



**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
SCHOOL DISTRICT 25, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
March 24, 2025**

Call to Order

President Rogers called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:08pm on March 24, 2025, in the Multi-Purpose Room at Benjamin Middle School in West Chicago, IL 60185.

Roll Call

Board Recorder John Langton took a roll call vote of the members present: Jack Buscemi, Andrew Drinnin, Jodi Krause, Bridgette Pedersen, Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis.

Absent: None

Other attendees included John Langton, Interim Superintendent; and consultants Dr. Brian Harris, Dr. Bhavna Sharma-Lewis, and Dr. Karen Sullivan.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Rogers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented. This motion was made by Jodi Krause and seconded by Dennis Peterson. Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Jack Buscemi, Andrew Drinnin, Jodi Krause, Bridgette Pedersen, Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis.

Nays: None

Public Comment: There was one blue public comment card submitted. Jenny Moore was going to make a comment about eLearning. Mr. Langton shared that this topic will appear as a Discussion Item at the April 14th regular Board of Education meeting. Jenny declined to comment at this time and will wait until the April 14, 2025, meeting.

Discussion Items:

Dr. Brian Harris and Dr. Karen Sullivan, the Board's consultants from HYA search firm, reviewed the Leadership Profile. The Profile summarizes the input from stakeholders resulting from the numerous interviews, focus groups, and survey responses. This input provides a profile of the desired leadership characteristics that respondents favor in the next Superintendent. The Leadership Profile outcomes are available on the school district website, under Superintendent Search.

* Note: Following the presentation by the HYA representatives, a community member, Michael Szajda, expressed concerns with the timeline associated with the seating of the new Board and the vote to approve a contract with a new Superintendent. Mr. Rogers gave permission to Mr. Szajda to comment, out of the assigned Public Comment time, and explained that the Board has already discussed having newly elected, but not yet seated, members participate in the second round interviews with candidates on April 15-16.

Next, Dr. Bhavna Sharma-Lewis reviewed the definition, purpose, and impact of a mission statement. She asked if the current mission statement reflects the tenants that she reviewed or if it aligns with the Leadership Profile. Dr. Sharma-Lewis reviewed highlights of the Leadership Profile, based on her

listening to the previous presentation. Some of the themes included; traditions, pride in community, values, leadership skills for all stakeholders, building relationships, setting the standard, ownership in learning, citizenship, human kindness, unity as a school district, and active in their own learning.

They reviewed example Mission Statements from other school districts.

Dr. Sharma-Lewis discussed the next steps for developing the school district's Mission Statement. They agreed to begin that process now and then continue with this work at the special Board meeting on May 19, 2025. At that meeting, the Board will finalize the Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Defining Core Values. Members agreed to share feedback, in the form of statements for consideration to be used to develop the Mission Statement, with President Rogers in the next two days. He will then forward this input to Dr. Sharma-Lewis to contribute to her preparations for the May 19, 2025, meeting.

Adjournment (Voice Vote)

Motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:11 pm. This motion was made by Andrew Drinnin and seconded by Gina Vlantis. Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Jack Buscemi, Andrew Drinnin, Jodi Krause, Bridgette Pedersen, Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis.

Nays: None

Respectfully submitted by:
John Langton, Board Recorder

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

Recorded: March 24, 2025

Approved: April 14, 2025