

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 14, 2026 6:30 PM Central

Lakeview Junior High School
701 Plainfield Road
Downers Grove, IL 60516

Steve Dlugo: Present
Megan DuPass: Present
Brian Liedtke: Present
Adam Sage: Present
Darren Spiegel: Present
Tiffany Watson: Present
Doug Wiley: Present
Present: 7.

I. Call Meeting to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Board President Brian Liedtke.

II. Pledge

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President Brian Liedtke.

III. Recognition of Visitors

In-person visitors included Dr. Kim Liles, Director Tom Tiede, Principal Mark Pagel, Principal Jake Little, Assistant Principal Carrie Fitzgerald, and Sharon Dadeogu. Online attendees included Darren Spiegel, Keith Roberts, Rusty Novotny, Jessica Sage, Kari Gemmell, Elizabeth Uribe, Meghan Aleo, Jennifer Nawrot, Sheryl Sulima, Heather Tran and Kristin Platt.

IV. Scheduled Time to Address the Board

There were no scheduled speakers for the January 14, 2026 Board of Education meeting.

V. Consent Agenda

V.A. Monthly Meeting Minutes

V.B. District's Monthly Financial Statements

V.C. Monthly Board Bills Payable

V.D. New Items

V.D.1. Approve the Hire of Christina Hollingsworth - EL Teacher Maternity Leave, Elizabeth Ide

V.D.2. Approve the Hire of Douglas Murphy - District Bus Driver & Maintenance

VI. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Doug Wiley and seconded by Adam Sage, Passed.

Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Darren Spiegel: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

VII. Communication

Dan Kritta from WOLD

VII.A. FOIA Requests

There were three FOIA requests, all of which the District complied with.

VIII. Principal Reports

VIII.A. Elizabeth Ide Elementary

In January, Elizabeth Ide's winter benchmark assessments in reading, math, and social-emotional learning begin, providing vital data to monitor student progress and guide instruction. After the assessments, staff will collaborate in February to review data, celebrate progress, identify trends, and plan targeted instructional strategies. This ongoing process supports responsive teaching and a commitment to continuous improvement. Supporting the whole child remains a key focus as Ide enters the second half of the school year, with activities like the Hat and Mitten Drive fostering empathy and social responsibility. School-wide spirit days also promote a positive culture, connection, and belonging, enhancing students' social-emotional well-being. These initiatives help create an environment where students feel valued, engaged, and confident in their learning. After winter break, efforts have focused on re-establishing routines and expectations to ensure students feel comfortable and confident returning to school, supporting a safe and supportive environment. Attention is also given to maintaining engaging, safe, and positive classroom and common areas, with staff modeling respectful behavior. These combined efforts aim to create a secure, welcoming space where students are motivated and ready to learn.

VIII.B. Prairieview Elementary

Winter benchmarking assessments are underway, with students taking tests like the MAP, common assessments, and updating scores, while Aimsweb+ was completed before break. Staff are collaboratively reviewing this data to improve differentiated instruction and share best practices, including insights from neighboring schools and ISBE data analysis. Building leaders will continue to analyze the results to adjust instruction and support student progress. This month, nearly 20 student leaders were selected from over 50 applicants to join the new Student Leadership Team, ready to share ideas for improving Prairieview. Additionally, student-run clubs will focus on interests like physics and puzzles, thanks to teachers supporting student ownership and community involvement. On December 16th, Prairieview celebrated a successful first half of the year with performances by the band and choir,

highlighting the message that CHAMPS can do hard things. They also welcomed back Ms. Smeltzer and supported a school-wide field trip to Tivoli, thanks to the efforts of staff, drivers, and community partners. Additionally, the custodial team worked diligently to keep the grounds safe and ready for outdoor activities despite winter weather.

VIII.C. Lakeview Junior High

After winter break, teachers and students were finalizing projects, participating in hands-on labs, and preparing for National History Day, showcasing collaboration, critical thinking, and ownership of learning. Administrators will review winter MAP data with grade-level teams to ensure interventions meet students' needs. Looking ahead, a reading incentive challenge will be launched to promote a love of reading, with a special reward at a Kane County Cougars game. Lakeview is lively with students actively participating in sports, activities, and clubs, including a successful boys basketball season and a cheerleading competition upcoming. As basketball winds down, volleyball open gyms and other activities like chess and musical tryouts are providing additional opportunities for student involvement. These connections foster a strong sense of belonging and support student engagement, confidence, and success. Lakeview's ACE team's dedicated efforts help create a positive, supportive learning environment, recognizing "silent heroes"—staff members who maintain and care for our spaces behind the scenes. They're also excited to unveil their new Spartan mascot at the end-of-quarter assembly, where they will be honoring staff, celebrating student participation, and enjoying fun activities, with school board members invited to join on January 16.

IX. Director Reports

IX.A. Director of Student Services

January and February are busy months for teachers to gather student performance data through benchmarking assessments conducted three times a year, which help identify student needs, strengths, and guide instruction. This data supports personalized learning, instructional grouping, and the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), while also informing parents about their child's progress and areas for growth. On January 5, the District's Interventionist Team received training through Panorama Education to strengthen MTSS practices, focusing on data-driven decision-making, intervention planning, and progress monitoring across various domains. This professional development also prepared interventionists to support and train colleagues in using Panorama Student Success to enhance student outcomes consistently. Each January, the District conducts its annual vertical articulation and student placement planning to ensure smooth transitions between grades and schools through collaboration, observations, and data review. Guided by a Vertical Articulation Timeline and an ISBE-aligned Placement Framework, the process focuses on individualized, data-driven decisions that prioritize the least restrictive environment. These efforts promote continuity of services, thoughtful planning, and student success in the coming year.

IX.B. Director of Learning

The District Leadership Team's Advanced Math Committee has reviewed current practices and decided to implement a more research-based, student-centered approach starting in 2026-2027. The course previously called Advanced Third Grade Math will be renamed Enhanced Third Grade Math, combining third and fourth-grade standards to build a strong conceptual foundation while allowing for acceleration. Identification criteria remain the same, and families will be informed in early Spring 2026 to ensure transparency and understanding of the upcoming changes. Planning for Kindergarten Round-Up includes sharing an Intent to Register Form and overview presentation with incoming families by the end of January 2026, along with a remote learning day for current students on May 13 to facilitate visits, screenings, and transition activities. These efforts aim to support a smooth and successful start for new kindergarten students at Elizabeth Ide. Starting January 30, Lakeview staff will participate in professional development on Artificial Intelligence (AI), led by trained experts Joy DeFors and Kari Gemmel, focusing on foundational understanding and instructional strategies. Staff feedback will then be used to shape future AI initiatives and professional learning opportunities for students.

IX.C. Director of Technology

In January, the district made progress in instructional systems, operational planning, and readiness, including refining grading models, report cards, and professional development plans through staff collaboration. Preparations for the upcoming assessment season involved updating technology, completing server and network upgrades, and advancing operational projects like digital signage, E-rate filings, and staffing for technology support. The instructional technology and staff development initiatives focused on advancing the Skyward CBE grading model, improving gradebook usability, and refining report cards to align with competency-based practices through ongoing collaboration and feedback. Additionally, a professional development plan was created to guide staff in applying new skills and supporting the continued implementation of Skyward systems. The operations and infrastructure efforts focused on preparing for upcoming assessments by updating devices, completing server and network maintenance, and ensuring system reliability. Additionally, the district is managing vendor transitions, securing ongoing network services through E-rate, and enhancing communication with new digital signage in key areas. The department has concluded the application process for a new Help Desk Technician, who will support on-site technical needs after onboarding, while ongoing efforts focus on refining the CBE model and gradebook structures. Additionally, preparations are underway for the E-rate funding cycle and upcoming assessments, ensuring technology readiness and support for test coordinators.

IX.D. Director of Transportation/Buildings and Grounds

During the holiday break, the bus fleet received necessary repairs and maintenance, taking advantage of mild weather for cleaning and sanitizing. On January 6th, the transportation department hosted the annual mandatory bus driver refresher course for the district drivers and those from neighboring districts, which helps collaborate and reduce costs. The District also

welcomed two new drivers, Mr. Douglas Murphy and Ms. Francisca Beltran, who are quickly integrating into the team and enhancing the transportation services. During the holiday break, buildings underwent deep cleaning and completed lingering maintenance projects, with a focus on safety and upkeep. Plans are underway to bid for a new gym flooring project, with a recommendation for approval at the February board meeting. Additionally, the district secured an 18-month electricity supply rate of \$0.09000 per KWH through bidding, which is lower than current market rates, helping to stabilize energy costs before returning to the higher rates of the local utility in 2026.

X. Superintendent Report

X.A. District Dashboard

The District Dashboard is now available online on the District website. There are no updates or changes to report for this month.

X.B. School Maintenance Grant Application

To support the expenses associated with the renovations to Gym 1 at Lakeview, the District applied for a \$50,000 grant to assist with the cost of the gym flooring.

X.C. Hazardous Roads Study

The District has received the data from the Hazardous Road study, but is currently awaiting an executive summary from the engineering firm.

X.D. Transportation Purchases/Lease

Director Tiede presented a Transportation Fleet Plan for the 2026-2027 school year. He proposed acquiring three buses that will be exiting their lease agreements, aligning with the prior year's strategy of increasing ownership through purchasing rather than extending additional leases.

X.E. Transportation Walk Zones/Fees

Although walk zones are not currently needed with the hire of two additional drivers, there was interest in implementing a transportation fee to ensure the sustainability of the transportation fund. The Board requested that Dr. Wise gather data on necessary costs, fee structures in other districts, and comparable fee options for the 2026-2027 school year, to facilitate an informed discussion and decision.

X.F. Lakeview Gym Update

Dr. Wise shared that the Lakeview Gym 1 update will begin over Spring Break, with an anticipated completion date of August 1, 2026. To assist with the cost of the renovations, the District wrote a \$50,000 grant to help with the cost of the gym floor, and received a \$20,000 donation from TEAM 66 to assist with new video boards to replace the original scoreboard.

X.G. Summer Parking Lot Project

Bid documents for Phase One passed the County's inspection, and they can be released for bid in the next couple of weeks. Bids will be awarded and approved in March.

X.H. Inter-Governmental Agreement with the Village of Woodridge

Dr. Wise provided the latest information on the proposed Woodridge Tax Increment Financing. Each Board member shared a few thoughts, but in summary, aside from the concerns on whether the proposed TIF was necessary or legal, the Board of Education was seeking some assurances from the Village that the District would be reimbursed to educate and house new students from the TIF. Dr. Wise would communicate the District's needs for financial protections at the upcoming public hearing.

X.I. SY 26-27 Draft Calendar

A draft 26-27 school year calendar was provided. Comments were provided by the Board, many of which revolved around District 66 and District 99 not having the same days off during the school year. Dr. Wise noted that although the schools begin simultaneously and share nearly identical academic calendars, District 66 observes more days off throughout the year for students and families, which results in District 99 concluding the school year earlier.

X.J. Goal 1 Update

Board President Liedtke and Board Member DuPass shared an update from a recent Administrative Subcommittee meeting focused on Goal One. Information was given on curriculum, practices, systems, and the formation of a new Strategic Plan committee, coming together at the start of the 2026-2027 school year.

X.K. Final Reading of Board Policies 2:120, 2:240, 2:270, 4:10, 4:30, 5:10, 5:280, 5:90, 6:130, 6:40, 6:60, 7:140, 7:150, 7:180, 7:190, 7:340
Board Policies were approved with final changes.

X.L. Student Services Coordinator Position

Dr. Wise shared the rise in student needs and not being able to meet those needs because we are sharing one Student Services Coordinator between two buildings. The Board authorized Dr. Wise to post for another Student Services Coordinator.

X.M. Administration for 26-27 School Year

There was no public comment at this time.

XI. Public Comment

XII. Action items

XII.A. Motion to approve the School Maintenance Grant Application

Motion to approve the School Maintenance Grant Application. This motion, made by Steve Dlugo and seconded by Megan DuPass, Passed.

Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Darren Spiegel: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XII.B. Motion to approve Board Policies 2:120, 2:240, 2:270, 4:10, 4:30, 5:10, 5:280, 5:90, 6:130, 6:40, 6:60, 7:140, 7:150, 7:180, 7:190, 7:340

Motion to approve Board Policies 2:120, 2:240, 2:270, 4:10, 4:30, 5:10, 5:280, 5:90, 6:130, 6:40, 6:60, 7:140, 7:150, 7:180, 7:190, and 7:340. This motion, made by Tiffany Watson and seconded by Steve Dlugo, Passed.

Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Darren Spiegel: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XII.C. Motion to Enter Executive Session

Motion to Enter Executive Session. This motion, made by Megan DuPass and seconded by Adam Sage, Passed.

Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Darren Spiegel: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XIII. Executive Session - Enter Executive Session to discuss student discipline, the appointment, employment, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity, and/or litigation 5ILCS120/2(c)(1) or collective negotiating matters or deliberations concerning safety schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5ILCS120/2(c)(3).

XIII.A. Motion to Re-enter Open Session

Motion to Re-enter Open Session. This motion, made by Steve Dlugo and seconded by Adam Sage, Passed.

Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Darren Spiegel: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XIV. Action Items

XIV.A. Motion to Approve Carrie Fitzgerald as the Principal of Elizabeth Ide for the 26-27 School Year.

Motion to approve Carrie Fitzgerald as the Principal of Elizabeth Ide for the 26-27 School Year. This motion, made by Tiffany Watson and seconded by Steve Dlugo, Passed.

Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Darren Spiegel: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XIV.B. Motion to Approve Kim Liles as the Principal of Lakeview Junior High for 26-27 School Year.

Motion to approve Kim Liles as the Principal of Lakeview Junior High for the 26-27 School Year. This motion, made by Megan DuPass and seconded by Doug Wiley, Passed.

Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Darren Spiegel: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XIV.C. Motion to Approve the Title Change from Director of Learning to Assistant Superintendent for Learning for the 26-27 School Year.

Motion to approve the Title Change from Director of Learning to Assistant Superintendent for Learning for the 26-27 School Year. This motion, made by Megan DuPass and seconded by Adam Sage, Passed.

Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Darren Spiegel: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XIV.D. Motion to Approve the Title Change from Director of Student Services to Assistant Superintendent for Services for the 26-27 School Year.

Motion to approve the Title Change from Director of Student Services to Assistant Superintendent for Services for the 26-27 School Year. This motion, made by Doug Wiley and seconded by Tiffany Watson, Passed.

Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Darren Spiegel: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XIV.E. Motion to Approve Board Policy 5:330

XV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. This motion, made by Steve Dlugo and seconded by Megan DuPass, Passed.

Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Darren Spiegel: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

The January 14, 2026 Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Gannon, recording secretary

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education