

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 28
HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, District 28, Cook County, Illinois, was held in the HOH Conference room in said district on Tuesday evening, June 23, 2026, and streamed on the district's YouTube Channel.

President Silver-Schack called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following members present at roll call:

DeShawn Arms
Christine Beeftink
Diana Horwitz
Mara Silver-Schack

Absent: Eve Pfanzerter and Adam Weinstock

Also present were Dr. Jason Pearson, Superintendent; Dr. Kris Raitzer, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Jessica Donato, Chief School Business Official, Dr. Kelly Sculles, Director of Student Services; Edward Brophy, Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services; Michelle Jackson, Director of Learning; Samantha Scheinman, Director of Communications and Chrissy Yonaite, Recording Secretary.

Staff Attendees: Megan Esterling and Dr. Ginny Hiltz.

Public Attendees: Whitney Fine.

VISITORS COMMENTS / PRESENTATIONS

A teacher addressed the Board to praise Dr. Sculles.

PUBLIC HEARING - Amended Budget

At 7:07 p.m., it was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Horwitz to open the Amended Budget public hearing.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Pfanzerter and Weinstock. Motion carried.

Dr. Jessica Donato, Chief School Business Official, presented the FY26 Amended Budget. Dr. Donato noted that for the past month, the amended budget was on display at the district office and also posted on the district website. Dr. Donato reviewed the reasons for the amendment including needed buildings and grounds work outside of the Build 28 projects along with a correction of administrative costs.

There were no public questions or comments.

Board members also had the opportunity to make comments and ask questions.

At 7:12 p.m., it was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Horwitz to close the public hearing on the Amended Budget.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Pfanzelter and Weinstock. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Pearson recognized Dr. Sculles for her years of service at the district. Her contributions were far-reaching along with her connections with staff, students and parents.

Dr. Pearson congratulated Dr. Jessica Donato for successfully defending her thesis last week and now has the official title of doctor.

During the meeting, Dr. Pearson noted that the 2026-27 salaries for classified staff and administrators are included as items within the consent agenda. He explained that since the NFT contract was finalized on June 1st, salary adjustments for other staff categories can now proceed.

Construction Updates

Superintendent Dr. Pearson provided some construction updates including a few current pictures of the project sites.

Assistant Director of Student Services Contract

Dr. Pearson presented the Board with a one year contract for Whitney Fine for the role of Assistant Director of Student Services for Meadowbrook starting July 1, 2026.

It was moved by Member Beeftink and seconded by Member Horwitz that the Board of Education approve the Meadowbrook Assistant Director Contract for Whitney Fine.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Pfanzelter and Weinstock. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Member Horwitz and seconded by Member Beeftink that the Board of Education approve the minutes for Regular Meeting on May 26, 2026, Closed Meeting on May 26, 2026, Special Meeting on June 1, 2026, Special Meeting on June 2, 2026 and Closed Meeting on June 2, 2026.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Pfanzelter and Weinstock. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Member Beeftink and seconded by Member Arms that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda:

Payroll

The payment of employee salaries for the last half of May 2026, in the amount of \$2,014,126.39 and covered by check numbers 69106 through 69120 and 69080 and deduction check numbers 69121 through 69139 inclusive, as outlined in detail on the Payroll Summary, confirmed by the signatures of the President and Secretary of the School District Board of Education, and dated June 23, 2026;

The payment of employee salaries for the first half of June 2026, in the amount of \$1,982,062.64 and covered by check numbers 69140 through 69152 and deduction check numbers 69153 through 69161 inclusive, as outlined in detail on the Payroll Summary, confirmed by the signatures of the President and Secretary of the School District Board of Education, and dated June 23, 2026.

Bills

Vendor invoices for June 2026 totaling \$2,421,413.39 and Warrants listed as Numbers 66666 through 66811 and the following voids: 66182 and 66683, confirmed by the signature of the President of the School District 28 Board of Education, and dated June 23, 2026.

Personnel Report: Contract Changes, Employment of Staff, Leaves, Resignations and Dismissals

Staff Recommended for Employment				
Name	Position	Location	Salary	Effective Date
Jenna Adler*	Math Interventionist	WM	MA+12-16 \$100,703	8/17/26
Margaret Baker*	Spanish Teacher	NBJH	MA+00-03 \$65,344	8/17/26
Kendall Bream*	Special Educ Teacher	MB	MA+00-12 \$85,428	8/17/26
Daniel Fay*	Special Educ Teacher (1-yr assignment)	NBJH	MA+00-06 \$71,002	8/17/26
Cecilia Franco*	Special Educ Instructional Specialist for D28 & Northfield Township Elem School Districts	District- wide	MA+12-22 \$117,676	8/17/26

* Certified Candidate details below

Staff Position Reassignment				
Name	Current Position to New Position	Location	Salary	Effective Date
Cesar Barraza	Custodian to TSS	GB	\$47,000	7/1/26
Hailey Rappin*	Classroom Asst. to 4th Grade Teacher	WM	BA-00-01 \$56,575	8/17/26
Katherine Chron*	Special Ed. Asst to 5th Grade Teacher	MB	MA-00-01 \$61,950	8/17/26
Erin MacHarg	PT to FT School Psychologist	GB	MA-30-20 \$117,393	8/17/26
Greta Montagano	20 Additional work days to contract	MB	MA-30-17 \$11,782 add'l comp	6/4/26

Sophia Halkias	FT to PT Literacy Coach	NBJH	MA-00-15 (0.60 FTE) \$56,009	8/17/26
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Staff Resignations, Retirements and / or Terminations				
Name	Position	Location	Reason	Effective Date
Michele Hamil Anderson	2nd Gr Teacher	WM	Retirement	6/3/26
Sarah Palmer	Spanish Teacher	NBJH	Resignation	6/3/26
Catherine Janus	Admin Asst.	GB	Resignation	6/1/26
Donna Tucci	Special Educ Asst.	MB	Resignation	6/3/26
Emily Petway	Music Teacher (part-time)	MB	Resignation	6/3/26

Staff Leave of Absence				
Name	Position	Location	Reason	Effective Date
Lauren Wittenberg	ML Instructional Specialist	WM	Parent Leave	9/1/26
Lauren Kelliher	Physical Therapist	WM/NBJH	Parent Leave	9/8/26
Brenda Roman	Custodian	GB	Parent Leave	8/17/26

Staff Lane Changes 2026-27				
Name	Position	Location	Current Salary	New Salary
Liz Cummins	Teacher	MB	M+12-17 \$103,532	M+30-17 \$107,209
Sarah DeGalia	Teacher	NBJH	B+00-06 \$63,930	M+00-06 \$71,002

Resolution Authorizing and Directing Sale or Disposal of Personal Property

Furniture for classrooms, teachers, and students, and curricular materials, music instruments and technology equipment that is no longer needed, will be disposed of or sold.

Worker's Compensation Insurance Renewal

The renewal of worker's compensation insurance coverage with the Accident Fund Insurance of America for the period July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027 was approved.

Pupil Transportation Hazardous Area Resolution

The Board approved the pupil transportation hazardous area resolution. This resolution states that the district includes students residing less than 1-½ miles from school and living in a previously approved vehicular hazardous area for the 2026-27 school year.

Special Ed Workload Plan

The Board approved the district's initial Workload Plan for Special Educators in 2025 in compliance with an Illinois mandate requiring all districts to establish workload limits for certified special education staff. This spring, the Special Education Workload Committee conducted its annual review of the plan and recommended a revision to the addendum.

Administrator Contract Renewals

Three Administrators have contract renewals this year. All contracts were provided to the Board ahead of this meeting.

Administrator 2026-27 Compensation

The Board previously reviewed the proposed 2026-27 Administrator Compensation in closed session and was approved in this meeting's consent agenda.

FY2027 Classified (Non-Certified) Personnel Compensation

The Board approved the FY2027 salary increases of 3% for classified personnel.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Pfanzelter and Weinstock. Motion carried.

STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Finance Report

Dr. Donato provided the finance report for the month ending May 31, 2026.

Food Service Sales

As of May 31, 2026, Northbrook JH cafeteria sales-to-date totaled \$417,210. OrganicLife's operating statement showed a profit of \$5,200 for the month. The year-to-date operating deficit is \$18,172.

Local, State & Federal Requirements

Since the April Board of Education Meeting, District 28 submitted the following:

- Filed monthly Bureau of Labor Statistics Report on Current Employment
- Submitted TRS Gemini Payroll Reports
- Submitted monthly Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund Wage Report

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Horwitz that the Board of Education approve the Finance Report for May 2026.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Pfanzelter and Weinstock. Motion carried.

Tentative FY26 Amended Budget

Dr. Donato presented the proposed amended budget during the public hearing at the beginning of the board meeting. The proposed amendment to the FY26 budget ensures compliance with legal requirements and reflects changes that occurred after the original budget was approved.

It was moved by Member Beeftink and seconded by Member Arms that the Board of Education approve the Tentative FY26 Amended Budget.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Pfanzelter and Weinstock. Motion carried.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Edward Brophy, Director of Human Resources, noted there is 1 certified and 8 classroom assistant positions open.

STUDENT SERVICES

Summer Programming Updates

Dr. Kelly Sculles, Director of Student Services provided an overview of the summer

programming. She noted that it started the day after school ended. It is a successful program and she has received good feedback and ideas for next year.

Code of Conduct

Dr. Sculles provided an overview including key outcomes of the Code of Conduct meeting held on June 17, 2026. The meeting included 2 board members along with staff and parent representatives.

The committee engaged in a collaborative review of the Code of Conduct and related student behavior policies and procedures. They discussed ideas to strengthen staff, parents and student understanding of the Code of Conduct.

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Horwitz that the Board of Education approve the Code of Conduct Report.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Pfanzelter and Weinstock. Motion carried.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

No report.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

New Meadowbrook School Pay App #2

Ms. Donato introduced Pay Application #2 for the New Meadowbrook School project, outlining the \$610,017.30 payment schedule with Happ Builders based on work completed through May 31, 2026.

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Horwitz that the Board of Education approve the payment to Happ Builders, Inc. in the amount of \$610,017.30.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Pfanzelter and Weinstock. Motion carried.

Happ Builders Pay App #10

Ms. Donato introduced Pay Application #10 for the Meadowbrook Gymnasium project, outlining the \$255,739.50 payment schedule with Happ Builders based on work completed through May 31, 2026.

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Horwitz that the Board of Education approve the payment to Happ Builders, Inc. in the amount of \$255,739.50.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Pfanzelter and Weinstock. Motion carried.

Greenbriar Construction Materials Testing

Ms. Donato presented a proposal from GEOCON for an estimated fee of \$107,901.00. Under this proposal, GEOCON would conduct required soil, concrete and steel testing. This is an important part of the project to ensure safety and quality work.

It was moved by Member Beeftink and seconded by Member Horwitz that the Board of Education approve the contract with GeoCon for \$107,901.00.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Pfanzelter and Weinstock. Motion carried.

Westmoor Construction Materials Testing

Ms. Donato presented a proposal from GEOCON for an estimated fee of \$64,798.00. Under this proposal, GEOCON would conduct required soil, concrete and steel testing. This is an important part of the project to ensure safety and quality work.

It was moved by Member Horwitz and seconded by Member Beeftink that the Board of Education approve the contract with GeoCon for \$64,798.00.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Pfanzelter and Weinstock. Motion carried.

LEGISLATION

No report.

POLICY

Mr. Brophy noted that PRESS 122 should be issued soon.

COMMUNICATION

Samantha Scheinman, Director of Communications, informed the Board she will issue Update 28 at the end of July.

There were six FOIA's this month.

TRUENORTH EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE 804

Dr. Pearson stated the new TrueNorth is underway with the 2 governing bodies. The Executive Board are Superintendents who focus on the day to day of the cooperative and the Governing Board which are board members from each district that oversee the statutorily required items.

APPOINTMENT TO FILL BOARD VACANCY

President Silver-Schack provided an overview of the selection process to fill the vacant board seat. There were 10 very strong applicants. All were reviewed by the Board and 4 were chosen to interview.

The Board selected Whitney Goldin. She is a Meadowbrook parent, an attorney and has been involved with the school working with Dr. Hiltz on safety topics.

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Horwitz that the Board of Education approve Whitney Goldin to fill the vacant Board of Education Seat

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Pfanzelter and Weinstock. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

In

At 7:44 p.m., it was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Horwitz that the Board of Education go into a Closed Session to discuss the following:

- Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Beeftink, Horwitz and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Pfanzelter and Weinstock. Motion carried.

Out

At 8:12 p.m., President Silver-Schack requested that the meeting return to Regular Session. All members present voted Aye. Absent: Pfanzelter and Weinstock. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:13 p.m., President Silver-Schack requested that the meeting be adjourned. All members present voted Aye. Absent: Pfanzelter and Weinstock Motion carried.

Christine Beeftink, Secretary

Mara Silver-Schack, President