LAKE COUNTY TECH CAMPUS
Lake County Area Vocational System
Board of Control Meeting
October 8, 2026
Tech Campus Boardroom
Grayslake, Illinois

The Board of Control of the Lake County Area Vocational System met in Regular Session on Thursday, October 8, 2026 at the Tech Campus in the Boardroom, Grayslake, Illinois.

Call to Order:
Agenda Item 1.1

Dr. Rodriguez, Board President, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am and the following roll call was taken:

Members Present:

Dr. Jesse Rodriguez, District 126
Dr. Jeff Feucht, District 117
Dr. Danny Woestman, District 121
Dr. Kelley Gallt, District 95
Dr. Chala Holland, District 113
Dr. Mikkel Storaasli, District 127
Dr. Jason Nault, District 12
Dr. Michael Karner, Regional Supt.
Dr. Theresa Plascencia, District 60*
Dr. Constance Collins, District 187*
Dr. Corey Tafoya, District 120
Dr. Sebastian Kapala, Executive Director and Board Secretary

*** Alternates Present:**

Dr. Eduardo Cesario, District 60
Mr. Anthony Ruelli, District 187

Members Absent:

Mrs. Tiffany Elswick, District 19
Dr. Wendy Custable, District 125
Dr. Jeremy Schmidt, District 124
Dr. Todd Leden, District 118
Dr. Donn Mendoza, District 116
Dr. Marc Schaffer, District 128
Dr. Tom Lind, District 157
Dr. Matthew Montgomery, District 115

Also Present:

Mr. James Beckom, CLC
Mr. Derrick Burress, Principal
Ms. Joanne Hughes, Business Manager/CSBO
Mr. Matt Vella, Information Technology
Ms. Laura Emmerling, Assistant Principal of Student Services
Ms. Danielle Friedlieb, Assistant Principal
Ms. Francesca Hanson, Executive Assistant
Mr. Stu Mendelsohn, Union President

Comments from Citizens:
Agenda Item 1.2

Dr. Rodriguez asked if there were any comments from citizens, there were none.

Executive Director's Report
Agenda Item 2

Principal's Report
Agenda Item 2.1

Principal Derrick Burress presented an update on Tech Campus Academics and Operations. The Mentorship initiative gained traction with 27 student volunteers and 5 alumni mentors. Plans include expanding into courses such as CNA and Cosmetology, then scaling to at-risk student populations across additional programs.

Strategic Plan Update
Agenda Item 2.2

Executive Director Dr. Kapala presented an update on the Strategic Plan. Dr. Kapala is launching strategic innovation initiatives as the innovation committee heads into it's second meeting. Team members will deliver additional detailed updates throughout the semester.

CONSENT AGENDA:
Agenda Item 3

A motion was made by Dr. Woestman and seconded by Dr. Gallt to approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

1. September 10, 2026 Regular Session Meeting Minutes
2. Tech Campus Bills for Payment & Liabilities, and Financial Statements
3. System Bills for Payment/Financial Statements
4. Maintenance Grant
5. Request to Accept Donation(s)

Roll call vote.

Aye: All
Nay: None

The motion carried.

Committee Reports
Agenda Item 4

Finance Committee
Agenda Item 4.1

The Finance committee met on October 1, 2026 . Auditor Kevin Smith from Eccezion discussed recent audit work. The auditor confirmed there are no issues to report, with no management letters issued and all fieldwork completed successfully. The FY2026 Audit will be brought back for approval in January to be placed on file with the Regional Superintendent of Schools.

Innovation Committee
Agenda Item 4.2

The Innovation Committee met on September 24, 2026. The committee discussed expanding access to the Tech Campus by introducing satellite, virtual, and blended learning models. The committee will meet again on October 21.

Recommendations
Agenda Item 5

2027-2028 Tech Campus School Calendar
Agenda Item 5.1

A motion was made by Dr. Woestman and seconded by Dr. Cesario to accept the 2027-2028 Tech Campus School Calendar as presented.

Roll call vote

Aye: All
Nay: None

The motion carried.

Modification of 2026-2027 Board Meeting Schedule
Agenda Item 5.2

A motion was made by Dr. Gallt and seconded by Dr. Storaasli to accept the time change of all remaining 2026-2027 Board meetings as presented.

Roll call vote

Aye: All
Nay: None

The motion carried.

Closed Session
Agenda Item 6

Enter Closed Session

A motion was made by Dr. Nault and seconded by Dr. Cesario to enter Closed Session at 10:32 am for the purpose of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors, or specific volunteers of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor, or a volunteer of the District or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. No action was taken in Closed Session.

Roll call vote.

Aye: All
Nay: None

The motion carried.

Return to Regular Session

A motion was made by Dr. Karner and seconded by Dr. Storaasli to return to Regular Session at 10:42 am. No action was taken in Closed Session.

Voice vote.

Aye: All
Nay: None

The motion carried.

Adjournment
Agenda Item 8

A motion was made by Dr. Karner and seconded by Dr. Gallt to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 am.

Voice vote.

Aye: All
Nay: None

The motion carried.

The minutes approved on November 12, 2026.

President

Secretary