

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
GOVERNING BOARD OF NILES TOWNSHIP DISTRICT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION #807
Cook County, Illinois
September 10, 2026**

A Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of Niles Township District for Special Education #807 was held on Thursday, September 10, 2026, in the Administrative Offices at the Molloy Education Center.

Open Public Hearing

Governing Board President Chao opened the public hearing at 6:00 P.M. for the community to comment on the FY27 NTDSE Budget. There were no comments from the audience. Governing Board President Chao closed the open public hearing.

Call to Order/Roll Call

Governing Board President Chao opened up the meeting with a roll call at 6:01 P.M.

The following Governing Board Members were in attendance:

District 67 Ms. Katie Leslie, Delegate
District 68 Ms. Jill Scheer, Delegate
District 69 Dr. Mark Chao, Delegate
District 70 Ms. Pamela Alper, Delegate
District 71 Mr. Matt Holbrook, Delegate
District 72 Ms. Jacqueline Bujdei, Delegate
District 73 Mr. Frank Santoro, Delegate
District 73.5 Ms. Karen Chan, Delegate
District 74 Ms. Elissa Rosenberg, Alternate

Others Present:

C. Perry, M. Sheedy, C. Hartranft, S. Arad, K. Smith, J. Singh, C. Ward, C. Schoefield, T. Kendrick, H. Lane, J. Hummel, C. Gusek, L. Varciag, K. O'Malley, K. O'Donnell, J. Birdsell, L. Mullaney, A. Stringer, J. Creighton, K. Winston, A. Berger, J. Draper, M.G. Stanton, B. Kusiak, M. Johnson, G. Tibbot, A. Perez Brennan, E. Kioussis, E. Melvin, M. Pearl, C. Dimas, and R. Petratos.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

Audience to Visitor

None

Resolution

A resolution honoring Christina Dimas' commitment and contribution was passed.

Adopted this 10th day of September, 2026, by the following vote: Nine (9) Ayes; Zero (0) Nays.

NTDSE Video

A new NTDSE video was shared. The video is available on our website www.ntdse.org. Dr. Kendrick thanked Sheila Arad and Joy Singh for their leadership with the video.

Welcome New Staff

NTDSE Leadership introduced new staff members to the Governing Board. Mrs. Marie Sheedy introduced Molloy staff members K. O'Donnell, J. Birdsell, L. Mullaney, A. Stringer, and J. Creighton. Dr. Candice Hartranft introduced members of the Mental Health and Instructional Coaching Team: K. Winston, A. Berger, J. Draper, M.G. Stanton, B. Kusiak, and M. Johnson. Mrs. Sheila Arad introduced G. Tibbot, A. Perez Brennan, and E. Kioussis. Mrs. Kristin Smith introduced E. Melvin and M. Pearl.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Member Santoro moved to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the Open Session Minutes of August 13, 2026, the Personnel Report, and the Accounts Payable Report as of August 31, 2026, as presented and recommended by the Executive Director. Member Leslie seconded the motion.

The following vote was recorded:

Yes: Leslie (D67), Schneer (D68), Alper (D70), Holbrook (D71), Bujdei (D72), Santoro (D73),
Chan (D73.5), Rosenberg (D74), Chao (D69)

No: None

Executive Director's Report:

Executive Director - Dr. Kendrick

Dr. Kendrick shared that NTDSE was selected as the recipient of a fundraiser held in conjunction with the opening of a new Jersey Mike's location. The opportunity came together on short notice through an NTDSE parent who works in marketing for Jersey Mike's. As part of the fundraiser, 10,000 business cards were distributed, allowing customers to purchase a sandwich for \$3, with the \$3 purchase amount donated back to NTDSE. The five-day fundraiser raised \$2,675. Dr. Kendrick expressed appreciation to Jersey Mike's and the community for their generous support and encouraged everyone to support the new location at Harlem and Dempster. Dr. Kendrick provided an update on the DM Group opportunity review, which is currently in the interview phase. The DM Group is meeting with NTDSE staff, followed by interviews with parent and district groups. This phase will continue through the remainder of September and into early October. Dr. Kendrick shared that the opportunity review remains on schedule and expressed enthusiasm about the continued process and its outcomes. An NTSA update was shared, noting that member districts may now recognize their state-approved Director of Special Education at the ISBE level. Districts may continue to have Dr. Kendrick fulfill that role, if needed. Dr. Kendrick shared that NTDSE is working to update its fingerprinting contact list to ensure accurate points of contact are maintained for each member district. Lastly, Will's Place continues to partner with the majority of NTDSE member districts by providing weekly staff lunch orders.

Administrative Reports:

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Report - Dr. Hartranft

Dr. Hartranft provided an update on the rollout of the CFC curriculum adoption of HMH, Arts and Letters in Project ABLE, and in our Satellite Transition Classes. CFC directors were also on site to work directly with classroom teachers to adapt the scope and sequence to meet the needs of cross-categorical programming at both NTDSE and satellite locations. In addition, a middle school teacher is participating in the sixth through eighth-grade math pilot. Dr. Hartranft also shared that a team of NTDSE educators worked collaboratively last year to revise and update the Educator Evaluation tool. While many general education settings utilize the Danielson Framework, NTDSE, with guidance from the Center for Exceptional Children, developed an educator evaluation system designed to reflect the unique roles and needs of its special education staff.

Director of Special Education Report - Mrs. Perry

The Program Development Team is off to a great start, collaborating with three classrooms at D73.5 and one classroom at D70.

Director of Satellite Report - Mrs. Smith

Molloy hosted our Middle School Night yesterday. Teachers and related services shared expectations for middle school, opportunities to build independence, and ways families can continue this work at home. Next week, Satellite schools will start our Satellite Early Release.

Director of NTDSE Services Report - Mrs. Arad

Mrs. Arad reported that Private Parochial Child Find was held this past Tuesday. She also shared that NTDSE continues its partnership with Lurie Children's Hospital, with DHH Lead Jessica Wyma coordinating Clinic Days. Two legal presentations for township administrators are scheduled for September 18 and October 29.

Director of Technology Report - Mr. Singh

Mr. Singh did not report this month.

Principal's Report - Mrs. Sheedy

Mrs. Sheedy reported that Molloy established a new committee called the Compass Crew, which supports the school's "Adventure Awaits" theme. Molloy started 25 Years of Remembrance, 25 Acts of Kindness, in recognition of the 25th anniversary of 9/11. Mrs. Sheedy also shared that NTDSE families and staff will participate in activities at Rustic Falls in Wisconsin on Sunday, September 13, 2026. Lastly, Molloy will host an Open House on Wednesday, September 16, 2026.

Board Committee Report:

Facilities Report - Ms. Lane

Ms. Lane reported that the interior construction projects planned for the summer have been completed. She also shared that mechanical work will be needed next summer and that the project will be put out to bid.

Information/Discussion

Dr. Kendrick discussed exploring whether completing the IASB Procedure Manual for Administrative Procedure Project would be beneficial for NTDSE.

Action Items

Member Santoro moved to approve the NTDSE budget of revenue and expenditures for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented and recommended by the Executive Director.

Member Scheer seconded the motion.

The following vote was recorded:

Yes: Schneer (D68), Alper (D70), Holbrook (D71), Bujdei (D72), Santoro (D73),
Chan (D73.5), Rosenberg (D74), Leslie (D67), Chao (D69)

No: None

Member Santoro moved to approve the following new and amended NTDSE Board policies PRESS Issue 119, as recommended by the Policy Committee and the Executive Director:

2:220-E4 Exhibit - Open Meeting Minutes; **2:220-E7** Exhibit - Access to Closed Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Recordings; **2:220-E9** Requirements for No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video During Disaster Declaration; **2:240-E1** Exhibit - PRESS Issue Updates

Member Bujdei seconded the motion.

The following vote was recorded:

Yes: Alper (D70), Holbrook (D71), Bujdei (D72), Santoro (D73), Chan (D73.5), Rosenberg (D74),
Leslie (D67), Schneer (D68), Chao (D69)

No: None

Member Santoro moved to approve the following new and amended NTDSE Board policies from PRESS Issue 122, June 2026, as recommended by the Policy Committee and the Executive Director:

2:120-E3 Exhibit - Resolution to Appoint a Delegate to the Illinois Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly; **2:220-E1** Exhibit - Board Treatment of Closed Meeting Verbatim Recordings and Minutes; **2:220-E3** Exhibit - Closed Meeting Minutes; **2:220-E5** Exhibit - Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes; **2:220-E8** Exhibit - School Board Records Maintenance Requirements and FAQs; **2:230** Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board; **3:40** Superintendent; **3:50** Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent; **3:60** Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal; **3:70** Succession of Authority Protection; **4:175** Convicted Sex Offender; Screenings; Notifications; **4:120** Food Services; **5:40** Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease; **5:70** Religious Holidays; **5:110** Recognition for Service; **5:140** Solicitations By or From Staff; **5:185** Family and Medical

Leave **5:240** Suspension; **6:70** Teaching about Religions; **6:80** Teaching about Controversial issues; **6:190** Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities; **7:80** Release Time for Religions Instruction/Observation; **7:130** Student Rights and Responsibilities; **7:345** Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security; **8:10** Community Relations; **8:70** Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities; **8:100** Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies.

Member Rosenberg seconded the motion.

The following vote was recorded:

Yes: Holbrook (D71), Bujdei (D72), Santoro (D73), Chan (D73.5), Rosenberg (D74),
Leslie (D67), Schneer (D68), Alper (D70), Chao (D69)

No: None

Communications

Dr. Kendrick provided student enrollment data.

Dr. Kendrick shared our first Fist Bump Recognitions.

NTDSE received and responded to a FOIA request.

Adjournment

At 6:34 P.M., it was moved by Member Santoro and seconded by Member Rosenberg to adjourn the meeting of the Governing Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

President

Secretary