

LAKE COUNTY TECH CAMPUS
Lake County Area Vocational System
Board of Control Meeting
January 15, 2026
Tech Campus Boardroom
Grayslake, Illinois

The Board of Control of the Lake County Area Vocational System met in Regular Session on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at the Tech Campus in the Boardroom, Grayslake, Illinois.

Call to Order: Dr. Gallt, Board President, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and the following
Agenda Item 1.1 roll call was taken:

Members Present: Dr. Kelley Gallt, District 95
Dr. Jesse Rodriguez, District 126*
Dr. Jason Nault, District 12
Dr. Jeff Feucht, District 117
Dr. Marc Schaffer, District 128
Dr. Jeremy Schmidt, District 124
Dr. Mikkel Storaasli, District 127
Dr. Michael Karner, Regional Supt.
Dr. Corey Tafoya, District 120
Dr. Danny Woestman, District 121
Dr. Theresa Plascencia, District 60*
Dr. Sebastian Kapala, Executive Director and Board Secretary

* **Alternates Present:** Mr. Andrew Stout, District 126
Dr. Eduardo Cesario, District 60

Members Absent: Dr. Donn Mendoza, District 116
Dr. John Price, District 187
Mrs. Tiffany Elswick, District 19
Dr. Eric Twadell, District 125
Dr. Chala Holland, District 113
Dr. Todd Leden, District 118
Dr. Matthew Montgomery, District 115
Dr. Tom Lind, District 157

Also Present: Mr. Derrick Burress, Principal
Ms. Joanne Hughes, Business Manager/CSBO
Mr. Alex Escareno, Assistant Principal of Curriculum
Mr. Ken Ellefson, Technology Director
Mr. Matt Vella, Assistant Technology Director
Ms. Laura Emmerling, Assistant Principal of Student Services
Ms. Danielle Friedlieb, Assistant Principal
Ms. Francesca Hanson, Executive Assistant
Mr. Stu Mendelsohn, Union President

**Comments from
Citizens:**
Agenda Item 1.2

Dr. Gallt asked if there were any comments from citizens, there were none.

CONSENT AGENDA:
Agenda Item 2

A motion was made by Dr. Storaasli and seconded by Mr. Cesario to approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

1. November 13, 2025 Regular Session Meeting Minutes
2. November 13, 2025 Closed Session Meeting Minutes
3. Request to Accept Donation(s)
4. Personnel

Roll call vote.

Aye: D117, D124, D127, D12, D95, D128, D120, D60, D126, and Regional Superintendent

Nay: None

The motion carried.

Information Items
Agenda Item 3

**Joe Fifner, Regional
Office of Education**
Agenda Item 3.1

Mr. Fifner discussed the benefits of having a Tech Campus foundation.

Financial Highlights
Agenda Item 3.2

Business Manager, Joanne Hughes summarized cash balances and expenditures in our Education, Building Projects and Capital Projects funds. Ms. Hughes stated our current fund balance is at 6.7 million.

**SRO Contract
Renewal FY26-FY28**
Agenda Item 3.3

Business Manager, Joanne Hughes reviewed the SRO contract renewal for FY26-FY28. The contract will be renewed with the Lake County Sheriff's Department.

**Student Success
Update**
Agenda Item 3.4

Principal Derrick Burress presented data on student enrollment at the Tech Campus. There has been an increase in Dual Credit enrollment, certification accomplishments, participation in internships, and overall enrollment. Today's PowerPoint presentation has been sent out to the districts.

Enrollment Update
Agenda Item 3.5

Principal, Derrick Burress gave the Board an update on enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year. As of today, 2770 students are enrolled.

FOIA Request
Agenda Item 3.6

A FOIA request was received from Woo Park of Dover, DE requesting all purchase orders issued between January 1, 2021 to present. This request was denied due to the volume. A second FOIA request was received from CT Mills of Public Info Access LLC requesting all current staff contact information. This request was fulfilled on December

9, 2025. A third FOIA request was received from Enrique Campos of Painters District Council #14 in Chicago, IL, requesting copies of any purchase orders or invoices for paint totaling \$1,000 or more within the past five years. This request was fulfilled on January 8, 2026.

Feasibility Study
Agenda Item 3.

Executive Director, Sebastian Kapala discussed the possibility of a second Tech Campus facility. A feasibility study will be conducted, and its results will be presented later in the year.

Recommendations
Agenda Item 4

Tech Campus Bills for Payment, Payroll & Liabilities, and Financial Statements
Agenda Item 4.1

A motion was made by Dr. Tafoya and seconded by Dr. Schaffer to accept the Tech Campus Bills for Payment, Payroll & Liabilities, and Financial Statements recommendation as presented.

Roll call vote.

Aye: All
Nay: None

The motion carried.

System Bills for Payment/Financial Statements
Agenda Item 4.2

A motion was made by Dr. Tafoya and seconded by Dr. Schaffer to accept the System Bills for Payment/Financial Statements as presented.

Roll call vote.

Aye: All
Nay: None

The motion carried.

SRO Contract Renewal
Agenda Item 4.3

A motion was made by Dr. Tafoya and seconded by Dr. Schaffer to accept the SRO Contract Renewal as presented.

Roll call vote

Aye: All
Nay: None

The motion carried.

Administrative Reports
Agenda Item 5

Principal's Report
Agenda Item 6.1

As we begin second semester, enrollment season is well underway. We have over 2700 students enrolled for the 2026-2027 school year as of the first week of January.

We are encouraged by these numbers, and it shows that our partner schools see the need for CTE in the future. While space is not an issue at Tech Campus, we will discuss during enrollment reports the need to level out session sizes at Tech Campus. A formal enrollment report will be given monthly through May at the Board of Control Meeting.

Associate Principal Report
Agenda Item 5.2

Reports and Fiscal Information

46% of FY26 Perkins funds have been received from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and expended. 63% of FY26 CTEI funds have been received and 25% has been expended as of December 2025. We are planning to hit 75% of all funds expended by April 1, 2026.

Career Expo Update

Tech Campus will be holding a building-wide Career Expo on Thursday March 19, 2026 for all programs. This is being organized by the College and Career Pathway Endorsement Coordinator (CCPEC).

Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment

This is a review and update year for the CLNA. As of now, the FY25 Perkins Indicator Data has yet to be uploaded to the ISBE website, therefore the CLNA is not yet open. School representatives have been informed of this. Schools will be notified when everything is open.

College and Career Pathway Endorsement Coordinator Update

The CCPEC has continued working with districts to help build pathway endorsements. She is also continuing to build business partnerships to increase the number of potential partners who are willing to take on interns. We expect an increase in the number of students obtaining an internship experience this school year over last.

Closed Session
Agenda Item 6

Enter Closed Session
Agenda Item 6.1

A motion was made by Dr. Karner and seconded by Dr. Nault to enter Closed Session at 11:02 a.m. for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. No action will be taken in Closed Session.

Roll call vote.

Aye: All
Nay: None

The motion carried.

Return to Regular Session

A motion was made by Dr. Feucht and seconded by Dr. Nault to return to Regular Session at 11:03 a.m. No action was taken in Closed Session.

Voice vote.

Aye: All
Nay: None

The motion carried.

Enter Closed Session
Agenda Item 6.1

A motion was made by Dr. Karner and seconded by Dr. Woestman to enter Closed Session at 11:03 a.m. for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. No action will be taken in Closed Session.

Roll call vote.

Aye: All
Nay: None

The motion carried.

Return to Regular Session

A motion was made by Dr. Feucht and seconded by Dr. Nault to return to Regular Session at 11:17 a.m. No action was taken in Closed Session.

Voice vote.

Aye: All
Nay: None

The motion carried.

Adjournment
Agenda Item 7

A motion was made by Dr. Feucht and seconded by Dr. Woestman to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

Voice vote.

Aye: All
Nay: None

The motion carried.

The minutes approved on February 5, 2026.



President



Secretary