

Board of Education Meeting (February 19, 2026)

BOARD BRIEF

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Teaching & Learning

Science Curriculum Review:

- With our Amplify Science contract ending in June, K–8 teams are exploring new curriculum options and will pilot hands-on, phenomenon-based [OpenSciEd](#) units in Trimester 3—an approach reinforced by strong positive feedback from neighboring Medinah School District 11.



CER Writing Model Expansion:

- The district is expanding the CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) writing model, with Literacy Coach Ashley VanMetre supporting elementary teachers in strengthening students' critical thinking and structured writing skills. This work aligns with Spring Wood's CERCON approach, helping ensure a smoother transition to middle school writing expectations.

Technology & Innovation

Staff Efficiency & AI Integration:

- The district launched "[Magic School Monday](#)," a weekly series helping staff use AI tools to streamline tasks like differentiation and communication.



Curricular Innovation – Olympics Integration:

- Teaching & Learning released a districtwide **Olympics Tech Resource Guide**, supporting teachers in bringing the global event into classroom learning through digital tools.

Waterbury Enrichment Podcast Success:

- Waterbury Elementary enrichment students are now producing full podcast episodes, showcasing growing skills in audio engineering, interviewing, storytelling, and project management.

Successful Districtwide E-Learning Launch:

- January 23 marked the district's first successful use of **Microsoft Teams** for live e-learning, with staff seamlessly implementing the remote instruction plan.

Student Services

Community Learning in Action:

- Special Education (SPED) students enjoyed a community learning trip to **Streamwood Bowl**, where they practiced real-world skills like following routines, communicating needs, and

navigating a public environment—all helping them apply what they learn in school to everyday life.

🌟 **Clear Guidance on Summer School vs. ESY:**

- Families received clear guidance on the difference between **Summer School**—optional academic support for eligible students—and **Extended School Year (ESY)**, an IEP-determined service designed to prevent significant skill regression.

🏃🏻‍♀️ 🏅 **Special Olympics Kickoff Coming Soon**

- District 20 is getting ready for this year's **Special Olympics**, starting with **Track & Field**. Families interested in participating—or unsure if their student qualifies—can contact **Colleen Flores (cflores@esd20.org)** or **Alex Toay (atoay@esd20.org)**. More details will be shared soon!



Finance & Operations

👷🏻 🛠️ **Planning Ahead for Safe & Updated School Buildings:**

- District 20 reviewed proposals from several architectural firms and is recommending **DLA Architects** to help guide important projects that keep our school buildings **safe, well-maintained, and ready for the future**. DLA stood out because of their strong experience, great reviews, and their nearby location in Itasca. The Board will consider approving their contract at the March meeting.



🏠 **District Finances Earn Top Rating:**

- An independent audit confirmed that District 20's finances are in **excellent shape**, earning the **highest rating possible** with *no deficiencies in internal control*. The district ended the year with a **strong fund balance**, helping ensure stable, reliable support for student programs.

📖 **No Increase in Student or Lunch Fees for 2026–27:**

- Families can expect **no changes to student or school lunch fees next year**. District 20 continues to keep costs low — we **don't charge an athletic fee**, and we still offer the **lowest school lunch price** compared to neighboring districts. Yearbooks and gym uniforms will continue to be purchased **directly from the companies**, giving families more choice and flexibility.

SCHOOL UPDATES



✓ **New Students Incoming**

- January 30 preschool screenings were a success with only a few openings left. We look forward to our next screening on April 24.

🐾 **Animal Quest Visit**

- Families explored and interacted with a variety of animals during our February 6 event.

👁️👂 **Health Checks**

- Vision and hearing screenings are in progress for all students.





🎉 100th Day Celebrations

- Classrooms marked the 100th day of school with fun activities, including first graders dressing as 100-year-olds and kindergarteners celebrating with a “101 Dalmatians” theme.

★ Schoolwide Progress

- Greenbrook reached **Level 2** of its trimester reward system and is working toward Level 3, aiming to open the **Gator Café** by trimester’s end.

👨‍👩‍👧 Family Engagement

- Parent-Teacher Conferences were held on February 13, and families were encouraged to complete the **5Essentials Survey**—with a goal of 100 responses to earn students a special lunchtime treat.

👶 Little Learners

- Greenbrook welcomed families to its **Kindergarten Round-Up** on February 18, where they met staff members, toured classrooms, and learned about our Dual Language program.

📖 Celebrating Black Voices

- Throughout Black History Month, Greenbrook’s Library displayed a dedicated selection of books by Black authors to foster dialogue around inclusion and belonging.







📖 Student Learning

- Teachers engaged in Administrative Leadership Team (ALT) meetings, Data Meetings, Professional Learning Community (PLC) action-planning, committee work, classroom walk-throughs, and individual problem-solving meetings to support student growth.

🎉 School Events & Celebrations

- Students and staff enjoyed the **100th Day of School** and an **Olympics Opening Ceremony assembly**, along with planned Valentine's Day activities.

👨‍👩‍👧 Family & Community Engagement

- Waterbury held **Parent-Teacher Conferences** on February 13 and welcomed families to **Kindergarten Round-Up** on February 18 and 19.

🎨 Culture On Display

- In addition to learning and working on Black History-related music and art projects in classes throughout Black History Month, students created an "I Have a Dream" hand display featuring their hopes and dreams for the country and the world.





♥ Positive School Culture

- Spring Wood continues to build a welcoming environment rooted in its motto, *“Arrive as Friends, Leave as Spring Wood Family,”* while reinforcing the **Keys to Spring Wood**.

✎ Student Learning & Support

- English Learner (EL) students completed **ACCESS testing**, teachers met with families during February 13 conferences, and students benefited from strong after-school offerings, including clubs and **Homework Help**.

🎓 Experiences & Engagement

- Students explored future pathways through **Lake Park High School (LPHS)** visits, attended the **Dare to Dream Latinas Conference**, and connected with leadership about upcoming events and course options.

🏀 Athletics & Activities

- **Boys’ and Girls’ volleyball** seasons kicked off, **Creation Club** members created Valentine's Day cards for loved ones, and students participated in community-building events such as the **Charger Pride Dinner** and **Lancer Welcome Series**.

☀ Events & Enrichment

- Spring Wood celebrated **MMS Cheer Xplosion**, engaged in **National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)** and **LPHS National Honor Society (NHS)** activities, participated in **Lancer Welcome Series #2**, and 8th graders attended their **Chicago Wolves** field trip, with additional service opportunities ahead. And students who competed in the **Illinois Grade School Music Association's Solo & Ensemble Contest** received 1st Division ratings!

