SY 26-27 supply school kits for East, West and South from School Toolbox for the 2026-2027 school year
- 10.4** Approval of Personnel Report A-Certified Staff, which list: **Intermittent FMLA:**

Sarah Bahn, PLC Coach, East effective October 27, 2025, through June 5, 2026;
FMLA: Sarah Lake, 1st Grade, West effective October 31, 2025, through February 12, 2026.

- 10.5** Approval of Personnel Report B-Classified Staff, which list: **Employment:** Wayne Begley, Custodian, East effective October 31, 2025; Jill Jaksinick, Paraprofessional, East effective November 3, 2025; **FMLA:** Keith Rehr, Operations, Central October 27, 2025, through December 7, 2025; **Resignation:** Christine Tralka, Paraprofessional, West effective October 23, 2025; Tiffany Stirling, Paraprofessional, West effective November 13, 2025. **Retirement:** Keith Rehr, Operations, Central effective January 31, 2026.
- 10.6** Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes dated October 14, 2025, and Special Meeting Minutes dated October 21, 2025, and November 4, 2025.
- 10.7** Authorize payment of bills payable dated November 12, 2025, in the amount of \$1,000,500.63; also, payrolls dated October 24, 2025, in the amount of \$922,286.04 and November 7, 2025, in the amount of \$888,881.49.

- 11. Public Comment- (Non-Agenda Items).** Ms. Nikki McDougal addressed the board on the topic of music education in District 118.
- 12. Closed Session.** A motion was made by Mrs. Szafranski and seconded by Dr. Baker for the board to go into closed session for 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 body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity; collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; and student disciplinary cases and the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. The roll call vote was, Aye votes: Mrs. Paris, Mr. Pizur, Mrs. Szafranski, Dr. Baker, Mr. Cox, Mrs. Jensen, Mr. Quinn. Nay votes: None. The motion passed and the board went into closed session at 6:22 p.m.
- 13. Adjournment.** A motion was made by Mrs. Jensen and seconded by Mr. Quinn that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting. The roll call vote was, Aye votes: Mrs. Paris, Mr. Pizur, Mrs. Szafranski, Dr. Baker, Mr. Cox, Mrs. Jensen, Mr. Quinn. Nay votes: None. The motion passed and the Board adjourned at 7:40 p.m.