

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 37

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 19, 2026

Call to Order

At 6:07 p.m. the meeting of the Gavin School Board of Education was called to order on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, by President Miller.

Roll Call

Present

Mr. James Miller, III - President
Mrs. Sarah Brezinski - Secretary
Mrs. Brandy Barth
Mrs. Kristin Bloniarczyk
Dr. Bridgett Payseur

Absent

Mrs. Amber Sederstrom - Vice President
Ms. Jenny Meyer

Also Present - Dr. Scott Schwartz, Mrs. Diana Miletich-Wester, Dr. Meagan Dwyer and Mrs. Deanna Kelly.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board and audience stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Board

No citizens requested to address the Board at this time.

Committee Reports: Finance and Facilities Committee

Mrs. Miletich-Wester provided the Finance and Facilities Committee update, noting that the August CPI was 3.4%, down slightly from June. The district addressed an HVAC failure and is exploring warranty coverage, while also working to fill a bus driver vacancy amid widespread driver shortages. In addition, Chromebook costs have increased approximately 50% from last year, and our Director of Technology, David Roat, is gathering quotes for the next purchase.

Committee Reports: Policy Committee

Dr. Schwartz provided the Policy Committee update, noting that he and Mrs. Bloniarczyk reviewed the amended PRESS Issue 122 policies. Revisions primarily involved footnotes, legal references, and five-year review updates, with no significant changes. The policies are presented for first reading approval at this meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Schwartz reported a successful first day of school, and welcomed new certified teachers following new teacher orientation and positive meet-and-greet events. He recognized staff for their significant summer efforts and highlighted strategic plan progress, including expanded AI capabilities, annual South Gym floor maintenance, upgraded security cameras, and the launch of the Leader in Me program at South School. The GIG parent organization also had a strong start to the year, with a well-attended back-to-school event.

Board President's Report

The Board President stated there was nothing to report at this time.

Discussion, Tax Limiting Rate and Life Safety Bond Update

Dr. Schwartz presented an update on the tax limiting rate referendum, with consultant Paul Hanley outlining election timing, voter trends, and community engagement considerations. Following discussion, the Board reached consensus to target the November 2028 presidential election and engage Beyond Your Base for comprehensive surveying, analysis, and proposal development beginning in fall 2027. The process will include community outreach and clear, accessible informational materials to help inform voters.

Discussion, Preliminary 2026-2027 Budget Review

Mrs. Miletich-Wester presented the preliminary 2026–2027 budget, which projects \$14.8 million in revenue and \$14.9 million in expenditures, resulting in a \$154,000 deficit. The district ended FY2026 with a \$607,000 surplus, and operating fund balances have grown to \$9.26 million, reflecting strong financial management. The preliminary budget includes planned investments in technology, facilities, transportation, and student resources while addressing rising costs for salaries, health insurance, special education, and utilities. The budget will be posted for public review for 30 days before final approval in September.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Board

No citizens requested to address the Board at this time.

Approval, Consent Agenda

No discussion preceded this vote.

Mrs. Bloniarczyk made a motion to approve and Mrs. Barth seconded approval of the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Miller, Brezinski, Barth, Bloniarczyk, Payseur
- Nays: None
- Absent: Sederstrom, Meyer

Approval, Personnel Report of August 17, 2026

No discussion preceded this vote.

Mrs. Bloniarczyk made a motion to approve and Mrs. Barth seconded approval of the Personnel Report of August 17, 2026.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Miller, Brezinski, Barth, Bloniarczyk, Payseur
- Nays: None
- Absent: Sederstrom, Meyer

Approval, License Agreement by and Between the Board of Education of Gavin School District 37 and Kids Above All Illinois

No discussion preceded this vote.

Mrs. Bloniarczyk made a motion to approve and Mrs. Barth seconded approval of the License Agreement by and between the Board of Education of Gavin School District 37 and Kids Above All Illinois.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Miller, Brezinski, Barth, Bloniarczyk, Payseur
- Nays: None
- Absent: Sederstrom, Meyer

Approval, Intergovernmental Agreement Between ELC and Gavin School District 37 for .05 Full Time Equivalent Assistive Technology Services

No discussion preceded this vote.

Dr. Payseur made a motion to approve and Mrs. Bloniarczyk seconded approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement Between ELC and Gavin School District 37 for .05 Full Time Equivalent Assistive Technology Services.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Miller, Brezinski, Barth, Bloniarczyk, Payseur
- Nays: None
- Absent: Sederstrom, Meyer

Approval, Intergovernmental Agreement Between ELC and Gavin School District 37 for Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

No discussion preceded this vote.

Mrs. Barth made a motion to approve and Dr. Payseur seconded approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement between ELC and Gavin School District for Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Miller, Brezinski, Barth, Bloniarczyk, Payseur
- Nays: None
- Absent: Sederstrom, Meyer

Approval, Intergovernmental Agreement Between ELC and Gavin School District 37 for Orientation and Mobility Services

No discussion preceded this vote.

Mrs. Barth made a motion to approve and Mrs. Bloniarczyk seconded approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement between ELC and Gavin School District for Orientation and Mobility Services.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Miller, Brezinski, Barth, Bloniarczyk, Payseur
- Nays: None
- Absent: Sederstrom, Meyer

Approval, First Reading of PRESS ISSUE 122 - June 2026 Policy Updates

No discussion preceded this vote.

Mrs. Bloniarczyk made a motion to approve and Mrs. Barth seconded approval of the First Reading of PRESS ISSUE 122 - June 2026 Policy Updates.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Miller, Brezinski, Barth, Bloniarczyk, Payseur
- Nays: None
- Absent: Sederstrom, Meyer

Freedom of Information Requests Status

The district received six Freedom of Information requests in the last month. Requests from databranchus are believed to be AI-generated. Verification requests have been sent to confirm a human being submitted the requests.

Board Calendar Upcoming Events

The Board reviewed the calendar of upcoming events. February 3, 2027 will be a Town Hall celebration evening for staff and students. Regular board meetings are scheduled through June 2027.

Items for Future Agendas

No items were added for future agendas.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 7:49.

Mrs. Bloniarczyk made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mrs. Barth seconded approval to adjourn at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Deanna Kelly
Recording Secretary

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Board President

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