

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF EVANSTON/SKOKIE
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 65 REGARDING INTENT
TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF KINGSLEY
ELEMENTARY AND THE CONSIDERATION OF THE CLOSURE OF
LINCOLNWOOD ELEMENTARY AT A LATER DATE**

WHEREAS, the Board is committed to sound fiscal stewardship and addressing the District's existing structural deficit to achieve the goal of financial sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the Board and the District will achieve its goal of financial sustainability when the District has (1) achieved and maintained a balanced budget, (2) maintained at least ninety (90) days of cash on hand through the course of the fiscal year, and (3) maintained a minimum of \$2,700,000 set aside for capital expenditures related to building maintenance.

WHEREAS, the Board and the District continue to work on a multi-phase Structural Deficit Reduction Plan (SDRP) to achieve this goal; and

WHEREAS, Phase III of the SDRP contemplates possible school closures to address declining student enrollment, underutilized buildings with increasing maintenance needs and the need for continued budget reductions; and

WHEREAS, District leadership working with staff and community members has reviewed programs, finances, and facilities to develop criteria for school closure and feedback on school closure scenarios to inform the District's recommendations to the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that the closing of a school is a difficult process creating a significant loss for the impacted school community and the Board is mindful of those concerns; and

WHEREAS, to accomplish the goal of fiscal sustainability, the Board must make informed, thoughtful decisions, and take a multi-faceted approach to long-term planning; and

WHEREAS, the Board has sole discretion to close school buildings within the District after holding three public hearings pursuant to the Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 5/10-22.13; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to engage in the formal process pursuant to the Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 5/10-22.13 to consider the proposed closure of Kingsley Elementary School at the end of the 2025-2026 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Board will hold three public hearings to consider the proposed closure of Kingsley Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that the proposed closure of one school, Kingsley Elementary, may not allow the District to achieve its goal of financial sustainability. However, prior to proposing the closure of any additional schools beyond Dr. Bessie Rhodes School of Global Studies and Kingsley Elementary School, the Board will look to explore alternative approaches to reducing the District's structural deficit. By October of 2026, if the Board and the District have not (1) reduced the District's deficit to the point of financial sustainability, as defined above, and (2) the Districtwide average kindergarten through fifth grade school building utilization rate is less than 75% (excluding specialized schools and programs (Park, Rice, STEP and RISE) and using the SDRP III building capacities and calculation method), then the Board will recognize that proposing to close Lincolnwood Elementary is needed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF EVANSTON/SKOKIE COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 65, Cook County, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. Recitals. The recitals set forth above are incorporated into and made a part of this Resolution providing the reasoning for the Board's decision.

Section 2. Public Hearings. The Board will hold three public hearings in accordance with Section 10-22.13 of the Illinois School Code to consider the proposed closure of Kingsley Elementary.

Section 3. Commitment to Reducing Structural Deficit. The Board remains committed to reducing the current structural deficit and acknowledges that other school closings may be necessary if alternative approaches are not identified. The Board commits itself to work with administration, District employees, stakeholders, community members, and school communities to address the structural deficit. Should implemented measures prove not to be sufficient to meet the District's structural deficit the Board will consider other school closings during the 2026-2027 school year.

Section 4. Notice of Public Hearings. The Superintendent will post the statutorily required notice of the three public hearings in accordance with Section 10-22.13 of the Illinois School Code on the District's website.

Section 5. Relation to other Board Resolutions. If any conflict arises between this Resolution and any other resolution adopted prior to this Resolution, then this Resolution shall control.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect after its adoption.

YES: WILKINS, PINKARD, HERNANDEZ, OPDYCKE

WYMER, ANDERSON

NO: _____

ABSENT: _____

Adopted January 9, 2026.

Patricia Anderson
President

ATTEST: Adela Ceresini
Secretary

