

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

October 7, 2024

**The video of the October 7, 2024 meeting can be found here:**

**[October 7, 2024 BOE Meeting](#)**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 5:35 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago Ave, Elgin, Illinois. The following Board Members answered roll call: Sue Kerr, Samreen Khan, Dawn Martin, Veronica Noland, Chanda Schwartz, and Melissa Owens. Ms. Thommes joined the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

President Owens 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 5:36 p.m. by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Noland. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

Ms. Thommes joined the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

A motion was made at 7:02 p.m. by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Kerr, to reconvene into open session. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

Present for the business session were Board members Sue Kerr, Samreen Khan, Dawn Martin, Veronica Noland, Chanda Schwartz, Kate Thommes, Melissa Owens, Superintendent, Dr. Suzanne Johnson, and Chief Legal Officer, Trisha Olson. Also present was Student Board member Mahitha Ratakonda. The following were also present at the District's central office: Dr. Annette Acevedo, Celia Banks, Amanda Leatherby, Brian Lindholm, Lela Majstorovic, Aaron Nowak, Matt Raimondi, Dr. Christopher Sanzeri, Dr. Leatrice Satterwhite, Jennifer Schwardt, Dr. Ann Williams, and Dr. Frank Williams.

President Owens led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Accent on Achievement - Dr. Johnson

A. National Principal Appreciation Month

In recognition of National Principal Appreciation Month celebrated in October, a Proclamation of Appreciation was presented to Dr. Jennifer Schwardt, Association of Elgin School Administrators (AESA) President. National Principal Month recognizes the essential role that principals play in the education, growth, and well-being of students. They have used their vision, dedication, and determination to provide an atmosphere in which students can continue to learn and succeed.

B. National School Lunch Week

In recognition of National School Lunch Week, October 14-18, 2024, a Proclamation of Appreciation was presented to Aaron Nowak, the District's Director of Food and Nutrition Services Department. The U-46 Food and Nutrition Services Department serves breakfast meals and lunches to thousands of students every day. They continue to encourage our students to live healthy lifestyles.

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

A. 2024-2025 Instructional Priorities Update

Lela Majstorovic, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, Dr. Annette Acevedo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, and Dr. Leatrice Satterwhite, Assistant Superintendent of Equity and Innovation, provided the Board of Education an update on the 2024-2025 Instructional Priorities. The team reviewed three key instructional priorities for the 2024-2025 school year; Literacy, Numeracy, and Conditions for Learning. The team and the Board discussed the progress monitoring data.

Ms. Martin left the meeting at 7:23 p.m. and returned at 7:26 p.m.

B. October 2024 School Improvement Update

Lela Majstorovic, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, and Matt Raimondi, Director of Assessment and Accountability, provided the Board of Education with an update on the October 2024 School Improvement Plans.

Ms. Noland left the meeting at 8:10 p.m. and returned at 8:12 p.m.

3. Comments from the Audience - Ms. Owens

A. Public Comments

Kaylee Martin, spoke of her termination and occurrences at the Dream Academy.

Cortnee Gutierrez, parent of student who shared experiences with hate speech at Larsen Middle School. She asked to partner with the District regarding updating the District's policy for hate speech and disciplinary actions.

Stella Martin, spoke on behalf of a student and shared his experience at Dream Academy.

Tisha Dixon-Moore, parent in the District, spoke of an incident at Fox Meadow Elementary School. In response to treatment after the incident, she felt that her student was not included in the District's vision, mission, and values.

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

##### A. Additional Information

Ms. Martin reported that earlier that evening there was a Community Relations meeting regarding CAC and how to best support them. They discussed recruitment and upcoming meetings.

President Owens reported that on October 22nd and 23rd there are two community strategic plan meetings. Board members signed up for the meeting on October 22nd but no one has signed up for the meeting on October 23rd. She asked if any Board members would be available to attend. President Owens also reported that she, Ms. Schwartz, and Dr. Johnson attended the evening Explorer event and it went really well.

Ms. Martin wanted to thank everyone on the instructional focus team for the strategic planning meeting today. She found it very interesting.

Dr. Johnson also wanted to thank everyone at the instructional focus team meeting.

##### B. FOIA Requests – 15

Dr. Johnson stated that there were fifteen Freedom of Information Act requests, which would be available on BoardDocs and the District's website.

#### 5. Consent Agenda - Dr. Johnson

- A. Personnel Report and Workers' Compensation Cases
- B. Minutes of Board Meetings - June 10, 2024 and June 24, 2024
- C. Termination of Kaylee Martin - Deans Assistant
- D. Termination of Yadira Ramirez Jaimez - Noon Hour Supervisor
- E. Termination of Isauro Sanchez - Noon Hour Supervisor
- F. Proposal - Operations - Century Oaks Elementary School Architect Recommendation
- G. Proposal - Operations - Glenbrook Elementary School Architect Recommendation
- H. Proposal - Operations - Illinois Park Architect Recommendation
- I. Proposal - Operations - New Elementary School in Elgin Architect Recommendation

- J. Contract Renewal - Fine Arts - MusicFirst Secondary Music Curriculum Resource
- K. Contract - Professional Learning – Consultant
- L. Contract - Teaching and Learning - Amira Learning
- M. Statement of Completion – 1
- N. Occupancy Permits – 3

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Noland, to approve the Consent Agenda items A-N as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

6. Discussion/Action - Dr. Johnson

A. Itemized Bills - October 7, 2024

Dr. Frank Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education regarding the attached bills. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the List of Bills in the amount of \$36,110,927.20.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Kerr, to approve the List of Bills in the amount of \$36,110,927.20. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

B. Proposal - Chief of Staff - Education Pioneers Fellows

Brian Lindholm, Chief of Staff, presented the proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval for the hiring of two fellows from Education Pioneers for a 10-month engagement in the total amount of \$144,000.00, and requested 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 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes to approve the hiring of two fellows from Education Pioneers for a 10-month engagement in the total amount of \$144,000.00.

Ms. Kerr expressed concern that the fellows do not have any experience with the District. Mr. Lindholm stated that the fellows do have three to five years professional experience and are considered highly qualified. Ms. Kerr asked if other districts have been satisfied with their work. Mr. Lindholm stated that Ms. Majstorovic has worked with them in the past and speaks well of their work.

Ms. Martin asked for clarity on what they are going to be doing. Mr. Lindholm stated that they will come with skills in project or program management, data or analytics, operations or strategy. Once their specific skills are identified they will be placed appropriately.

Dr. Johnson listed several components of the District that the fellows will be able to give expertise and support to. She stated they will also bring an outside perspective and will likely be able to give important feedback and considerations for how the District can continue to enhance and grow systems and procedures.

Ms. Martin asked Ms. Olson about the copyright clause in the contract. Ms. Olson stated that the clause was reviewed and administration is comfortable with it being there.

Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

C. Proposal - Specialized Student Services - Special Education Staffing Recommendations

Amanda Leatherby, Director of Specialized Student Services, and Dr. Christopher Sanzeri, Assistant Director of Specialized Student Services-Curriculum and Instruction, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the proposal from 22nd Century Technologies, Inc., LanceSoft, Inc., and Geneva Hearing Services for a total amount not to exceed \$13,347,643.42, and requested 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 2024-2025 through 2026-2027 fiscal years.

Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Kerr to approve the proposal from 22nd Century Technologies, Inc., LanceSoft, Inc., and Geneva Hearing Services for a total amount not to exceed \$13,347,643.42.

Ms. Thommes asked if the District has reached the point of offering compensatory services to students. The team responded that they are currently offering compensatory services.

Ms. Kerr asked if this is usually a one-year contract. The team stated that yes, it is usually a one-year contract.

Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

7. Other Business - Employee Matters (Board Policy 5.290 - Suspension and Dismissal of Support Staff Members)

A. DUSA Grievance #01-06-24 Step III

This item was withdrawn from the agenda by DUSA.

8. Other Business - Dr. Johnson

A. Fiscal Equity

Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Dr. Frank Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, discussed the District’s efforts regarding Fiscal Equity as it pertains to the Budget and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education.

9. Work Session - Dr. Johnson

A. Board Policy Updates

Trisha Olson, Chief Legal Officer, presented proposed changes to the following Board policies. Administration recommended adoption of the proposed changes.

IASB PRESS Issue 115 Updates:

2:70	Vacancies on the Board of Education - Filling Vacancies
2:125	Board Member Compensation; Expenses
2:160	Board Attorney - Legal Counsel and Legal Officer
4:15	Identity Protection
4:40	Incurring Debt
4:70	Resource Conservation
4:80	Accounting and Audits
4:140	Waiver of Student Fees
5:130	Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information
5:180	Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity
5:200	Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal
5:285	Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus and Commercial Vehicle Drivers
5:290	Employment Termination and Suspensions
6:110	Programs for Students at Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program
6:140	Education of Unhoused Children
6:150	Home and Hospital Instruction
6:230	Library Media Program

7:170	Vandalism
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Additional Policies:

7:150	Agency and Police Interviews
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10. Work Session - Bids/Proposals (Board Policy 4:60 - Purchases and Contracts)

A. Proposal - Assessment, Accountability, and Student Success - Personalized Lessons in Reading and Mathematics

Matt Raimondi, Director of Assessment, Accountability, and Student Success, presented the proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the proposal from Curriculum Associates in the amount of \$96,394.80, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. The cost will be included in the budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

11. Work Session - Contracts Over \$35,000.00 (Board Policy 4:60 - Purchases and Contracts)

A. Contract - Plant Operations - Joint Purchase Agreement for Rock Salt

Ashlee McHaney, Assistant Director of Plant Operations, presented the proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract with the Illinois Department of Central Management Services in the amount not to exceed \$101,019.60, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. The cost will be included in the budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

B. Contract Renewal - Plant Operations - Snow Removal

Ashlee McHaney, Assistant Director of Plant Operations, presented the proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract renewal with TNT Landscape Construction, Inc., KCG Management, LLC., and Winter Services, LLC., in the total amount of \$177,294.80, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. This cost is included in the budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

C. Contract Renewal - Curriculum and Instruction - Pear Deck Learning

Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented the proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract renewal with Liminiex, Inc. in the amount of

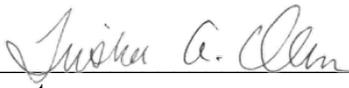
\$62,650.00, and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. This cost is included in the budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

12. Adjournment - Ms. Owens

Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Noland, to adjourn the Board meeting of October 7, 2024, at 9:20 p.m. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Kerr, Ms. Khan, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Owens. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

Approved this 16th day of December, 2024.

  
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President

  
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Secretary