Board of Education
School District No. 155
Calumet City, Illinois
Regular Meeting
March 26, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Calumet City School District No. 155 was called to order by President Coleman on March 26, 2026 at 6:30 pm. On the Roll, the following members were physically present and answered present; Coleman, Oberman, Franklin and Miller: Absent: Long, Ellis and Jamerson.

Also present were: Dr. Joseph Zotto, Adam Jordan, Tara Lawrence, LoDonna Fleming, Barbara Jude, Jaclynn Labahn, Colleen Kolasa, Valerie Wilhoite, Julie Stephan and Vincent Harris.

Public Comment

President Coleman opened the floor to the public for comments.

No Public Comment

President Coleman closed the floor to the public for comments.

Administrative Presentation

Jaclynn Labahn, Assistant Principal from Wentworth Intermediate gave the Administrative Presentation. She called it the “State of the Union”. She explained that it was based on a strong sense of belonging and culture. She explained that WIS started a “Career Cash System”, where the students earn internal dollars based on expectations. They can use the dollars to have lunch with the Administrator, spirit days and school dances. Member Miller asked if they took donations and she said sure, but the dollars are basically earned by the students from the staff if they see them doing good deeds, being helpful, etc.

Communications

None

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve Member Ellis to join the meeting via phone call . Ayes; Coleman, Oberman, Franklin, and Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 4-0.

Dr. Zotto called Member Ellis and she joined the meeting via phone at 6:35 pm.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Franklin, a Motion to Approve the consent agenda items as listed in the Meeting Agenda. Ayes; Coleman, Oberman, Franklin, Miller and Ellis. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Reports

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Franklin, a Motion to Approve the gross payroll figure for the month of February 2026 in the amount of $715,192.48. Ayes; Oberman, Franklin, Miller, Ellis and Coleman. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Franklin, a Motion to Approve the following pre-list of invoices and authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign the appropriate documents. Pre-list dated 02/20/2026 (Voucher #1198) in the amount of $317,846.26, Pre-list dated 03/12/2026 (Voucher #1221) in the amount of $17,775.22, and Pre-list dated 03/26/2026 (Voucher #1223) in the amount of $1,139,218.30. Ayes; Oberman; Franklin, Miller, Ellis and Coleman. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve FSMC 1-year Renewal with Taher Inc.. Ayes; Franklin, Miller, Ellis, Coleman and Oberman. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Franklin, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve Empower Health Services Screening Agreement. Ayes; Miller, Ellis, Coleman, Oberman and Franklin; Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Buildings and Grounds

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion that the Board approve and accept the rebid of Package 3: Landscaping from Priority Landscaping & Maintenance, LLC in the amount of $135,000.00.. Ayes; Ellis, Coleman, Oberman, Franklin and Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Franklin, a Motion that the Board reject all bids received for the rebid of Bid Package 2: Mechanical, due to budget considerations.. Ayes; Coleman, Oberman, Franklin, Miller and Ellis. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Teachers and Education

Enrollment Total: **978**

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Franklin a Motion to approve the resignations and reassignment of the listed staff per the effective dates indicated; and to execute the employment contracts for 25-26 and 26-27 school years for the identified staff at the salary indicated or steps and lanes provided in the applicable bargaining agreement, pending receipt of the required documents, which includes the Illinois State Background Investigation Report. Ayes; Oberman, Franklin, Miller, Ellis and Coleman. Nays; None. Motion carried, 5-0.

New Hire		
Name	**Position**	**Assignment**
Michelle Akinrinade	Speech Language Pathologist Assistant (2026-2027 SY)	Wilson
Crandall Ross	RN-School Nurse (2026-2027 SY)	WJH
Dana Zaffron	4th Grade Teacher (2026-2027 SY)	WIS

Contract		
Name	**Position**	**Assignment**
Velda Thomas Maro	RN-School Nurse- Blazerworks	WJH

Reassignment		
Name	**Position**	**Assignment**
Reon Gillespie	5th Grade Teacher (2026-2027 SY)	WIS
Shanda Rose	Early Childhood (2026-2027 SY)	Wilson
Sonoie Mohammad	Pre-K (2026-2027 SY)	Wilson

Resignations		
Name	**Position**	**Assignment**
Eileen Sheedy	6th Grade Science	WJH
Dionte Washington	4th/5th Cross Cat	WIS
Virni Webb	Social Worker	WIS

Policy

None

SCOPE

Dr. Zotto stated that the Springfield Legislation is busy and he will keep the Board updated.

FOIA

Date of Request	03/04/2026
Summary of Records Requested	all current employee/staff contact information 1. First Name 2. Last Name 3. Position Title 4. Department 5. Direct Phone Number (if does not exist, list main phone number with extension) 6. Business Cell Phone (if provided by Calumet City School District No. 155) 7. Email Address 8. Office Address (Address, City, State, Zip)
Status of Response	Responsive records were sent via email on 3/9/26

Date of Request	02/18/2026
Summary of Records Requested	Copies of the most recent contracts, agreements, amendments, and renewals by Calumet City School District 155 from January 1, 2021 through January 29, 2026 in connection with the following vendors: -Mastery Prep -Albert.io -IXL -Edgenuity -Khan Academy -Jumpstart -Texas College Bridge

	-Kaplan -Princeton Review -Uworld -Cambridge Educational Services -Schmoop -Texas College Bridge -Progress Learning -HMH (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
Status of Response	Responsive records sent via email on 02/20/2026

Date of Request	01/30/2026
Summary of Records Requested	1) All bills from external attorneys or law firms for the year 2024, and through July 18, 2025 for 2025. 2) All engagement agreements with attorneys or law firms affiliated with any of the legal bills for the time period in item #1. 3) All other engagement agreements with attorneys or law firms executed in 2024 and in 2025 through July 18, 2025 not affiliated with any legal bills produced in item #1. 4) Documents showing any and all attorneys or legal professionals (attorneys, law firms, law clerks, paralegals and the like) who appeared on behalf of, represented, advised, or otherwise counseled the entity in 2024, and for 2025 through July 18, 2025.
Status of Response	The district extended its time for a response by 5 additional days pursuant to FOIA Sections 3(e)(iii) and (v). The district identified additional responsive documents on the due date and thus proposed a 1 week extension due to a review, redaction and response time of the new records would be unduly burdensome. No response was received. The responsive redacted records, to that point, were submitted on the 2/17/26 due date.

	The additional responsive redacted documents were voluntarily submitted via email on 2/20/26

Date of Request	03/16/2026
Summary of Records Requested	copies of any **existing records** identifying the employee(s) assigned responsibility for **leadership, oversight, coordination, or supervisory authority** for the following functional areas at the district or central office level: 1. **Curriculum & Instruction / Teaching & Learning** 2. **Career & Technical Education (CTE) and STEM** 3. **English Language Learner (ELL)** 4. **Technology / Information Technology / Computer Science** 5. **Library / Media Services** 6. **Core Academic Subjects**, including: ○ **English Language Arts (ELA)** ○ **Mathematics** ○ **Science** ○ **Social Studies**
Status of Response	Responsive records were sent via email on 3/17/2026

Date of Request	03/21/2026
Summary of Records Requested	purchasing records from 12/18/2025 to current. The specific information requested from your record keeping system is: 1. Purchase order number. If purchase orders are not used a comparable substitute is acceptable, i.e., invoice, encumbrance, or check number 2. Purchase date 3. Line item details (Detailed description of the purchase) 4. Line item quantity 5. Line item price 6. Vendor ID number, name, address, contact person and their email address

Status of Response	Responsive records were sent via email on 3/23/2026

Teachers and Paraprofessional Unions

Julie Stephan stated that the teacher of the month was Lisa Kleczkowski from Wentworth Intermediate.

Valarie Wilhoite did not have anything to report.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve Regional Safe School Program Agreement with ISC4. Ayes; Coleman, Oberman, Franklin, Miller and Ellis. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Coleman, a Motion to Approve Short-term Program Agreement with ISC4. Ayes; Oberman, Franklin, Miller, Ellis and Coleman. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Coleman, a Motion to Approve Credit Recovery Program Agreement with ISC4. Ayes; Oberman, Franklin, Miller, Ellis and Coleman. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Coleman, a Motion to Approve Alternative Alternative Learning Opportunities Program Agreement with ISC4. Ayes; Franklin, Miller, Ellis, Coleman and Oberman. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Discussion for the Good of the School District

Dr. Zotto mentioned the ECHO new transportation agreement and stated we will be amending the budget.

Executive Session

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Miller, a Motion that the board enter executive session pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) & 2(c)(2) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss the employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body and 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)(1)(2). Ayes; Miller, Ellis, Coleman, Oberman and Franklin. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Entered Executive Session at 6:46 pm

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion that the Board return to regular business. Ayes; Ellis, Coleman, Oberman, Franklin and Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Returned to regular business at 7:02 pm

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve Base Salary Increase for Non-Bargaining Educational Support Staff as Discussed and Presented in Executive Session. Ayes; Coleman, Oberman, Franklin, Miller and Ellis. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve One-Time Stipend for LoDonna Fleming as Discussed and Presented in Executive Session. Ayes; Coleman, Oberman, Franklin, Miller and Ellis. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve 2026-2027 Dean Employment Agreement for Docilla Pollard. Ayes; Oberman, Franklin, Miller, Ellis and Coleman. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Miller, a Motion to Approve 2026-2027 ESL Coordinator Employment Agreement for Araceli Suarez-Salgado. Ayes; Oberman, Franklin, Miller, Ellis and Coleman. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Miller, a Motion to Approve 2026-2027 Assistant Principal Employment Agreement for Jaclynn Labahn. Ayes; Franklin, Miller, Ellis, Coleman and Oberman. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve 2026-2027 Assistant Principal Employment Agreement for Jeanelle Smith. Ayes; Miller, Ellis, Coleman, Oberman and Franklin. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve 2026-2027 Case Manager Employment Agreement for Helena Fields. Ayes; Ellis, Coleman, Oberman, Franklin and Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Franklin, a Motion to Approve 2026-2027 Case Manager Employment Agreement for Tammy Saleem. Ayes; Coleman, Oberman, Franklin, Miller and Ellis. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Franklin, a Motion to Approve 2026-2027 Principal Employment Agreement for Gregory Mason. Ayes; Coleman, Oberman, Franklin, Miller and Ellis. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Franklin, a Motion to Approve 2026-2028 Principal Employment Agreement for Jennifer Lowe. Ayes; Oberman, Franklin, Miller, Ellis and Coleman. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Franklin, a Motion to Approve 2026-2028 Principal Employment Agreement for Andrew Morgan. Ayes; Oberman, Franklin, Miller, Ellis and Coleman. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Table 2026-2027 Director of Student Services Employment Agreement for Dr. Joyce Nelson. Ayes; Franklin, Miller, Ellis, Coleman and Oberman. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Franklin, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve 2026-2027 Director of Buildings and Grounds Employment Agreement for Justin Valle. Ayes; Miller, Ellis, Coleman, Oberman and Franklin. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Franklin, a Motion to Approve 2026-2029 Chiel School Business Official Employment Agreement for Adam Jordan. Ayes; Ellis, Coleman, Oberman, Franklin and Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Franklin, a Motion to Approve 2026-2030 Assistant Superintendent Employment Agreement for Tara Wilkins. Ayes; Coleman, Oberman, Franklin, Miller and Ellis. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve 2026-2027 Superintendent Salary Increase as Discussed and Presented in Executive Session. Ayes; Coleman, Oberman, Franklin, Miller and Ellis. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Adjournment

Moved by Member Miller and seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion that the Board Adjourn. Ayes; All. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Time: 7:08 pm

Board President **Board Secretary**