BOARD OF EDUCATION
NORTHBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT 27
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Wood Oaks Commons (Lower Level)
6:30 PM

Public Hearing & Regular Meeting of 12/18/25	The Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of December 18, 2025 of the Board of Education, School District 27 was called to order at 6:30 p.m., in the Wood Oaks Commons, 1250 Sanders Road, in said district.

Board President Matthew Basinger called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call — On call of the roll, the following members were present:

Present: Mr. Matthew Basinger, President
Mr. Opi Akuffo
Mrs. Martha Carlos
Ms. Marlyse Cohen
Mr. Jack Waddle
Mr. Dan Walsh

Staff: Dr. John Deiter, Superintendent
Dr. Kimberly Rio, Asst. Supt. of Finance/Operations
Dr. Katharine Olson, Asst. Supt. of Curriculum/Instruction
Dr. Robert McElligott, Director of Human Resources

Absent: Dr. Gali Oren-Amit, Vice President

Public Hearing - Tentative Tax Levy 2025

Dr. Rio, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance reviewed the timeline of the tax levy process. Tonight is the public hearing on the tentative tax levy and the final tax levy is listed on the agenda for the Board's consideration and approval. Dr. Rio explained the internal and external factors that impact the tax levy. The financial and economic indicators are continuously monitored throughout the year and include the financial condition of the local tax base and the rate of inflation. The local tax base includes residential, commercial and industrial properties within the Northbrook 27 boundaries. The property tax extension limitation law was explained as well as the equalized assessed valuation (EAV), new property growth and the consumer price index (CPI). New property growth was $1.5 million in 2024. The second installment of property taxes have been delayed again and Districts are still awaiting notification of when those tax bills will be sent out by the Cook County Clerk's office. Delays in property tax collection negatively impact school districts as this prevents interest accumulation on those funds.

The breakdown of revenue sources are: 95 percent local, 3.5 percent state and 1.5 percent federal funding. Recent health life safety improvements to the buildings were discussed as well as the planned updates to the school buildings. The financial projection through fiscal year 2029 was outlined and the financial reserve will continue to be set at $13 million, this figure allows the district to meet its financial obligations throughout the year and significantly during delays in property tax collection.

____ Pres. _____ Secy.

The 2025 tentative tax levy recommendation is to levy the 2024 consumer price index (CPI) at 2.9 percent and to levy an additional amount above the CPI in order to capture new property growth and redevelopment in (EAV) due to the triennial reassessment year. The total tax levy increase is 10 percent over the prior year aggregate extension.

Martha Carlos made a motion to close the public hearing portion of tonight's meeting, seconded by Dan Walsh, all in favor.

Roll Call for the Regular Board Meeting: Same six Board members are present; Akuffo, Basinger, Carlos, Cohen, Waddle, and Walsh.

Student Presentation - Wood Oaks
Eighth Grade Girls Volleyball: Coaches Mr. Schneider and Mr. Schaefer introduced players on the Eighth Grade Girls Volleyball team and to recognize their achievements. They played a video showcasing each student during recent games. The coach talked about each player and how happy and proud he is to work with them. Their names will be added to the volleyball plague.

Sixth Grade Science Shaker Table: Principal Suminski introduced Ms. Bates, who explained the demonstration and thanked Computers & Structures, Inc. for donating the table. The sixth grade students explained the "structures" that students had to build in order to test their structural integrity during the simulated earthquakes.

Community Comments for Items on the Agenda - No Public Comment was made.

Board Reports - None Scheduled

Staff Reports

Ms. Tarah O'Connell read the four FOIA requests that were received and the District's response to each as follows:

- FOIA Request, Sheri Reid, SmartProcure
  - **Received a request from SmartProcure on November 10** for all purchasing records from August 15, 2025 to November 10, 2025. Fulfilled that request.
- FOIA Request, Max Binnington, Stop Secrecy
  - **Received a request from Max Binnington on November 18** for contracts, invoices, payments, and correspondence between the District and any law firm from January 2020 to November 2025.
    - We were able to provide payment records. For everything else, we either did not have responsive records or it would be unduly burdensome due to the nearly 6-year time span.
- FOIA Request, Max Binnington, Stop Secrecy
  - **Received a request from Max Binnington on November 19 f**or any contracts or RFPs related to risk-management and/or liability insurance
    - The District did not issue any RFPs for insurance proposals. The rest of the request was exempt from FOIA as it is proprietary.
- FOIA Request, Max Binnington, Judiciocracy

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- **Received a request from Max Binnington on November 19** for training materials related to abuse or misconduct claims; training materials prepared by any law firm, as related to FOIA; evaluation materials used to assess misconduct claims; and policies for conducting investigations into abuse or misconduct — all from January 2020 to November 2025.
  - We could not provide any copyrighted materials. We provided links to District policy on our website and through the IL Association of School Boards.

Consent Agenda
Board President Matthew Basinger called for Review of the Consent Agenda items.

Upon review Jack Waddle moved and Marlyse Cohen seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Agenda with a roll call vote as listed below.

On roll call vote, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Opi Akuffo, Matthew Basinger, Mrs. Martha Carlos, Ms. Marlyse Cohen, Jack Waddle, and Mr. Dan Walsh
NAY: None
ABSENT: Dr. Gali Oren-Amit

No. 20544 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting on November 20, 2025

Personnel Transactions - Employment/Dismissal/Evaluation/Resignation/Leave of Absence/Compensation

No. 20545 Approval of Hire

Name	Position	Location	Start Date	Salary
Rachel Cook	Special Education Teacher	Shabonee	August 17, 2026	MA/Step 5, $77,299

No. 20546 Approval of Hire

Name	Position	Location	Start Date	Salary
Kathleen Lehmann	Adaptive P.E. Teacher	District	August 17, 2026	BA+15/Step 14, $83,110

Financial Reports

No. 20547 Statement of Claims for December, 2025 in the amount of $853,999.16 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20548 Statement of BMO Claims for December, 2025 in the amount of $24,089.14 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20549 Statement of Position for November, 2025 in the amount of $484,364.44 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

Copies of the Statement of Investments for the period ending November, 2025 were distributed to Board members for their review. This report shows that as of this date, the district has $665,378.10 invested in funds that are earning interest at rates that range from 3.91 to 4.22 percent. This report was made part of the official minutes.

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No. 20550 Statement of Receipts for November, 2025 in the amount of $131,054.86 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20551 Status of Appropriations for November, 2025 in the amount of $3,756,160.92 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20552 Wood Oaks Activity Report, November, 2025 in the amount of $38,323.51 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

No Revolving Fund Report

No. 20553 Payroll Dated November 28, 2025, in the amount of $1,112,232.92 be ratified and that the report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20554 Payroll Dated December 12, 2025, in the amount of $1,013,481.31 be ratified and that the report was made part of the official minutes.

No. 20555 Approval of Suburban School Cooperative Insurance Pool (SSCIP) Insurance Renewal for 2026.

No. 20556 Approval of Operational Funds Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

No. 20557 Approval of Contract with Prasino Engineering, LLC for Commissioning & Modeling Hickory Point School New Addition.

Unfinished Business - None Scheduled

New Business

No. 20558 Approval of the 2025 Final Tax Levy
Marlyse Cohen moved and Jack Waddle seconded the motion that the Board of Education Approve the 2025 Final Tax Levy with a roll call vote as listed below.

On roll call vote, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Opi Akuffo, Matthew Basinger, Mrs. Martha Carlos, Ms. Marlyse Cohen, Jack Waddle, and Mr. Dan Walsh
NAY: None
ABSENT: Dr. Gali Oren-Amit

No. 20559 Approval of Resolution for Working Cash Fund Loan
Dan Walsh moved and Marlyse Cohen seconded the motion that the Board of Education Approve the Resolution for Working Cash Fund Loan with a roll call vote as listed below.

On roll call vote, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Opi Akuffo, Matthew Basinger, Mrs. Martha Carlos, Ms. Marlyse Cohen, Jack Waddle, and Mr. Dan Walsh
NAY: None

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ABSENT: Dr. Gali Oren-Amit

No. 20560 Approval of the Resolution for Abatement of Working Cash Fund
Jack Waddle moved and Martha Carlos seconded the motion that the Board of Education Approve the Resolution for Abatement of Working Cash Fund with a roll call vote as listed below.

On roll call vote, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Opi Akuffo, Matthew Basinger, Mrs. Martha Carlos, Ms. Marlyse Cohen, Jack Waddle, and Mr. Dan Walsh
NAY: None
ABSENT: Dr. Gali Oren-Amit

No. 20561 Approval of Resolution to Transfer Funds from Health Life Safety to Operations & Maintenance.
Dan Walsh moved and Opi Akuffo seconded the motion that the Board of Education Approve the Resolution to Transfer Funds from Health Life Safety to Operations & Maintenance. with a roll call vote as listed
below.

On roll call vote, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Opi Akuffo, Matthew Basinger, Mrs. Martha Carlos, Ms. Marlyse Cohen, Jack Waddle, and Mr. Dan Walsh
NAY: None
ABSENT: Dr. Gali Oren-Amit

No. 20562 First Read of Policy Updates as Recommended by Illinois Association of School Boards on PRESS Issue 120.
Jack Waddle moved and Martha Carlos seconded the motion that the Board of Education Approve the First Read of Policy Updates as Recommended by Illinois Association of School Boards on PRESS Issue 120.

No. 20563 First Review of the Revisions to Policies 4:50, 4:60, and 6:210.
Jack Waddle moved and Martha Carlos seconded the motion that the Board of Education Review the Revisions to Policies 4:50, 4:60, and 6:210.

On roll call vote, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Opi Akuffo, Matthew Basinger, Mrs. Martha Carlos, Ms. Marlyse Cohen, Jack Waddle, and Mr. Dan Walsh
NAY: None
ABSENT: Dr. Gali Oren-Amit

Good and Welfare - The choral concert was great! Thank you to the students for a wonderful performance and also to Ms. Simonsen and Ms. Klein for their work.

Pres. Secy.

Community Comments - Ms. Kaczmarek thanked the administration and the school board for all of their work in support of the students and staff and Happy Holidays to everyone!

Superintendent Comments / Update - Dr. Deiter reported that the upcoming bond sale is being prepared. The District received a triple A rating and this exemplary rating affords the best interest rate for that sale.

The combined orchestra concert combined Wood Oaks, Maple, and Northbrook Junior High for the fundraiser Cradles to Crayons. It was the chamber orchestra that performed together and was a great success.

The foreign language program at Wood Oaks is still being determined; administrators are waiting to hear back from a few more interested families in order to determine if the required minimum student enrollment for each language will be met. Once that has been determined, an official notification will be sent out.

Closed Session None scheduled

No. 20564 Motion to Adjourn the Board of Education Meeting

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board at this time Dan Walsh moved and Martha Carlos seconded the motion that the open meeting be adjourned. A voice vote was taken, all in favor.

The motion was unanimously approved, and Board President Matthew Basinger called the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

CERTIFIED TO BE CORRECT:

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VICE PRESIDENT SECRETARY

MINUTES APPROVED ON 1/22/26

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Pres. Secy.