

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 28
HELD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, District 28, Cook County, Illinois, was held in the HOH Conference room in said district on Tuesday evening, December 2, 2025, and streamed on the district's YouTube Channel.

President Silver-Schack called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the following members present at roll call:

DeShawn Arms
Christine Beeftink
Diana Horwitz
Eve Pfanzelter
Mara Silver-Schack
Adam Weinstock

Absent: Beth Bazer

Also present were Dr. Jason Pearson, Superintendent; Dr. Kris Raitzer, Assistant Superintendent; Jessica Donato, Chief School Business Official, Dr. Kelly Sculles, Director of Student Services; Edward Brophy, Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services; Michelle Jackson, Director of Learning; Samantha Scheinman, Director of Communications; Chrissy Yonaites, Recording Secretary and Jeremy Bartunek, Greenbriar Teacher/Streaming Tech.

Additionally: Dr. Danielle Moran, Greenbriar Principal; Dr. Scott Meek, NBJH Principal; Dr. Ginny Hiltz, Meadowbrook Principal and Charity Davis, NBJH Teacher.

Public Attendees: None

TAX LEVY HEARING

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Weinstock that the Tax Levy Hearing be opened at 7:05 p.m.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzelter, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

Chief School Business Official Jessica Donato presented to the Board. Ms. Donato started with an overview of the process of property taxes before explaining how tax levy calculations are made.

The district must adopt a tax levy to receive local property tax revenues. Property taxes account for almost 82% of district revenues. Tax cap laws limit the amount that can be collected by 5% or the Consumer Price Index, whichever is less, over the prior year, plus new growth.

Ms. Donato noted overestimating new property growth to ensure the district captures all revenues that will be available. The \$48.3 million levy for 2025 is a 4.99% increase from the 2024 levy. This levy funds the 2026-27 school year. The actual amount the district will receive is called an extension and is set by Cook County. The extension is expected to be about \$1.8 million or 3.81% more than the 2024 extension. Ms. Donato expects the district will receive approximately \$47.8 million.

Board members asked questions at that time to further their understanding.

There were no public questions.

At 7:17 p.m., after a review and there being no further questions, it was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Pfanzelter that the hearing on the 2025 Tax Levy close.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzelter, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

VISITORS COMMENTS / PRESENTATIONS

A NBJH teacher spoke to the Board regarding ADA accommodations for the building.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Construction Updates

Dr. Pearson, Superintendent, updated the Board on the District's construction projects. Construction on the new Meadowbrook gymnasium, which began at the start of the school year, is on track for completion this spring. In addition, the District is currently in the final design phases for the new Meadowbrook School. Dr. Pearson stated that the District plans to go to bid for the new school in January, with construction anticipated to begin once the new gymnasium is completed. The District is also in the final phases of design for Greenbriar and Westmoor, which will go to bid this spring. Major construction on each building is anticipated to begin this summer. At Northbrook Junior High, Dr. Pearson shared that the construction timeline has been pushed back slightly. NBJH is expected to go to bid in the fall. By staggering the bid process, the District anticipates maximizing the amount of work that can be completed at the junior high.

TrueNorth

Dr. Pearson noted the TrueNorth Cooperative reorganization continues to move forward.

2026-27 School Calendar

A calendar was presented for the 2026-27 School Year. The first day of school will be August 19 and the last day will be May 28 unless emergency days are used. Winter and spring breaks align with the high school calendar.

Illinois School Report Card

Dr. Pearson noted that the Illinois School Report Card was shared in the board packet. Later in the meeting, there was a presentation highlighting student achievement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Member Horwitz and seconded by Member Weinstock that the Board of Education approve the minutes for Regular Meeting on October 28, 2025 and Closed Meeting on October 28, 2025.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzerter, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: Arms. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Member Pfanzerter and seconded by Member Weinstock that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda:

Payroll

The payment of employee salaries for the last half of October 2025, in the amount of \$2,018,534.93 and covered by check numbers 68670 through 68686 and deduction check numbers 68687 through 68705 inclusive, as outlined in detail on the Payroll Summary, confirmed by the signatures of the President and Secretary of the School District Board of Education, and dated December 2, 2025;

The payment of employee salaries for the first half of November 2025, in the amount of \$1,985,172.09 and covered by check numbers 68706 through 68724 and deduction check numbers 68725 through 68734 inclusive, as outlined in detail on the Payroll Summary, confirmed by the signatures of the President and Secretary of the School District Board of Education, and dated December 2, 2025.

Bills

Vendor invoices totaling \$3,935,340.84 and Warrants listed as Numbers 65628 through 65784 and the following voids: 65559, confirmed by the signature of the President of the School District 28 Board of Education, and dated December 2, 2025.

Personnel Report: Contract Changes, Employment of Staff, Leaves, Resignations and Dismissals

Staff Recommended for Employment				
Name	Position	Location	Salary	Effective Date
Maria Barraza	Custodian	NBJH	\$20/hr	11/17/25
Alexis Pili	KidCare Asst.	WM	\$19/hr	11/18/25

* Certified Candidate details below

Staff Resignations, Retirements and / or Terminations				
Name	Position	Location	Reason	Effective Date
Courtney Evers	Classroom Asst.	MB	Resignation	10/28/25
Dalia Shapiro	Classroom Asst.	GB	Resignation	9/25/25
Aaron Ireland	Classroom Asst.	GB	Resignation	10/21/25

2026-27 School Calendar

The 2026-27 School Calendar was approved. The first Teacher Institute day is Monday, August 17 and the first day of school for students is Wednesday, August 19. The last day of school is tentatively scheduled for May 28.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzelter, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: Arms. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Finance Report

Ms. Donato, Chief School Business Official, provided the finance report for the month ending October 31, 2025, and the list of bills paid in October were included in the Board packet. After four months of the new fiscal year, the monthly variance report shows 27.6% of the 2025-26 budget expended and 3.7% of budgeted revenues collected.

Food Service Sales

NBJH food services for the month of October totaled \$48,779.95. Organic Life's operating statement has a deficit of \$2,477 for the month. The year-to-date operating deficit is \$17,425.

Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2025 Audit

The District's auditing firm, Lauterbach & Amen, LLP, will present the financial statements for Fiscal Year 2025 at the January 2026 board meeting. A digital copy of the audit report will be shared as soon as it's available.

Local, State & Federal Requirements

Since the October Board of Education Meeting, District 28 submitted the following:

- Submitted Public Notice of Proposed Property Tax Levy for Northbrook School District 28 in the Northbrook Star (publication date November 20, 2025)
- Filed monthly Bureau of Labor Statistics Report on Current Employment
- Submitted monthly Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund Wage Report
- Filed monthly nutrition claim for the Illinois Free Lunch and Special Milk programs

It was moved by Member Beeftink and seconded by Member Weinstock that the Board of Education approve the Finance Report for October 2025.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzerter, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

Resolution Authorizing Payment of Bills During Gap in Monthly Board Meetings

With no Board meeting taking place until January 27, this resolution allows the district to pay some cyclical/standard bills during this month. A complete bills list will be presented in January.

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Pfanzerter that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Authorizing Payment of Bills during gap in Monthly Board Meetings, as presented.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzerter, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

2025 Tax Levy Adoption

The Tax Levy Hearing was held at the beginning of the meeting.

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Beeftink that the 2025 Certificate of Tax Levy be adopted. The levy is attached to and made part of these minutes.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzerter, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

2025 Tax Levy Extension Resolution

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Pfanzerter that the Board approve the 2025 Tax Levy Extension Resolution, as presented.

Be it resolved by the Board of Education of Northbrook School District No. 28, County of Cook, State of Illinois the following:

1. The Cook County Clerk is hereby directed to extend from the 2025 Levy no less than the amounts indicated as follows:

Education \$40,985,000
Building (Operations & Maintenance) \$4,100,000
Transportation \$1,725,000
IMRF \$650,000
Social Security \$865,000
Working Cash Funds \$0

2. Should any further reduction be necessary under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Act, such reductions should be taken from the Education Fund.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzerter, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

HUMAN RESOURCES

403(b)/457(b) Retirement Plan Document Amendment

Mr. Brophy, Director of Human Resources informed the Board that the District needs to make updates to the 403(b) and 457(b) retirement plans because of a new federal law called SECURE 2.0. This law changes the rules for how some employees must save for retirement, starting January 1, 2026.

It was moved by Member Pfanzerter and seconded by Member Horwitz that the Board of Education approve the amendments to the District's 403(b) and 457(b) Retirement Plans.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzerter, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

STUDENT SERVICES

Dr. Kelly Sculles, Director of Student Services, praised Dr. Pearson for all of the work he and other superintendents did to move the TrueNorth reorganization forward. She has met with many of the families in TrueNorth program and they are very pleased with the reimagining of TrueNorth.

Dr. Sculles mentioned that the hiring for Summer Programming Principals has begun and interviewing will take place after the winter break.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Annual Student Achievement Update

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kris Raitzer and Director of Learning Michelle Jackson presented the 2025 Student Achievement update to the Board.

The principals joined the meeting, each sharing how their teachers analyze student performance, adjust instructional strategies and design student supports based on assessment data.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Pay App #3 Meadowbrook Gym Construction

Ms. Donato introduced Pay Application #3 for the Meadowbrook project, outlining the \$832,148.10 payment schedule with Happ Builders based on work completed through October 30, 2025.

It was moved by Member Weinstock and seconded by Member Pfanzerter that the Board of Education approve the payment to Happ Builders, Inc in the amount of \$832,148.10.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzerter, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

Pay App #4 Meadowbrook Gym Construction

Ms. Donato introduced Pay Application #4 for the Meadowbrook project, outlining the \$614,745.00 payment schedule with Happ Builders based on work completed through November 30, 2025.

It was moved by Member Weinstock and seconded by Member Pfanzerter that the Board of Education approve the payment to Happ Builders, Inc in the amount of \$614,745.00

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzelter, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

LEGISLATION

Member Beeftink reported on two recently passed pieces of legislation. One aims to enhance immunization access, in response to the recent changes from the CDC. The second focuses on civil rights protection, strengthening enforcement of the Illinois Constitution in light of current ICE activity.

POLICY

Mr. Brophy noted that IASB released PRESS 120 issue and he plans to have a Policy Committee meeting in the first half of January.

COMMUNICATION

Samantha Scheinman, Director of Communications, informed the Board she will be releasing the Westmoor podcast this week and the Northbrook Junior High podcast will be recorded and released soon.

There were two FOIA's this month.

TRUENORTH EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE 804

Member Weinstock provided an update on the TrueNorth reorganization. He mentioned the goal has been to improve the governance and financial models and have a more sustainable cooperative. At the last meeting, the TrueNorth Board voted to adopt the new articles of agreement for the cooperative. Member Weinstock also mentioned an informal poll was taken to see which districts will continue with TrueNorth and the results showed all but one or two will remain in the cooperative.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

In

At 8:50 p.m., it was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Pfanzelter that the Board of Education go into a Closed Session to discuss the following:

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity as authorized by 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).
- Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzerter, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

Out

At 9:20 p.m, it was moved by Member Pfanzerter and seconded by Member Beeftink that the meeting return to Regular Session. All members present voted Aye. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:21 p.m., it was moved by Member Pfanzerter and seconded by Member Beeftink to adjourn the meeting. All members present voted Aye. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

Beth Bazer, Secretary

Mara Silver-Schack, President