

# BOARD BRIEFS

INFORMATION FROM THE MAY 19, 2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

## HILLCREST STUDENTS ADVOCATE FOR INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND

At the May 19th Board of Education meeting, Hillcrest Elementary School 4th grade students from Mrs. Reagle’s class presented their “Inclusive Play-For-All & ADA Research” inquiry project.

Students researched inclusive playgrounds, accessibility needs, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). They then applied their learning to develop recommendations for improving playground accessibility and inclusion at Hillcrest.

During their presentation, students

shared thoughtful ideas such as replacing wood chips with rubber surfacing, adding ramps and accessible pathways, incorporating inclusive swings and merry-go-rounds, and creating sensory-friendly spaces so all students can safely and meaningfully participate in playground activities.

Students also shared letters, visual diagrams, and project work developed throughout the inquiry process. Their presentation highlighted authentic, project-based learning in action as students used research, collaboration,



critical thinking, and empathy to address a real-world issue impacting their school community.

## OTHER NEWS

### ELC CONSTRUCTION DELIVERY

The board approved the use of a pre-qualified general contractor construction delivery method for the new Early Learning Center facility project.

### HILLCREST PLAYGROUND RENOVATION

Approval of the Hillcrest playground site renovation contract in the amount of \$609,618.52 was awarded to Team Reil Inc. upon board approval.

### PLAYGROUND SHADE STRUCTURES

The board approved the installation of playground shade structures at W.C. Petty, Oakland, and Hillcrest in the amount of \$39,949.90.

### CORE SWITCH REPLACEMENT

Purchase of technology equipment and installation of a core network switch was approved by the board at a cost not to exceed \$43,892.29, with 50% covered by e-rate USAC.

### CYN COUNSELING CONTRACT

Approval was given for the CYN Counseling Contract agreement for student mental health therapy services at a cost of \$47,250.

### VIRTUAL SCHOOL PSYCH SERVICES

The contract with Presence for virtual school psychologist services for FY27 was approved by the board for an amount not to exceed \$53,600.

### HOPEALIGHT CONTRACT

Board approval was given for the HopeAlight consultation contract in the amount of \$4,550.

### D117 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Approval of the intergovernmental agreement with D117 for fingerprinting services was granted by the board.

### SRO AGREEMENT

The board approved the revision of the intergovernmental agreement between the district and Village of Antioch.

### FLAG FOOTBALL CLINIC

The agreement between D34 and the Chicago Bears for the May 26<sup>th</sup> flag football clinic received board approval.

## OTHER NEWS

### FY26 PROPOSED AMENDED BUDGET

The proposed amended budget was approved for display at district office and a notice for the amended budget hearing on June 16<sup>th</sup> will appear in a local newspaper.

### COUNTY FACILITY TAX

The Board approved the resolution directing the Regional Superintendent of Schools for Lake County to certify the question of imposing a county school facility tax for placement on the November 3, 2026 ballot.

### E-LEARNING DAY PLAN

The Board approved the 26/27 eLearning Plan, which will be submitted to the Lake County Regional Office of Education for approval.

### 2027 WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP

Board approval was granted for 2027 8th grade Washington, D.C. Trip, which is scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.

### SRO PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

The Board approved the filming of a school resource officer promotional video by the Antioch Police Department.

### STAFFING PLAN UPDATE

The addition of a paraprofessional position at Hillcrest for the 26/27 school year was approved by the Board.

### TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT SUMMER HELP

The Board approved up to 250 hours of additional summer help for the Technology Department at a rate of \$15 per hour, for a total amount not to exceed \$3,750.

### DONATIONS

The district is in receipt of the following donations:

- Abbott donated \$64 to the AUGS activity account.
- The Chicago Bears donated \$2,500 to the AUGS athletic account.
- Becky Mosher donated hygiene kits for students experiencing homelessness.

## BOARD RECOGNITION

### COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

Arda Haroian-Bowles was recognized at the May board meeting for her continual help and support of the D34 orchestra program. Ms. Bowles is a regular presence during morning rehearsals and concerts, in addition to serving as a D34 Band & Orchestra Booster, and substitute at Oakland.

## BOARD RECOGNITION

### D34 EMPLOYEE REFERRALS

The following D34 employees were recognized by the Board and received a staff referral bonus for helping to recruit and refer new staff to D34:

- Kristina Baylen
- Julie Grande
- Amy Guanci
- Jen Kalmus
- Kara Leitza
- Jessica Malcolm
- Amy Pienizkiewicz-Grude
- Laura O'Dowd
- Julie Schwabe
- Melissa Stetkus
- Anne Wagner
- Colleen Wolter

### OAKLAND YEARBOOK CLUB

The Board recognized Oakland Elementary School's Yearbook Club for their hard work, creativity, and dedication to capturing the memories and moments that made this school year special.

- Talie Abdel-Jaber
- Hazel Barker
- Lucy Becker
- Elaine Bentil
- Kamila Carrol-Garcia
- Alexa Chagoya
- Jacob Chapman
- Ben Chessin
- Aurora Cygan
- Logan Di Meo
- Finnegan Dowling
- Lilly Foley
- Dane Gaidar
- Matthew Guzek
- Logan Hanahan
- Carlton Hansen
- Kennedy Hughes
- Fiona Lebavitz
- Lyla Linderman
- Maddie McKenzie
- Emma Nestorios
- Brynn Pflieger
- Adalynn Ridley
- Henry Sanchez-Painter
- Lea Smaciarz
- Avery Sutton
- Gemma Waszczyk
- Zawaddi Wetu
- Luke Wiedrich



Oakland Yearbook Club members were recognized alongside Oakland Principal Lindsay Burns, yearbook sponsor Kris Campbell, and D34 Superintendent Aron Borowiak.

## BOARD RECOGNITION

### HILLCREST STUDENT VOICE REPRESENTATIVES

Through participation in Building Instructional Leadership Team meetings and student voice groups, the following students shared ideas about school strengths, areas for growth, positive behavior, playground experiences, and ways to celebrate as a school.

- Tobi Amann
- Chaesen Austin
- Xzavier Beutlich
- Kaine Curtis
- Zoey Gruber
- Aliya Ilagan
- Stevie Jeffery
- Henry Leeper
- Alan Lukowski
- Callum Martin
- Everleigh Martinez
- Owen Menna
- Rylan Mihalka
- Queen Minoue
- Cavan Mogle
- Leia Pomianek
- Paris Robinson
- Adilynn Rodriguez
- Amira Sbai El Idrissi
- Hazel Schawel
- Helen Shue
- Liam Wood-Chandler
- Kayleigh Yurkonis



Hillcrest Student Voice Representatives were recognized alongside Hillcrest Principal Debbie Johnson and D34 Superintendent Aron Borowiak.

### HILLCREST STUDENT COUNCIL

The Board recognized Hillcrest Elementary School's Battle of the Books championship team and runner-up team for their outstanding effort, teamwork, and love of reading.

- Ellianna Becker
- Braxton Clark
- Emmanuel Colletti
- Kysa Esser
- Brooklyn Farrow
- Leo Fuentes
- Bella Heideman
- Stevie Jeffery
- Avery Mallery
- Callum Martin
- Lyndlee Martin
- Ryan Mihalka
- Laynee Mihovilovich
- Sadie Sliwinski
- Erikson Sullivan
- Harley Travis
- Arthur Waller
- Kayleigh Yurkonis

### HILLCREST BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

The Board recognized Hillcrest Elementary School's Battle of the Books championship team and runner-up team for their outstanding effort, teamwork, and love of reading.

- Elliott Adams
- Joey Beelow
- Abigail Bivol
- Georgia Cornwell
- Felicity Deichsel
- Zoey Gruber
- Stevie Jeffery
- Danica Larson
- Genevieve Leicht
- Sofia Marquez
- Rylan Mihalka
- Amira Sbai El Idrissi

### HILLCREST YEARBOOK CLUB

The Board celebrated Hillcrest Elementary School's Yearbook Club for helping tell the story of the school year through photos, layouts, captions, and student voice. Their work highlighted the people, events, and everyday moments that make Hillcrest such a special place to learn and grow.

- Rylan Amideo
- Rose Avila
- Georgia Cornwell
- Stevie Jeffery
- Bruce Kitzerow
- Danica Larson
- Josephine Marlier
- Callum Martin
- Everleigh Martinez
- Isabela Portes Ferreira
- Callen Ruth
- Harley Travis

## MEETING INFORMATION

### JUNE BOARD MEETING

The next Regular Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM on June 16, 2026 at the D34 Administrative Service Center.

### BOARD MEETING RESOURCES

The Board of Education meeting schedule, meeting agendas, minutes, and board meeting livestream are all accessible on the Antioch CCSD 34 website.