LINCOLNWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 74
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 7:30 PM

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Peter D. Theodore, *President*
Myra A. Foutris, *Vice President*
John P. Vranas, *Secretary*
Ted Kwon
Jay Oleniczak
Elissa B. Rosenberg
Mihra Seta

ADMINISTRATION
Dr. David L. Russo, *Superintendent of Schools*
Dr. Dominick M. Lupo, *Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction*
Courtney L. Whited, *Business Manager/CSBO*

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Lincolnwood School District 74, Cook County, Illinois, was held in the Lincolnwood Village Hall - Gerald C. Turry Village Board Room 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois 60712, on Thursday, October 1, 2026.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
President Theodore called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m., roll call was taken and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT
Myra A. Foutris
Ted Kwon
Jay Oleniczak
Elissa B. Rosenberg
Mihra Seta
Peter D. Theodore
John P. Vranas

ADMINISTRATORS/STAFF PRESENT		
Dr. David L. Russo	Erin Curry	Joseph Segreti
Dr. Dominick M. Lupo	Dr. Aliaa Ibrahim	Jordan Stephen
Courtney L. Whited	Jackie McGoey	Renee Tolnai
Mark Atkinson	Jennifer Ruttkay	

2. DISTRICT RECOGNITION
a. Rutledge Hall's TRACK T-Shirt Design - Rutledge Hall is proud to recognize fifth grade student Natalyn N., whose winning design from last year's student t-shirt design competition was selected as the inspiration for this year's school-wide TRACK shirt. Natalyn's creativity helped bring our TRACK expectations to life in a way that represents the student voice and school pride. We are excited to celebrate her creativity and contribution to the Rutledge Hall community!

Principal Ibrahim introduced Michelle Wielgosz, Rutledge Hall's Art Teacher, who explained the TRACK initiative, and the process of choosing the winning artwork that best represented the program this year.

President Theodore called for a two-minute recess at 7:40 p.m.
President Theodore returned to **OPEN SESSION** at 7:42 p.m.

3. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS
A patron of Children's Care & Development Center, Inc. (CCDC) inquired whether the Board of Education would consider extending the current lease through June 10, 2026, and whether the Board is considering other after-school childcare options.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
I. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - **SEPTEMBER 2, 2026**
II. Regular Board Meeting - Closed Session Minutes - **SEPTEMBER 2, 2026**

b. EMPLOYMENT MATTERS
I. **Personnel Report**
II. FMLA Leave Request
1. **Mauvette Johnson**, one-to-one nurse/Instructional Assistant, Lincoln Hall, effective September 10, 2026

c. POLICY
I. 2nd Reading/Adoption of Policy
1. Press Plus Issue #122 - June 2026
(1) Draft Update
(1) 2:230 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board
(2) 6:190 Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities
(3) 8:70 Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities

It was moved by Secretary Vranas and seconded by Member Rosenberg that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approves those items on the Consent Agenda as appear above and have been posted.

President Theodore submitted the motion to a vote and the following vote was recorded:
Ayes: Foutris, Vranas, Kwon, Oleniczak, Rosenberg, Seta, Theodore
Nays: None
Absent: None

Motion passed.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
None

6. NEW BUSINESS
a. Resolution to Approve Notice of Termination of the Lease to Children's Care & Developmental Center (CCDC) effective May 31, 2027**.**

It was moved by Secretary Vranas and seconded by Vice President Foutris that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approve the Resolution to approve notice of termination of the lease to Children's Care & Developmental Center (CCDC) effective May 31, 2027.

Secretary Vranas supported the Board of Education consider extending the current lease through June 10, 2026, and to consider other after-school childcare options.

President Theodore submitted the motion to a vote and the following vote was recorded:
Ayes: Foutris, Vranas, Kwon, Oleniczak, Rosenberg, Seta, Theodore
Nays: None
Absent: None

Motion passed.

b. Village of Lincolnwood - Lincolnwood Town Center Redevelopment Project Area (TIF) District
Superintendent Russo provided an overview of the proposed Lincolnwood Town Center Redevelopment Project Area (TIF) District.

Secretary Vranas emphasized the importance of the Board of Education and Administration promptly familiarizing themselves with the Village of Lincolnwood's proposal, and to represent the District at the upcoming Joint Review Board meeting, scheduled for October 8, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. as well as the Public Hearing scheduled for November 17, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. both at Village Hall, 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood.

The following taxing districts are members of the Joint Review Board:

- Cook County
- Niles Township
- Village of Lincolnwood
- Oakton Community College
- Lincolnwood Library District
- Lincolnwood School District 74
- Niles Township High School District 219

7. COMMUNICATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS

a. NTDSE/District 807: ***John P. Vranas/Elissa B. Rosenberg***

The NTDSE Governing Board last met on September 10, 2026. The Board adopted a resolution honoring Christina Dimas on her retirement and welcomed sixteen new staff members in social work, education, music, and life skills.

- Executive Director Tarin Kendrick reported that a Jersey Mike's fundraiser raised more than $2,600. The DM Group's audit is continuing with staff interviews, and interviews with district members are planned for early October. The group will also update fingerprinting for all staff. Kendrick noted that a house bill has been introduced again that would allow classified staff to receive unemployment benefits and discussed the potential financial implications if it passes the House floor.
- The Director of Curriculum and Instruction reported on ongoing staff training, updates to the staff evaluation process, and the success of the first of four Lurie Clinic days planned for this school year. The Director of Satellite Programming shared that an orientation for satellite families was successfully held on September 8, 2026.
- The Finance and Facilities Committees reported that renovations are nearing completion, with only mechanical work remaining out to bid. This school year also brings "Fist Bump Fridays," a new staff recognition program that has already received many submissions.
- The NTDSE "About Us" video was shown at the meeting, and is now featured on the website.

The next NTDSE Governing Board meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the NTDSE Administration Center.

b. IASB (Illinois Association of School Boards): ***Ted Kwon/Jay Oleniczak***

Member Kwon invited the Board to experience the 2026 Joint Annual Conference where innovation, leadership, and real-world solutions come together to move Illinois schools forward. School leaders will gather for three days of training, networking, and peer support in Chicago, November 20-22, 2026.

c. Finance Committee: ***Mihra Seta/Jay Oleniczak***

The Finance Committee last met on September 17, 2026.

- Courtney presented the New Bills Payable Format. This enhanced summary page is included in the Board of Education meeting packet.
- The Committee discussed the 2026 Levy Draft.

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

d. Facilities Committee: ***John P. Vranas/Myra A. Foutris***

The Facilities Committee last met on September 15, 2026.

- Athi Toufexis, StudioGC architect, reviewed the anticipated Todd Hall renovation floor plan. Athi described specific features of classroom spaces and showed 3-D renderings of learning spaces.
    - The 1st and 2nd grade classrooms will have ideation walls.
    - The STEM room will have epoxy flooring and can be converted to a traditional grade level classroom, if necessary.
    - The Art room will have additional sinks and the Music room will have additional storage.
    - The Committee chose Lighting Option #1 (Axis Air Pendant) with a white housing.
    - The Library renovation will be similar to that of the recently completed Rutledge Hall project. The Committee recommended an acoustic panel to dampen sounds.
    - The Gymnasium flooring will be the same as Rutledge Hall, and the MPR will have similar flooring to Rutledge Hall.
    - The Sensory rooms will be zonable; lights will dim.

The next Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. The public is welcome.

e. Policy Committee: ***Myra A. Foutris/Ted Kwon***

The Policy Committee last met on Friday, August 21, 2026. The September and October Policy Committee meetings were canceled due to a light agenda.

- Policy 5:240 - Suspension remains in Committee for further discussion.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 13, 2026 at 8:30am in the Administration Building. The public is welcome.

f. President's Report: ***Peter D. Theodore***

I. Important District Dates

President Theodore shared important District upcoming dates. Please see the District website for information: sd74.org.

8. COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

a. LTA (Lincolnwood Teacher Association): ***Jenny Bejna / Mark Laske / Erin Raffaele (Leadership Team)***

No report.

b. LSSU (Lincolnwood Support Staff Union): ***Arleen LaRosa (President)***

No report.

c. PALS (People Active with Lincolnwood Schools): ***Stacey Johnson (President)***

No report.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a. Superintendent's Report: ***Dr. David L. Russo***

I. District Updates

- Congratulations to Natalyn for designing Rutledge Hall's TRACK T-Shirt for this school year! The lessons learned from the TRACK matrix help students at Rutledge Hall stay safe and maintain an environment where everyone can learn and be successful. The TRACK T-Shirts are always a powerful, positive way for students to show they are abiding by these important principles - great job, Natalyn!
- The past couple of Tuesday Newsday editions have included information for those interested in volunteering at our Todd Hall and Rutledge Hall classroom parties for Halloween. Again, we will host events for Halloween, Winter Break, and Valentine's Day in the coming months. Your ability to indicate your interest for the Halloween

party is available through October 13, 2026. After that, the District will create a schedule and contact families with more information.

- We are excited to share our new Facebook page, the Lincolnwood School District 74 Alumni Connection! This page allows SD74 alumni to stay connected with former classmates, friends, and the SD74 community; celebrate memories and milestones that keep the SD74 spirit strong; and share reunion information. We encourage you to follow us and invite others to connect with the page.
- Depending on their grade, students may have required medical forms due for the new school year. Per state law, students not in compliance by October 15, 2026 will be unable to attend classes until required health forms are submitted. If you have any questions about these requirements, please contact your respective building school nurse.
- In the next couple of weeks families should be looking out for specific information on how to sign up for fall parent-teacher conferences. We will again be using the Sign-Up Genius platform to schedule appointments. Conferences will be held on November 17 and 19, 2026.
- For those of you who may be wondering about our Family Directory, it is in progress of updating. Check in the near future for it to go live.
- Parents and guardians are encouraged to continue reporting student absences through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Visit the District website to learn more about how to use the new feature and keep in mind these important points:
    - **Absences must be reported by 8:59 a.m. on the day of the absence**. If you miss this cutoff, please contact the school office.
    - If your child will be leaving early or arriving late during the day, such as for a dentist appointment, be sure to categorize the absence as a **partial-day absence**.
    - If your child is leaving early, **please provide the exact time of pickup in the 'Explanation' field, and also contact the school office**.
    - Please include any information relevant to your student's absence in the explanation box. Front office staff can see detailed notes.

b. Curriculum and Instruction, Assistant Superintendent's Report: ***Dr. Dominick M. Lupo***

I. Curriculum Department Update

- Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Lupo provided an update regarding the agenda for the upcoming Institute Day scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2026. The planned areas of focus include:
    - Data Analysis and Review
    - Hosting Curricular Articulations
    - Continuing Districtwide Literacy Implementation Efforts
- In preparation for the District's closure of the MAP reporting window, staff are currently confirming student absences to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the reports. The District anticipates emailing MAP reports to all families during the week of October 12, 2026.

c. Business and Operations, Business Manager/CSBO: ***Courtney Whited***

I. Finance Report - **JULY 2026**

Business Manager/CSBO Whited presented the July 2026 Finance Report.

II. Payroll and Accounts Payable in the Amount of $2,262,868.46

***Payroll and Accounts Payable Reviewers for the Month*:** Ted Kwon and John P. Vranas

It was moved by Member Kwon and seconded by Secretary Vranas that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approve payroll, invoices and bills in the amount of $2,262,868.46.

President Theodore submitted the motion to a vote and the following vote was recorded:
Ayes: Foutris, Vranas, Kwon, Oleniczak, Rosenberg, Seta, Theodore
Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

10. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

A seventh-grade parent addressed the Board regarding the District's mathematics placement policy.

11. **RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION**

It was moved by President Theodore and seconded by Vice President Foutris that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education recess into Closed Session for the purposes of: **5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6)** - The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District, **5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10)** - The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students and **5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)** - Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes.

President Theodore submitted the motion to a voice vote and the motion passed.

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by President Theodore and seconded by Vice President Foutris to adjourn the Regular meeting of the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education.

President Theodore submitted the motion to a voice vote and the motion passed at 9:22 p.m.

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Peter D. Theodore, President

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John P. Vranas, Secretary