

**School District U-46**  
Elgin, Illinois

October 23, 2023

**The video of the October 23, 2023 meeting can be found here:**  
[October 23, 2023, BOE Meeting](#)

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago Ave, Elgin, Illinois. The following Board Members answered roll call: Dawn Martin, Melissa Owens, Chanda Schwartz, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr. Samreen Khan was absent from roll call and arrived at 5:02 p.m. Veronica Noland was absent.

President Kerr requested a motion to move into closed session to discuss individual student disciplinary matters; pending, probable or imminent litigation; the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public, or legal counsel for the public body; the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the School Board; the setting of a price for the sale or lease of real property owned by the School Board; an internal audit, control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews; collective negotiating matters between the School Board and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; review of Closed Session Minutes; and individual student matters.

The motion was made at 5:01 p.m. by Ms. Owens, second by Ms. Martin. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Owens, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

Samreen Khan arrived at 5:02 p.m., during closed session.

A motion was made at 7:00 p.m. by Ms. Martin second by Ms. Thommes, to reconvene into open session. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

Present for the business session were Board members Dawn Martin, Melissa Owens, Samreen Khan, Chanda Schwartz, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr, Student Board member Asraar Ahmed Siddiqui, Superintendent Dr. Suzanne Johnson, and Chief Legal Officer Trisha Olson. The following were also present at the District's central office: Dr. Annette Acevedo, Celia Banks, Richard Bosh, Dale Burnidge, Catherine Fletcher, Jaime Giraldo, Matt Hovey, Karla Jimenez, Brian Lindholm, Kevin McKenzie, Janelle Raine, Brian Tennison, Patricia Waldau, Dr. Ann Williams, Teresa Winters, and Jim Wolf.

President Kerr led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Accent on Achievement – Dr. Johnson

A. Golden Achievement Award

As part of the Board of Education’s Accent on Achievement, the Board of Education recognizes Karla Jimenez, Director of School and Community Relations, and the entire School and Community Relations team, for being honored with the Golden Achievement Award for Excellence in the 2023 Communications Contest hosted by the Illinois Chapter National School Public Relations Association. The U-46 School and Community Relations Department received a total of nine awards, including the top honor, the Golden Achievement Award for Excellence, for the Unite U-46 community engagement campaign. The Unite U-46 campaign was launched to inform our community of the facilities challenges faced by School District U-46, including declining enrollment, aging school buildings, and evolving student needs. As part of the effort, the School and Community Relations Department created engagement tools including videos, emails, text messages, newsletters, social media posts, press releases, building tours, open houses, community presentations, flyers, brochures, online and telephone surveys, bookmarks, and more. The team’s work was instrumental in helping to pass the zero-rate change bond proposal in April 2023 allowing the District to move forward with our planned facilities updates.

2. Strategic Plan Report - Dr. Johnson (Board Policy 2:20 - Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification)

A. Facility Planning Update

Dr. Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Mr. Lindholm, Chief of Staff, provided an update on Facility Planning to the Board of Education. Mr. Lindholm shared current enrollment figures and discussed trends and estimated trends for the next several years. Dr. Williams provided an update regarding the Hawk Hollow project, the construction of a new Elgin middle school, and the additions/renovations to Kimball Middle School. Dr. Williams also discussed financing the Unite U-46 initiative and answered various questions asked by the Board.

3. Comments from the Audience – Ms. Kerr

A. Public Comments

Elsbeth Alvarado, employee and parent, who spoke of concerns about transportation. She stated that her class was scheduled for a field trip and that it was canceled shortly before they were supposed to leave due to transportation being unavailable. In a separate incident, she shared that her young child who attends U-46, was on the bus for an extended amount of time. She is requesting better communication from the Transportation Department.

Latesha Young, U-46 School Bus Driver, stated that she started with the District 10 years ago and is not at top pay. She asked the Board to address the transportation issues now versus later.

Laura Taets is a current transportation employee who shared concerns regarding the current transportation contract, including pay, which she stated does not compare to other districts in the area. She also shared concerns about cold/flu season as well as winter conditions, of which both could lead to less available bus drivers and assistants. She asked the Board to consider a MOU with transportation employees.

4. Other Business – Board Member and Superintendent Update, If Necessary

A. Additional Information

President Kerr shared a statement on behalf of the Board of Education and the Administration team regarding the Transportation Department. She shared their appreciation and acknowledged the commitment and dedication of all the individuals in the department. She also asked that transportation members not disrupt the learning environment of students while they work toward a resolution.

Student Board member, Asraar Ahmed, said he attended the monthly Superintendent Advisory Meeting and that they are beginning to plan topics for the annual student summit. In addition, he attended the Principal Advisory Meeting and encouraged students to share their ideas for future topics.

Ms. Thommes also shared her appreciation of all the individual bus drivers. Additionally, she said that she attended the Larkin High School Choir and Orchestra Concert, and she encouraged the public to attend these concerts as well.

Ms. Schwartz and Ms. Nolan attended a restorative justice panel.

B. 2023 Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Resolutions Committee Report

President Kerr and the Board of Education discussed the November 18, 2023 Delegate Assembly. The Board will decide who will be the delegate for U-46 at the next Board meeting.

C. FOIA Requests – 10

Dr. Johnson stated that there were seven Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, which would be available on BoardDocs and the District’s website.

5. Other Business - Community Advisory Council (CAC) Update (Board Policy 2:150 - Committees)

A. Community Advisory Council (CAC) Update

Matt Hovey, current interim chair, shared information regarding future meetings for the Specialized Student Services Committee, the Instructional Initiative Committee, and the Unite 46 program.

6. Consent Agenda – Dr. Johnson

- A. Personnel Report and Workers’ Compensation Cases
- B. Minutes of Board Meetings for September 18, 2023 and September 25, 2023 Open Session
- C. Plant Operations - Liberty Elementary School Emergency Electrical Repair
- D. Proposal - Plant Operations - Equipment Purchase - Playground Playsets
- E. Contract Renewal - Curriculum and Instruction - Middle School Social Studies Resource
- F. Contract Renewal - Curriculum and Instruction - High School Social Studies Resource
- G. Change Order - Plant Operations - Elgin High School Lower Tennis Courts Replacement, Project #245
- H. Occupancy Permits - 3

Motion by Ms. Owens, second by Ms. Martin to approve Consent Agenda items A-H, as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

7. Discussion/Action – Dr. Johnson

A. Itemized Bills - October 23, 2023

Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations, was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education regarding the attached bills. Administration recommends the Board of Education approve the List of Bills in the amount of \$16,854,708.70.

Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Thommes, to approve the Itemized Bills in the amount of \$16,854,708.70. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

B. The following closed session minutes were reviewed for approval:

Minutes for Approval – October 2023

April 10 & 24, 2023

May 1, 8, 10, 15, 16, & 22, 2023

June 5 & 26, 2023

July 17, 2023

August 7 & 21, 2023

September 11, 2023

A Motion was requested to confirm the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of closed session minutes and, therefore, all closed session minutes, with the exception of the minutes already released including audio recordings, remain confidential.

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Martin, to approve the closed session minutes, as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

A Motion was requested to confirm that all audio recordings more than 18 months old having been put into writing and approved, may be destroyed.

Audio to be Destroyed – October 2023

October 4, 2021

November 1 & 15, 2021

December 13, 2021

January 10, 22, & 24, 2022

February 7 & 28, 2022

March 7, 14, & 21, 2022

April 11, 2022

Motion by Ms. Owens, second by Ms. Thommes, to approve audio to be destroyed, as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

8. Work Session – Bids/Proposals (Board Policy 4:60 – Purchases and Contracts)

A. Bid - Information Services - Staff Laptops

Dr. Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Mr. Wolf, Director of Information Services, presented the attached proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends award to the lowest responsible bidder, DHE Computer Systems, LLC., in the amount of \$675,829.00 and requests authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Educational Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

B. Bid - Operations - Hawk Hollow Additions and Renovations

Dr. Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Mr. Lindholm, Chief of Staff, presented the attached proposal and were available for questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends award to the lowest responsible bidder, The George Sollitt Construction Company, in the amount of \$52,438,799.00 and requests authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Capital Projects Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 through 2025-2026 fiscal years.

C. Proposal - Operations - Kimball Middle School Addition Architect Recommendation

Dr. Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Mr. Lindholm, Chief of Staff, presented the attached proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the proposal submitted by DLA Architects for renovations as well as an addition to Kimball Middle School, and requests authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Capital Projects Fund. The cost will be included in the budget for the 2023-2024 through 2025-2026 fiscal years.

D. Proposal - Operations - New Elgin Middle School Architect Recommendation

Dr. Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Mr. Lindholm, Chief of Staff, presented the attached proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the proposal submitted by DLA Architects for the design of a new Elgin Middle School, and requests authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Capital Projects Fund. The cost will be included in the budget for the 2023-2024 through 2025-2026 fiscal years.

E. Proposal - Plant Operations - Emergency Lighting Inspections

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the attached proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the invoice from Peters Electric and Technology, Inc. in the amount of \$119,849.00, and requests authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Operations and Maintenance Fund.

F. Proposal - School Safety - Two Way Radio Replacements

Mr. Bosh, Coordinator of School Safety, and Mr. McKenzie, Security Operations Manager, presented the attached proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the proposal from Alpha Prime Communications in the amount of \$176,433.38, and requests authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Department of School Safety. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

9. Work Session - Contracts Over \$25,000.00 (Board Policy 4:60 - Purchases and Contracts)

A. Contract Renewal - Fine Arts - MusicFirst Secondary Music Curriculum Resource

Mr. Tennison, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Mrs. Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Mrs. Giraldo, Fine Arts Coordinator, presented the attached proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the contract renewal with MusicFirst Classroom

in the amount of \$51,397.00, and requests authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

B. Contract Renewal - Plant Operations - Snow Removal Contract Extensions

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the attached proposal and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the contract renewal with KCG Management, LLC., TNT Landscape Construction, Inc., and Winter Services, LLC., in the total amount of \$171,465.00, and requests authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

C. Contract Renewal - Plant Operations - Judson University Mutual Use Agreement

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the attached proposal and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the mutual use agreement with Judson University, and requests authorization for district administration to execute related documents.

D. Contract - Office of Schools - Heritage and Ridge Circle Elementary Schools K-2 Balanced Literacy Professional Development

Dr. Acevedo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Winters, Streamwood Network Executive Director, Ms. Fletcher, Heritage Elementary School Principal, and Ms. Raine, Ridge Circle Elementary School Principal, presented the attached proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the contract with MDQ14Kids, LLC. in the amount of \$19,200.00 and requests authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Heritage and Ridge Circle Elementary Schools Title I Funds. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

10. Work Session – Change Orders (Board Policy 4:60 - Purchases and Contracts)

A. Change Order - Plant Operations - Elgin High School Roof Replacement, Project #246

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the attached change order and was available respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends the Board of Education approve the change order from L. Marshall Roofing and Sheetmetal in the amount of minus \$161,601.00.

B. Change Order - Plant Operations - Fox Meadow Elementary School Roof Replacement, Project #726

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the attached change order and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration

recommends the Board of Education approve the change order from Elens and Maichin Roofing and Sheet Metal, Inc. in the amount of minus \$14,291.03.

C. Change Order - Plant Operations - Prairieview Elementary School Fire Alarm System Replacement, Project #1353

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the attached change order and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends the Board of Education approve the change order from Broadway Electric, Inc. in the amount of minus \$5,022.52.

D. Change Order - Plant Operations - Streamwood High School Track Improvements, Project #317

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the attached change order and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends the Board of Education approve the change order from Evans and Son Blacktop, Inc. in the amount of minus \$1,264.00.

E. Change Order - Plant Operations - Tefft Middle School Ceiling, Lighting, and Insulation Replacement, Project #531

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the attached change order and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends the Board of Education approve the change order from Northwest Contractors, Inc. in the amount of minus \$37,993.92.

F. Change Order - Plant Operations - Tefft Middle School Fire Alarm Replacement, Project #530

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the attached change order and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends the Board of Education approve the change order from Kelso-Burnett Company in the amount of minus \$38,419.00.

President Kerr requested a motion to move into closed session to discuss individual student disciplinary matters; pending, probable or imminent litigation; the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public, or legal counsel for the public body; the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the School Board; the setting of a price for the sale or lease of real property owned by the School Board; an internal audit, control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews; collective negotiating matters between the School Board and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; review of Closed Session Minutes; and individual student matters.

A motion was made at 8:39 p.m. by Ms. Martin second by Ms. Thommes. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

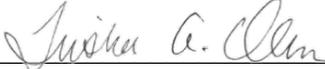
A motion was made at 10:07 p.m. by Ms. Owens second by Ms. Martin, to reconvene into open session. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

11. Adjournment – Ms. Kerr

Motion by Ms. Owens, second by Ms. Schwartz, to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of October 23, 2023 at 10:09 p.m. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Approved this 11th day of December, 2023.

  
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President

  
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Secretary