
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
May 18, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M., CLOSED SESSION 5:30 p.m.

Call to order

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

Administrators present were:

Dan Bridges, Superintendent,
Meredith Haugens, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources,
Michael Frances, Chief Finance Officer/CSBO,
Chuck Freundt, Assistant Superintendent for Leadership and School Services
Lisa Xagas, Assistant Superintendent for Strategy and Engagement,

Closed Session

Amanda McMillen moved, seconded by Marc Willensky, to go into Closed Session at 5:30 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. 04/20/2026, 05/04/2026.
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)(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.
4. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8) Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property.

Those voting yes: Blastic, Gericke, Kelley Black, McMillen, and Willensky. Those voting no: None. Absent: Cush. The motion carried.

The Board of Education entered Closed Session at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Opening

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

Welcome and Mission

Kristine Gericke welcomed all and read Naperville Community Unit School District 203's Mission Statement.

Roll Call

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

Student Ambassadors present: Breyland Partee and Shriya Kunnanath.

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 Maplebrook Elementary School students.

Good News

The 2026 Associations for Black Student Leaders Celebrate. Educate. Empower! with SUCCESS Scholarship Banquet was held on SUNDAY, April 26th at Naperville North High School.

Tyrin Tyler and Re-Shaiyah Matthews from Naperville Central and Jael Badie and Brooke Welch from Naperville North received \$1000 scholarships each to support their post-secondary endeavors.

Speakers and special guests included Dr. Geneace Williams, Councilman Benny White, Mrs. Kimberly White, Mrs. Danielle Brown, Mrs. Jepharya Badie, and Dr. Rakeda Leaks.

On May 6, 2026, Naperville 203 hosted its annual Future Teacher Signing Day at the Naperville Municipal Center. The event served as a formal recognition of graduating seniors who have committed to careers in education. 34 seniors committed to a wide array of institutions, from local partners like North Central College and C-O-D to major universities like U of I, Mizzou, and Kentucky. Additionally, 32 students earned a career pathway diploma endorsement. The event reinforced the "Homegrown" educator pipeline, celebrating students who intend to return to the community as professional educators. Congratulations to all the students! And a huge thank you to the Cooperating Teachers who helped guide these students!

On May 2nd, Naperville 203 staff were honored at the DuPage County Regional Office of Education's 2nd Annual Educators of the Year. We're incredibly proud to celebrate the finalists and winners who represent our schools with such passion and dedication!

Congratulations to:

- Todd Holmberg - High School Educator of the Year Winner
- Kerry Gustafson - Educational Support Person of the Year Winner
- Erika McCann - Middle School Educator of the Year Finalist
- Meredith Haugens - Administrator of the Year Finalist

To be recognized at the county level is a huge honor; these educators prove that excellence lives in our classrooms every single day.

Naperville North High School has been recognized as a 2026 School Honoree in the *Inspire the Future: FIRST Recognition Program*. This prestigious worldwide honor celebrates learning institutions that go

above and beyond in providing "STEM For Everyone" and empowering students to reach their full potential through robotics and technology. Naperville North is home to Team 3061, Huskie Robotics, a highly successful FIRST Robotics Competition team. The school was selected for this global cohort due to its commitment to fostering an inclusive, student-led environment and its impact on the local community. In the 2026 season alone, the team demonstrated its leadership in the field by winning the Regional FIRST Impact Award at the Midwest Regional, the highest honor in FIRST, recognizing the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the mission of FIRST. This recognition places Naperville North among an elite group of international schools dedicated to preparing the next generation for a STEM-driven future.

Last week, Kennedy Junior High welcomed families and guests aboard *The Ocean Odyssey*, a culminating celebration inspired by the novel *The Lost Whale*. Through a student-led guided tour experience, students showcased their learning, creativity, and reflections on themes of courage, hope, resilience, and the impact humans have on the natural world. The event highlighted authentic, student-centered learning as students confidently shared their work and brought the story to life in meaningful ways. Congratulations to the students and staff who made this memorable experience possible.

Naperville North High School's Automotive and Business students recently swapped the classroom for the showroom during a collaborative field trip to the Lexus Central Area Office and Training Center. Led by Mr. Lentino and Mr. Hostrawser, students spent the day engaging with a high-level panel of Lexus professionals, including: Corporate and Area Service Managers, Technical Trainers and Diagnostic Specialists. Through specialized breakout sessions, students explored the intersection of technology and commerce. Highlights included deep dives into hybrid systems, business management pathways, and an up-close look at Lexus's latest high-performance vehicles.

Naperville 203 recently hosted its annual BilingüePalooza, a vibrant celebration of the District's Dual Language Program. The event brought together more than 600 students, families, and staff to honor the power of bilingualism, biliteracy, and multiculturalism.

The evening featured:

- Student Showcases with Interactive projects and performances where students demonstrated their English and Spanish fluency.
- Opportunities for families to engage with the Dual Language community and celebrate their shared cultural pride.
- ANDA tribute to the dedicated educators who drive high academic achievement and language development for our multilingual learners.

The event reflects District 203's mission to foster inclusive environments that prepare students to thrive in a global, multicultural world.

Innovation was on full display at the 2026 INCubatoredu Pitch Night!

Students from Naperville Central and Naperville North showcased months of hard work, creativity, collaboration, and innovation as they pitched their business ideas to judges and the community. Through this authentic entrepreneurship experience, students journeyed through the entrepreneurial process while learning foundational business skills in marketing, finance, communication, and problem-solving.

Out of six impressive finalists—including **Run Radar** and wild cards **Flip Clip** and **Planet Promise**—three teams took home the top prizes: **KALM** in third, **Looped** in second, and this year's grand champion, **Plant Pal**!

Special thanks to our mentors and sponsors—NEF, Molex, and Calamos—for investing in the next generation of entrepreneurs. The future of business starts right here in Naperville!

Mayor Scott Wehrli presented a proclamation honoring Mr. Seth Brady for being named the 2026 Illinois Teacher of the Year by the Illinois State Board of Education and for the lasting impact he continues to make on students, colleagues, and our community. We are proud to celebrate this well-deserved recognition and grateful to have educators like Mr. Brady representing Naperville 203.

Student Ambassador Reports

NCHS Shriya Kunnanath

Lots of good stuff this spring:

- Badminton won the sectional and all team members advanced to state.
- Boys Gymnastics qualified four athletes for the state final.
- Girls Soccer DVC champions
- Softball DVC champions
- Girls Track & Field DVC champions
- Boys Track & Field DVC Champions
- We were excited to host the IHSA badminton sectional, and in the next two weeks we will be hosting regional baseball, regional softball, regional soccer, and sectional soccer.
- Seniors graduated and we hosted lots of events like senior sunset, commemorative, cookout, senior beach party, spirit week, and graduation
- Students also took their AP tests and are finishing up finals right now
- We also celebrated teacher appreciation week earlier this month and many students left appreciation notes to their favorite staff members
- The personal finance team competed at state and won the state title for the second year in a row
- Senior awards were also held and many scholarship and endorsement recipients were recognized
- Social studies teacher, Seth Brady, was announced as the 2026 Illinois Teacher of the Year during a surprise ceremony in the learning commons
- New rowdies for next year were announced
- The software engineering class also had their presentation night last Tuesday and presented their apps, all of which will be actively used next year, the first time this has ever been possible
- Yearbooks were also handed out
- One-acts took place this month and many students participated
- Summer camps for many sports are also opening up
- Student of the years for each academic department were recognized and awarded
- Mr. Holmberg is raising money for primate research and conservation and is selling artifacts to raise money for that.

Next year I will be studying computer science and astronomy at UIUC

Wanted to thank you for giving me this amazing opportunity to be a board ambassador for the district and I truly cherished my role

NNHS- Breyland Partee

- Celebrated the success of the spring musical, *The Little Mermaid*, and a vocal pop concert that highlighted the talents of choir and music students.
- Detailed several celebratory milestones for the graduating class, including a Centennial Beach party, an awards assembly, a senior brunch, and the final commencement ceremony.

- Noted various school events such as the Freshman Jamboree to build school spirit, the school prom held on May 2nd, and the annual blood drive on May 9th.
- Highlighted the release of the 2026 "Slipped Up," which showcased student energy and personality.
- Recognized student participation in the Incubator final pitch night, where they presented business ideas and demonstrated problem-solving and leadership skills.
- Reported strong results in sports, including back-to-back conference championships for baseball, a second-place state finish for boys gymnastics, a fourth-place state finish for badminton, and sectional wins for both boys' and girls' water polo.

Public Comments:

None.

Vice President Gerticke reminded the Board and Community of the board agreements. She 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 March Treasury Report
We have listed the capital projects. What projects have been funded this year. What has been spent so far?

Mr. Frances responded that we have put together this information and included it in the budget questions and have created some infographics.

We got some global information.

Mrs. Xagas noted that the responses to the budget questions and the infographics are in BoardDocs under Budget.

- **Investments-** The Board received the March Investment Report
- **Insurance-** The Board received the March Insurance Report

The insurance adjustment-how much and is it included in the amended budget?

Mr. Frances noted that disbursements have exceeded receipts. When the end of the year and the auditors look at our self-funded insurance, based on the large variance, we are expecting a large auditor adjustment. We did not amend the budget as it was set higher than expected. We can cover about half of the overages. It will depend on the next couple of months.

How much have we transferred?

Mr. Frances responded we have not transferred any money, we have sold some investments, long term, to make way for more liquidity. There was no infusion of any money into the insurance fund.

What is the final cost of the clinic and have we made savings?

Superintendent Bridges stated we can provide an update to the board on the clinic.

Are we still in the first year?

Mr. Frances remarked that we opened in August. The insurance committee looks at it on a regular basis.

- **Budget-**The Board Received the March Budget Report

There is a big jump in federal revenue.

Mr. Frances noted that the Federal revenue does not come in the same every year. Sometimes we get disbursement and sometimes we don't. It is a matter of timing.

Last year we had a spending deficit of e\$5.8 million, this year we have a \$24 million deficit. What is driving it?

Mr. Frances stated one is the actual and the other is the current FY26 budget. The answer is found in the budget questions.

Are we about 20% ahead of spending on the budget?

Mr. Frances remarked most likely.

What is "other" objects?

Mr. Frances responded that the majority is for placement of special education students.

Superintendent Bridges added that part of the rising cost are because of rising MCATS.

The amount of private placement has increased, what is driving that?

Mrs. McHenry responded that since COVID, we have seen a change in behavior and we cannot meet all these needs.

Why aren't we trying to attend to the needs of these students in our own schools?

Mrs. McHenry stated we can come back to you with that information and the work we are doing in our strategic blueprint. For some students a private placement is the Least Restrictive Environment.

Mrs. Xagas added that in the budget questions, there is an answer to this questions.

Revenue has increased. 94%, has that come from our property taxes?

Mr. Frances stated that 94% of our revenue does not come from property taxes.

That is what is noted under YTD Revenue source

Mr. Frances stated the number is at 94% because we have received most disbursements.

Why is support services the second largest expenditure?

Mr. Frances outlined what all this covers.

Action by Consent:

1. Bills and Claims from WARRANT NO. 1075454 THRU WARRANT NO. 1075886 AND WARRANT NO. 900000015 TOTALING \$26,695,800.56 FOR THE PERIOD OF April 21, 2026 to May 18, 2026.

Marc Willensky reviewed Bills and Claims with Michelle Swope. Appreciated the conversation with Tracey Angel.

Marc Willensky made a motion to approve WARRANT NO. 1075454 THRU WARRANT NO. 1075886 AND WARRANT NO. 900000015 TOTALING \$26,695,800.56 FOR THE PERIOD OF April 21, 2026, to May 18, 2026, and items, 7.02, 7.03, 7.04, and 7.05 seconded by Amanda McMillen. Those voting yes: Willensky, Gericke, McMillen, Kozminski, and Blastic. Those voting No: Kelley Black. Absent: Cush. The motion carried.

Board member asked to remove items 7.02, 7.03, 7.04, and 7.05 for discussion.

Joe Kozminski made a motion to amend the original motion to remove items 7.02, 7.03, 7.04, and 7.05, seconded by Amanda McMillen. Those voting yes: Willensky, McMillen, Blastic, Kozminski, Gericke, and Kelley Black. Those voting no: None. Absent: Cush.

Marc Willensky made a motion to approve WARRANT NO. 1075454 THRU WARRANT NO. 1075886 AND WARRANT NO. 900000015 TOTALING \$26,695,800.56 FOR THE PERIOD OF April 21, 2026, to May 18, 2026, seconded by Amanda McMillen. Those voting yes: Willensky, Gericke, McMillen, Kozminski, and Blastic. Those voting No: Kelley Black. Absent: Cush. The motion carried.

2. Personnel Report

	Effective Date	Location	Position
REASSIGNMENT-ADMINISTRATION			
Jacquelyn Peters	7/1/2026	Maplebrook	Principal
APPOINTMENT-ADMINISTRATION			
Audrey Phelan	7/27/2026	Ann Reid	Assistant Principal
RESIGNATION-CERTIFIED			
David Pittman	8/9/2026	Naper	3rd Grade Teacher
Juliana Lobraco	8/9/2026	NCHS	Math Teacher
Christina Hansen	8/9/2026	Kingsley	1st Grade Teacher
Anna Ma	8/9/2026	NCHS	School Counselor
Daisy Aguilar	7/1/2026	ARECC	Occupational Therapist
Kelsey Myers	8/9/2026	NNHS	Learning Behavior Specialist
APPOINTMENT-CERTIFIED FULL-TIME			
Allison Kaufman	8/10/2026	Scott/ Elmwood	School Psychologist
Hope Brainard	8/10/2026	JJHS/WJHS/Mi II/ Prairie	Occupational Therapist
Ali Hoffman	8/10/2026	Maplebrook	Occupational Therapist
Joy Jeronimus	8/10/2026	Naper/ ARECC	School Psychologist
Amelia Russell	8/10/2026	Kingsley	School Social Worker
RE-EMPLOYMENT-CERTIFIED FULL-TIME			
Monica Neill	8/10/2026	Beebe	4th Grade DL - Spanish
Hannah Arzadon	8/10/2026	Prairie	Occupational Therapist
Kaitlin Kearney	8/10/2026	Scott	Speech Language Pathologist
Rachael Rizek	08/10/2026-12/18/2026	Ellsworth	Learning Behavior Specialist
RE-EMPLOYMENT-CERTIFIED PART-TIME			
Shenna Maison	8/10/2026	Ellsworth	School Social Worker

Lisa Wood	8/10/2026	PSAC	Physical Therapist
LEAVE OF ABSENCE-CERTIFIED			
Taylor Hey	SY 2026/2027	Scott	Gifted
RETIREMENT-CLASSIFIED			
Patricia Klecka	5/25/2026	Jefferson	Clerical Assistant
RESIGNATION-CLASSIFIED			
Roberta Bree	5/23/2026	Ellsworth	Instructional Paraprofessional
Shannon Schnackel	8/10/2026	Kennedy	Health Technician
Tracy Amoroso	8/11/2026	Ann Reid	Special Education Paraprofessional
REASSIGNMENT-NON-UNION CLASSIFIED			
Megan MacConnachie	5/26/2026	PSAC	Executive Administrative Asst and Reporting
EMPLOYMENT-CLASSIFIED FULL-TIME			
Sarah Baker	8/5/2026	Ellsworth	Health Technician
Brian Kappelman	5/13/2026	Transportation	Bus Driver

Marc Willensky made a motion to approve the Personnel Report, seconded by Amanda McMillen. Those voting yes: Blastic, Kelley Black, Willensky, Gericke, McMillen, and Kozminski. Those voting No: None. Absent: Cush. The motion carried.

- 3. Board Meeting Minutes: 04/20/2026 and 05/04/2026**
- 4. Closed Meeting Minutes: 04/20/2026 and 05/04/2026**

Marc Willensky made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes and the Closed Meeting Minutes from 04/20/2026 and 05/04/2026, seconded by Amanda McMillen. Those voting yes: Blastic, Willensky, Kozminski, McMillen, and Gericke, McMillen. Those voting No: None. Abstain: Kelley Black. Absent: Cush. The motion carried.

5. Music Bid

How does this work? Do students buy or rent their instruments?

Mrs. Willard noted it is a combination. Some students rent, some purchase and some instruments the district purchases as some students play more than one.

These would be instruments would serve all those purposes?

Mrs. Willard responded yes. Our FRL students have instruments provided.

Do we cycle through instruments?

Mrs. Willard stated yes, we cycle them and send them for repair. You see this annually.

I remember the list was much longer.

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

Policy Consent Agenda

PRESS 121 Policies-Consent

Superintendent Bridges noted the Administration looking for approval on these policies that have no language changes.

Are these all the policies as I see it listed also under discussion with action?

Superintendent Bridges responded no, these are policies that have only footnote or legal reference changes.

Since I couldn't see these can I see if these are ones, I have questions on?

Superintendent Bridges stated these have been on the agenda for several meetings.

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

Communications

Written Communications

Freedom of Information Requests:

Will County Taxpayer Freedom of Information Act Request-Human Resources Information

Henry Freedom of Information Act Request- Business Office Information

Yao Freedom of Information Act Request- Human Resources Information

Data Branch Freedom of Information Act Request- Business Office Information

DuPage Policy Journal Freedom of Information Act Request-DEIB Information

Quesada Freedom of Information Act Request- Business Office Information

Collins Freedom of Information Act Request-Transportation Information

Figuroa Freedom of Information Act Request- Buildings and Grounds Information

Data Branch Freedom of Information Act Request- Business Office Information

Sunlight Freedom of Information Act Request- Business Office Information

Teen Parent Connection Freedom of Information Act Request-Enrollment Information

Legal agreements. Seems odd that we don't have any fee schedules, contracts, or engagement agreements.

Pickup time for transportation? We don't track that?

Can you submit those questions?

Board of Education Reports:

Board Member Blastic attended SCAC for the third time. Had great discussion about the communication survey. This is a thoughtful engaged group. Administration was fast to respond to the feedback so please fill it out.

Board Member McMillen attended the WIC group before the Incubator event. Met the business partners. Beneficial for the leaders in the community as well as the students. Awesome experience.

Board Member Willensky noted that Home and Schools had their last meetings. Thanked all the leaders and the parents for their hard work to make our schools the best they can be. Attended the pitch night. Well attended. Great to see the knowledge of our students. Attended the proclamation for Seth Brady. Used it as an opportunity to have his students ask questions of the Mayor and his colleagues. Software engineering night. Commencement.

Board Member Kelley Black reported on attending Rotary and the awarding of Rotary Scholarships. Gave about \$24,000 in scholarships. Commencement, my favorite task as a Board member.

Vice President Gericke thanked all the adopt a schools for all the visits. They were all very welcoming. Appreciate they take time out of their day. Committee assignments are wrapping up. Thanked Dr. Leaks on the Diversity Committee and their work.

President's Report:

None.

Superintendent's Report:

Introduced the team presenting the WIC update. An area where we continue to grow.

Workforce Innovation/Community Partnership Update

The Workforce Innovation Council is a collaborative partnership between District 203, business leaders, higher education, and the community designed to ensure students are prepared for college, career, and life. This initiative directly supports the district's strategic commitment to engage in business partnerships that provide students with meaningful work-based learning experiences, such as internships, mentorships, and job shadowing. The council consists of 17 non-staff members representing a diverse cross-section of industries, including healthcare, finance, trades, and marketing. These partners provide critical feedback on curriculum, share industry trends, and serve as ambassadors to strengthen connections between schools and the broader community.

Currently, the district offers 13 career pathway endorsement options, including a new pathway in global and domestic policy, with plans to apply for additional endorsements in engineering and welding by 2027. There has been significant momentum in the number of students earning these endorsements, particularly in the fields of education, entrepreneurship, and IT software. The program's reach is extensive, with 97% of students in grades 6 through 12 having completed career interest surveys and seniors on track to earn more than 1,400 industry credentials. The success of these pathways is further bolstered by dedicated internship coordinators at both high schools who manage over 45 business partnerships and facilitate 60-hour micro-internships for students.

Looking forward to the 2026-2027 school year, the council plans to implement several new initiatives, including a student-hosted panel where high schoolers can engage directly with industry leaders to understand future workforce needs. The district also intends to resume industry site visits for students and staff and is actively seeking new partnerships in the agriculture and hospitality sectors to expand experiential learning opportunities. These efforts reflect a reciprocal relationship where both students and community partners benefit from shared dialogue and a collective investment in the next generation's professional success.

Board Comments/Questions":

Thank you for your hard work. Happy to see you are doing more of the field trips.

Thank you to the community. How do we select the members?

Mrs. Clermont stated most are coming from word of mouth.

Anyone interested can call Jacque Clermont.

Are there other partnerships not listed? I would like to thank them.

Mrs. Szczepanski noted yes, we have about 45 other partnerships.

Mrs. Clermont added that our partnerships are not only these people. We thank them after all events.

Where do we stand with internships?

Mrs. Szczepanski responded we are always seeking more partnerships. Need partnerships in Healthcare and Accounting and Finance. We are working with Board Member Willensky on some ideas as well.

Mrs. Clermont stated that internships are 60 hours.

There has been great growth in some areas. How do we evaluate the pathways?

Mrs. Szczepanski responded we evaluate the enrollments in each pathway. If there is a drop, we would move from that area and go to another one. It takes time to create the pathways.

Mrs. Willard added we don't offer welding or cosmetology onsite. They are taught at TCD. The classes are smaller.

Do we ever evaluate if they are not a good fit? Is there a minimum enrollment?

Mrs. Willard remarked that in district we follow Board policy of 15 students. We now have about 75 students in TCD.

I appreciate all the work on this. This was one of my first committees. The growth has been incredible. The experiences these students get are impressive. There are so many benefits to these programs. Partnerships in health sciences, do the number of internships govern who gets the endorsement?

Mrs. Szczepanski stated a majority of internship students are all pathway students.

So, the internship, that is kind of the capstone so those who don't get an internship don't miss out.

Mrs. Szczepanski stated we have not had the issue of not placing students in internships.

Mrs. Willard added the internship coordinators do a lot to grow the internships. Huge thank you to the Board of Education for the approval of the two internship coordinators.

This is one of my committees this year. It has been fun to watch this evolve over the years. Nice to learn what students are looking for as well as what employers are looking for. A lot of the partners are not parents, so the community involvement is wonderful. This is a great opportunity for our students. I appreciate the work that goes into this.

Mr. Langes noted seeing the progression we offer in the District is amazing. Proud to see the full scope that we provide in the District.

Discussion without Action:

Vice President Gericke gave the parameters.

2026-2027 Budget Workshop

Superintendent Bridges reminded the Board and community that on May 4, the Board received the tentative budget. It is on public display. This is the second workshop. There is another workshop on June 1. The public hearing will be held on June 15, 2026. He noted the attachments included on the agenda. We do this process due to the size of the budget. The questions are posted for the community as well. There are infographics on the use of Fund 60. Questions received after May 14 will be included next meeting.

Board Questions/Comments:

Can you open the Fund 60 infographics? These are amazing and spell out all the details on each of these projects. These summarize the core of each of these projects.

I also appreciate the Fund 60 slides. Asked a number of questions today and will wait for the responses next time. I appreciate the budget questions document as it answered a lot of my questions.

Superintendent Bridges reminded the Board and Community that on the website under Budget reductions there is a tab with all this information.

We did have an increase in interest increase as did the state? Is there any hope on an increase of funding?

Mr. Frances stated we don't know exactly what we will get. ISBE submits a budget that is not the same as the state budget. The governor is suggesting a slight increase in MCATS. The increase will not keep up with all the claims.

Love the infographics. Appreciate the removal of the mobile units as well as the accessibility. Hope we share these with the community.

I see on our budget that our revenues are going up but our expenditure is going up. Parents want the expenditure spent on improving student learning. We did have some reduction in positions, and some moved around. Where do we stand with support staff and classroom teachers. Is there any type of analysis to see how staff changes will impact our students' learning?

Superintendent Bridges stated we staff teachers in positions they are qualified to teach. We are following the direction of the Board. The Board direction is addressing the deficit through attrition. We evaluate the teaching and learning through our SIP.

Do we know how many of each staffing levels we have?

Superintendent Bridges stated he doesn't know what that will solve for you. I would ask you to direct parents to their schools or the district office.

Mrs. Xagas noted that staffing will not be finalized until June 11.

We will see this again on June 1.

Superintendent Bridges reminded the Board to send your questions by May 28 and staff will work to get them answered.

Can the community submit questions?

Mrs. Xagas stated we always address questions from the community through Let's Talk.

Policy 7:92 Use of Rideshare Services

Superintendent Bridges noted this would be our own policy. PRESS does not have a model policy. We worked with legal counsel to create this policy. We are wanting to prohibit this practice. This is to ensure the safety of our students, particularly those under the age of 18.

Board Questions/Comments:

What prompted this discussion?

Mrs. Boutet shared some examples of parents asking us to release their students to a rideshare service. Legal Counsel is recommending we do not allow this.

That is very enlightening. What about parents who say the child could not have a medical appointment without it? What other options have you considered?

Mrs. Boutet stated we do have a one time waiver in case a family has a real need.

You talked about the middle school, is it happening at the elementary level?

Mrs. Boutet stated I don't have numbers from the elementary. I cannot quantify what happens after the school day. There is one to two per month.

The number is not that high but I do see the need for the waiver.

Mrs. Boutet noted that PRESS has not decided if they are going to create a policy. Our legal counsel is seeing an increase in this.

Thank you for being on the front of this. Thinking about this for a sick student gives me pause.

Mrs. Boutet noted any time there is an illness, the schools will make a decision and there are emergency contacts. We would not release if we thought the student would not be safe.

I understand there are some situations where a family would have to use this.

Mrs. Boutet responded there would be situations where the school would not even offer this option.

Superintendent Bridges added that this is trying to address the foreseeable situations. Staff will always work with families in the case of illness or emergency.

Mrs. Boutet added that the waiver addresses the equity issue.

Can you talk about the difference between this and McKinney Vento students?

Mrs. McHenry states those drivers are vetted.

Is the waiver the same as the release?

Mrs. Boutet remarked this does go along with that. We are trying to avoid last minute needs.

Thank you for being in front on this one. At the High School level with it being an open campus, this does offer some protection to the district. Would this be gone over at the beginning of the year?

Mrs. Boutet responded yes. This policy would provide a layer of protection for the district. It is harder with the open campus.

Discussion with Action:

PRESS Policy Update 121

Superintendent Bridges stated these policies have more changes than those on the policy consent agenda. He reviewed the policies and the changes noted. Any changes beyond these would then be discussed after these are approved

Board Questions/Comments:

For Policy 4.40 I gave a recommendation on language change. Thinking ahead and concern that if a future administration chooses to do something different there would be some protections.

Superintendent Bridges responded that rather than implementing new language, we should keep the policy. If the Board chooses to, a deep dive can be taken to change the policy. Dr. Cohen will have the recommended language reviewed legal counsel.

At the request of one Board member, Superintendent Bridges reviewed the memo on each policy.

I am not sure why we are going through this as we have gone through these for the last three meetings.

I couldn't access BoardDocs this afternoon.

Are there specific questions on specific policies you have questions about?

We have answered all the questions.

Amanda McMillen made a motion to approve the PRESS Policy update 121 as presented, seconded by Joe Kozminski. Those voting yes: Willensky, Gericke, Blastic, McMillen, Kozminski, and Kelley Black. Those voting No: None. Absent: Cush. The motion carried.

2026-2027 Board Meeting Schedule

Superintendent Bridges noted the change of the September 21 meeting to Tuesday, September 22

Board Questions/Comments:

Amanda McMillen made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 Board Meeting Calendar as presented, seconded by Joe Kozminski. Those voting yes: Kelley Black, Blastic, Willensky, Kozminski, McMillen, and Gericke. Those voting No: None. Absent: Cush. The motion carried.

Old Business:

None:

New Business:

None.

Upcoming events:

May 22 is the last day of class

May 25 Memorial Day Holiday

June 1 next Board meeting

Return to Closed Session

Joe Kozminski moved, seconded by Amanda McMillen to return to Closed Session at 9:28. For the purpose of:

- 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.

A roll call vote was taken. Those voting yes: Blastic, Kozminski, Gericke, Kelley Black, McMillen, and Willensky. Those voting no: None. Absent: Cush. The motion carried.

Adjournment

Holly Blastic moved seconded by Amanda McMillen to end the Closed Session at 10:37 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. Those voting yes: Blastic, Gericke, Kelley Black, Kozminski, McMillen, Willensky, and Kelley Black. Those voting no: None. Absent: Cush. The motion carried.

Joe Kozminski moved seconded by Melissa Kelley Black to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. Those voting yes: Blastic, Gericke, Kelley Black, Kozminski, McMillen, Willensky, and Kelley Black. Those voting no: None. Absent: Cush. The motion carried.

Approved: June 15, 2026

Kristine Gericke, Vice President, Board
of Education

Susan Patton, Secretary, Board of
Education