



**BOARD OF EDUCATION
KEENEYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT 20
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 19, 2026, 7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom & Spring Wood Middle School Innovation Center
5540 Arlington Drive E
Hanover Park, IL 60133
*Ignite the Power and Potential of Each Student!***

I. Call to Order and Roll call

The Regular Meeting of the Keeneyville School District 20 Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 pm, by President Farwa Ahmed.

Roll Call:

Farwa Ahmed	-present
Sarah Dellaria	-present
Brent Seehafer	-present
Amanda Coppola	-present
Lynne Steiner	-present
Natalie Kucharski	-present
Terre Taylor	-present

A quorum was present.

Also in Attendance:

Dr. Omar Castillo, Superintendent; Biran Marroquin, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations/CSBO; Dr. Carrie Buckley, Associate Superintendent of Teaching & Learning; Colleen Flores, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services; Michael Bellino, Assistant Director of Marketing & Communications; Dr. Jon Pokora, Principal, Waterbury School; John Gustafson, Principal, Greenbrook School; Phil Aliano, Principal, Spring Wood Middle School; Terry Karner, 8th grade teacher & KEA President; Maria Noyola, Recording Secretary; Tech Assistants: Manny Figueroa, Benny Cieslewicz, and Gio Noyola; Staff and Community Members also participated in person and via Zoom.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

President Farwa Ahmed led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Agenda

Brent Seehafer moved that the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented; Lynne Steiner seconded.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0
Motion carried.

IV. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

NOTE: Items under the consent agenda are considered routine and are enacted under one motion. There is no separate discussion of these items prior to the Board vote unless a Board member requests that an item be removed from the agenda for separate action.

a. Regular Meeting Minutes - January 22, 2026

b. Financial Reports and Accounts Payable - February & March 2026

1. District 20 Financial Reports and Accounts Payable

2. January P & L

c. Personnel Report

(A full copy of the Personnel Report is available in BoardBook online and at the meeting and is updated as needed before the meeting)

1. Employment of Licensed Professionals and Educational Support Personnel

2. Resignation of Licensed Professionals and Educational Support Personnel

3. Leaves of Absence

d. Approval of June 30, 2025 Audit

e. Approval of 2nd Read and Adoption of Press Issue 120 Policies:

2:120 Board Member Development; 2:150 Committees; 2:270 Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited; 4:10 Fiscal and Business Management; 4:30 Revenue and Investments; 4:80 Accounting and Audits; 4:140 Waiver of Student Fees; 4:190 Targeted School Violence Prevention; 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment; 5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting; 5:100 Staff Development Program; 5:190 Teacher Qualifications; 5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal; 5:220 Substitute Teachers; 5:280 Duties and Qualifications; 5:300 Schedules and Employment Year; 6:20 School Year Calendar and Day; 6:40 Curriculum Development; 6:60 Curriculum Content; 6:130 Program for the Gifted; 6:160 English Learners; 6:210 Instructional Materials; 6:260 Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs; 6:315 High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8; 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities; 7:70 Attendance and Truancy; 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment; 7:190 Student Behavior; 7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention; 7:310 Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools; 7:340 Student Records; 8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property; Rewritten: 7:150 Agency and Law Enforcement Requests; Review and Monitoring: 6:280 Grading and Promotion
Sarah Dellaria moved that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as presented; Lynne Steiner seconded.

No Discussion.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Sarah Dellaria	-aye
Brent Seehafer	-aye
Amanda Coppola	-aye
Lynne Steiner	-aye
Natalie Kucharski	-aye
Terre Taylor	-aye
Farwa Ahmed	-aye

Motion carried.

V.Public Comment

The Board welcomes and encourages the community to attend board meetings and ask questions during Public Comment. You are asked to limit your comments to 3 minutes. Please understand the Board will not respond to your questions and concerns during the meeting. They will follow up with you regarding your questions and/or concerns.

There was one public comment. Ms. Kuhns expressed concerns regarding the recent water main break at Waterbury. She specifically requested a more robust communication protocol for emergency incidents like the water main break and noted that the district’s directory on the website needs to be updated.

VI.School Board's President Report

a.Board Self-Monitoring Report

There were no board self-monitoring reports.

b.District Finance & Facilities

Sarah Dellaria presented the District Finance & Facilities Committee meeting report. The Finance and Facilities Committee met on February 10, 2026, to review the district’s investment portfolio, which remains diversified across Wintrust, PTMA, and Fifth Third Bank using a staggered maturity strategy. After evaluating several proposals, the Committee recommended DLA Architects for future facilities and safety assessments due to their extensive experience with similar districts. The group also reviewed the recently completed FY25 audit, noting the transition to accrual-based accounting for the final Annual Financial Report and Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. It was confirmed that there will be no increases to student or lunch fees for the 2026-27 school year, though early registration and multi-student discounts remain available. Finally, the Committee explored options for refinancing existing bond debt to provide taxpayer savings and discussed a potential aggressive repayment plan to reduce long-term interest costs. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2026.

c.SASED

Dr. Castillo presented the SASED report.

The SASED Board of Directors met on Wednesday, February 18. Under the Consent Agenda, the Board approved the 2026–2027 Employment Agreement for the Assistant

Director of Human Resources. Discussion and informational items included enrollment, staffing, strategic plan progress, and board committee updates. The Board approved two action items at the meeting: the proposed 2026–2027 School Calendar and entering into a License Agreement with Skyward, Inc. to serve as SASSED’s Student Information System platform. A closed session was held to discuss the sale of school property and personnel matters.

d. Wellness Committee

Amanda Coppola presented the Wellness Committee report. The Wellness Committee reported that in December more than 200 jackets were distributed to staff as a holiday appreciation gift recognizing their hard work and dedication. The committee also shared updates on staff wellness initiatives, including the EBC Wellbeing Portal Scavenger Hunt, which encouraged staff to explore wellness resources related to physical activity, stress management, nutrition, and overall well-being. Upcoming initiatives include an SEL and Wellness Choice Board, where staff may complete wellness activities for a chance to win prizes, and the 2026 EBC Walk of Fame Steps Challenge scheduled for April. The next committee meeting will take place in April.

e. Dashboards

1. Financial Dashboard

Mr. Marroquin presented to the Board of Education with the Financial Dashboard for July 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026 (unaudited figures) as follows:

Education Fund – Received 87% of budgeted revenues or \$18 million. The Ed Fund expended 52% of budgeted dollars or \$12 million. Operations & Maintenance Fund – Received 95% of budgeted revenues or \$2.9 million and expended 66% or \$2 million of budgeted dollars. Transportation Fund Received 82% of budgeted revenues or \$1.3 million and expended 50% of budgeted dollars. Combined and All Funds- Received 89% of budgeted revenues or \$25.6 million and expended 58% or \$19 million.

2. Student & Staff Attendance Dashboard

Dr. Castillo presented the Student & Staff Attendance Dashboard.

VII. Superintendent's Report

a. Dr. Omar Castillo's Board Report

Dr. Castillo presented his monthly report to the Board.

The district is proud to announce that the School Board has once again earned the School Board Governance Recognition Award from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). This honor, celebrating excellence in governance and commitment to public education, was formally presented at the IASB Spring Division Meeting on February 3. Regarding district operations, the CLEAR residency verification process has successfully streamlined annual checks. Current families confirmed through the database are exempt from submitting additional paperwork, though new families and incoming kindergarteners must still verify residency during enrollment. Additionally, the district extends its sincere gratitude to the staff at Waterbury, Spring Wood, and the District

Office for their rapid and compassionate response to the recent watermain break. Their teamwork ensured student safety and efficient transportation during the unexpected closure. The district continues to maintain a robust digital presence through consistent content production: Digital Content: Recent "Dr. Castillo's Corner" posts included a February 10 reminder for Kindergarten Round-Up. The "Educator Spotlight" recently featured Spring Wood Art Teacher Karen Scoles, and social media platforms provided coverage of events like the ECC Animal Quest and the 100th Day of School celebrations. 2026-27 Enrollment: Promotion for Early Childhood screenings and Kindergarten Round-Up was executed through a multi-channel approach, including branded postcards with QR codes for Spanish translations, yard signs, and community e-newsletters in Bloomingdale, Hanover Park, and Roselle. Illinois 5Essentials Survey: The district is currently working to meet the 20% family response threshold before the March 13 deadline. Incentives have been coordinated with principals, and a website pop-up reminder has been implemented to encourage participation. The Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee (PTAC) met on February 10 to discuss several key initiatives aimed at enhancing the student and parent experience: Technology & AI: The committee reviewed the upcoming Student Square rollout at Spring Wood and discussed the role of AI in classroom instruction. Student Wellness: A proposal for a nightly Chromebook shutdown window (10:00 PM – 6:00 AM) was introduced to encourage healthier habits among students. Cultural Celebrations: The meeting concluded with a review of Black History Month activities occurring across all district schools.

b. Associate Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Dr. Buckley presented the Fall Assessment Data and gave the following updates. The district is preparing for the conclusion of the Amplify Science contract in June. Following a review by the elementary and middle school science committees, the district will pilot OpenSciEd—a hands-on, inquiry-based curriculum—during Trimester 3. This transition aims to increase student engagement with scientific phenomena and "doing" science. Additionally, Literacy Coach Ashley VanMetre is implementing the Claim, Evidence, Reasoning (CER) writing framework in elementary classrooms. This initiative aligns elementary instruction with the CERCON model used at Spring Wood Middle School, ensuring a consistent analytical writing scaffold for students across all grade levels. Recent highlights include the successful production phase of the Waterbury Enrichment Podcast Series, where students demonstrated mastery in digital audio engineering and storytelling. Furthermore, the district reported a seamless execution of e-learning protocols during recent extreme cold and a water main break. These dates marked the first district-wide implementation of Microsoft Teams for live instruction, confirming the success of foundational technical training and staff adaptability.

c. Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations

Brian Marroquin presented the Finance & Operations Report. The FY2025 audit was completed in January 2026 on an accrual basis, resulting in the district receiving the highest financial status of "Recognition." Key adjustments included moving \$223,000 in grant revenue, \$132,000 in transportation costs, and \$578,000 in capital expenses back into the 2025 fiscal year to align with when they were incurred.

The district ended the year with an operating fund balance of \$18,587,025, or 71%, and reported no internal control deficiencies or noncompliance.

The Board approved the recommendation to maintain current student and lunch fees for the 2026-27 school year, ensuring the district remains cost-competitive with feeder districts. A procedural shift was noted where families will now pay third-party vendors directly for yearbooks and gym uniforms rather than through the district office.

Current year-to-date figures show a total fund balance of \$26,475,148, representing 310 days of cash on hand. Revenues have reached 88% of the budget, while expenditures stand at 57%, with notable spending in capital outlay following the completion of the Greenbrook Main Office Expansion. To maintain fund health, a \$900,000 transfer was executed into the Capital Fund from Working Cash and Operations and Maintenance accounts. The district has selected DLA Architects for future health life-safety inspections and facility planning, with a contract expected for approval in March. Additionally, administration is reviewing food service operations to address a \$1.14 per-meal funding gap and is exploring a bond refinancing opportunity that could save taxpayers over \$134,000 through 2035.

d. Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

Colleen Flores presented her Student Services Report. The district has defined the distinct parameters of Summer School and Extended School Year (ESY). Summer School is an optional general education program for students meeting specific academic criteria, while ESY is a mandated special education service determined by IEP teams to prevent significant skill regression. Looking ahead to the 2026–2027 school year, the district will partner with SASSED to launch a Structured Learning Environment (SLE) program. This initiative will feature a SASSED-operated K–3 classroom and a district-operated 4–5 classroom, providing intensive, TEACCH-aligned instruction for students with complex learning needs. The Family Liaison continues to provide critical support for the district's 40 McKinney-Vento students, including managing regional transportation cost-sharing and participating in specialized training for IEP translation. Recent efforts have focused on direct family assistance across all campuses, ranging from medical referrals and registration support at Greenbrook and Springwood to emergency dismissal coordination at Waterbury and screening assistance at the Early Childhood Center.

e. Principal Reports

Mr. Gustafson, Dr. Pokora, Ms. Aubry, and Mr. Aliano presented highlights of their monthly reports.

f. FOIA's

1. Michael F Henry

2. Rhonda Norris - Proven IT

FOIA's received were responded to in a timely manner.

VIII. Action Items

a. Approval of 2026-2027 Student Fees

Lynne Steiner moved that the Board of Education approve the 2026-2027 student fees as presented; Brent Seehafer seconded.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Brent Seehafer	-aye
Amanda Coppola	-aye
Lynne Steiner	-aye
Natalie Kucharski	-aye
Terre Taylor	-aye
Farwa Ahmed	-aye
Sarah Dellaria	-aye

Motion carried.

IX.Closed Session

[The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057; and 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)(1)

At 7:56 pm., Lynne Steiner moved that the Board of Education enter Closed Session to discuss The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity; and 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; Amanda Coppola seconded.

Amanda Coppola	-aye
Lynne Steiner	-aye
Natalie Kucharski	-aye
Terre Taylor	-aye
Farwa Ahmed	-aye
Sarah Dellaria	-aye
Brent Seehafer	-aye

Motion carried.

X.Dates to Remember:

- Friday, February 20 - Second Trimester Ends
- Tuesday, February 24 - SW Volleyball Game - Westfield @ SW - 3 PM
- Thursday, February 26 - SW Volleyball Game - SW @ Peacock - 3 PM

- Friday, February 27 - Teacher Institute Day - Nonattendance Day for Students
- Monday, March 2 - Registration Opens for Pre-K - 8th grade
- Tuesday, March 3 - Report Card Distribution
- Thursday, March 5 - SW Volleyball Home Game vs Wood Dale @ 3 PM
- Tuesday, March 10 - SW Volleyball Home Game vs Roselle @ 3 PM
- Thursday, March 12 - SW Volleyball @ Peacock - 3 PM
- Saturday, March 14 - SW Music Program's Pancake Breakfast @ 8 AM - 11 AM
- Tuesday, March 17 - SW Volleyball Home Game vs Medinah @ 3 PM
- Thursday, March 19 - SW Volleyball Home Game vs Wood Dale @ 3PM
 - Regular Board Meeting - SW Innovation Center @ 7 PM

XI. Adjournment

At 8:50 pm, Brent Seehafer moved to adjourn the meeting; Natalie Kucharski seconded.

Ayes: 7

Abstain: 0

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Farwa Ahmed, Board President

Date

Brent Seehafer, Board Secretary

Date