

# **Minutes of Regular Board Meeting**

## **The Board of Education Harlem Consolidated School District # 122**

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A Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Harlem Consolidated School District was held Monday, December 15, 2025, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Harlem High School, Auditorium, One Huskie Circle, Machesney Park, IL 61115

1. Call to Order of Regular Board meeting at 6:00 p.m. by Michael Sterling
2. Roll Call- Michael 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 Communications & Community Relations, Josh Aurand-Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations

3. Pledge of Allegiance: Machesney Elementary students
4. Approval of Agenda

**1<sup>st</sup> McKnight 2<sup>nd</sup> Carlson**

**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 Board Meeting Minutes: November 17, 2025

**1<sup>st</sup> Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup> McKinney**

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

**Motion Carried**

7. Michael Sterling-Board President

Mike Sterling provided an overview of the District's financial situation and the impact of decreasing student enrollment. He discussed the need to close two schools to better utilize buildings and address financial deficits. Mike emphasized the importance of making tough decisions now to ensure the District's long-term stability. The Board is considering various scenarios, including neighborhood school and sister schools.

Aaron McKnight shared research on senior exemption rate and new construction in the District, highlighting the population issue.

Kurt Thompson discusses the importance of getting the right steps in place. Listening to all the community comments, looking at any blind spots will help with tweaks for an updated plan.

Diana Johnson emphasized the importance of considering taxpayers' concern and suggests a review of the sister school plan.

Rebecca Carlson requests to be a part of the committee to provide input and support the admin team in developing new scenarios.

Evelyn Meeks thanked everyone who came out. She commented that change is hard and the Board is doing the best they can to make sure the District is moving smoothly.

Diane McKinney emphasized that the Board is hearing what the community is saying. The Board will have to do something to keep the District running smoothly.

The Board agreed to provide frequent updated and clearer direction to the admin team and asking them to come up with another idea, tweaks and suggestions for a scenario.

8. Comments from the Community- none

9. Approval of Bills

**1<sup>st</sup> McKnight 2<sup>nd</sup> Carlson**

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

**Motion Carried**

A. Payables Summary- \$3,751,316.99

B. Voided Checks-\$156,450.25

C. Payroll Voucher(s)-\$3,610,909.16

D. Accounts Payable Warrants-\$7,362,226.15

10. Administrative Reports

A. Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

1. Recommendation to approve Student Travel Requests:

*-Boys Baseball to Jacksonville IL on March 27, 2026*

*- students travel to Peoria for ILMEA All State January 28, 2026*

*-Boys Basketball travel to Bloomington IL for the State Farm Holiday Classic December 26, 2025*

*-Cheer Team travel to Springfield IL for ICCA State Competition January 10, 2026*

B. Josh Aurand, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations

1. Recommendation to approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property: *Surplus from HMS and Parker Center*

2. Recommendation to accept FY25 Audit by Sikich

3. Recommendation to accept October Treasurer's Report

4. Recommendation to Approve Report on Cash Balance in Relation to Average Expenditures

5. Recommendation to approve an agreement with Lighthouse Speech Therapy to provide speech and language services at a cost of \$115 per hour at 37.5 hours per week, not to exceed 13 weeks for a total cost of \$56,062.50, paid with IDEA Flow Through Part B

6. Recommendation to approve an agreement with PD Monster to provide professional development on 1/5/26 for School Improvement Day and 2/13/26 for Teacher Institute Day for a cost of \$6,300.00, paid with IDEA Flow Through Part B

7. Recommendation to approve an agreement with The Regional Office of Education (ROE) for professional development workshops for teachers and administrators on Teacher Institute Day 2/13/26 at a cost of \$12,300.00, paid with Title II funds

C. Dr. Shelley Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

1. Recommendation to approve Personnel Agenda & Addendum

*-6 Transfers*

*-5 Employments*

*-6 Resignations*

D. Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent

1. Freedom of Information Act request dated November 19, 2025, was submitted by Olivia Carstens requesting all the documents pertaining to all the scenarios considered, as well as the proposed scenario 7, for the Elementary Consolidation Plan. The District responded to the requestor on November 25, 2025.
2. Freedom of Information Act request dated November 28, 2025, was submitted by Olivia Carstens requesting Overviews of Scenarios 3, 4, and 5 comparable to the overviews for Scenarios 1, 2, 6, and 7 published at [www.harlem122.org](http://www.harlem122.org). The District denied the request on December 5, 2025.
3. A Freedom of Information Act request dated December 11, 2025, was submitted by Oshea Smith from Sunlight Records requesting an electronic summary of purchase orders from July 1, 2025, through November 30, 2025. The District responded to the requestor on December 11, 2025, with the inclusive documents.

11. Consent Agenda

- A. Approve Personnel Agenda & Addendum

**1<sup>st</sup> McKnight 2<sup>nd</sup> Thompson**

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

**Motion Carried**

- B. Approve Student Travel Request(s)

**1<sup>st</sup> Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeks**

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

**Motion Carried**

12. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property

**1<sup>st</sup> McKnight 2<sup>nd</sup> McKinney**

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

**Motion Carried**

- B. Acceptance of FY25 Audit

**1<sup>st</sup> Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup> Sterling**

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

**Motion Carried**

- C. Accept October Treasurer's Report.

**1<sup>st</sup> Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup> Carlson**

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

**Motion Carried**

- D. Approve report of Cash Balance in Relation to Average Expenditures

**1<sup>st</sup> Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup> McKnight**

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

**Motion Carried**

- E. Approve an agreement with Lighthouse Speech Therapy to provide speech and language services at a cost of \$115 per hour at 37.5 hours per week, not to exceed 13 weeks for a total cost of \$56,062.50, paid with IDEA Flow Through Part B

**1<sup>st</sup> Carlson 2<sup>nd</sup> Johnson**

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

**Motion Carried**

F. Approve an agreement with PD Monster to provide professional development on 1/5/26 for School Improvement Day and 2/13/26 for Teacher Institute Day for a cost of \$6,300.00, paid with IDEA Flow Through Part B

**1<sup>st</sup> McKinney 2<sup>nd</sup> Sterling**

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

**Motion Carried**

G. Approve an agreement with The Regional Office of Education (ROE) for professional development workshops for teachers and administrators on Teacher Institute Day 2/13/26 at a cost of \$12,300.00, paid with Title II funds

**1<sup>st</sup> Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup> McKnight**

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

**Motion Carried**

13. Announcements and Discussion:

14. Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Negotiations (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)

**1<sup>st</sup> McKnight 2<sup>nd</sup> Johnson**

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

**Motion Carried**

*The Board took a brief recess at 7:05PM and went into Closed Session at 7:13PM; returned to Open Session at 7:22PM*

15. ACTION ITEMS AFTER CLOSED SESSION

16. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn at 7:22PM**

**1<sup>st</sup> McKnight 2<sup>nd</sup> Thompson**

**All voted aye; Motion Carried**

Meeting adjourned at 7:22PM

Respectfully Submitted

*Pam Cook*

Recording Secretary

ATTEST

Date:

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President

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Secretary