



## Administrative Offices

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### Minutes of the SWCCCASE Board of Directors Meeting April 15, 2026

#### CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education was called to order at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

On roll call, the following members were found to be present: Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Mr. Charleston (D146), Dr. Brunson, Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Morrison (D228), and Dr. Nolting.

Also present, Dr. Gineen O'Neil, Executive Director, Dr. Lisa Byczek (Appointed Executive Director), Mr. Tage Shumway, Business Manager, and Ms. Lisa Promis, Assistant Director.

The following members were absent: Dr. Orzel, Dr. Roth, and Dr. Julius, D160 Interim Superintendent

#### RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC

Karyn Kempke, Union President and Brandon Wigboldy Union Vice President also attended.

#### MOTION TO APPOINT DR. BRUNSON AS BOARD CHAIRPERSON

A motion was made by Dr. Maxwell and seconded by Dr. Sala, to appoint Dr. Brunson as Board Chairperson.

Upon roll call the following voted aye: Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Mr. Charleston, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Morrison, and Dr. Nolting.

#### PLACEMENT OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Dr. Sala and seconded by Dr. Maxwell, upon the recommendation of Dr. O'Neil, that the following items be considered under a consent agenda unless otherwise requested by the Board: the minutes of the March 18, 2026 Board Meeting, the minutes of the April 1, 2026 Facility Planning Committee Meeting, Invoices and Payroll, Employment of Professional Personnel, Employment of Educational Support Personnel, Resignation of Professional Personnel, Request for Leave of Absence, Board Policies - First Reading, Classification of Closed Session Minutes, FY27 Board Meeting Dates, and Agency Conversion Fees.

Upon roll call the following voted aye: Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Mr. Charleston, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Morrison, and Dr. Nolting.

**CLOSED SESSION** A motion was made by Dr. Scarsella and seconded by Dr. Maxwell to enter into closed session at 8:01 a.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Cooperative or legal counsel for the Cooperative, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the Cooperative to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057.

Upon roll call the following voted aye: Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Mr. Charleston, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Morrison, and Dr. Nolting.

A motion was made by Dr. Sala and seconded by Dr. Droba to return from closed session at 8:14 a.m.

Upon roll call the following voted aye: Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Mr. Charleston, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Morrison, and Dr. Nolting.

**REPORT OF THE  
BUSINESS  
MANAGER**

**STATEMENT OF  
POSITION AND  
REVENUE**

Mr. Shumway presented the statement of position, revenue, and expenditures for the period ending March 31, 2026.

**FACILITY  
PLANNING  
COMMITTEE**

Mr. Shumway reported that the Facility Planning Committee met on April 1, 2026, to discuss potential renovations and a new ownership structure for the 94th Avenue Building. The discussion, which resulted in no binding commitments, outlined that the three high school districts could partially fund renovations using their retained FY25-26 reconciliation refunds. In exchange, the elementary districts would relinquish their ownership stake in the 94th Avenue parcel, and the Articles of Joint Agreement would be amended to reflect the high school districts as sole owners of the new Transition Campus.

**DRS PECT GRANT**

Mr. Shumway reported that the Cooperative recently received notice of reduced funding to the 2025-26 PECT Grant. The PECT Grant provides support for job exploration and counseling, work-based learning experiences, counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or post-secondary educational programs at institutions of higher education, workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living, and instruction in self-advocacy. The Cooperative received an amendment to our FY26 contract that lowers the potential grant amount from \$742,906 to \$240,000.

**REPORT OF THE  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR**

**COOPERATIVE  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Dr. O’Neil shared highlights from various Cooperative Programs.

**SWCCCASE  
PROGRAM  
WAITING LISTS**

Dr. O’Neil reported that as of April 10, 2026, there is one 6th grade student and one Early Childhood student on a waiting list for DESTINY. Morton Gingerwood has two students waiting for personnel to be hired to provide aide support prior to the students’ first day.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA**

**MEETING  
MINUTES**

The Board of Directors of the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education approved the minutes from the March 18, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting as well as the April 1, 2026 Facility Planning Committee Meeting Minutes.

**MARCH/APRIL  
INVOICES AND  
PAYROLL**

The Board approved the March/April invoices in the amount of \$840,265.02. The March payroll in the amount of \$2,204,842.48 and the estimated amount of \$2,500,000 for the April payroll.

**EMPLOYMENT OF  
PROFESSIONAL  
PERSONNEL**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Step/Column or Days</u>	<u>Annual Salary</u>
Cirrencione, Alyssa	Social Worker	Braun	8/5/2026	1/MA	\$64,150.00
Coulter, Mackenzie	Speech Language Pathologist	MGW	8/5/2026	7/MA	\$72,780.00
Piper, Cassandra	Part Time Music Therapist	MGW	8/5/2026	\$40 hr	n/a
Zirbel, Madelyn	Teacher	Braun	8/5/2026	1/BA	\$56,239.00

EMPLOYMENT OF  
EDUCATIONAL  
SUPPORT  
PERSONNEL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Step/Column or Days</u>	<u>Annual Salary</u>
Childress, Tianna	Paraeducator	MGW	8/5/2026	Step 6/License	\$30,589.00
Leavitt, Rachel	Driver	Transition	3/31/2026	\$20/hr	n/a
Martinez, Abigail	Secretary	Services	5/1/2026	Step 4	\$35,737.00
Williams, Jennifer	Secretary	Transition	5/4/2026	Step 10	\$40,511.00

RESIGNATION OF  
PROFESSIONAL  
PERSONNEL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Rodriguez, Nicole	Social Worker	Braun	6/2/2026

REQUEST FOR  
LEAVE OF  
ABSENCE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Type of Leave</u>	<u>Effective Dates</u>
Beesley, Katrina	Interpreter	DHH	FMLA	8/5/2026-10/28/2026
Green, Shelby	Paraeducator	Transition	Intermittent FMLA	11/14/2025-6/2/2026
Miller, Victoria	Teacher	Transition	FMLA	8/10/2026-9/7/2026
Mora, Betsy	Custodian	Bld Grd	FMLA	4/6/2026-17/2026

BOARD POLICIES  
- FIRST READING

The Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, approved the first reading of the following policies: 2:200 - Types of Board Meetings, 2:220 - Board Meeting Procedure, 2:250 - Access to Cooperative Public Records, 2:260 - Uniform Grievance Procedure, 4:165 - Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors, 5:30 - Hiring Process and Criteria, 5:50 - Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition, 5:250 - Leaves of Absence, 5:330 - Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves, 6:65 - Student Social and Emotional Development, 7:20 - Harassment of Students Prohibited, 7:50 - School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools, 7:100 - Health and Dental Examinations, Immunizations, and

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Exclusion of Students, 7:185 - Teen Dating Violence Prohibited, 7:230 - Misconduct by Students with Disabilities, 7:260 - Exemption from Physical Education, 7:280 - Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease, and 7:300 - Extracurricular Athletics.

**CLASSIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES** The Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, classified as confidential the closed session minutes from May 17, 2023 through October 16, 2024, and maintained the confidentiality of those minutes previously classified as such. In addition, the Board of Directors also moved that any verbatim recordings older than 18 months be destroyed prior to October 16, 2024.

**FY27 BOARD MEETING DATES** The Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, approved the FY27 Board Meeting dates.

**AGENCY CONVERSION FEES** The Board of Directors authorized the Chief School Business Official to pay the \$2,000.00 conversion fee to ProCare Therapy for Paraeducator, Tianna Childress.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**FY26 RELEASE OF NON-CERTIFIED STAFF** A motion was made by Dr. Sala and seconded by Dr. Maxwell to approve the resolution dismissing non-certified staff members Melissa Compean and Mikaela Mosquera.

Upon roll call the following voted aye: Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Mr. Charleston, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Morrison, and Dr. Nolting.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA** A motion was made by Dr. Sala and seconded by Dr. Maxwell to approve the consent agenda.

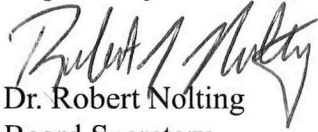
Upon roll call the following voted aye: Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Mr. Charleston, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Morrison, and Dr. Nolting.

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ADJOURNMENT      A motion was made by Dr. Sala and seconded by Dr. Scarsella to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 a.m.

Upon roll call the following voted aye: Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Mr. Charleston, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Morrison, and Dr. Nolting.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Robert Nolting  
Board Secretary

