

BOARD BRIEFS

INFORMATION FROM THE OCTOBER 20, 2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS PRESENTED TO THE BOARD

At the October Board of Education meeting, the principals of W.C. Petty, Oakland, and Hillcrest Elementary Schools presented their 2026-2027 School Improvement Plans (SIPs). Each presentation highlighted student achievement data, areas of growth, and targeted goals and strategies designed to strengthen academic performance and support student success.

W.C. Petty Elementary School

outlined ambitious goals to increase student proficiency on the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) by 7% in English Language Arts (ELA) and 6.5% in mathematics.

Instructional priorities include strengthening writing skills, comparing and synthesizing informational texts, developing mathematical reasoning, and building a deeper understanding of fractions.

Through collaborative planning, instructional coaching, and analysis of student work, staff will focus on improving instructional practices and

meeting individual student needs. W.C. Petty also emphasized school safety and belonging, with plans to establish a Student Advisory Group and strengthen social-emotional learning (SEL) supports.

Oakland Elementary School

highlighted continued academic success, with student performance exceeding state averages in both ELA and mathematics on the 2025 IAR.

Building on this progress, Oakland established goals to increase ELA proficiency by 2% and mathematics proficiency by 3%. Key strategies include analyzing student performance data, aligning instruction with essential standards, strengthening written responses, and providing targeted interventions.

Oakland will also continue efforts to foster a positive school climate, with a focus on maintaining or increasing students' sense of belonging through SEL instruction, student check-ins, and school-wide support systems.

Hillcrest Elementary School identified goals to increase IAR proficiency by 3% in ELA and 4% in mathematics.

The school's improvement efforts will focus on data-driven instruction, differentiated small-group support, and strengthening students' written responses and mathematical reasoning.

Hillcrest also plans to reinforce positive behavior and increase students' sense of belonging through consistent school-wide expectations, social-emotional learning, community meetings, and student recognition initiatives.

Across all three schools, the improvement plans reflect a shared commitment to high-quality instruction, collaborative professional practices, data-informed decision-making, and positive learning environments. School leadership teams will continue monitoring student progress and refining strategies throughout the year to ensure all students are supported in their academic and social-emotional growth.

OTHER NEWS

NEW ELC PROJECT UPDATE

The Board received an update on the new Early Learning Center project, including construction timelines, key milestones, and next steps. Members also reviewed a recommendation for commissioning services, with a formal agreement anticipated for Board approval in November.

ANNUAL LIFE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

The Board reviewed the 2026 annual life safety inspection reports from the Lake County Regional Office of Education. All Antioch CCSD 34 school buildings were inspected, and all identified violations have been addressed and corrected.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST SERVICES AGREEMENT

The Board approved the 2026-2027 agreement with the Center for Special Education Services (CSES) to provide in-person school psychologist services at AUGS, with virtual support as needed, at a cost not to exceed \$74,000. The agreement supports timely student evaluations and special education services.

FUND TRANSFER AND PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT

Approval to transfer \$3.58 million in available district funds to cover bond payments and eliminate the associated 2026 property tax levy, reducing the tax burden on local property owners, was granted by the Board.

CREDIT CARD TRANSACTION FEES

A revised credit and debit card fee structure was approved by the Board, effective November 1, 2026.

PEST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

The Board approved the contract with A-Action Pest Control/AOPC Pest Services for pest management across all eight district buildings. The proposed agreement includes a \$1,100 initial cost and \$692 monthly service fee.

W.C. PETTY BOBCAT BOOSTERS REQUEST

The Board approved a request from the W.C. Petty Bobcat Boosters to place two temporary storage pods on school property through December 4, 2026, to support upcoming events.

CROCHET CLUB SPONSORSHIP

An hourly extracurricular sponsorship for the Crochet Club at AUGS was approved by the Board.

COOPERATIVE WRESTLING AGREEMENT

The Board approved adding Grass Lake School District 36 to the AUGS and Emmons boys wrestling cooperative for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years, expanding athletic opportunities for students.

POLICY UPDATES - FIRST READING

The Board conducted a first reading of proposed policy revisions recommended by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) through PRESS Issue 122. The updates reflect changes in state legislation and routine policy reviews. The following five Board policies were presented for revision: 2:230, 5:240, 6:190, 7:130, 8:70

Additional updates were presented to policy exhibits, legal references, and footnotes. The Board will consider the proposed revisions for approval at a future meeting following a second reading.

DONATIONS

The district is in receipt of the following donations:

- Antioch Pizza Shop: \$11,600 worth of pizza and ice cream coupons for Honor Roll and student/staff birthdays
- AUGS Boosters: \$250 to the staff Sunshine Fund
- Abbott: \$16 to the AUGS activity account
- Lake County State's Attorney: \$300 Red Ribbon Grant for the National Junior Honor Society
- Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.: \$100 to the AUGS Robotics Club
- Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.: \$100 to the Oakland Student Activities Account

BOARD RECOGNITION

MKM STUDENT RECOGNITION

The Board recognized Mary Kay McNeill Early Learning Center students Rylie Lynch and Martin Orduna-Santos as Turtle Awesome Students. Rylie was celebrated for her growth, confidence, and progress in preschool, while Martin was recognized for his kindness, joyful spirit, and positive impact on others.



MEETING INFORMATION

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

The next Regular Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM on November 10, 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.