

**School District U-46**  
Elgin, Illinois

October 20, 2025

**The video of the October 20, 2025, meeting can be found here:**

[October 20, 2025, BOE Meeting](#)

The meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 5:45 p.m. at the Welcome Center, 1019 East Chicago Street, Elgin, Illinois.

The following Board Members answered roll call: Sue Kerr, Samreen Khan, Dawn Martin, Veronica Noland, Chanda Schwartz, Kate Thommes, and Melissa Owens.

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 5:46 p.m. by Ms. Noland, seconded by Ms. Martin. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

A motion was made at 6:46 p.m. by Ms. Thommes, seconded by Ms. Noland, to recess. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

A motion was made at 6:57 p.m. by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Kerr, to move into open session. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

Present for the business session were Board members Sue Kerr, Samreen Khan, Dawn Martin, Veronica Noland, 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: Celia Banks, Josh Beu, Nick Corn, Robyn Cornelissen, Sheila Downs, Jacquelyn Johnson, Mary Juvingo, Brian Lindholm, Lela Majstorovic, Ashlee McHaney, Rola Tarek Mohamed, Dr. Leatrice Satterwhite, and Dr. Ann Williams.

President Owens led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Accent on Achievement - Dr. Johnson

A. National School Bus Safety Week

In recognition of National School Bus Safety Week, October 20-24, 2025, a Proclamation of Appreciation was presented to representatives of the U-46 Transportation Department. Members of the U-46 Transportation Department, including drivers, assistants, mechanics, shop staff, trainers, and office personnel, work collaboratively to ensure the safe transportation of approximately 22,000 children to and from 56 in-district and approximately 34 out-of-district sites each day. To achieve this remarkable task, U-46 drivers collectively travel four million miles every school year, demonstrating exceptional dedication, professionalism, and commitment to student safety.

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

A. Facility Planning Update

Brian Lindholm, Chief of Staff, Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Sheila Downs, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, presented to the Board of Education an update on facility planning. The presentation included an update on enrollment, updates on maintenance projects, an update on the naming of the new middle school, and an update on financing Unite U-46.

B. Unite U-46 Funding Update

Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Elizabeth Hennessy, Managing Director of Raymond James, provided the Board of Education with a Unite U-46 Funding update.

3. Comments from the Audience - Ms. Owens

A. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

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

A. Additional Information

Dr. Johnson thanked the Transportation Department for all their efforts. She also thanked the Operations team for their presentation and all of their work.

B. FOIA Requests – 20

Dr. Johnson stated that there were twenty Freedom of Information Act requests, which will be available on BoardDocs and the District's website.

C. Report to Membership - 2025 IASB Delegate Assembly

The Board of Education discussed the November 22, 2025, Delegate Assembly and how to advise the School District U-46 Board Delegate who will be representing the Board of Education at the Joint Annual Conference. Sue Kerr volunteered to be the U-46 representative.

5. Consent Agenda - Dr. Johnson

- A. Personnel Report and Workers' Compensation Cases
- B. Minutes of Board Meeting - August 4, 2025
- C. Termination of Mark C. Taylor - Bus Driver-Route
- D. Termination of Raul P. Vargas - Bus Driver-Route
- E. Resolution for the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property (Warehouse Books)
- F. Resolution for the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property (Furniture)
- G. Resolution for the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property (Middle School Cafe Tables)
- H. Resolution for the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property (IS Equipment)
- I. Proposal - Culture and Climate - Illinois Virtual Schools and Academy
- J. Proposal - K-12 Science and Planetarium - Habitat Restoration to Support Curriculum
- K. Bid - Curriculum and Instruction - Kiddom: Odell Education Consumables
- L. Contract Renewal - Curriculum and Instruction - Benchmark Education License
- M. Contract - Curriculum and Instruction - Learning Ally
- N. Contract Renewal - Food and Nutrition Services - Heartland Payment Systems, MCS, MySchoolApps
- O. Change Order - Plant Operations - Elgin High School Primary Overhead Electrical Service Replacement, Project #242

Motion by Ms. Kerr, seconded by Ms. Martin, to approve the Consent Agenda items A-O as presented. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes: 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

6. Discussion/Action - Dr. Johnson

A. Itemized Bills – October 20, 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 \$47,397,196.95.

Motion by Ms. Noland, seconded by Ms. Kerr, to approve the List of Bills in the amount of \$47,397,196.95. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

B. Board Policy Updates

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

Motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Thommes, to approve board policies as read into the record and represented in Press Issue 119. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

C. Approval of Closed Session Minutes

The following closed session minutes have been reviewed for approval:

Minutes for Approval – October 2025:  
March 10 & 24, 2025  
April 14 & 28, 2025  
May 5 & 19, 2025  
June 2, 9, & 16, 2025  
July 21, 2025

A Motion was requested and the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of closed session minutes and, therefore, all closed session minutes, with the exception of the minutes already released including audio recordings, remain confidential. In addition, all audio recordings more than 18 months old having been put into writing and approved, may be destroyed.

Audio to be Destroyed – October 2025:  
November 20, 2023  
December 4, 11, & 18, 2023  
January 20 & 22, 2024  
February 5 & 26, 2024  
March 4, 11, & 18, 2024  
April 8 & 15, 2024

The motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Noland. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

#### D. Middle School Physical Education/Health Curriculum Proposal

Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Mary Juvingo, Student Wellness Teacher Leader, 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.

Motion by Ms. Noland, seconded by Ms. Kerr, to approve the Middle School Physical Education/Health Curriculum Proposal, in the amount of \$65,512.88, and grant authorization for District administration to execute related documents. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

#### E. Proposal - Information Services - ChatGPT Edu

Lela Majstorovic, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, and Rola Tarek Mohamed, Coordinator of Strategic Initiatives, were available for 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.

Motion by Ms. Kerr, seconded by Ms. Martin, to approve the contract with ChatGPT Edu in the amount of \$0.00, and grant authorization for District administration to execute related document.

Ms. Kerr stated that she supports the proposal. She understands concerns but she believes teachers and students will use it regardless of whether this is approved. She stated that this proposal gives some guidance and control over it. Ms. Kerr would like to see yearly updates on how it is being used for classrooms and the development of curriculum.

Ms. Thommes stated that she supports the proposal. She also understands concerns but she feels it has value. Ms. Thommes would like to see updates every other month from teachers discussing its use and its benefits.

Ms. Schwartz stated that she supports the proposal. She would also like to see updates on how it is being used by staff and students. Ms. Schwartz received training, but stated she would like to see a more robust advanced training offered.

Ms. Martin thanked staff for all the work on this proposal. Ms. Martin does not support this proposal. She sees the value in AI but she can not in good faith vote to approve this matter given her concerns about bias, ethics, and environmental impact. Ms. Martin looks forward to the training and education that will come forward over the next 13 months.

President Owens thanked the team for continuously bringing this proposal back to address Boards concerns. President Owens supports of this proposal with some hesitation. President Owens described that the proposal avails staff of a system that is FERPA compliant. She hopes that ChatGPT can be used as a tool for the District to continue its progress towards systems that are grounded in equity and innovation. President Owens stated an interest in monitoring how ChatGPT is being used to design curriculum that is impactful and centered on student achievement. President Owens acknowledged that there are many external costs to society for its use such as land, electricity, and water. President Owens stated that the District needs to be very intentional and responsible for how it uses ChatGPT.

Student Board member, Dhanvi Dhandapani, raised concerns about the true environmental cost of using AI in education.

Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes: Ms. Martin. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-1.

7. Work Session – Resolutions

A. Resolution Authorizing the Naming of the New Elgin Middle School to Legacy Middle School

Brian Lindholm, Chief of Staff, was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended the Board of Education adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Naming of the new Elgin middle school to Legacy Middle School.

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

A. Bid - Operations - Unite U-46 - Century Oaks Elementary School

Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Brian Lindholm, Chief of Staff, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended award to the lowest responsible bidders regarding the bid packages listed below in the total amount of \$22,128,425.00, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents:

<b>Bid Package</b>	<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Base Bid</b>
#001	U.S.D., LLC	\$647,000.00
#002	Kane County Excavating	\$2,400,500.00
#003	Parkway Forming	\$863,600.00
#004	Jimmy’Z Masonry Corporation	\$3,087,000.00
#005	McKinney Steel & Sales, Inc.	\$1,118,225.00
#006	MetalMaster Roofmaster	\$1,990,000.00
#007	Manusos General Contracting	\$2,707,037.00
#008	Prime Architectural Metal & Glass, Inc.	\$749,000.00
#009	Ascher Brothers	\$210,000.00
#010	Diverzify	\$671,220.00
#011	Hargrave Builders, Inc.	\$1,628,450.00
#012	SJ Carlson Fire Protection	\$400,800.00
#013	Best Plumbing, Inc.	\$918,700.00
#014	Commercial Mechanical, Inc.	\$3,958,000.00
#015	Pending separate award	TBD
#016	Landworks Limited	\$384,788.00
#017	Accu-Paving Company	\$394,105.00

This expenditure will be charged to the Capital Projects Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2025-2026 through 2026-2027 fiscal years.

B. Bid - Operations - Unite U-46 - Glenbrook Elementary School

Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Brian Lindholm, Chief of Staff, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended award to the lowest responsible bidders regarding the bid packages listed below in the total amount of \$17,610,503.00, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents:

<b>Bid Package</b>	<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Base Bid</b>
#001	U.S.D., LLC	\$429,000.00
#002	Alessio & Sons Company	\$1,883,380.00
#003	Builders Concrete, Inc.	\$463,375.00
#004	J. & E. Duff, Inc.	\$2,326,000.00
#005	Steel Management, Inc.	\$569,000.00
#006	Metalmaster Roofmaster, Inc.	\$727,490.00
#007	Joseph Construction Co.	\$1,752,000.00
#008	3F Corporation	\$898,000.00
#009	Cosgrove Construction, Inc.	\$267,250.00
#010	T.S.I. Commercial Floor Covering, Inc.	\$728,453.00
#011	Hargrave Builders, Inc.	\$1,825,450.00
#012	Nelson Fire Protection, Inc.	\$334,297.00
#013	Cryer & Olsen Mechanical, Inc.	\$1,170,000.00
#014	F.E. Moran, Inc.	\$3,692,608.00
#015	Pending separate award	TBD
#016	Twin Oaks Landscaping, Inc.	\$391,500.00
#017	Chadwick Contracting	\$152,700.00

This expenditure will be charged to the Capital Projects Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2025-2026 through 2026-2027 fiscal years.

C. Bid - Plant Operations - Snow Removal Services

Ashlee McHaney, Assistant Director of Plant Operations, and Nick Corn, Coordinator of Grounds, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended award to the lowest responsible bidder, T and T Landscape Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$67,055.00, 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.

D. Proposal - Plant Operations - Emergency Repair - Educational Services Center Sprinkler System

Ashlee McHaney, Assistant Director of Plant Operations, and Josh Beu, Coordinator of Maintenance and Operations, presented the proposal summary and

were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the proposal from Cintas Corporation in the amount of \$97,575.70, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure was charged to the Operations Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

E. Proposal - Curriculum and Instruction - Classroom Libraries

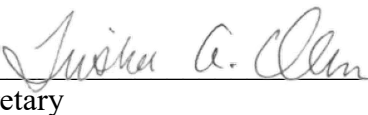
Dr. Leatrice Satterwhite, Assistant Superintendent of Equity and Innovation, and Jackie Johnson, Coordinator of Literacy and Libraries, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the proposal from Scholastic in the amount of \$182,929.95, 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.

9. Adjournment - Ms. Owens

Motion by Ms. Thommes, seconded by Ms. Martin, to adjourn the Board meeting of October 20, 2025, at 8:48 p.m. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

Approved this 12th day of January, 2026.

  
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President

  
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Secretary