

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 28
HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026

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, January 27, 2026, and streamed on the district's YouTube Channel.

President Silver-Schack called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with the following members present at roll call:

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

Absent: DeShawn Arms and 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.

Public Attendees: Tamara Reese, parent; Jackie Early, parent and Nicki Bazer, District Attorney from Franczek.

SECRETARY PRO TEMPORE

With the absence of Beth Bazer, Board Secretary, at this Board meeting, there was a motion to appoint a Secretary Pro Tempore for the meeting.

Member Horwitz moved to appoint Member Beeftink as Secretary Pro Tempore and Member Pfanzelter seconded. All members voted Aye. Motion carried.

VISITORS COMMENTS / PRESENTATIONS

A parent spoke about livestreaming music events. Another parent presented their opinion on interior security cameras.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Construction Updates

Dr. Pearson, Superintendent, updated the Board on the District's construction projects. Meadowbrook Gymnasium is currently on schedule. The new Meadowbrook School is in the bidding process. The bid should be presented to the Board at the February meeting. The bidding process for Greenbriar will start in March with construction beginning in June. Westmoor currently has the same timeline as Greenbriar.

Cook County Tax Issues

Dr. Pearson talked about the significant negative financial impact the delay of the property tax billing and disbursements have had on the District and all other Cook County districts. The district alone lost around \$330,000 in interest. Dr. Pearson emphasized the need for accountability for the failures, including the software company. Additionally, he wants assurances this will not happen again. Later in the meeting the Board approved a Resolution that formally requests Cook County to resolve these systemic issues.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Member Pfanzerter and seconded by Member Horwitz that the Board of Education approve the minutes for Regular Meeting on December 2, 2025 and Closed Meeting on December 2, 2025.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

Payroll

The payment of employee salaries for the last half of November 2025, in the amount of \$1,989,825.33 and covered by check numbers 68735 through 68750 and deduction check numbers 68751 through 68769 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 January 27, 2026;

The payment of employee salaries for the first half of December 2025, in the amount of \$2,017,122.72 and covered by check numbers 68770 through 68789 and deduction check numbers 68790 through 68799 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 January 27, 2026;

The payment of employee salaries for the last half of December 2025, in the amount of \$2,037,277.12 and covered by check numbers 68800 through 68817 and 68837 and deduction check numbers 68818 through 68836 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 January 27, 2026;

The payment of employee salaries for the first half of January 2026, in the amount of \$1,944,835.52 and covered by check numbers 68840 through 68851 and deduction check numbers 68852 through 68861 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 January 27, 2026.

Bills

Vendor invoices for December 2025 totaling 475,795.92 and Warrants listed as Numbers 65785 through 65903 and the following voids: 65615 and 202600093, confirmed by the signature of the President of the School District 28 Board of Education, and dated January 27, 2026;

Vendor invoices for January 2026 totaling 3,469,908.70 and Warrants listed as Numbers 65904 through 66036 and the following voids: 65890, 65901 and 65977, confirmed by the signature of the President of the School District 28 Board of Education, and dated January 27, 2026.

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

Staff Recommended for Employment				
Name	Position	Location	Salary	Effective Date
Grace Sullivan	Classroom Asst.	MB	C/R-2 Prorated to \$12,802.01	12/1/25
Thomas Ingram, Jr.	Special Educ Asst.	MB	SE-17 Prorated to \$24,970.72	12/1/25
Loredana Cirone-Puccio	Foundational Asst.	GB	F-10 Prorated to \$21,927.41	12/16/25

Izabel Samuels	Classroom Asst.	WM	C/R-2 Prorated to \$10,925.85	1/5/26
Seth Rosenbaum	Special Educ Asst.	GB	SE-7 Prorated to \$19,263.83	1/8/26
Sarah Tahir	Foundational Asst.	GB	F-8 Prorated to \$19,304.04	1/12/26
Ryan Czok	Interim Network Manager	DO	\$65.00 per hour	2/2/26

* Certified Candidate details below

Staff Resignations, Retirements and / or Terminations				
Name	Position	Location	Reason	Effective Date
Jocelyn Monroy Del Villar	Classroom Asst	WM	Resignation	12/10/25
Fabiana Taube	Long Term Sub	MB	Assignment Concluded	12/10/25
Elizabeth Polisky	Classroom Asst	MB	Resignation	1/8/26
Ryan Tepperman	Classroom Asst	MB	Resignation	1/16/26
Kathryn Wiedemann	Kindergarten Asst	WM	Resignation	03/20/26
Kelly Sculles	Director of Student Services	DO	Resignation	06/30/26

Staff Leave of Absence				
Name	Position	Location	Reason	Effective Date
Sia Drakoulis	YE Teacher	WM	Parent Leave	1/23/26
Sam Soltwisch	Special Educ Teacher	MB	Parent Leave	2/18/26

Jocelyn Rios	Special Educ Asst.	WM	Parent Leave	3/10/26
Madeline Schwartz	Social Worker	NBJH	Extended Parent Leave	2/2/26

Job Share 2026-27				
Name	Position	Location	Reason	Effective Date
Elizabeth Decker	Kindergarten	GB	Job Share	7/1/26
Cari Shamberg	Kindergarten	GB	Job Share	7/1/26
Jodi Siglin	2nd Grade Teacher	MB	Job Share	7/1/26
Liz Weir	2nd Grade Teacher	MB	Job Share	7/1/26
Kim Houlihan	Math Interventionist	GB	Job Share	7/1/26
Brittany Farris	Math Interventionist	GB	Job Share	7/1/26

Destruction of Closed Session Recordings

The Board approved the destruction of verbatim recordings from the Closed Sessions dated: 3/12/24, 5/1/24, 5/28/24 and 6/25/24.

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

STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Finance Report

Ms. Donato, Chief School Business Official, provided the finance report for the months ending November 30, 2025 and December 31, 2025. After six months of the fiscal year, the monthly variance report shows 35.5% of the 2025-26 budget expended and 47.5% of budgeted revenues collected.

Food Service Sales

NBJH food services for the month of December totaled \$36,773. Organic Life's operating statement has a deficit of \$5,057 for the month. The year-to-date operating deficit is \$23,785.22.

Consumer Price Index

The December 2025 CPI, released January 13, 2026, was 2.7 percent, following a 2.9 percent increase in 2024. The 2025 CPI will be used for the 2026 tax levy calculation next fall.

It was moved by Member Beeftink and seconded by Member Pfanzteller that the Board of Education approve the Finance Report for November and December 2025.

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

Tentative Budget Calendar 2027

Board Policy requires that the Board adopt a tentative budget calendar each January indicating dates for presentation by the Superintendent of receipts, estimates, preliminary expenditure recommendations by funds, and major Board actions affecting the budget.

It was moved by Member Beeftink and seconded by Member Weinstock that the Board of Education accept the Tentative Budget Calendar 2027.

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

Resolution Authorizing Preparation of FY27 Tentative Budget

Chief School Business Official Jessica Donato recommended that the Board adopt the resolution designating Ms. Donato to prepare a tentative budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

It was moved by Member Pfanzteller and seconded by Member Horwitz that the Board of Education approve the resolution allowing Ms. Donato to prepare the FY27 Tentative Budget.

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

Resolution to Resolve Property Tax Issues

Dr. Pearson discussed the Resolution to Resolve Property Tax Issues during his Superintendent report. This Resolution outlines the impact the delayed taxes had on the District and requests Cook County to correct these issues.

It was moved by Member Weinstock and seconded by Member Pfanzerter that the Board of Education approve the Resolution to Resolve Property Tax Issues.

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

Resolution Authorizing Participation in Property Tax Proceedings

A resolution was presented by Ms. Donato to authorize participation in property tax proceedings. This resolution permits the District's law firm to represent it in any related tax matters.

It was moved by Member Pfanzerter and seconded by Member Horwitz that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Authorizing Participation in Property Tax Proceedings.

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. Brophy, Director of Human Resources, informed the Board that the District created a new job description and updated an existing job description for the Tech Department. They outline the responsibilities of each role. With the Board's approval, these roles will be put in place for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

District Systems Technician Job Description

In the previously provided memo, the job description for the Districts Systems Technician was included for review.

It was moved by Member Weinstock and seconded by Member Pfanzerter that the Board of Education approve the District Systems Technician Job Description.

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

Network and Systems Engineer Job Description

In the previously provided memo, the job description for the Network and Systems Engineer was included for review.

It was moved by Member Weinstock and seconded by Member Pfanzerter that the Board of Education approve the Network and Systems Engineer Job Description.

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

STUDENT SERVICES

Dr. Kelly Sculles, Director of Student Services, informed the Board that Megan Esterling, Greenbriar Teacher and Stephanie Smith, NBJH Teacher, will be leading the 2026 Summer Programming. Dr. Sculles stated the course descriptions will be posted before Spring Break and registration will take place right after the break.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

No report.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

FY26 School Maintenance Project Grant

Ms. Donato presented the application for the School Maintenance Project Grant that can award up to \$50,000. The grant funds will be used towards replacing HVAC units at Westmoor.

Member Pfanzerter moved, and Member Beeftink seconded, that the Board of Education approve the School Maintenance Project Grant.

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

LEGISLATION

Member Beeftink provided a status update on a few Illinois bills that are trying to get passed.

POLICY

PRESS 120 Final Reading and Approval

Policies in PRESS 120 were recommended for approval by the Policy Committee. These included updates to policies: 2:120, 2:150, 2:270, 4:10, 4:30, 4:80, 4:140, 5:10, 5:90, 5:100, 5:190, 5:200, 5:220, 5:280, 5:300, 6:20, 6:40, 6:60, 6:130, 6:160, 6:220, 6:260, 7:10, 7:70, 7:180, 7:190, 7:290, 7:310, 7:340, 8:30. As part of a 5-year cycle, the committee also reviewed the following policies: 6:280 and did not recommend any changes.

It was moved by Member Horwitz and seconded by Member Beeftink that the Board of Education approve the policies from Press 120 as presented.

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

COMMUNICATION

Samantha Scheinman, Director of Communications, noted the Update 28 issue went to homes the second week in January. The next issue will be published in the summer.

There were four FOIA's this month.

TRUENORTH EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE 804

Member Weinstock reported that the TrueNorth reorganization has been officially approved. He noted the Superintendents of the Cooperative are working together as an executive committee. The Leadership Council, which includes school board members, will continue its monthly meetings.

A key part of this transition involves districts evaluating which services they will utilize next year, particularly the therapeutic day school. Dr. Pearson indicated that substantial staffing adjustments will be necessary to align with the new staffing model.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

In

At 7:43 p.m., it was moved by Member Horwitz and seconded by Member Weinstock

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).
- Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
- Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8).

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

Out

At 9:11 p.m, it was moved by Member Pfanzelter and seconded by Member Horwitz that the meeting return to Regular Session. All members present voted Aye. Absent: Arms and Bazer. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:12 p.m., it was moved by Member Pfanzelter and seconded by Member Horwitz to adjourn the meeting. All members present voted Aye. Absent: Arms and Bazer. Motion carried.

Beth Bazer, Secretary

Mara Silver-Schack, President