

School District U-46
Elgin, Illinois

October 6, 2025

The video of the October 6, 2025, meeting can be found here:

[October 6, 2025, BOE Meeting](#)

The meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Welcome Center, 1019 East Chicago Street, Elgin, Illinois.

The following Board Members answered roll call: Sue Kerr, Dawn Martin, Chanda Schwartz, and Melissa Owens. Ms. Veronica Noland was absent.

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. Kerr, seconded by Ms. Martin. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Martin, Ms. Schwartz, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 4-0.

Ms. Thommes arrived at 5:32 p.m. and Ms. Khan arrived at 5:40 p.m.

A motion was made at 6:56 p.m. by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Thommes, to move into open session. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

Present for the business session were Board members Sue Kerr, Samreen Khan, Dawn Martin, Chanda Schwartz, Kate Thommes, Melissa Owens, Superintendent, Dr. Suzanne Johnson, and Chief Legal Officer, Trisha Olson. Also present was Student Board member Dhanvi Dhandapani. The following were also present at the District's central office: Elspeth "Ellie" Alvarado, Celia Banks, Robyn Cornelissen, Mark Gonnella, Tracey Jakaitis, Jacquelyn Johnson, Mary Juvingo, Amanda Leatherby, Jolene Linneman, Lela Majstorovic, Ashlee McHaney, Deb McMullen, Rola Tarek Mohamed, Aaron Nowak, Cassondra Reichenbach, Jennifer Schwardt, Danise Smith, Dr. Kyle VonSchnase, and Jim Wolf.

President Owens led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was held in honor of Kelly O'Hara.

1. Accent on Achievement - Dr. Johnson

A. National School Lunch Week

In recognition of National School Lunch Week, October 13-17, 2025, a Proclamation of Appreciation was presented to Aaron Nowak, the District's Director of Food and Nutrition Services Department. The U-46 Food and Nutrition Services Department serves breakfast meals and lunches to thousands of students every day. They continue to encourage our students to live healthy lifestyles.

B. National Principal Appreciation Month

In recognition of National Principal Appreciation Month celebrated in October, a Proclamation of Appreciation was presented to Jennifer Schwardt, Association of Elgin School Administrators (AESAs) President. National Principal Month recognizes the essential role that principals play in the education, growth, and well-being of students. They have used their vision, dedication, and determination to provide an atmosphere in which students can continue to learn and succeed.

2. Strategic Plan Report - Dr. Johnson (Board Policy 2:20 - Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification)

A. Multi Abilities Classroom Overview

Amanda Leatherby, Director of Specialized Student Services, and Elspeth "Ellie" Alvarado, Ridge Circle Elementary School MLP Teacher, provided the Board of Education with an overview of the Multi Abilities Classroom.

B. 2026-2027 Boundary Transition Update

Lela Majstorovic, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, presented an update to the Board of Education on the 2026-2027 Boundary Transition. The update provided information on the process and timeline for communicating student school assignments, and an overview of changes in self-contained special education programming.

3. Comments from the Audience - Ms. Owens

A. Public Comments

There were no in-person Public Comments. Three written comments were submitted and will be available on the website.

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

A. Additional Information

There were no updates from the Board.

B. 2025 Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Resolutions Committee Report

Dr. Johnson, Superintendent, and the Board of Education discussed the November 22, 2025 Delegate Assembly.

5. Consent Agenda - Dr. Johnson

- A. Personnel Report and Workers' Compensation Cases
- B. Minutes of Board Meeting - July 21, 2025
- C. Termination of Nadia Blancdaley – Para-CC; SESS 1:1
- D. Termination of Victor H. Camarena – Dean's Assistant
- E. Termination of Samantha Ramirez – Student Success Advocate
- F. Proposal - School Safety - Central Schools/Dream Academy Radio Replacements
- G. Proposal - Specialized Student Services - Purchase of Student iPads
- H. Proposal - Transportation - Student Transportation Routing Software Upgrade
- I. Contract Renewal - Curriculum and Instruction - Career and Technical Education: Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Participation Fee
- J. Contract Renewal - Plant Operations - Streamwood Park District Intergovernmental Agreement
- K. Contract - Equity and Innovation - Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Tour
- L. Contract - Equity and Innovation - Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) Student Tour
- M. Approval of Settlement Agreement and General Release in the Matter of Vartabedian v. Lewis and School District U-46
- N. Building Permits - 2

Motion by Ms. Kerr, seconded by Ms. Martin, to approve the Consent Agenda items A-N as presented. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes: 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

6. Discussion/Action - Dr. Johnson

A. Itemized Bills – October 6, 2025

Robyn Cornelissen, Executive Director of Financial Services, was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education regarding the List of Bills. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the List of Bills in the amount of \$33,780,502.20.

Motion by Ms. Schwartz, seconded by Ms. Kerr, to approve the List of Bills in the amount of \$33,780,502.20. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

7. Other Business - Dr. Johnson

A. July and August Financial Reports

Robyn Cornelissen, Executive Director of Finance, reviewed the Financial Reports and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education.

8. Work Session - Dr. Johnson

A. Board Policy Updates

Trisha Olson, Chief Legal Officer, presented proposed changes to the following Board policies. Administration recommended the adoption of the proposed changes.

IASB PRESS Issue 119 Updates:

1:10	School District Legal Status
1:20	District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements
1:30	School District Philosophy
2:10	School District Governance
2:80	Board Member Oath and Conduct
2:130	Board-Chief Executive Officer/Superintendent Relationship
2:240	Board Policy Development
3:30	Chain of Command
4:50	Payment Procedures
4:55	Use of Credit and Procurement Cards
4:90	Student Activity and Fiduciary Funds
4:180	Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery
5:270	Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment
7:40	Part-Time Attendance, Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students
7:90	Release During School Hours
7:130	Student Rights and Responsibilities
7:140	Search and Seizure
7:300	Extracurricular Athletics
7:325	Student Fundraising Activities
8:80	Gifts to the District
8:110	Public Suggestions and Concerns

B. Middle School Physical Education/Health Curriculum Proposal

Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Tracey Jakaitis, Interim Student Wellness Coordinator, and Mary Juvingo, Student Wellness Teacher Leader, presented the proposal and were available for questions relating to the Middle School Physical Education/Health Curriculum Proposal. Administration recommended approval of the Middle School Physical Education/Health Curriculum Proposal, in the amount of \$65,512.88, 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 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Ms. Khan left the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

9. Work Session – Resolutions

A. Resolution for the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property (Warehouse Books)

Dr. Kyle VonSchnase, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Ashlee McHaney, Assistant Director of Plant Operations, reviewed the Resolution and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the Resolution for the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property.

B. Resolution for the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property (Furniture)

Robyn Cornelissen, Executive Director of Finance, and Danise Smith, Procurement Coordinator, reviewed the Resolution and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the Resolution for the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property.

C. Resolution for the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property (Middle School Cafe Tables)

Robyn Cornelissen, Executive Director of Finance, and Danise Smith, Procurement Coordinator, reviewed the Resolution and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the Resolution for the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property.

D. Resolution for the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property (IS Equipment)

Jim Wolf, Director of Information Services, reviewed the Resolution and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the Resolution for the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property.

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

A. Proposal - Information Services - ChatGPT Edu

Lela Majstorovic, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, Jim Wolf, Director of Information Services, and Rola Tarek Mohamed, Coordinator of Strategic Initiatives, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract with ChatGPT Edu in the amount of \$0.00, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. Participation in this program comes at no cost to the district and provides secure access to ChatGPT Edu for U-46 staff who opt in and successfully complete the required AI Canvas course prior to receiving access.

B. Proposal - Culture and Climate - Illinois Virtual Schools and Academy

Mark Gonnella, Director of Climate and Culture, presented the proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the proposal from Illinois Virtual Schools and Academy in the amount of \$40,000.00, 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 2025-2026 fiscal year.

C. Proposal - K-12 Science and Planetarium - Habitat Restoration to Support Curriculum

Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Deb McMullen, Coordinator of K-12 Science and Planetarium, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the proposal from Woods to Wetlands Ecological Services in the amount of \$81,000.00, 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 2025-2026 fiscal year.

D. Bid - Curriculum and Instruction - Kiddom: Odell Education Consumables

Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Jacquelyn Johnson, Coordinator of Literacy and Libraries, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended award to the lowest responsible bidder, Kiddom, in the amount of \$119,167.20, 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 2025-2026 fiscal year.

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

A. Contract Renewal - Curriculum and Instruction - Benchmark Education License

Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Jacquelyn Johnson, Coordinator of Literacy and Libraries, presented the proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract renewal with Benchmark Education Company in the amount of \$71,958.96, 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 2025-2026 fiscal year.

B. Contract - Curriculum and Instruction - Learning Ally

Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Jacquelyn Johnson, Coordinator of Literacy and Libraries, presented the proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract with Learning Ally in the amount of \$52,364.00, 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 2025-2026 fiscal year.

C. Contract Renewal - Food and Nutrition Services - Heartland Payment Systems, MCS, MySchoolApps

Aaron Nowak, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, presented the proposal and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract renewal with Heartland Payment Systems in the amount of \$100,520.00, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Operations Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

12. Work Session - Change Orders (Board Policy 4:60 - Purchases and Contracts)

A. Change Order - Plant Operations - Elgin High School Primary Overhead Electrical Service Replacement, Project #242

Cassandra Reichenbach, Assistant Director of Planning and Systems, and Jolene Linneman, Capital Projects Coordinator, presented the change order and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the change order from Ascend Electric, Inc. in the amount of minus \$62,230.00.

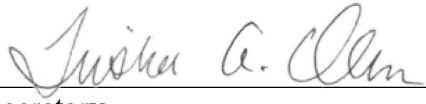
13. Adjournment - Ms. Owens

Motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Thommes, to adjourn the Board meeting of October 6, 2025, at 8:35 p.m. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Martin, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

Approved this 12th day of January, 2026.



President



Secretary