

School District U-46

Elgin, Illinois

March 16, 2026

The video of the March 16, 2026, meeting can be found here:

[March 16, 2026 BOE Meeting](#)

The meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 5:30 p.m. at the U-46 Welcome Center, 1019 East Chicago Street, Elgin, IL 60120.

The following Board Members answered roll call: Sue Kerr, Veronica Noland, Chanda Schwartz, Kate Thommes, and Melissa Owens. Samreen Khan joined Closed Session via Zoom at 5:34 p.m. and left the meeting at 6:52 p.m. Dawn Martin was absent.

President Owens requested a motion to move into Closed Session to discuss individual student disciplinary matters; pending, probable or imminent litigation; the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public, or legal counsel for the public body; the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the School Board; the setting of a price for the sale or lease of real property owned by the School Board; an internal audit, control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews; 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; review of Closed Session Minutes; and individual student matters.

The motion was made at 5:31 p.m. by Ms. Noland, seconded by Ms. Kerr. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

A motion was made at 6:52 p.m. by Ms. Thommes, seconded by Ms. Noland, to reconvene into open session. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

Present for the business session were Board members Sue Kerr, Veronica Noland, Chanda Schwartz, Kate Thommes, Melissa Owens, Superintendent, Dr. Suzanne Johnson, and Chief Legal Officer, Trisha Olson. Also present was Student Board member Dhanvi Dhandapani. The following were also present at the District's Welcome Center: Dr. Annette Acevedo, Michele Chapman, Robyn Cornelissen, Sheila Downs, Elizabeth Lapa, Amanda Leatherby, Jolene Linneman, Elizabeth McKinney, Deb McMullen, Mark Moore, Mireya Perez, Frankie Valenzia, Dr. Kyle VonSchnase, Jennifer Walker, Dr. Ann Williams, and Dominique Zewde.

President Owens led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was held in honor of Eliu Orozco Jr.

1. Accent on Achievement - Dr. Johnson

A. Illinois State Board of Education Those Who Excel Award Winners

As part of the Board of Education's Accent on Achievement, the Board of Education recognized the following U-46 Staff members who will be recognized at the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Those Who Excel banquet in May 2026:

Award of Excellence

Carrie Robicheaux (Eastview Middle School Teacher)

Award of Meritorious Service

Tracy Ellegood (Eastview Middle School Teacher)

Caroline Dukich Havelka (Streamwood High School Teacher)

Marc Mota, Sr. (Streamwood High School Teacher)

Award of Special Recognition

William Shogren (Dream Academy Administrator)

Graciela Bucio-Diaz (Streamwood High School Teacher)

Ian Shaw (Streamwood High School Counselor)

B. National Board Certified Teachers

As part of the Board of Education's Accent on Achievement, the Board of Education recognized School District U-46 teachers who have recently renewed their National Board Certification. This is the highest credential in the teaching profession and may be the most powerful professional development experience available to teachers.

The Board of Education recognized renewing National Board Certified Teachers Jennifer Mastalka, Highland Elementary School teacher, Laura Rivera, Streamwood High School teacher, and Holly Saxton, South Elgin High School teacher.

2. Strategic Plan Report - Dr. Johnson (Board Policy 2:20 - Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification)

A. Facility Planning Update

Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, presented to the Board of Education an update on facility planning. The presentation included construction updates for Legacy Middle School, Kimball Middle School, Kenyon Woods Middle School, Century Oaks Elementary School, and the new Elgin Elementary

School. The presentation also included community milestones at Glenbrook Elementary School, Legacy Middle School, and Larkin High School.

3. Comments from the Audience - Ms. Owens

A. Public Comments

There were no comments from the audience.

4. Other Business - Board Member and Superintendent Update, If Necessary

A. Additional Information

President Owens thanked everyone that came out for the Glenbrook groundbreaking.

Dr. Johnson thanked the Plant Operations and the Grounds teams for getting all the buildings ready to welcome students and staff back to school. She also thanked the Transportation team for getting buses ready and the Communications and Community Relations Team for getting the messaging out.

B. FOIA Requests – 10

Dr. Johnson stated that there were ten Freedom of Information Act requests, which will be available on BoardDocs and the District's website.

5. Consent Agenda - Dr. Johnson

- A. Personnel Report and Workers' Compensation Cases
- B. Minutes of Board Meetings - January 26, 2026
- C. Termination of Maria Almanza Laboy – Sec-Asst Prin-STM/IN
- D. Alignment Collaborative for Education Renewal
- E. Bid - Operations - Unite U-46 - New Elementary School Abatement Work
- F. Bid - Food and Nutrition Services - Streamwood High School Food Service Equipment
- G. Proposal - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Scholastic: Literacy Pro
- H. Proposal - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - School Book Quest Book Fairs
- I. Proposal - Plant Operations - Fox Meadow Elementary School HVAC Project #728-26 - Rooftop Units
- J. Proposal - Plant Operations - Tefft Middle School HVAC Project #532-26 - Rooftop Units
- K. Proposal - Plant Operations - Fox Meadow Elementary School HVAC Project #728-26 - Electrical Switchboards
- L. Proposal - Plant Operations - Tefft Middle School HVAC Project #532-26 - Electrical Switchboards

- M. Contract Renewal - Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department - Northern Illinois University Bilingual/ESL Teacher Cohort VIII
- N. Building Permit - 1

Motion by Ms. Kerr, seconded by Ms. Thommes, to approve the Consent Agenda items A-N as presented. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

6. Discussion/Action - Dr. Johnson

A. Itemized Bills – March 16, 2026

Robyn Cornelissen, Executive Director of Financial Services, was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education regarding the List of Bills. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the List of Bills in the amount of \$36,750,492.21.

Motion by Ms. Schwartz, seconded by Ms. Noland, to approve the List of Bills in the amount of \$36,750,492.21. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

B. Proposal - Plant Operations - Accessible Playground Playset Replacements at Century Oaks, Hilltop, and Illinois Park

Sheila Downs, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, presented the proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the proposal from Game Time c/o Cunningham Recreation in the amount of \$1,141,676.32, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Motion by Ms. Noland, seconded by Ms. Thommes, to approve the proposal from Game Time c/o Cunningham Recreation in the amount of \$1,141,676.32, and grant authorization or District administration to execute related documents. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

C. HR Resolutions

In order to follow state guidelines that allow for staff dismissal up until 45 days before the end of the school year, Mark Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, annually presents personnel categories that are eligible for possible dismissal. Depending on the budget situation and when programs and classes are determined for the next school year, some of these individuals may be rehired

providing they have proper licensure. While the Board of Education takes this action very seriously, dismissal consideration is customary at this time of year in order to follow state requirements. Each Resolution must be voted on separately. Mark Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, and Mireya Perez, Director of Human Resources, discussed additional reductions in force. The reductions in force on this agenda will address the following categories.

Teachers (Board Policy 5:200 - Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal)

- Authorizing Non-Renewal of First, Second, and Third Year Probationary Teachers (2574)

Motion by Ms. Thommes, seconded by Ms. Kerr, Authorizing Non-Renewal of First, Second, and Third Year Probationary Teachers (2574). Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

- Authorizing Notice of Dismissal to Final-Year Probationary Teachers (2575)

Motion by Ms. Kerr, seconded by Ms. Thommes, Authorizing Notice of Dismissal to Final-Year Probationary Teachers (2575). Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

- Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers (2576)

Motion by Ms. Kerr, seconded by Ms. Noland, Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers (2576). Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

- Authorizing Notice of Dismissal to Tenured Teachers without an Illinois Professional Educator License (2597)

Motion by Ms. Schwartz, seconded by Ms. Noland, Authorizing Notice of Dismissal to Tenured Teachers without an Illinois Professional Educator License (2597). Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

Administrators (Board Policy 5:200 - Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal)

- Authorizing Non-Renewal of First, Second, and Third Year Non-Tenured Administrators (2587)

Motion by Ms. Kerr, seconded by Ms. Noland, Authorizing Non-Renewal of First, Second, and Third Year Non-Tenured Administrators (2587). Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

- Authorizing Non-Renewal of Administrative Contracts and Re-Assignment of Tenured Administrators (2589)

Motion by Ms. Noland, seconded by Ms. Schwartz, Authorizing Non-Renewal of Administrative Contracts and Re-Assignment of Tenured Administrators (2589). Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

- Authorizing Non-Renewal of Administrative Contracts Honorable Dismissal of Certified Administrators (2593)

Motion by Ms. Noland, seconded by Ms. Kerr, Authorizing Non-Renewal of Administrative Contracts Honorable Dismissal of Certified Administrators (2593). Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

Classified Staff/Administrators (Board Policy 5:200 - Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal)

- Authorizing the Honorable Dismissal of Educational Support Personnel - Funded Project Personnel (2584)

Motion by Ms. Thommes, seconded by Ms. Noland, Authorizing the Honorable Dismissal of Educational Support Personnel - Funded Project Personnel (2584). Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

7. Other Business - Dr. Johnson

A. January Financial Report

Robyn Cornelissen, Executive Director of Financial Services, reviewed the Financial Report and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education.

8. Work Session - Dr. Johnson

A. Academy Honors Physical Science Curriculum and Resource Proposal

Deb McMullen, Coordinator of K-12 Science and Planetarium, and Frankie Valenzia, Secondary Science Instructional Coach, presented the Academy Honors Physical Science Curriculum and Resource Proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the Academy Honors Physical Science Curriculum and Resource Proposal in the amount of \$75,722.07, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

B. Chemistry Curriculum and Resource Proposal

Deb McMullen, Coordinator of K-12 Science and Planetarium, and Frankie Valenzia, Secondary Science Instructional Coach, presented the Chemistry Curriculum and Resource Proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the Chemistry Curriculum and Resource Proposal in the amount of \$174,299.64, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

C. Physics Curriculum and Resource Proposal

Deb McMullen, Coordinator of K-12 Science and Planetarium, and Frankie Valenzia, Secondary Science Instructional Coach, presented the Physics Curriculum and Resource Proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the Physics Curriculum and Resource Proposal in the amount of \$147,724.56, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

D. Renewal of School District U-46 High School Membership in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) 2026-2027

Dr. Annette Acevedo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, presented a request to the Board of Education to certify the renewal of membership in IHSA. IHSA Membership will not require payment of dues. The District's five high schools participate in this organization and the District will submit five signed membership copies due by June 30, 2026.

9. Work Session – Resolutions

A. Resolution Authorizing the Submittal of Serious Safety Hazard Findings to the Illinois Department of Transportation

This Resolution is required annually by the Illinois State Board of Education. The Resolution confirms that District Administration and the Transportation Routing Team have completed a comprehensive review of all newly established attendance boundaries for the 2026-2027 school year. These locations will be submitted to the Illinois Department of Transportation once approved by the Board of Education, and students who reside within the designated areas during the 2026-2027 school year will be provided free transportation services. The District will request reimbursement from the state for transportation services provided. Elizabeth Lapa, Assistant Director of Transportation, presented the Resolution and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended the Board of Education adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Submittal of Serious Safety Hazard Findings to the Illinois Department of Transportation.

B. Resolution Authorizing Individuals to Act on Behalf of Plan [403(b)]

Dr. Kyle VonSchnase, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Robyn Cornelissen, Executive Director of Financial Services, reviewed the Resolution Authorizing Individuals to Act on Behalf of Plan. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the Resolution.

C. Resolution Authorizing Individuals to Act on Behalf of Plan [457(b)]

Dr. Kyle VonSchnase, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Robyn Cornelissen, Executive Director of Financial Services, reviewed the Resolution Authorizing Individuals to Act on Behalf of Plan. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the Resolution.

10. Work Session - Bids/Proposals (Board Policy 4:60 - Purchases and Contracts)

A. Bid - Plant Operations - South Elgin High School Exterior Door Replacement and Secure Vestibule, Project #283-26

Sheila Downs, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, and Jolene Linneman, Capital Project Coordinator, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended award to the lowest responsible bidder, Northwest Contractors, Inc., in the amount of \$1,883,576.00, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2025-2026 through 2027-2028 fiscal years.

B. Proposal - Post-Secondary - AVID Regional Training

Michele Chapman, Director of Post-Secondary Success, and Elizabeth McKinney, Coordinator of Instructional Programs and Student Supports, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of

Education. Administration recommended approval of the proposal from AVID not to exceed \$90,000.00, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

11. Work Session - Contracts Over \$35,000.00 (Board Policy 4:60 - Purchases and Contracts)

A. Contract Renewal - Post-Secondary Success – Edmentum

Michele Chapman, Director of Post-Secondary Success, and Elizabeth McKinney, Coordinator of Instructional Programs and Student Supports, presented the proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract renewal with Edmentum in the amount of \$712,500.00, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2025-2026 through 2028-2029 fiscal years

B. Contract - Post-Secondary Success – SchoolLinks

Michele Chapman, Director of Post-Secondary Success, and Dominique Zewde, Lead Counselor, presented the proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract renewal with SchoolLinks in the amount of \$669,469.75, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2026-2027 through 2030-2031 fiscal years.

C. Contract - Specialized Student Services - Ukeru Training and Materials

Amanda Leatherby, Director of Specialized Student Services, and Jennifer Walker, Special Education Administrator, presented the proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract with Grafton School, Inc., dba Grafton Integrated Health Network in the amount of \$197,470.00, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

12. Work Session - Change Orders (Board Policy 4:60 - Purchases and Contracts)

A. Change Order - Plant Operations - South Elgin High School Pool Mechanical Upgrades

Sheila Downs, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, and Jolene Linneman, Capital Projects Coordinator, presented the change order and were available to

respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the change order from MG Mechanical Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$60,307.00. This expenditure will be charged to the Operations and Maintenance Fund.

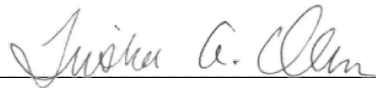
13. Adjournment - Ms. Owens

Motion by Ms. Noland, seconded by Ms. Thommes, to adjourn the Board meeting of March 16, 2026, at 8:22 p.m. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

Approved this 1st day of June, 2026.



President



Secretary