

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

October 14, 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 October 14, 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; 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**
 - 5.1 Report to the Board.** Mrs. Paris 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: October 17th: Harvest Fest at Palos South at 5:30pm; October 21st: Student Outcomes & Accountability Meeting at 6pm at Central; November 4th: Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting at 6pm at Central; November 11th: Veterans Day Assembly at 9am at Palos South Middle School; November 11th: Regular Board of Education Meeting at 6pm at Central; November 18th: Student Outcomes & Accountability Meeting at 6pm at Central
 - 5.2 Appointment.** Mrs. Paris was appointed to serve as delegate to the IASB Delegate Assembly,

6. **Administrative Report.** In his report to the Board of Education, Dr. Scarsella recognized the students at Palos West who celebrated International Peace Day in September. He thanked the Palos 118 Educational Foundation for organizing Laps for Literature in September and thanked everyone who participated and volunteered. Dr. Scarsella thanked the PFA for organizing the first Spirit Lunches of the 2025-26 school year and a Barn Dance at Palos West. He encouraged parents to visit the PFA's website for more information on how to participate and volunteer. He recognized Palos South for organizing Start with Hello Week and hosting a Meet New People Mixer in the Palos South commons and thanked South Social Workers Jill Yerkes, Angela Grebenor, and Jill Martinez for organizing this important week of events. He thanked Palos 118 school board members, and Mrs. Cozzi from transportation for their participation in this year's Palos Park Autumn in the Park Community Parade. He recognized Palos West's early childhood program for receiving a Gold Circle of Quality Award from the Illinois State Board of Education and thanked West teachers Jill Rafter and Lee Harwig, Assistant Director of Student Services Terri Dodds, and Para-Pro Lillian Sobczak for their work on applying for the award. He recognized the Cardinal sports teams who had a successful fall season with the Palos South Girls Softball team finishing with an undefeated regular season record of 11-0; the Boys Cross Country team which placed first in the Southwest Interscholastic Conference meet, and the girls team which finished third in the SWIC. He closed by recognizing October as Principals Appreciation Month and thanked principals Jennifer Peloquin, Allison Grasso, and Dr. Stuart Wrzesinski as well as Assistant Principals, Sarah Leahy, Andrea Ramoley, and Kristie Tieri for their dedication and leadership.

7. **Committee Reports**

7.1 Safety Committee. Mrs. Jensen shared that the District Safety Committee met on September 18 and that Mr. Veihman and Mr. Fox provided an update on improvements to safety technologies for the 2025-2026 school year including upgrades to the district's security camera system, automated alert system and installation of new emergency pull stations at all three schools. Mrs. Dodds shared an overview of the district's recently revised Violent Event Reunification Plan. Feedback was shared by members of the committee regarding the information shared by administrators and suggestions were made for additional safety improvements.

7.2 Policy Committee. Policy Committee Chair Mr. Dan Cox reported that the Policy Committee met on October 7 and reviewed Policy 8:10 and discussed the school district's logo and branding guide. The Committee reviewed policies 8:25, 8:80 and 4:150 as they pertain to accepting and acknowledging donations. Director of Communications and Community Engagement discussed Policy 2:220 and recommended the district change electronic board agenda vendors. The Committee also reviewed the 2025 IASB Resolutions Committee Report and directed its delegate, Pam Paris, to vote in favor of a proposed resolution concerning funding for school buses.

7.3 Foundation. Mrs. Sheila Pacholski reported that the Foundation's Laps for Literature event raised \$5,100 for the District 118 media centers and she presented the checks to the school building principals.

5.3 PFA. Mrs. Jennifer Bleskin, PFA President, reported that the organization has volunteer openings for those interested in helping with Halloween parties and needs volunteers to run Art Chat sessions which start in October.

5.4 MPA. Mrs. Jensen reported that tickets are still available for Harvest Fest on October 17 and needs volunteers.

8. **Unfinished Business.** A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Dr. Baker for the Board to approve the second reading of Press Update 119, and approve draft updates to policy 2:80, 2:130, 7:140, 7:300, 2:220-E9, 2:240-E1, 2:240-E2, and 7:60. 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.** The District received a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request from Michael Henry. That request has 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 10.4 under a consent agenda.

- a. Approval of Personnel Report A-Certified Staff:
FMLA:
Nicholas Shein, Math Teacher, South Katie
Pastiak, 5th Grade Teacher, West **Retirement:**
Linda Lowery, 1st Grade Teacher, West
- b. Approval of Personnel Report B-Classified Staff:
Employment:
Paola Evans, Part-Time Playground Supervisor, East Farida
Elserafy, Paraprofessional, West; Ashley Donaldson, Custodian, East
FMLA:
Kathy Pagoria, Administrative Assistant for Operations and Business,
Central
Resignation:
Hebah Alajouri, Paraprofessional, West Gloria
Lopez, Paraprofessional, East Savannah Speed,
Paraprofessional, East Scott Balling, Custodian,
East
Termination:
Anthony McClennon, Custodian, West
Jenny Merneigh, Part-Time Playground Supervisor, West
- c. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes dated September 9, 2025, and Special Meeting Minutes dated October 7, 2025.
- d. Authorize Payment of Bills and Payrolls and Aggregate Total: \$4,056,437.81

11. **Public Comment- (Non-Agenda Items).** None

12. **Closed Session.** None

13. **Adjournment.** A motion was made by Mr. Pizur and seconded by Dr. Baker 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 6:16 p.m.