
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, NAPERVILLE COMMUNITY
UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 203, DUPAGE AND WILL COUNTIES, ILLINOIS, HELD AT
Washington Junior High School, 201 N. Washington Street, Naperville, IL 60540
April 20, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M., CLOSED SESSION 5:30 p.m.

Call to order

President Charles Cush called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Board members present: Charles Cush, Kristine Gericke, Holly Blastic, Marc Willensky, Joe Kozminski, and Amanda McMillen. Absent : Melissa Kelley Black.

Administrators present were:

Dan Bridges, Superintendent,
Meredith Haugens, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources,
Mark Cohen, Deputy Superintendent/High Schools,
Michael Frances, Chief Finance Officer/CSBO,
Lisa Xagas, Assistant Superintendent for Strategy and Engagement,
Katie Matthews, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Schools

Closed Session

Kristine Gericke moved, seconded by Joe Kozminski, to go into Closed Session at 5:31 p.m. for consideration of:

1. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) Discussion of minutes lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for purposes of school board approval of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by the Act. 03/16/2026, 04/06/2026.
2. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or legal counsel, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or legal counsel to determine its validity.
3. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the school board has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal or when the school board finds an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.
4. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the school board and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.
5. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9) Student Disciplinary Cases.

Those voting yes: Cush, Blastic, Gericke, Kozminski, and Willensky. Those voting no: None. The motion carried.

The Board of Education entered Closed Session at 5:33 p.m.

Meeting Opening

Joe Kozminski made a motion, seconded by Kristine Gericke, to return to Open Session at 7:01 pm. A roll call vote was taken. Those voting yes: McMillen, Gericke, Blastic, Willensky, Cush, and Kozminski. Those voting no: None. Absent: Kelley Black. The motion carried.

Welcome and Mission

Charles Cush welcomed all and read Naperville Community Unit School District 203's Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Board members present: Charles Cush, Kristine Gericke, Joe Kozminski, Amanda McMillen, Holly Blastic, and Marc Willensky. Absent: Melissa Kelley Black.

Student Ambassadors present: Khadija Rafathulla and Lux Akinde.

Administrators present: Dan Bridges, Superintendent, Allison Boutet, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, Mark Cohen, Deputy Superintendent/High Schools, Michael Frances, Chief Financial Officer/CSBO, Chuck Freundt, Assistant Superintendent for Leadership and School Services, Meredith Haugens, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Rakeda Leaks, Executive Director for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, Katie Matthews, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, Melissa McHenry, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Patrick Nolten, Assistant Superintendent for Assessment and Accountability, Jayne Willard, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and Lisa Xagas, Assistant Superintendent for Strategy and Engagement.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Led by Beebe Elementary School students.

Good News

Student Ambassador Reports

NCHS Khadija Rafathulla

- A talent show was held on March 27 to kickoff spring break, featuring performances by students, teachers, and groups like "hawk capella" and the drum show.
- Students have transitioned into AP testing following spring break, while underclassmen recently completed state testing.
- The 4.0 awards were distributed last Wednesday, and prom took place this past Saturday at the Bolingbrook Golf Club with a high turnout.
- The senior art show is scheduled for April 29 in the main lobby, where some scholarships will be awarded. Theater Central will perform the musical *Freaky Friday* from April 30 to May 2.
- Both lacrosse teams are having strong seasons, girls' soccer is currently undefeated, and the softball team won their cross-town game 10-5. Senior nights for spring sports have also commenced.
- With only 19 school days remaining until graduation, I will attend UIC, majoring in mathematics on a pre-health track.

NNHS-Lux Akinde

- The annual "Airband" competition (a senior lip-sync and dance event) was held on March 19, followed by the spring dance on March 21.
- Seniors enjoyed two days off while underclassmen participated in ACT and pre-ACT state testing.
- A surprise "Senior Celebration" featuring games and rewards was held on April 11. Prom is scheduled for May 2.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - The spring musical, *The Little Mermaid*, runs this week with evening and weekend matinee performances.
 - A "lip dub" video production, the first in four years, is taking place this Thursday.

- The Black Student Leadership Association (BSLA) will hold its annual success meeting this Sunday to celebrate black seniors.
- The Freshman Jamboree is set for Monday, April 27.
- I will be attending Sarah Lawrence College in New York for the upcoming academic year.

That's all from North! Thank you.

National Board-Certified Teachers

Superintendent Bridges invited Joanna LaPerna to help him recognize the new Board-Certified teachers as well as those who renewed their Board Certification.

Presidential Scholars

Superintendent Bridges and Principals Jackie Thornton and Jay Wachtel recognized thirteen students who have been selected as candidates for the United States Presidential Scholars Program.

NNHS Esports State Champions

Superintendent Bridges and Principal Jay Wachtel recognized the Naperville North Esports State Champion team.

Superintendent's Student Advisory Council Update

Assistant Superintendent Allison Boutet and Executive Director Dr. Rakeda Leaks introduced members of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council who gave an update of the focus of their work this year.

Board Questions/Comments:

Wow! Always impressed by our students. Thank you for all the administrators, teachers and staff for all the support and work with all of our students.

Public Comments:

President Cush gave the parameters for public comment.

Alisha Smith-Scott School until February. Unfair for having an earlier arrival time than every other elementary school in the district. Supervision was from 8:00-8:15. Administration now has all students enter the building at 7:55am. Staff has shared that we would supervise outside at 7:55 but it is unfair to have all students enter the building at 7:55am. These extra minutes add up. Scott staff does not deserve this. Shown that they care deeply about students.

President Cush reminded the Board and Community that because questions raised during Public Comment address District Operational matters board has designated our Superintendent as the spokesperson for the District. As our designate to respond to Public Comment, he will apprise the Board accordingly.

President Cush reminded the Board and Community of the board agreements. He noted that it is each Board member's responsibility to prepare for each meeting and to effectively express our concerns either to the Superintendent or the Board President in a timely manner. Board members have also agreed that avoiding surprises is paramount in displaying respect to all District Administration. The Board has tasked itself to send questions in advance of each meeting to the Superintendent to allow the provision of the best possible response for the community. It also allows for efficiency during the community's meeting. Those same questions as well as new ones may be asked in Open Session. For transparency, please note if any

questions were asked earlier. Mr. Bridges, did you receive questions from Board members? Superintendent Bridges responded that he received questions from six Board members.

Board agreed by consensus at the February 2, 2026, Board of Education meeting. Each Board member will get three minutes per agenda topic to ask questions. The Board may agree to ask a second set of questions.

Monthly Reports

- **Treasury Report-** The Board received the February Treasury Report
- **Investments-** The Board received the February Investment Report
- **Insurance-**The Board received the February Insurance Report
- **Budget-**The Board Received the February Budget Report

Action by Consent:

1. Personne Report

	Effective Date	Location	Position
APPOINTMENT-ADMINISTRATION			
Kayla Fleming	7/1/2026	Ann Reid	Principal
RETIREMENT-CERTIFIED			
Candy Smith	5/22/2026	Mill Street	2nd Grade Teacher
RESIGNATION-CERTIFIED			
Kimberly Cancio	8/9/2026	NCHS/NNHS	ASL Teacher
LEAVE OF ABSENCE-CERTIFIED			
Carolina Weiss	SY 2026/2027 40%	Maplebrook	School Psychologist - Bilingual
RETIREMENT-CLASSIFIED			
Robin Patton	5/22/2026	NCHS	Senior Secretary
RESIGNATION-CLASSIFIED			
Kalaichelvi Skandarajan	4/10/2026	Mill Street	Special Education Paraprofessional
Ryan Babic	4/13/2026	Connections	Special Education Paraprofessional
Heather Quinn	4/6/2026	Transportation	Bus Driver
Frances Dvorak	4/10/2026	Ellsworth	Senior Secretary
EMPLOYMENT-CLASSIFIED FULL-TIME			
Charles Cruce	4/7/2026	Transportation	Bus Driver
Carrie Shen	4/20/2026	NCHS	PARC Secretary
Brianna Glover	4/20/2026	Mill Street	Special Education Paraprofessional

2. Bills and Claims from WARRANT NO. 1074762 THRU WARRANT NO. 1075453 AND WARRANT NO. 9000000155 THRU 9000000156 TOTALING \$30,770,939.91 FOR THE PERIOD OF March 17, 2026, TO April 20, 2026.

Kristine Gericke reviewed Bills and Claims with Michelle Swope.

- 3. Board Meeting Minutes: 03/16/2026 and 04/06/2026**
- 4. Closed Meeting Minutes: 03/16/2026 and 04/06/2026**

Kristine Gericke made a motion to approve WARRANT NO. 1074762 THRU WARRANT NO. 1075453 AND WARRANT NO. 9000000155 THRU 9000000156 TOTALING \$30,770,9399.91 FOR THE PERIOD OF March 17, 2026, TO April 20, 2026, the Personnel Report, Board meeting minutes dated 03/16/2026 and 04/06/2026 and Closed Session Minutes dated 03/16/2026 and 04/06/2026 seconded by Amanda McMillen. Those voting yes: Kozminski, McMillen, Willensky, Gericke, Blastic, and Cush. Those voting No: None. Absent: Kelley Black. The motion carried.

5. Food Service Contract

Board Comments/Questions:

This is a renewal contract. Why are meal prices not included in this contract?

Mr. Frances stated the School Board sets meal prices. The USDA does set the reimbursement amount. There is a tool that helps us know what the prices should be. These are mutually exclusive. We anticipate having the tool when we set the prices. We anticipate this being available in the next month or so.

This means that Organic Life will be paid per their contract. The USDA tool will help us set the price.

Kristine Gericke made a motion to approve the Food Service Contract as presented, seconded by Joe Kozminski. Those voting yes: cush, McMillen, Blastic, Willensky, Kozminski, and Gericke. Those voting No: None. Absent: Kelley Black. The motion carried.

Communications

Written Communications

Freedom of Information Requests:

Smart Procure Freedom of Information Act Request-Business Office Information
Bergman Freedom of Information Act Request- Human Resources Information
Dahm Freedom of Information Act Request- Transportation Information
Alamillo Freedom of Information Act Request- Human Resources Information
Kumar Rahmen Freedom of Information Act Request-Human Resources Information
Pope Freedom of Information Act Request- Learning Services Information
LRS Freedom of Information Act Request-Business Office Information
Bergman Freedom of Information Act Request- Human Resources Information
CT Mills Freedom of Information Act Request-District Information
NBC Freedom of Information Act Request- Safety and Security Information
Arvayo Freedom of Information Act Request-Buildings and Grounds Information
Wenig Freedom of Information Act Request-Business Office Information
DuPage Policy Journal Freedom of Information Act Request- District Information

Board of Education Reports:

Board member McMillen attended the NEF Breakfast last week. Great to see the work of our students and the community who support our students. It was so great to learn that the district was a pilot district for Lego Education. Spent two days in Springfield working on the IASB Strategic Plan.

Board member Willensky filled in at the General Home and School. Talked about their budget for next year and their leadership for next year. Attended the Prairie Home and School. Crosstown Classic meet is Saturday. Loved the District Art Fair and thanked Laura Dostal for her work organizing that event.

Also noted his attendance at the NEF breakfast. They are centralizing a Kids Booster Resource Center to be held at Connections. Met with Keith Langosch, Principal, at Connections. It is amazing the work they do.

Board member Blastic attended the Riverwoods Home and School. They had a presentation by fifth graders who shared the work of their garden. Administration was there talking about assessments. Vice President Gericke also attended the NEF Breakfast. Every year is different. It gets better every year; how creative the group is in finding ways to support our students.

Board member Kozminski mentioned his attendance at the NEF Breakfast and the ways NEF finds to support our students and community.

President's Report:

President Cush noted that it makes you feel emotional about the stories and the passion. The Resource Center at Connections and how it helps students within the district as well as the Connections students is a testament to this passion.

Met with 10 other DuPage County School Board Presidents. Thanked the IASB for hosting us.

Superintendent's Report:

None.

Discussion without Action:

None.

Discussion with Action:

New Course Proposals

Superintendent Bridges reminded the Board that these were all presented and discussed at the April 6 meeting. Jayne Willard is here for any questions. Recommend approval as presented.

Board Questions/Comments:

Board member discussed the AI Course. I appreciate the thoughtfulness of this course. This class creation is giving AI the credit it does not earn. Cannot support having a class specifically on AI as well as the environmental impact.

Amanda McMillen made a motion to approve the New Course Proposals as presented, seconded by Kristine Gericke. Those voting yes: McMillen, Kozminski, Willensky, Cush, and Gericke. Those voting No: Blastic. Absent: Kelley Black. The motion carried.

Instructional Resources

Superintendent Bridges reminded the Board that these were all presented and discussed at the April 6 meeting. Jayne Willard is here for any questions. Recommend approval as presented.

Board Questions/Comments:

None.

Amanda McMillen made a motion to approve the Instructional Resources as presented, seconded by Joe Kozminski. Those voting yes: McMillen, Blastic, Willensky, Gericke, Cush, and Kozminski. Those voting No: None. Absent: Kelley Black. The motion carried.

Policy Review: Policy 7.180 Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment

Superintendent Bridges reminded the Board that these three policies were all presented and discussed at the April 6 meeting. Mark Cohen is here for any questions. Recommend approval as presented.

Board Questions/Comments:

Board member noted the wonderfully planned meetings. The Students were very thoughtful. I appreciate the facilitation.

Policy Review: Policy 7.190 Student Discipline

Policy Review: 7.240 Co-Curricular Code of Participation

Amanda McMillen made a motion to approve Policy 7.180, Policy 7.190, and Policy 7.240 as presented, seconded by Holly Blastic. Those voting yes: Gericke, Kozminski, McMillen, Willensky, Blastic, and Cush. Those voting No: None. Absent: Kelley Black. The motion carried.

Facility Rental Fees

Superintendent Bridges Noted the discussion on these at the April 6, 2026, meeting. We would call this phase 1 to the reviewing of these fees.

Board Questions/Comments:

I want to clarify that this is really about the rental fee for the turf?

Mrs. Brown responded yes.

Mr. Freundt added that this is also the personnel costs to all facilities being rented.

Amanda McMillen made a motion to the Facility Rental Fees as presented, seconded by Kristine Gericke. Those voting yes: Willensky, Gericke, Cush, McMillen, Kozminski, and Blastic. Those voting No: None. Absent: Kelley Black. The motion carried.

Old Business:

None:

New Business:

None.

Upcoming events:

May 4 next BoE meeting to be held back at the District Administration office.

May 17 Graduation

Adjournment

Joe Kozminski moved, seconded by Amanda McMillen, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm. A roll call vote was taken. Those voting yes: Blastic, Willensky, Gericke, McMillen, Kozminski, and Cush. Those voting no: None. Absent: Kelley Black. The motion carried.

Approved: May 18, 2026

Charles Cush, President, Board of
Education

Susan Patton, Secretary, Board of
Education