

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 10, 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

III. Recognition of Visitors

In-person visitors included Mrs. Katie Matthews, Dr. Kim Liles, Director Keith Roberts, Mrs. Laura Gilmartin, Mrs. Carrie Fitzgerald, Mrs. Ashley Sanchez, Director Tom Tiede, Dr. Sean Rhoads, and Mr. Chris Jamrose. Online attendees included Jamie Liedtke, Meghan Aleo, Elizabeth Uribe, Jessica Sage and Megan Calhoun.

IV. Scheduled Time to Address the Board

There were no scheduled speakers for the September 10, 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 Spencer Avery, BACC Aide

V.D.2. Approve the Hire of Michelle Lugo, P/T Paraprofessional, Elizabeth Ide

V.D.3. Approve the Hire of Carol Schutz, Lunchroom Supervisor, Elizabeth Ide

V.D.4. Approve the Transition from Sub Custodian to Part-Time for Nayeli Montiel, Ide, Prairieview

V.D.5. Approve the Increase in Hours for Christina Schutz, Lunchroom Supervisor, Elizabeth Ide

V.D.6. Approve the Resignation of Angela Baum, Paraprofessional, Lakeview

V.D.7. Approve the Resignation of Melody Maier, Lunchroom Supervisor, Elizabeth Ide

V.D.8. Approve the EIS and Administrative Compensation Report for FY 26

V.D.9. Approve the Annual Threat Assessment Teams per ISBE Regulation

V.D.10. Approve Panorama as the State's Survey Tool replacing 5Essentials

VI. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. 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

VII. Communication

VII.A. Strategic Plan Update

Assistant Superintendents Matthews and Rhoads, joined Dr. Wise in a brief overview of topics discussed in strategic planning meetings. These topics include, but were not limited to, mission, purpose, vision, goals, strategic actions, and deliverables. The revised Strategic Plan will likely focus on the same three pillars as before, our Learning Systems, our Essentials (focus areas that are not directly addressed in the Learning Systems), and our Environment (people, places, and operations). Dr. Wise thanked the 36 individuals who contributed to the plan. A full report will be given at the next Board of Education meeting.

VII.B. FOIA Request

The District complied with one FOIA request.

VIII. Principal Reports

VIII.A. Elizabeth Ide Elementary

At the start of the year, Elizabeth Ide focused on building relationships, establishing routines, and fostering a shared language around learning and behavior to prepare students for success. Staff have been conducting assessments to understand each student's strengths and needs, using this data to guide instruction and support ongoing growth. Additionally, the strong network of support staff collaborates to provide targeted interventions and resources, ensuring

all students' diverse needs are met, and their academic progress is prioritized. Elizabeth Ide's focus has been on building a strong school community where all students feel they belong, through activities that foster relationships and collaboration. Teachers are intentionally teaching routines and expectations, reinforced by visuals and the Pride Bucks program, while staff proactively identify and support students with additional needs to ensure a positive and inclusive learning environment. This year, Ide has welcomed new staff members, fostering a positive and collaborative culture focused on creating engaging, welcoming classrooms that encourage curiosity and participation. With strong family involvement and a dedicated team, the school is off to a great start, building partnerships and looking forward to a successful year together.

VIII.B. Prairieview Elementary

On opening Institute Day, Prairieview staff held Student Success meetings to plan support strategies for a strong start, with interventionists already working to sustain student progress. The school was also conducting MAP assessments from August 31 to September 4, and data will be reviewed in the upcoming Fall Data Dig to inform instructional adjustments.

Prairieview's Teaching and Learning Night was a great success, allowing families to explore classrooms, curriculum, and expectations for the 2026-27 school year, fostering connection and excitement. Everyone appreciated the participation and support, and together, looking forward to a fantastic year. The 2026-27 school year at PV is off to a positive start, with events like Meet the Teacher and Supply Drop Off, fostering connections, and a focus on building relationships and routines to support student success. The success of the Team 66 Green and Gold Run fundraiser, along with strong community partnerships, has further energized the school community.

VIII.C. Lakeview Junior High

Aligned with the theme "Be the Difference," Lakeview students and staff can weekly nominate individuals who have shown kindness, encouragement, or helpfulness. These nominees are recognized each Monday through a PowerPoint display in the lunchroom, celebrating those making a positive impact in the school community. All Lakeview students have completed their fall benchmarking assessments, and teams are analyzing the data to identify trends and set instructional priorities. The school is lively with students actively engaged in exploratory courses, creating, collaborating, and learning, marking an energetic start to the year. A new piece of equipment, Chompsaws, are student-safe electric power tools that are designed to cut cardboard, craft foam and fabric, and are being utilized in Art class.

IX. Director Reports

IX.A. Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

On August 18, building principals and support teams met to review and coordinate services for students with needs across MTSS, Section 504, and IEPs, ensuring supports were in place by Day 1. This work builds on previous planning efforts to maintain service continuity, reduce transition gaps, and promote safe, equitable access for all students from the start of the year. District 66 Social Workers are providing developmentally appropriate SEL supports across all grade levels, including classroom lessons, school wide themes, and transition activities to promote community and success. Additionally, Signs of Suicide screenings will be conducted at Lakeview on September 14, demonstrating the district's ongoing commitment to student well-being. On August 10, District 66 staff, including paraprofessionals, teachers, and administrators, completed Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) training to equip them with strategies for recognizing and de-escalating challenging behaviors, ensuring a safe and supportive environment from day one. Additionally, staff received AED refresher training and participated in safety tabletop activities during Institute Day on August 19, reinforcing the district's commitment to health, safety, and emergency preparedness throughout the school year.

IX.B. Assistant Superintendent of Learning

Parent score reports for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) and Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) will be sent home to students in grades 4-8, providing insights into individual proficiency and academic growth. These reports, accompanied by a cover letter and resources from ISBE, help families interpret their child's performance, while reminding them that state assessments are just one part of a comprehensive system of standards and instruction. Fall benchmark assessments using MAP and Aimsweb+ are currently being conducted for students in grades K-8 to establish baseline data for tracking growth and evaluating instruction. The results will help teachers tailor instruction, identify intervention needs, and determine if further assessments are necessary to support student success. The 2026-2027 Opening Institute Days and SIP Day focused on promoting student ownership of learning and fostering an inclusive culture, all aligned with the district theme "Make Learning Loud," which emphasizes active, visible, and student-driven engagement. Through professional development, student voice panels, and a focus on concrete instructional practices, the days aimed to prepare staff to cultivate empowered, self-directed learners in a supportive environment.

IX.C. Director of Technology

As the 2026-27 school year begins, efforts have shifted from summer preparations to supporting dynamic classroom instruction, improving administrative systems, and ensuring robust data security. The student device distributions proceeded smoothly, Skyward updates are on track, and we are implementing district-level controls for AI access and usage.

IX.D. Director of Transportation/Buildings and Grounds

Between August and September, numerous projects reached substantial completion, enabling a successful, on-time start to the 2026-27 school year with full capacity. Highlights include

completed roofing, gym renovations, parking lot improvements, playground expansions, and exterior masonry work at Lakeview, Prairieview, and IDE, all contributing to a safe and accessible environment for staff, students, and families. Thanks to the dedicated custodial and maintenance teams for their hard work in preparing the buildings and grounds for a smooth beginning. After four weeks of school, bus routes have stabilized, transporting over 830 students across three schools on seven large routes and additional smaller and special needs routes. Thanks to the board's support, an extra mini-bus was purchased, allowing more students to be routed in-house rather than outsourced. The district is also preparing for fall field trips and sporting events, with drivers generously taking on extra hours to support these activities.

X. Superintendent Report

X.A. District Dashboard

The District Dashboard is available online. Once state data becomes available, it will be updated.

X.B. FY 2027 Budget

Dr. Wise commended the Board and employees for operating within their means, and once again, adding approximately half a million dollars to their reserves. Due to the Board's strong fiscal stewardship, the District has gone from negative fund balances in FY 2022, to approximately \$3.5 million in operating reserves. While this is monumental for the District, it is still less than one month's cash on hand for operations, and it will take continued dedication to reach the 3 to 6 months cash on hand that the State Board recommends.

X.C. Annuity Resolution

To preserve the qualified status of our 403(b) retirement plan, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) periodically requires employers using pre-approved plan documents to formally update and restate their plans. These restatements incorporate legislative, regulatory, and administrative changes accumulated since the last update, ensuring the plan remains fully compliant with current IRS and Department of Labor standards. In response, OMNI has prepared an updated Plan Document reflecting these necessary changes, along with a resolution that the Board approved.

X.D. Start of the School Year Update

X.E. Master Schedules

Board Member DuPass thanked the Administration for meeting with her regarding her concerns over the master schedule. Some members voiced concern that paraprofessionals are in situations where they are facilitating lessons and learning planned by a classroom teacher. Some members of the Board noted that adding "specials" teachers (Art, Music, STEM, PE, Library, etc) could help provide learning by a certified teacher, reduce the reliance on

paraprofessionals to facilitate lessons, as well as help block off times during the day for the teachers to meet collaboratively.

X.F. Social Media Potential Litigation

The Board discussed the opportunity to join the class-action lawsuit against social media companies. Dr. Wise shared that while it is clear that social media companies have contributed to the decline in student social emotional well-being, he stated that joining the lawsuit could place an undue burden on Administration, but was happy to move forward if this was a priority for the Board of Education. After weighing the pros and cons, the Board decided the potential reward was not worth the risks, thus deciding not to join the class action lawsuit against social media companies.

X.G. IASB Resolutions

The Board discussed the recommended Illinois School Board Association resolutions for the 26-27 school year. The Board supported the Association's recommendations.

XI. Public Comment

No public comment.

XII. Action items

XII.A. Approve the FY 2027 Budget

Motion to approve the FY 2027 Budget. This motion, made by Adam Sage and seconded by Darren Spiegel, 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. Approve the Resolution with OMNI to restate the District's 403(b) Annuity Plan

Motion to approve the Resolution with OMNI to restate the District's 403(b) Annuity Plan. 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

XIII. Adjournment

The September 10, 2026 Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Gannon, recording secretary

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education