BOARD OF EDUCATION
DISTRICT

PRAIRIE-HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MINUTES OF REGULAR BD MEETING

ANNEX BOARD ROOM

3015 WEST 163RD STREET

MARKHAM, ILLINOIS

April 20, 2026

A. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance (2:220)
President Ms. Carlen Matthews called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM. She than led the Board and Audience in the pledge of Allegiance.

B. Roll Call (2:220)
The following members were present: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Ms. Carlene Matthews, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo (via zoom) and Joyce Ratliff. Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker and Ms. Sharron Davis.

Ms. Sharron Davis arrived at 5:20p.m.

Also, present: Interim Superintendent, Dr. Taquia Hylton, and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction & Equity, Dr. Jamie Crosen.

C. Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Juanita Jordan moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Ratliff to **place Items C1-C5 on Consent Agenda** which will reflect only the minutes of March 3, 2026 and March 16, 2026. On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo, and Ms. Carlene Matthews. Nays: None. Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker

Ms. Joyce Ratliff, moved and it was second by Ms. Juanita Jordan, to **Approve the Minutes** of March 03, 2026, works-session minutes and March 24, 2026. Regular Business minutes. On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo, and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker

D. Board President Report- President Ms. Carlene Matthews, - Shared that she enjoyed the conference and she than thanked Mr. Franklin for being the speaker for the upcoming 8th grade graduation.

Ms. Ratliff arrives 5:26pm.

E. Superintendent Report- Interim Superintendent Taquia Hylton, Informed the Board that we are rolling through the end of the year. Right now, our schools are focusing on project-based learning as well as our spring sports. We're in the midst of our track and our soccer programs, so thank you to those schools and those teams who are having those meets and hosting for our district. Currently, we are looking at ways in terms of operations and

finance to reduce our budget deficits for SY27. We are not looking to make cuts to any of our instructional programs, our core instructional teachers, but we're really reviewing agency, contractor, vendor, contract to ensure that we can maintain the current models and that they're going to be sustainable. One to announce that we are 100% finished with our ISBE compliance audit. Big shout out to Mr. Green who helped lead that endeavor for us. Dr Hylton also shared that the ROE has accepted all of our items, and we are finished with those. A lot going on with human resources and staffing. I'll be able to share when we get to that part of the report.

F. **Presentation- Mae Jemison School-Principal Ms. Jennings/Asst. Principal Ms. Cielpucha** shared the demographic The school serves 345 students, with 82.6% African American and 13.1% Hispanic populations, and has a 4% English Language Learner population [6:58]. The attendance rate started high at 93.5%, dipped in August and September, then improved to 97% in January and February before settling at approximately 89.5% in March [7:15] [7:37].

The presentation highlighted several key achievements and programs:

Academic Performance: The school showed overall growth in reading and math for each grade level, with their Accelerated Reader (AR) program improving by 10% this year, allowing more students to participate in the IAR field trip [8:51] [9:11]. Math scores showed steady gains across grade levels, with various percentages of students meeting or exceeding projected goals [10:43] [10:57]. **School Programs**: Mae Jemison implements multiple intervention strategies including reading and math benchmark assessments, SIP block (reading intervention using 95% group reading intervention), math build block, growth tutoring, and IAR bootcamp [15:57] [22:33] [22:56]. **Student Engagement**: The school runs various incentive programs including attendance contests with monthly class winners, student of the month recognition, Blue Street competition for math fluency, and map rewards [7:51] [8:02] [8:20] [17:30].

Community Involvement: The school has an active PTO that organized fundraisers including Taffy Apple sales, holiday shop, family dance, and basket raffles, contributing $12,722 in total with $1,186 earned for incentives [18:25] [18:35] [23:37]. **Events and Activities**: Mae Jemison hosted multiple community events including family reading night, Hispanic heritage night, grandparents day, career day, and a production of "The Wiz" for Black History Month [18:52] [20:34] [21:51]. The principal concluded by thanking the board for their support and inviting board members to visit the school to see their programs in action [27:32].

G. **Department Updates**

1. Curriculum Instruction & Equity- Dr. Crosen, shared that the curriculum and instruction team is working on registration improvements, with a goal to be ready for registration by May 15th [28:36]. They're developing new guidelines and supports to ensure that children who are in-district secure their seats in the schools. Dr. Crosen also shared that Significant progress is being made on updating the student code of conduct [29:00]. A meeting was scheduled for April 29th with families to receive feedback from parent committees and

teachers on the working document [29:00]. The goal is to create a much more user-friendly document for both parents and staff, providing better resources for the community than previously available, and then last but not least The district is taking a step back to examine their literacy data and approach [29:39]. They're beginning to study research-based work from Mississippi and Louisiana, where those states are exceeding national averages for literacy proficiency [30:04]. Starting with a Wednesday meeting, they're engaging kindergarten through third-grade teachers in discussions about why the majority of their students don't have reading proficiency by third grade [30:39]. The district is setting a high-level goal that all students in their schools should be able to read proficiently by third grade [30:50]. The curriculum team emphasized that before making new purchases or major changes, they need to engage in reflection and data analysis to develop a comprehensive literacy plan for the upcoming school year.

2. Student Services-**As presented**

3. Finance/CSBO-**As Presented**

4. Human Resource-As Presented-Dr. Hylton Shared with the Board A process has been created for transfer requests, as some staff members are requesting to move from one campus to another [32:40]. These requests were being reviewed and would be concluded by April 27th [32:40].All positions are posted with the exception of eight positions [32:55]. New job descriptions need to be created for those eight positions, which were listed in updates sent to board members via email [32:58].The district has CSBO (Chief School Business Official) candidates that the board requested, as well as a list of all employees with type 75 certifications in the district, reflecting their belief in building capacity and promoting from within [32:58] [33:24]. The board president emphasized their commitment to looking internally first for principal roles and all roles in general [33:30] [33:37] [33:40].

5. Operation & Maintenance-As presented.

6. Family & Community Engagement-Mr. Franklin update as presented.

7.Techology-Mr. L. Hill report as presented. No specific technology initiatives, updates, or issues were detailed during this portion of the meeting. **Camera System Project Discussion** The most substantial technology-related discussion centered around a camera project for the schools [1:11:10] [1:11:18]. The board discussed:

- Putting a camera project "on hold" while waiting for additional information [1:11:10]
- The project involved multiple schools with different components [1:11:18]
- They were waiting on quotes for "Fish Act cameras" or "360 cameras" [1:11:40] [1:12:30]
- There was mention of exploring another company option [1:11:48]
- The board ultimately decided to remove this item from consideration pending further information

8. Athletics-As presented. Mr. Hurd, provided athletics update during the school board meeting. Here are the key points from his report:

Track Team Success:
Mr. Hurd shared exciting results from a recent track meet at Hillcrest, where Markham Prairie Hills dominated the competition [35:49]:

- Boys' 7th grade: **1st place**
- Boys' 8th grade: **1st place**
- Girls' 7th grade: **1st place**
- Girls' 8th grade: **1st place**
- **Combined overall: 1st place with 324 points** (the next closest school had only 165 points) [36:21]

Program Improvements:
Mr. Hurd noted that track is their biggest sport and operates as a "no cut" program, meaning all students who want to participate can join. He mentioned they implemented better structure and organization this year, which contributed to these outstanding results .

Personal Announcement:
Following his athletics report, Mr. Hurd made an emotional announcement that he is resigning from the district after 23 years of service. He shared that he started as a PE teacher and worked his way up through various positions including dean, assistant principal, and finally principal. He emphasized that while he's leaving his position, he's staying in the community as a parent since his child still attends the district.

H. Audience Participation-

I. New Business

1. Statement of Economic Interest- Interim Superintendent Dr. Hylton, reminds the board members about completing their Statement of Economic Interest forms [1:02:16].

2. RFP for Attorney- The board discussed that they currently have an attorney [1:01:31], but there was mention of an "RFP for attorney" on the agenda [1:01:11]. One board member explained that in the past they had two firms and expressed interest in potentially returning to that arrangement,

3.Superintendent Evaluation (Digital) Based on the school board meeting transcript; the board is discussing transitioning from their current outdated superintendent evaluation system to a modern digital platform. Board member Ms. Juanita Jordan shared information on a Superintendent evaluation tool she had learned about. Also, mention was the IASB evaluation system and the Boost platform.

J. Board of Education Action Items (2:10 & 2:20

Ms. Joyce Ratliff moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Juanita Jordan to **place Items J1, J4, J5, J7, J8, J9, J10 and J11 on Consent Agenda with and amendment that the registration is for conferences is for Board Members only.** On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried

Ms. Juanita Jordan moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Joyce Ratliff to **approve items J1, J4, J5, J7, J8, J9, J10 and J11 that were placed on Consent Agenda with an amendment that the registration is for conferences is for Board Members only.** On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried

1. Approve Personnel Recommendation- Ms. Joyce Ratliff moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Juanita Jordan to **place Items J1, J4, J5, J7, J8, J9, J10 and J11 on Consent Agenda.** On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried

Ms. Juanita Jordan moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Joyce Ratliff to approve items. **J1, J4, J5, J7, J8, J9, J10 and J11 that were placed on Consent Agenda.** On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried

2.Approve Invoices- Ms. Sharron Davis moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Joyce Ratliff to approve **Invoices**. On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried

3.Approve Payroll- Ms. Juanita Jordan moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Ratliff to Approve **Payroll Invoices**. On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker

Motioned Carried

4. Approve New Vendors Programs - Ms. Joyce Ratliff moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Juanita Jordan to **place Items J1, J4, J5, J7, J8, J9, J10 and J11 on Consent Agenda.** On roll

call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried

Ms. Juanita Jordan moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Joyce Ratliff to approve items. **J1, J4, J5, J7, J8, J9, J10 and J11 that were placed on Consent Agenda.** On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried

5. Approve SY 27 District Calendar- Ms. Joyce Ratliff moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Juanita Jordan to **place Items J1, J4, J5, J7, J8, J9, J10 and J11 on Consent Agenda.** On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried

Ms. Juanita Jordan moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Joyce Ratliff to approve items. **J1, J4, J5, J7, J8, J9, J10 and J11 that were placed on Consent Agenda.** On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried

6.Approve District Camera Project- Ms. Joyce Ratliff moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Aubry Crain to **Table District Camera Project. On** roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Carlene Matthews and Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo. Nays: Ms. Sharron Davis and Ms. Juanita Jordan. Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried

7. Approve Registration for Board President Academy- Ms. Joyce Ratliff moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Juanita Jordan to **place Items J1, J4, J5, J7, J8, J9, J10 and J11 on Consent Agenda.** On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried

Ms. Juanita Jordan moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Joyce Ratliff to approve items. **J1, J4, J5, J7, J8, J9, J10 and J11 that were placed on Consent Agenda.** On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried

8. Approve Registration for CABSE- Ms. Joyce Ratliff moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Juanita Jordan to **place Items J1, J4, J5, J7, J8, J9, J10 and J11 on Consent Agenda.** On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried

Ms. Juanita Jordan moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Joyce Ratliff to approve items. **J1, J4, J5, J7, J8, J9, J10 and J11 that were placed on Consent Agenda.** On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried

9. Approve Registration for NABSE- Ms. Joyce Ratliff moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Juanita Jordan to **place Items J1, J4, J5, J7, J8, J9, J10 and J11 on Consent Agenda.** On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried

Ms. Juanita Jordan moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Joyce Ratliff to approve items. **J1, J4, J5, J7, J8, J9, J10 and J11 that were placed on Consent Agenda.** On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried

10. Approve Registration for Joint Conference- Ms. Joyce Ratliff moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Juanita Jordan to **place Items J1, J4, J5, J7, J8, J9, J10 and J11 on Consent Agenda.** On Sylinda Musaindapo and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried

Ms. Juanita Jordan moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Joyce Ratliff to approve items. **J1, J4, J5, J7, J8, J9, J10 and J11 that were placed on Consent Agenda.** On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried

11. Approve Registration for NABSE November 20-22, 2026- Ms. Joyce Ratliff moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Juanita Jordan to **place Items J1, J4, J5, J7, J8, J9, J10 and J11 on Consent Agenda.** On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried

Ms. Juanita Jordan moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Joyce Ratliff to approve items. **J1, J4, J5, J7, J8, J9, J10 and J11 that were placed on Consent Agenda.** On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Juanita Jordan, Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo and Ms. Carlene Matthews Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried

K. **Executive Session-** Ms. Joyce Ratliff moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Aubry Crain to go **into Executive** Session. On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Carlene Matthews, Ms. Juanita Jordan and Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo, Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried 6:35pm

Ms. Juanita Jordan moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Crain to come out of **Executive** Session. On roll call voting Aye: Ms. Aubry Crain, Ms. Joyce Ratliff, Ms. Sharron Davis, Ms. Carlene Matthews Ms. Juanita Jordan and Dr. Sylinda Musaindapo, Absent: Ms. Vicki Walker.

Motioned Carried 7:35PM

L. **Board Action Items After Closed Session**

1. Approve Personnel Action: Employment Status Recommendation (No Vote)

M. **FOIA Request- No** discussion

1. FOIA Request: Amaris Winters-
2. FOIA Request: Michael F. Henry
3. FOIA Request: O'Shea Smith/Sunlight Access
4.FOIA Request: Illinois Retired Teacher's Association
5.FOIA Request: Melissa Ruebe
6.FOIA Request: Ricky Vosler
7. FOIA Request: Joshua Hale/AnthroMed Education
8. FOIA Request: Sherri Reid/Smart Procure
9. FOIA Request: Michael F. Henry
10. Tiana Cunningham

N. **Adjournment (2:200)** Meeting Adj

Motion Carried 7:36pm

Submitted by:

Ms. Carlene Matthews, President

Ms. Aubry Crain, Secretary