ANTIOCH CCSD 34

BOARD BRIEFS

INFORMATION FROM THE NOVEMBER 10, 2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

NEW ELC MOVES FORWARD FOLLOWING VILLAGE APPROVAL

Antioch CCSD 34 continues to make progress toward the construction of a new Mary Kay McNeill Early Learning Center following the Village of Antioch's approval of the project's special use permit on October 14, 2026.

At its November 10th meeting, the Board of Education approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Village of Antioch, establishing shared expectations and responsibilities for the development and operation of the new facility at the southwest corner of North Avenue and Tiffany Road.

The agreement addresses several priorities raised throughout the planning and approval process, including traffic management, roadway improvements, pedestrian safety, parking, and community access. It reflects the District's commitment to working collaboratively with the Village while addressing the needs of students, families, and surrounding neighborhoods.

Traffic Management and Safety
To support safe and efficient arrival and dismissal procedures, the district will provide trained traffic managers at the intersection of Tiffany Road and Highview Road and at the Early Learning Center's bus entrance. Arrival and dismissal times at the new facility and Antioch Upper Grade School will be staggered to reduce traffic congestion.

The District and Village will also conduct annual traffic reviews and collaborate on adjustments as needed. Additional traffic studies will evaluate conditions in the Woods of Antioch neighborhood before and after the facility opens.

Roadway & Pedestrian Improvements
The agreement outlines the District's financial participation in two proposed roadway improvement projects:

- **North Avenue Turn Lane Improvements:** District contribution up to $350,569.
- **Tiffany Road and West Highview Drive Turn Lane Improvements:** District contribution of 50% of eligible project costs, up to $395,417, with applicable grant funding reducing the District's share.

Both projects will be managed by the Village, with financial accountability measures and provisions for returning unused District contributions.

The new facility will also include 266 on-site parking spaces and sidewalks designed to support pedestrian access. The Village intends to pursue additional sidewalk connections, while the District will coordinate overflow parking and shuttle services for special events when necessary.

Community Access
Beyond serving D34's youngest learners, the new Early Learning Center will provide opportunities for community use. The facility's playground will be accessible to the public during non-school hours when daylight and safety conditions permit. The District and Village will also work toward updating their existing facility-use agreement to address community access to the new gymnasium.

The MOU remains in effect through June 30, 2031, with provisions for extension and certain ongoing obligations.

The agreement represents an important milestone in the development of the new Early Learning Center. By establishing clear responsibilities and addressing community considerations, District 34 and the Village of Antioch are working together to create a modern learning environment that will serve students and families for generations to come.

AUGS STUDENT AMBASSADOR

Continuing the tradition of student ambassadors participating in D34 Board meetings, AUGS sixth grader Chase attended the November 10th meeting to share student perspectives, insights, and suggestions. Looking ahead, she shared that she hopes to become a lawyer and eventually serve as a judge.



OTHER NEWS

CONSTRUCTION BIDDING PROCESS ADVANCES

Plans for the new Mary Kay McNeill Early Learning Center continue to advance with the prequalification of four general contractors: Berglund Construction, Bulley & Andrews, Executive Construction, Inc., and F.H. Paschen. The four firms are now authorized to participate in the competitive bidding process. Once bids are received and evaluated, a final contractor recommendation will be presented to the Board for consideration.

ENGINEERING SERVICES APPROVED FOR NEW ELC

Prasino Engineering has been awarded a $74,000 contract to provide building commissioning services for the new Mary Kay McNeill Early Learning Center. Commissioning helps ensure that critical building systems, including heating, ventilation, and emergency power equipment, are properly installed, tested, and operating efficiently.

PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE APPROVED FOR HILLCREST

The Board approved an additional full-time permanent substitute teacher position at Hillcrest Elementary School.

NEW EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS APPROVED

The Board approved sponsorships for two new extracurricular activities at AUGS: Pokémon Battle Club and Ping Pong Club.

HILLCREST SPRINKLER SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

The Board authorized the release of public bids for the replacement of Hillcrest Elementary School's aging fire sprinkler system. Scheduled for summer 2027, the estimated construction cost is $810,000–$840,000, excluding contingencies.

UPDATED CREDIT AND DEBIT CARD FEES APPROVED

The Board approved a revised processing fee structure for credit and debit card payments. Transactions of $83 or less will incur a 3% fee, while transactions exceeding $83 will have a flat $2.50 fee.

ASP & AEEA MOUS APPROVED

The Board approved a Memoranda of Understanding with the Antioch Support Personnel (ASP) and Antioch Elementary Education Association (AEEA). The MOUs are related to employee leaves and staffing.

BOARD POLICY UPDATES APPROVED

Following a second reading, the Board adopted policy revisions from the Illinois Association of School Boards' PRESS Issue 122. These updates help ensure District policies and procedures remain aligned with current laws, regulations, and recommended practices.

TENTATIVE 2026 TAX LEVY PRESENTED

The District continues to demonstrate fiscal responsibility, with its projected property tax rate decreasing to 3.78%, down from 3.93% last year and almost a full percentage point lower than six years ago. While property values are expected to grow by 7.12%, the District remains committed to maintaining high-quality educational programs while keeping its tax rates low. The Board will consider final approval of the tax levy on December 15, 2026.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT

Antioch CCSD 34 is pleased to report excellent results from its annual financial audit for the 2025-2026 school year. Independent auditors Evans, Marshall & Pease thoroughly reviewed the District's financial records and found no findings requiring corrective action, confirming that our financial statements accurately reflect how District funds are managed and reported under Illinois school accounting standards. These results reinforce our continued commitment to financial transparency, accountability, and responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS UPDATE

The Board received an update highlighting work the District's Maintenance and Operations Department completed over the past year. Major improvements included a complete roof replacement at AUGS, new ventilation systems at Oakland Elementary School to address humidity concerns, and playground upgrades at Hillcrest Elementary School to create a more accessible play space for all students. Looking ahead, the District continues to plan for additional upgrades to playgrounds, classrooms, and school safety systems.

DONATIONS

The district is in receipt of the following donation:

- Abbott: $32 to the AUGS activity account

MEETING INFORMATION

DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

The next Regular Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM on December 15, 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.