



## Administrative Offices

---

### Minutes of the SWCCCASE Board of Directors Meeting January 21, 2026

- CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education was called to order at 8:02 a.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2026.
- On roll call, the following members were found to be present: Dr. Orzel, Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Maxwell, and Dr. Nolting. Also present, Mr. Tage Shumway, Business Manager, and Ms. Lisa Promis, Assistant Director. Absent: Dr. O’Neil, Dr. Roth, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Julius D160 Interim Superintendent.
- RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC** Karyn Kempke, Union President and Brandon Wigboldy Union Vice President.
- PLACEMENT OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA** A motion was made by Dr. Scarsella and seconded by Dr. Maxwell, upon the recommendation of Dr. O’Neil, that the following items be considered under a consent agenda unless otherwise requested by the Board: The meeting minutes from the FY26 Fund Transfer Hearing, the minutes from the regular December 17, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting, Invoices and Payroll, Employment of Professional Personnel, Employment of Educational Support Personnel, Resignation of Educational Support Personnel, Request for Leave of Absence, and FY27 Budget Calendar.
- Upon roll call the following voted aye: Dr. Orzel, Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Maxwell, and Dr. Nolting. Nays none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.
- CLOSED SESSION** A motion was made by Dr. Stawick and seconded by Dr. Brunson to enter into closed session at 8:03 a.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Cooperative or legal counsel for the Cooperative, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the Cooperative to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057.
- Upon roll call the following voted aye: Dr. Orzel, Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Maxwell, and Dr. Nolting. Nays none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.
- A motion was made by Dr. Sala and seconded by Dr. Maxwell to return from closed session at 8:06 a.m.

Minutes of the January 21, 2026  
Board of Directors Meeting

Upon roll call the following voted aye: Dr. Orzel, Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Maxwell, and Dr. Nolting. Nays none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.

**REPORT OF THE  
BUSINESS  
MANAGER**

STATEMENT OF  
POSITION AND  
REVENUE

Mr. Shumway presented the statement of position, revenue, and expenditures for the period ending December 30, 2025.

FACILITIES  
PLANNING  
COMMITTEE

Mr. Shumway reported that members of the Facility Planning Committee met on Monday, January 5, 2026 to discuss potential renovations at the 94th Avenue Building in Orland Park.

**REPORT OF THE  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR**

COOPERATIVE  
HIGHLIGHTS

Ms. Promis shared highlights from various Cooperative Programs.

SWCCCASE  
PROGRAM  
WAITING LISTS

Ms. Promis reported that as of January 16, 2026, one 1st grade student is on a waiting list for the CD program, one 6th grade student is on a waiting list for DESTINY, and one 6th grade student is on a waiting list for Morton Gingerwood.

CYCLICAL  
MONITORING

Ms. Promis reported that on December 15, 2025, Cynthia Baasten and Kristen Charkow, ECB&S attorneys, provided training on ISBE's Cyclical Monitoring. They provided practical guidance on completing this process based upon their experience working with districts that have already completed this process. Ms. Promis also mentioned that SWCCCASE has established a "Cyclical Monitoring" group composed of some of the special education administrators from the member districts. This group will work collaboratively to share and prepare common documents that are required to complete this process.

Superintendents will be required to sign a verification of the accuracy of the Comprehensive Assessment of Special Education Policies and Procedures form and view four required webinars.

FOIA REQUESTS

Ms. Promis reported that on December 18, 2025, SWCCCASE received a FOIA request from CT Mills, Public Information Access LLC, requesting copies of the

Minutes of the January 21, 2026  
Board of Directors Meeting

most current existing records listing all active employees within the Cooperative. An Excel spreadsheet containing this information was provided on December 18, 2025 via email.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA**

DECEMBER 17,  
2025 FY26 FUND  
TRANSFER  
HEARING  
MINUTES AND  
DECEMBER 17,  
2025 BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS  
MEETING

The Board of Directors of the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education approved the minutes from the December 17, 2025 FY26 Fund Transfer Hearing, and the open and closed session minutes from the regular December 17, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting.

DECEMBER/  
JANUARY  
INVOICES AND  
PAYROLL

The Board approved the December/January invoices in the amount of \$1,135,937.53. The December payroll in the amount of \$2,212,908.40 and the estimated amount of \$2,500,000 for the January payroll.

EMPLOYMENT OF  
PROFESSIONAL  
PERSONNEL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Step/Column or Days</u>	<u>Annual Salary</u>
Correa, Araceli	Teacher	MGW	1/5/2026	1/BA	\$53,363.00
Davies, Megan	Teacher	Itinerant	1/12/2026	1/MA	\$57,866.00
Lesniak, Emilie	Teacher	Braun	1/12/2026	1/BA	\$53,363.00
Pearson, Yolunda	Teacher	CD	1/12/2026	1/MA	\$57,866.00

EMPLOYMENT OF  
EDUCATIONAL  
SUPPORT  
PERSONNEL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Step/Column or Days</u>	<u>Annual Salary</u>
Lee, Blake	Paraeducator	MGW	12/18/2025	2/License	\$27,271.00
Mosquera, Mikaela	OT	DESTINY	2/2/2026	3/MA	\$66,455.00

Minutes of the January 21, 2026  
Board of Directors Meeting

Park, LeAisha	Paraeducator	MGW	1/5/2026	10/BA	\$35,256.00
Wright, Nicole	Paraeducator	Transition	1/21/2026	4/BA	\$32,257.00

RESIGNATION OF  
EDUCATIONAL  
SUPPORT  
PERSONNEL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Aubuchon, Nicole	Interpreter	DHH	12/31/2025
Elliott, Mary	O&M	Itinerant	5/31/2026
Poe, Melissa	Paraeducator	Transition	1/15/2026
Roth, Joleen	Paraeducator	MGW	1/16/2026
Shanks, Gwendolyn	Paraeducator	Transition	1/30/2026

REQUEST FOR  
LEAVE OF  
ABSENCE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Type of Leave</u>	<u>Effective Dates</u>
DeMik-Renn, Laurie	Paraeducator	DESTINY	FMLA	3/30/2026 - 6/1/2026
Klosak, Ann	Teacher	Transition	FMLA	3/16/2026 - 6/1/2026
Knaack, Diana	Paraeducator	Transition	Intermittent FMLA	8/27/2025 - 6/1/2026
McKeown, Michael	Paraeducator	Transition	FMLA	1/5/2026 - 1/20/2026
Mefford, Megan	Teacher	Braun	FMLA to LOA	2/10/2026 - 6/1/2026
Rowlett, Jillian	Paraeducator	DESTINY	LOA	1/12/2026 - 5/2/2026
Schofield, Rachel	BCBA	MGW	FMLA	4/13/2026 - 6/1/2026

FY27 BUDGET  
CALENDAR

The Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Business Manager, accepted the FY27 budget calendar as presented.

Minutes of the January 21, 2026  
Board of Directors Meeting

**ACTION ITEMS**

**APPROVAL OF  
CONSENT  
AGENDA**

A motion was made by Dr. Brunson and seconded by Dr. Nolting to approve the consent agenda.

Upon roll call the following voted aye: Dr. Orzel, Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Maxwell, and Dr. Nolting. Nays none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.

**ACTION AS THE  
RESULT OF  
CLOSED SESSION**

A motion was made by Dr. Sala and seconded by Dr. Brunson, upon the recommendation of the Business Manager, to hire Crystal Luna as the Payroll Specialist at a salary of \$55,000.00.


Upon roll call the following voted aye: Dr. Orzel, Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Maxwell, and Dr. Nolting. Nays none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Dr. Scarsella and seconded by Dr. Stawick to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 a.m.

Upon roll call the following voted aye: Dr. Orzel, Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Maxwell, and Dr. Nolting. Nays none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed by:  
  
EEE1B22CB9BF478...  
Dr. Robert Nolting  
Board Secretary