

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting

The Board of Education Harlem Consolidated School District # 122

A Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Harlem Consolidated School District was held Tuesday, January 20, 2026, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Harlem Administration Center - Board Room, 8605 North Second St., Machesney Park, IL 61115

1. Call to Order of Regular Board meeting at 6:00 p.m. by Michael Sterling
2. Roll Call- Mike Sterling, Kurt Thompson, Aaron McKnight, Diane McKinney, Rebecca Carlson, Diana Johnson, Evelyn Meeks
Other Attendees: Pam Cook, Recording Secretary; Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent; Dr. Shelley Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Dr. Jason Blume, Assistant Superintendent for Communication & Community Relations
3. Pledge of Allegiance: Marquette Elementary Students
4. Approval of Agenda
1st McKnight 2nd Thompson
Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling-7 ayes
Motion Carried
5. The Mission of the Harlem Consolidated School District, as a vital part of the community, is to help diverse learners realize their unlimited potential by providing an educational program dedicated to academic excellence and the development of strong character in a safe and respectful learning environment.
6. Approval of Regular Board Meeting & Closed Session minutes for December 15, 2025 & Public Hearing minutes for December 8 and 9, 2025.
1st Carlson 2nd Johnson
McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson-7 ayes
Motion Carried
7. Jason Blume, Assistant Superintendent for Communications & Community Relations
 - A. Awards and Recognitions
 - Coach Rachel Stark Lofton, Coach Aaron and the middle school cheer team were recognized for competing at the ICCA Cheer Championships. The team earned seventh place at the competition. The team consists of two middle school teams: an Orange team and a Black team. The Orange team introduced themselves; the Black team was not in attendance as they were competing. Coach Aaron congratulated the team and thanked them for their hard work and dedication.
 - Jiharia Young was recognized for getting the opportunity to go to the Super Bowl in California to join in the girls flag football festivities. Along with Jiharia, Lamont Jones and four other students in Illinois will be joining them.
 - Shout out to our Property Services team for the work they put in when it snows and still continue to work their normal shift.

-Harlem will be hosting the Kishwaukee Dinner February 26. Our culinary students will be providing heavy appetizers and we will be showcasing the CTE addition and the updated culinary kitchen.

8. Comments from the Community

-Dale Lehner emailed the Board on Immigration and Customs Operations with the District.
-Don Campbell expressed his disapproval of the December 8, 9 public hearing minutes, and the closing of Olson Park and Maple Elementary. Asked why there were no other options for closing different buildings.

Caitlin MacRoy commented that scenario seven was the most equitable for the District; the new scenarios were highlighting the have and have nots in the District where it will be a problem when title resources are going to be limited to areas based on where they are. She expressed her frustration with the lack of specific issues and the need for more community involvement.

9. Approval of Bills

- A. Payables Summary \$1,177,950.66
- B. Voided Checks \$0
- C. Payroll Voucher(s) \$11,036,492.23
- D. Accounts Payable Warrants \$12,214,442.89

10. Administrative Reports

- A. Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
 - 1. Recommendation to approve Student Travel Requests:
 - Middle School Dance Team to travel to Springfield Feb. 13-15
 - IESA Competition for Middle School Cheer Team to travel to Peoria Feb. 10-11
 - Model UN students travel to Chicago Feb. 5-8
 - Middle School students travel to Peoria Jan. 28-31
 - B. Josh Aurand, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations
 - 1. Recommendation to approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property:
 - 2. Recommendation to accept November 2025 Treasurer's Report
 - 3. Recommendation to award bus bid to Central States Bus Sales for three Conventional Style buses at a cost of \$449,370 and three Transit Style Front Engine buses at a cost of \$514,740, for a total cost of \$964,110
 - 4. Recommendation to award HHS Dust Collection bid to Miller Engineering Company, in the amount of \$370,917
 - 5. Recommendation to approve an agreement with AYA Healthcare Inc. to provide nursing services at Loves Park Elementary at a cost of \$80 per hour at 37.5 hours per week, for 20 weeks for a total cost of \$60,000, paid with IDEA Flow Through Part B
 - 6. Recommendation to approve Contracted School Improvement Grant Tutor for Rock Cut Elementary at a cost of \$10,500, paid with Planning Year Title I-Part A-Section 1003
 - 7. Recommendation to approve Tyler Technologies/Munis reporting services migration, for a cost of \$3,600
 - 8. Recommendation to approve an agreement with Nania Energy Advisors
 - C. Dr. Shelley Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
 - 1. Recommendation to approve Personnel Agenda & Addendum
 - 10 Employment
 - 9 Transfers
 - 24 Resignations
 - 2 new para positions (Parker, HHS)
 - D. Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent

1. A Freedom of Information Act request dated December 5, 2025, was submitted by Brad Shields requesting salary reports for all certified and uncertified staff in the Harlem School District. The District responded to the requestor on December 16, 2025, with the inclusive document.
2. Freedom of Information Act request dated December 11, 2025, was submitted by Nathaniel Langley from WIFR requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of emails from Superintendent Terrell Yarbrough that contain the word "plan" as well as "scenario" written between January 1, 2025, through the date of this request. The District responded to the requestor on January 5, 2026, with the inclusive documents.
3. Freedom of Information Act request dated December 05, 2025, was submitted by Ashley Bragg requesting access to the following records related to the CTE (Career & Technical Education) expansion project at Harlem High School, specifically for the period from December 1, 2022, through the present: The District responded to the requestor on December 19, 2025, with the inclusive documents.
4. Freedom of Information Act request dated December 31, 2025, was submitted by Owen Wang from Rockford Sun requesting copies of all active full-time aide contracts/collective bargaining agreements. The District responded to the requestor on January 5, 2026, with no pertaining documents.
5. Freedom of Information Act request dated January 15, 2026, was submitted by the Illinois Retired Teachers Association requesting the contact information of certified staff who are planning to retire in 2026. The District responded to the requestor on January 15, 2026, with the inclusive document.
6. Recommendation to approve Second Reading of Policy 8:20 AP from November 17, 2025, Board Meeting

11. Consent Agenda

- A. Approve Personnel Agenda & Addendum

1st Johnson 2nd Sterling

Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney-7 ayes

Motion Carried

- B. Approve Student Travel Request(s)

1st Thompson 2nd Sterling

Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Carlson- 7 ayes

Motion Carried

12. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property

1st McKnight 2nd McKinney

Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson -7 ayes

Motion Carried

- B. Accept November 2025 Treasurer's Report

1st Thompson 2nd McKnight

Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling-7 ayes

Motion Carried

- C. Approve award bus bid to Central States Bus Sales for three Conventional Style buses at a cost of \$449,370 and three Transit Style Front Engine buses at a cost of \$514,740, for a total cost of \$964,110

1st Thompson 2nd Carlson

Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling-7 ayes

Motion Carried

D. Approve award HHS Dust Collection bid to Miller Engineering Company, in the amount of \$370,917

1st McKnight 2nd McKinney

McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson- 7 ayes

Motion Carried

E. Approve an agreement with AYA Healthcare Inc. to provide nursing services at Loves Park Elementary at a cost of \$80 per hour at 37.5 hours per week, for 20 weeks for a total cost of \$60,000, paid with IDEA Flow Through Part B

1st Johnson 2nd Carlson

McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight-7 ayes

Motion Carried

F. Approve Contracted School Improvement Grant Tutor for Rock Cut Elementary at a cost of \$10,500, paid with Planning Year Title I-Part A-Section 1003

1st McKnight 2nd Carlson

Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney- 7 ayes

Motion Carried

G. Approve Tyler Technologies/Munis reporting services migration, for a cost of \$3,600

1st Carlson 2nd Johnson

Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Carlson- 7 ayes

Motion Carried

H. Approve an agreement with Nania Energy Advisors

1st Johnson 2nd McKnight

Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson-7 ayes

Motion Carried

I. Approve Second Reading of Policy 8.20 AP from November 17, 2025 Board Meeting

1st Carlson 2nd Thompson

Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling- 7 ayes

Motion Carried

13. Announcements and Discussion:

-Diana Johnson read an email that she received from a teacher. She suggests considering option four for school consolidation rather than option three, which involves creating sister schools with kindergarten through second grade in one school and third through fifth grade in another. Diana recommended to switch option three to four.

-Diane McKinney mentioned that she would go with four instead of three.

-Kurt Thompson commented that option 4 addressed some of the issues of three, less transitioning, less construction issues. Still would like to hear what the public thinks. Yes, to switch option three to option four

-Aaron McKnight-no

-Rebecca Carlson- no

-Evelyn Meeks said yes to switch option three to option four for consideration.

-Mike said no

Consensus to switch from option three to option four. This would be Options one and four up for consideration at Tuesday's meeting.

-Rebeca Carlson wanted to apologize for letting her emotions get away from her at the last meeting. She also wanted to express her displeasure of meeting etiquette at board meetings, COTW, public hearing and asking to curtail the inappropriateness of behaviors that happen.

-Evelyn Meeks wanted to say Thank you to all the administrators for all the time that they put in. She mentioned that she will try and make the best decision for the district.

-Aaron McKnight commented that the board member's job is the education, students, teachers, and tax payers of this District. He continued with there is a way for some of these plans to work and as a board member there is a way to get close as possible. He emphasized the importance of making decisions that are best for students and the community.

-Mike Sterling commented how tax abatement have helped tax payers over the years. He reiterated how the boards commitment to balancing the needs of students, teachers, and taxpayers. With all the options that were on the table, the Board will continue to look at what is right for the District.

14. Executive Session to discuss Employment of Personnel (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Negotiations (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), Selection of a Person to Fill a Public Office (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3), Pending Litigation (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11), Student Discipline (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9), Placement of Individual Students in Special Education Programs and Other Matters Relating to Individual Students (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10), Purchase or Lease of Real Property for the Use of the District (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), Setting of a Price for Sale or Lease of Property Owned by the District (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6), Self-Evaluation, Practices and Procedures or Professional Ethics (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16), Sale or Purchase of Securities, Investments or Investment Contracts (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7), Security Procedures (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8), Establishment of Reserves or Settlement of Claims as provided in Local Government and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(12), and Discussion of Lawfully Closed Meeting Minutes (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).

15. ACTION ITEMS AFTER CLOSED SESSION

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:59PM

1st Thompson 2nd Johnson

All voted aye; Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 6:59PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Cook

Recording Secretary

ATTEST

President

Date: _____

Secretary