Board of Education
School District No. 155
Calumet City, Illinois
Regular Meeting
September 17, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Calumet City School District No. 155 was called to order by President Coleman on September 17, 2026 at 6:35 pm. On the Roll, the following members were physically present and answered present; Coleman, Oberman, Franklin and Miller: Absent: Long, Ellis and Jamerson.

Also present were: Dr. Joseph Zotto, LoDonna Fleming, Adam Jordan, Tara Wilkins, Dana Berton, Brandi Tanner, Julie Stephen, Lillian Brown, Colleen Kolasa, Cynthia Hebron, Renita Johnson, Jenny Lowe, Kennedy C. and Harmony.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Franklin, a motion that the Board approve to add Member Jamerson to the meeting via telephone. Ayes; Coleman, Oberman, Franklin and Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 4-0.

Member Jamerson joined the meeting via telephone at 6:38 pm.

Public Comment

President Coleman opened the floor to the public for comments.

Ms. Lillian Brown, a retired teacher from CPS talked to the Board about her business Education Depot which is a teachers store located in Calumet City. She also gave out handouts.

A parent had concerns about the arrival and dismissal at Wentworth Intermediate. She talked about the conditions of Houston Avenue. The parent stated that she was told by the Village this Houston Avenue was a District #155 issue. Dr. Zotto addressed the parents concern and explained to her that Houston Avenue is not a part of District #155 property. The parent said she would return to the village with her concerns and the information that was shared with her.

President Coleman closed the floor to the public for comments.

Communications

No Communications at this time.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Miller, a Motion to Approve the consent agenda items as listed on the Meeting Agenda. Ayes; Coleman, Oberman, Franklin, Miller and Jamerson. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Reports

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Franklin, a Motion to Approve the gross payroll figure for the month of August 2026 in the amount of $447,317.35. Ayes; Oberman, Franklin, Miller, Jamerson and Coleman. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Franklin, a Motion to Approve the following pre-list of invoices and authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign the appropriate documents. Pre-list dated 08/18/2026 (Voucher #1038) in the amount of $25,698.38, Pre-list dated 08/26/2026(Voucher #1049) in the amount of $403,025.36 and Pre-list dated 09/17/2026 (Voucher #1062) in the amount of $353,831.56. Ayes; Oberman, Franklin, Miller, Jamerson and Coleman; Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve the FY27 Budget. Ayes; Franklin, Miller, Jamerson, Coleman and Oberman. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Adam Jordan assured the Board that we had a healthy budget.

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Franklin, a Motion to Approve and Ratify the Increase of Adult Meal Prices to $6.00 per Meal. Ayes; Miller, Jamerson, Coleman, Oberman and Franklin. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve District Administration to Apply for the FY27 Property Tax Relief Grant. Ayes; Jamerson, Coleman, Oberman, Franklin and Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Buildings and Grounds

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Miller, a Motion to Approve FY27 Agreement with Everest Snow Removal. Ayes; Jamerson, Coleman, Oberman, Franklin and Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Franklin, a Motion to Approve District Administration to Apply for the School Maintenance Project Grant to Update the Fire Panel at Wentworth Jr. High. Ayes; Coleman, Oberman, Franklin, Miller and Jamerson. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Teachers and Education

Enrollment Total: **988**

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Franklin, a motion to approve the resignation of the listed staff; and to execute the employment contracts for the 26-27 school years for the identified staff at the salary indicated or steps and lanes provided in the applicable bargaining agreement pending receipt of the required documents which includes the Illinois State Background Investigation Report. Ayes; Oberman, Franklin, Miller, Jamerson and Coleman. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

New Hires		
Name	**Position**	**Assignment**
Abualzoluf, Saud	5th Grade Teacher	WIS
Nieves, Jorge	Bilingual Paraprofessional	WIS
Ramos, Alejandra	Pre-K Parent Coordinator	WW
Valles, Sandy	Bilingual Paraprofessional	WW
Weinberg, Matthew	Reading Instructional Paraprofessional	WIS

Contracts		
Name	**Position / Agency**	**Assignment**
Arthur, Sharisse	SLP - (Full-Time - Amergis)	WIS & WJH
Jackson, Amira	SLPA (Part-Time - Amergris)	WW
Lee, Nedra	SLP - (Part-Time - Amergis)	WW
McRoberts, Shalen	Social Worker (BlazerWorks)	WIS

Resignation			
Name	**Position**	**Effective Date**	**Assignment**
Alvarez, Esmeralda	Pre-K Parent Coordinator	9/1/2026	WW

Policy

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Coleman, a Motion to Approve the Second Reading and Adoption of Policy Issue 122. Ayes; Oberman, Franklin, Miller, Jamerson, Coleman and Oberman. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Number and Title - Policy Press Issue 122
2:70-E, Checklist for Filling Board Vacancies by Appointment
2:120-E3, Resolution to Appoint a Delegate to the Illinois Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly
2:220-E1, Board Treatment of Closed Meeting Verbatim Recordings and Minutes
2:220-E3, Closed Meeting Minutes
2:220-E5, Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes
2:220-E8, School Board Records Maintenance Requirements and FAQs
2:230, Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board

4:110-AP2, Bus Driver Communication Devices; PreTrip and Post-Trip Inspection; and Bus Driving Comments
4:170-AP1, E1, Accident or Injury Form
4:170-AP1, E2, Memo to Staff Members Regarding Contacts By Media About a Crisis
4:170-AP2, Routine Communications Concerning Safety and Security
4:170-AP4, National Terrorism Advisory System
4:180-AP1, School Action Steps for Pandemic Influenza or Other Virus/Disease
5:20-AP, Sample Questions and Considerations for Conducting the Internal Harassment in the Workplace Investigation
5:40, Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease
5:40-AP, Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease
5:70, Religious Holidays
5:100-AP, Staff Development Program
5:130-AP, Email Retention
5:185-AP, Resource Guide for Family and Medical Leave
5:220-E, Unsatisfactory Performance Report for Substitute Teachers
5:240, Suspension
5:270-E, Notice of Employment
5:330, Educational Support Personnel-Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves for Employees Not Covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement
6:60-AP1, E2, Resources for Biking and Walking Safety Education
6:70, Teaching About Religion
6:70-AP, Teaching About Religions
6:80, Teaching About Controversial Issues
6:120-AP4, Care of Students with Diabetes
6:190, Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities
6:235-E4, ~~Keeping Yourself and Your Kids Safe on Social Networks~~ Online Safety Resources
7:30, Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer

7:60-AP1, Challenging a Student's Residence Status
7:60-AP2, Establishing Student Residency
7:60-AP2, E1, Letter of Residence from Landlord in Lieu of Lease
7:60-AP2, E2, Letters of Residence to Be Used When the Person Seeking to Enroll a Student Is Living with a District Resident
7:60-AP2, E3, Evidence of Non-Parent's Custody, Control, and Responsibility of a Student
7:130, Student Rights and Responsibilities
7:190-E1, Aggressive Behavior Reporting Letter and Form
7:190-E4, Acknowledgment of Receiving Student Behavior Policy and Student Conduct Code
7:200-E1, Short Term Out-of School Suspension (1-3 Days) Reporting Form
7:240-AP1, Code of Conduct for Extracurricular Activities
7:330, Student Use of Buildings – Equal Access
7:330-E, Application ~~for~~ to Establish Noncurriculum Related Student Groups tThat Are Not School Sponsored ~~to~~ and Request for Free Use of School Premises for Meetings

SCOPE

Member Miller stated a legislative meeting was scheduled for 9/21/2026 at 1:00 pm at Eisenhower Coop and the panel discussion would be property taxes strategies. Also a Division Meeting is scheduled for 10/7/2026 at Maya Angelou in Harvey, IL.

FOIA

Date of Request	08/19/2026
Summary of Records Requested	We are requesting copies of your current property and casualty insurance policies including premium, or a summary document that includes coverage, carrier, limits, deductibles and premium.
Status of Response	Responsive records were sent via email on 08/21/2026

Date of Request	08/26/2026
Summary of Records Requested	● The Kickert School Bus Line contracts and rate schedules FY2019-FY2027, including pricing pages ● - Any transportation bid tabulations ● - All board items FY2016-FY2018 relating to bus purchase, lease or transportation bids ● - Any executed purchase or lease agreements, and related board award memoranda, for school buses or other pupil-transportation vehicles within the same period
Status of Response	Responsive records were sent via email on 08/31/2026

Date of Request	08/28/2026
Summary of Records Requested	● We seek the following existing records concerning teachers who retired at the end of the 2025-2026 school year and teachers newly hired for the 2026-2027 school year: ● 1. Existing records showing teachers who retired from the district during or at the end of the 2025-2026 school year, including but not limited to retirement lists, personnel action reports, and board-approved personnel items, and any data extract of those records showing name, position, subject or grade assignment, school, and effective date. ● 2. Existing records showing teachers newly hired by the district for the 2026-2027 school year, including but not limited to new-hire lists, personnel action reports, and board-approved personnel items, and any data extract of those records showing name, position, subject or grade assignment, school, and start date.
Status of Response	Responsive records were sent via email on 08/31/2026

Date of Request	08/31/2026
Summary of Records Requested	● I respectfully request copies of any existing records showing **district-issued direct work telephone numbers, direct dial lines, or work extensions** for employees currently serving in the district's **Central Office / District Administration Office**.
Status of Response	Responsive records were sent via email on 09/01/2026

Date of Request	09/03/2026
Summary of Records Requested	all current employee/staff contact information. The request is limited to readily available records without physically copying, scanning, or printing paper documents. Any editable electronic document is acceptable. ● 1. First Name ● 2. Last Name ● 3. Position Title ● 4. Department ● 5. Direct Phone Number (if does not exist, list main phone number with extension) ● 6. Business Cell Phone (if provided by Calumet City School District No. 155) ● 7. Email Address ● 8. Office Address (Address, City, State, Zip)
Status of Response	Responsive records were sent via email on 09/08/2026

Teachers and Paraprofessional Unions

Julie Stephen stated the school year has begun with a crazy start, but she would like to the the Buildings and Ground team for all their hard work and dedication.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Discussion for the Good of the School District

Dr. Zotto discussed with the Board the different projects going on and projections for the district. Fire Station Panels, landscaping, carpet replacements at WJH, a plan to buy a snow bobcat and/or salt spreader for the district truck, a plan to bid for more carpet replacement district wide and a plan to refinish/restripe the parking lots.

WJH - Fall Fest on 9/30/2026
Wilson - Fall Fest on 10/7/2026

Administrative Presentation

Brandi Tanner presented two of her former students Harmony and Kennedy to explain to the Board their 180 days of school celebrations. Both students told the Board the things they liked best as they did their “Family Celebration every Friday” during the previous school year. Tanner explained that the celebrations were not just for academics, they celebrated students struggling with personal issues, behaviors, etc.

Jennifer Lowe the Principal at Wentworth Intermediated presented to the Board. First she thanked the Board for approving the money for their Back-2-School Bash. She stated things are getting better at WIS and they had just completed their STAR testing. She explained the “Cougar Cash” incentive program that they currently have for their students. She talked about the collaboration with Wilson to work out how to better serve the incoming 3rd grade students. She told us the Motto for WIS is: “Great with less than 8”.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

Moved by Member Miller, Second by Member Oberman, a Motion that the Board Adjourn. Ayes; All. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Time: 7:17 pm

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Board President **Board Secretary**