

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 28  
HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 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, February 24, 2026, and streamed on the district's YouTube Channel.

President Silver-Schack called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following members present at roll call:

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

Absent: 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.

Staff Attendees: Jennie Dubinsky, Tara LaCerra, Allie Wenk, Brooklyn Cohen, Ginny Hiltz, Danielle Moran, Tracy Ferraro, Angela Rowland, Rebecca Stowell and Scott Meek.

Public Attendees: Nicki Bazer and Kaitlin Atlas, District Attorneys from Franczek, Beth Bazer, Adam Bazer, Mitch Dubinsky, Alanna Lambert, Raean Brueck, Dylan Brueck, Elianna Dubinsky, Tyler Brueck, Elissa Dubinsky, Allan Dubinsky, Donna Johnson, Jim Johnson, Branden Dubinsky, Anna Baharian, Taylor Catalano, Kenneth Henry and Matt Beran of Lauterbach and Amen, LLC..

### **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 Weinstock moved to appoint Member Beeftink as Secretary Pro Tempore and Member Arms seconded. All members voted Aye. Motion carried.

## **VISITORS COMMENTS / PRESENTATIONS**

### **Lauterbach and Amen , LLC – Annual Financial Report**

Each year, the district undergoes an independent audit of its finances to ensure transparency and compliance with state and federal standards. Matt Beran from Lauterbach and Amen, LLC presented the financial report from the annual audit.

Mr. Beran explained the provided reports to the Board and answered their questions.

Overall, the firm reported that the district had a very clean audit. Mr. Beran highlighted sections of the audit for the Board to review. While the audit did not identify any significant deficiencies, they recommended that the District focus on IT security awareness, outstanding check policy, expenditures over budget and deficit fund balance.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **Assistant Director of Student Services**

Alanna Lambert was introduced to the Board by Dr. Sculles, Director of Student Services, who highlighted Ms. Lambert's extensive experience of more than 20 years and expressed the District's enthusiasm in welcoming her to Greenbriar. Greenbriar Principal Dr. Moran commented on the selection process, noting its collaborative nature and the participation of numerous staff members in the interviews. Ms. Lambert is scheduled to begin her one-year contract on July 1, 2026.

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Weinstock that the Board of Education approve the contract for Alanna Lambert for the role of Greenbriar Assistant Director of Student Services.

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

### **Westmoor Principal**

Dr. Pearson, Superintendent, introduced the Westmoor interview team to the Board to introduce Mitch Dubinsky. The team spoke to the Board about the selection of Mr. Dubinsky. The Westmoor community identified they wanted a leader who is student-centered, shares warmth, humor, and interest in others, and demonstrates excellent communication skills. The interview team warmly welcomed Mr. Dubinsky as the next Westmoor Principal. Mr. Dubinsky will start on July 1, 2026, with a one-year contract.

It was moved by Member Pfanzerter and seconded by Member Weinstock that the Board of Education approve the contract for Mitch Dubinsky for the role of Westmoor Principal.

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

### **Construction Updates**

Superintendent Dr. Pearson provided the Board with an update on current construction projects.

The Meadowbrook Gym project is proceeding on schedule. Dr. Pearson also addressed the bid for the overall Meadowbrook School project, which the Board later approved. Eric Sickbert of DLA briefly reviewed the process used to evaluate the submitted Meadowbrook School bids and determine the final recommendation.

Greenbriar and Westmoor Projects will go out for bid on March 12 and are due April 16. The recommended bids for these projects will be presented for approval at the April meeting.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Member Beeftink and seconded by Member Weinstock that the Board of Education approve the minutes for Regular Meeting on January 27, 2026 and Closed Meeting on January 27, 2026.

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

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

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

#### **Payroll**

The payment of employee salaries for the last half of January 2026, in the amount of \$2,014,402.81 and covered by check numbers 68862 and 68879 through 68894 and deduction check numbers 68895 through 68913 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 February 24, 2026;

The payment of employee salaries for the first half of February 2026, in the amount of \$1,982,805.13 and covered by check numbers 68914 through 68927 and deduction check numbers 68928 through 68937 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 February 24, 2026.

**Bills**

Vendor invoices for February 2026 totaling 2,044,284.12 and Warrants listed as Numbers 66037 through 66416 and the following voids: None, confirmed by the signature of the President of the School District 28 Board of Education, and dated February 24, 2026.

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

<b>Staff Recommended for Employment</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Daniel Goodman	Classroom Asst.	MB	C/R-1 Pro-rated to \$8,656.26	2/3/2026
Greer Deutsch*	Social Worker - LTS	NBJH	\$23,100	3/3/2026
Durley Thomas	Special Educ Asst.	GB	SPED-4 Pro-rated to \$12,088	3/2/2026

\* Certified Candidate details below

<b>Staff Resignations, Retirements and / or Terminations</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Mary Claire Fuchs	Math Teacher	NBJH	Resignation	2/9/26
Sarah Tahir	Special Ed Asst.	GB	Resignation	1/28/26

<b>Staff Leave of Absence</b>
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Name	Position	Location	Reason	Effective Date
Jami Meltzer	Social Worker	NBJH	Parent Leave	5/26/26

**2026 Summer Programming- Hourly Rate for Program Assistants**

An hourly rate increase from \$19.90 to \$20.39 was approved for classroom assistants who are working in D28 summer programming in June 2026.

**North Cook ROE/ISC Intergovernmental Agreement**

The annual intergovernmental agreements were recommended for approval:

- Regional Safe Schools Program IGA
- High Needs Alternative Learning Opportunities Program IGA
- North Cook ROE/ISC & West40 ISC High Needs Virtual ALOP

The district does not currently utilize these agreements, but the signing of these agreements allows the district to use them if the need arises.

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

**STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE**

**Finance Report**

Ms. Donato, Chief School Business Official, provided the finance report for the month ending January 31, 2026. After seven months of the fiscal year, the monthly variance report shows 44% of the 2025-26 budget expended and 53% of budgeted revenues collected.

**Food Service Sales**

As of January 31, 2026, Northbrook JH cafeteria sales-to-date totaled \$231,024. OrganicLife's operating statement showed a deficit of \$3,845 for the month of January. The year-to-date operating deficit is \$27,630.

**Preliminary Insurance Renewal**

Preliminary insurance renewal rate increases for 2026-27 are as follows: PPO +16.8%; HMO +21.4%; Dental +4.4% and no increase for vision and life insurance.

It was moved by Member Weinstock and seconded by Member Arms that the Board of Education approve the Finance Report for January 2026.

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

### **Annual Finance Report by Independent Auditor**

The District's auditing firm, Lauterbach & Amen, LLP, presented the financial statements for the 2025 fiscal year earlier in the evening. Board members had an opportunity to ask questions to further their understanding after which the audit was presented for approval.

It was moved by Member Weinstock and seconded by Member Arms that the Board of Education approve the District's audit report by the auditing firm of Lauterbach & Amen LLP.

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

### **2026-2027 School Fees**

Ms. Donato recommended that the Board adopt the proposed 2026-27 Student Fees. Bus fees will increase by 3.5%

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Pfanzerter that the Board of Education approve the 2026-27 Student Fees.

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

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Mr. Brophy, Director of Human Resources, mentioned that the hiring process has begun to replace the teachers who are retiring at the end of the school year.

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

No report.

## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

### **Bid Awarded for Meadowbrook School Project**

Ms. Donato presented the Bid for the Meadowbrook School Project that was recommended for approval.

There were six bids submitted on February 17, 2026. The bids were very close. The recommended bid for \$40,664,000 was from Happ Builders.

Member Weinstock moved, and Member Horwitz seconded that the Board of Education accept the bid from Happ Builders for \$40,664,000.

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

### **Happ Builders Pay App #5**

Ms. Donato introduced Pay Application #5 for the Meadowbrook project, outlining the \$753,991.20 payment schedule with Happ Builders based on work completed through December 31, 2025.

It was moved by Member Beeftink and seconded by Member Weinstock that the Board of Education approve the payment to Happ Builders, Inc in the amount of \$753,991.20.

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

### **Happ Builders Pay App #6**

Ms. Donato introduced Pay Application #6 for the Meadowbrook project, outlining the \$606,488.40 payment schedule with Happ Builders based on work completed through January 31, 2026.

It was moved by Member Weinstock and seconded by Member Pfanzerter that the Board of Education approve the payment to Happ Builders, Inc in the amount of \$606,488.40.

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

## **LEGISLATION**

No report.

## **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

### **Orchestra Program**

The Board discussed a proposal from the orchestra teachers, previously shared by Dr. Pearson, suggesting a change in the starting grade for orchestra from third to fourth grade. Dr. Pearson indicated these discussions began in the fall and included the orchestra team's data review of enrollment and retention among Beginning Orchestra students. Dr. Pearson mentioned they do not anticipate staffing changes and the goal of this change is to improve the program.

## **POLICY**

Mr. Brophy mentioned that the next PRESS issue is expected in April.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Samantha Scheinman, Director of Communications, informed the Board that she posted another podcast along with a new time lapse video of the Meadowbrook Gym.

There were five FOIA's this month.

## **TRUENORTH EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE 804**

Dr. Pearson informed the Board that the third Executive Committee Meeting was this week and the committee will be finalizing the reorganization plan and staffing reductions. TrueNorth is hosting a job fair on March 11th in support of the TrueNorth staff.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

In

At 8:00 p.m., it was moved by Member Weinstock and seconded by Member Arms 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).
- Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).
- Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).

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

The closed session was paused at 9:13 p.m. to return to open session.

The regular session resumed at 9:18 p.m.

A roll call was taken with the following Board members present: Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz, Pfanzerter, Silver-Schack and Weinstock. Absent: Bazer.

## **NOTICE TO REMEDY**

### **Adopt Resolution for Notice to Remedy (Tenured Teacher)**

A resolution for Notice to Remedy was reviewed by the Board.

It was moved by Member Weinstock and seconded by Member Pfanzerter that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution for Notice to Remedy.

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

## **CLOSED SESSION**

In

At 9:20 p.m., it was moved by Member Pfanzerter and seconded by Member Arms that the Board resume Closed Session. All members present voted Aye. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

Out

At 11:35 p.m, President Silver-Schack requested that the meeting return to Regular Session. All members present voted Aye. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:36 p.m, President Silver-Schack motioned to adjourn the meeting. All members present voted Aye. Absent: Bazer. Motion carried.

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Christine Beeftink, Secretary Pro Tem

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Mara Silver-Schack, President