

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

September 18, 2023

**The video of the September 18, 2023 meeting can be found here:**  
[September 18, 2023, BOE Meeting](#)

The Special Board of Education Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago Ave, Elgin, Illinois. The following Board Members answered roll call: Dawn Martin, Veronica Noland, Samreen Khan, Chanda Schwartz, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr. Board member Melissa Owens 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 6:32 p.m. by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, 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 6:58 p.m. by Ms. Martin second by Ms. Thommes, to reconvene into open session. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, 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, Veronica Noland, Samreen Khan, Chanda Schwartz, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr, Superintendent Dr. Suzanne Johnson, and Chief Legal Officer Trisha Olson. The following were also present at the District's central office: Dr. Frank Williams, Celia Banks, Karla Jimenez, Tara Burghart, Brenda Gomez, Dr. Art Fessler, Jaime Cadengo, Chris Zugel, Lisa Olsem, Charlotte Coleman, Dr. Richard Lebron, Angela Ginnan, Kimberly Rudden, Brian Tennison, Richard Bosh, Jim Wolf, Brian Lindholm, Dr. Ann Williams, Lela Majstorovic. Dr. Annette Acevedo was present for the meeting via Zoom. Other administrators and members of the public were also present.

President Kerr led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

## 1. Work Session – Dr. Johnson

### A. Facility Planning Update

Mr. Lindholm, Chief of Staff, Ms. Majstorovic, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, and Dr. Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, presented to the Board of Education an update on Facility Planning. Ms. Majstorovic stated that significant investments are needed to update and/or replace some of our current schools. She shared that construction is planned to start this winter for Hawk Hallow, with a target of August 2025 for occupancy. Work is also being done to finalize a purchase and sale agreement of the Rohrssen Road property, which has the potential of a new middle school. Dr. Williams discussed the recommendation for construction management and architectural services. Mr. Lindholm stated that updated boundaries will be finalized in 2024-2025 and would take effect in Fall 2026. He also outlined the recommendations that are being brought to Board next week to consider. The recommendations are:

- Retire Abbott Middle School and Ellis Middle School after the 2025-2026 school year.
- Updated timing for the middle school transition to occur in 2026-2027.
- Initiate design phase for construction of a new middle school.
- Initiate design phase for additions at Kimball middle School and Kenyon Woods Middle School.

Ms. Martin asked if Hawk Hallow would be empty for a year due to the recommendation to change the 6<sup>th</sup> grade move to 2026-2027. Mr. Lindholm said that Hawk Hallow is on schedule to be ready for occupancy in August 2025. He said there is a possibility of only starting 7<sup>th</sup> graders and then adding the other grades the following year. Ms. Martin also inquired if any of the budget is allocated to elementary schools. Dr. Williams said elementary schools are included in the District's review and she is hopeful a construction manager could assist with elementary school recommendations, including timelines for construction and cost estimates. She also said that they are analyzing the District's reserves to see if funds can be added to such projects.

## 2. Comments from the Audience – Ms. Kerr

### A. Public Comments

Katrina Neal stated even though the new transition indicates the retiring of Ellis Middle School, updates to this school should be a priority due to the comprehensive rating. She feels the students still attending need to feel cared for by operations, the District, and the state. She suggested smaller improvements be made, so current students have a sense of pride.

3. Adjournment – Ms. Kerr

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Noland, to adjourn the Special Board Meeting of September 18, 2023 at 7:46 p.m. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

Approved this 23rd day of October, 2023.

  
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President

  
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Secretary