MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
SCHOOL DISTRICT 25, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
October 19, 2026

Call to Order
Board Secretary Vlantis called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. on October 19, 2026, in the Administrative Center Boardroom at 28W250 St. Charles Road, West Chicago, IL 60185.

Roll Call
Board Recorder Solly Garcia took a roll call vote of the members present: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Dennis Peterson, Don Sutenbach, and Gina Vlantis.

Board members absent: Bridgette Pedersen and Eric Rogers

Other attendees included Dr. Patrick McGill, Superintendent; Dr. Michael Fitzgerald, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; Dr. Joel Filas, CSBO; Dr. Julie Salamone, Director of Student Services; Mrs. Sarah Smith, Evergreen Principal; and Mrs. Allison Agres, Assistant Principal.

Pledge of Allegiance
Secretary Vlantis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendment to Agenda
Motion to amend the agenda to approve a president pro temporedue to Board President and Vice Presidents absence. This motion was made by Dennis Peterson and seconded by Don Sutenbach, passed.
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Don Sutenbach, Dennis Peterson
Vince Engstrom, and Gina Vlantis
Absent: Eric Rogers and Bridgette Pedersen
Nays: None

President Pro Tempore
Secretary Vlantis moved to approve Member Engstrom as President Pro Tempore. This motion was made by Dennis Peterson and seconded by Don Sutenbach, passed.
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Don Sutenbach, Dennis Peterson
Vince Engstrom, and Gina Vlantis
Absent: Eric Rogers and Bridgette Pedersen
Nays: None

Approve Agenda
Motion to approve the agenda as presented. This motion was made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Don Sutenbach, passed.
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Don Sutenbach, Dennis Peterson
Vince Engstrom, and Gina Vlantis
Absent: Eric Rogers and Bridgette Pedersen
Nays: None

Approval of Draft Minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting of September 14, 2026.
Motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting of September 14, 2026. This motion was made by Andrew Drinnin and seconded by Gina Vlantis, passed.
Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed

Approval of the Draft Minutes from the Executive Session Meeting of September 14, 2026.
Motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the Board of Education Executive Session Meeting of September 14, 2026. This motion was made by Andrew Drinnin and seconded by Gina Vlantis, passed.
Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed

Presentation(s)
Baker Tilly Financial Audit
Sebastian Debroski, Senior Audit Supervisor at Baker Tilly, thanked the Business Office for its hard work and cooperation throughout the audit process. He reported an unmodified opinion on the district's financial statements, the highest audit opinion, and no compliance findings.

Ten-Year Health Life Safety Survey
Dr. Filas presented the District's required ten-year Health Life Safety Survey. Overall, facilities are in good condition. Some improvements are needed to add safety and accessibility and address aging buildings.

Dr. Filas reviewed the proposed project to renovate the Benjamin gym, lobby, and address required improvements. They explained the project's scope, timing, savings, and the efficiencies of completing the work together.

Dr. Filas explained funding options, including district reserves and bonds, with the goal of maintaining fiscal stewardship and minimizing taxpayer impact.

Reports
Teaching and Learning Report
Dr. Fitzgerald shared an update from the Teaching and Learning Department. On October 9, Institute day staff met in their respective committees to discuss current homework practices, ways to improve student engagement, and classroom supports. Committees also worked with curriculum experts to guide new math curriculum choices. Dr. Fitzgerald led a discussion on developing the Portrait of an Educator. Staff discussed

and identified the skills and qualities valued in an educator. Dr. Salamone and the English Learner team led activities to help teachers better understand the challenges students face as English second-language learners and reviewed resources available to support them.

Operations Report
Dr. Filas reviewed the upcoming tax levy and projected revenue growth. He explained that reduced state categorical funding, including transportation reimbursements, continues to affect school district budgets across Illinois.

Dr. Filas also noted that more students have been purchasing school lunches and that Quest has been a great partner.

Finally, the district completed its annual ROE safety inspection. There were no major concerns, and all minor issues were addressed. The district installed additional security cameras in both school libraries.

Superintendent Report

Dr. McGill recognized Dr. Filas for his work on the Health Life Saftey review and facilities planning. He also commended teacher leaders and staff for their work and progress on the strategic plan.

He shared that more than 100 families have enrolled in Securly Home, a free tool that gives parents additional controls over district-issued devices. In recognition of Principals' Week, he thanked Dr. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Smith for their leadership and support.

Dr. McGill congratulated the cross-country teams on their strong finishes. JV girls took second place, and the varsity girls, varsity boys, and JV boys each finished third. He thanked Mr. Hauser and Mrs. Stec for their hard work and dedication to the teams. He also recognized Joey, Elena, and Ava for being selected for the District 9 IMEA Music Festival and thanked Mr. Lewis and Ms. Klobuchar for helping prepare our band and choir students.

Lastly, he shared upcoming GPS series sessions:

- October 20 - The New Bully: Confronting Online Conflict, Rumors, and Social Exclusion.
- November 5: Purposeful Paths: Connecting College Opportunity and Career Discovery.

Board Committee Reports

Facilities:

Member Drinnin reinforced the earlier discussion on the Health Life Safety Survey. He emphasized the importance of maintaining compliance and student safety, updating older

spaces, and creating a more welcoming environment. He also stressed the need for timely planning and coordination of projects to complete work efficiently and minimize disruptions.

Finance:

Member Engstrom followed up on the earlier discussion about funding the facilities projects, emphasizing that the committee will continue to meet to discuss financing options and work toward making the project a reality.

PTA:

Member Sutenbach shared that the Fun Run was a great success and raised $21,000. The Sunny Acres event was rescheduled for Wednesday, October 21. The PTA will provide staff with lunch or dinner during parent-teacher conferences. He also shared that open gym nights are planned for November and December, and that the Holiday Bazaar has been renamed "Snapshots with Santa."

Public Comment on Agenda Items
None.

Consent Agenda (Roll Call)
Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. This motion was made by Dennis Peterson and seconded by Don Sutenbach, passed.
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Don Sutenbach, Dennis Peterson
Vince Engstrom, and Gina Vlantis
Absent: Eric Rogers and Bridgette Pedersen
Nays: None

Action Items (Roll Call Vote)
Approval of the Second Reading and Subsequent Adoption of PRESS Plus Issue 122
Motion to approve the second Reading and Subsequent Adoption of Press Plus Issue 122, as presented. This motion was made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Don Sutenbach, passed.
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Don Sutenbach, Dennis Peterson
Vince Engstrom, and Gina Vlantis
Absent: Eric Rogers and Bridgette Pedersen
Nays: None

Approval of the PALS Agreement
Motion to approve the PALS Agreement, as presented. This motion was made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Andrew Drinnin, passed.
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Don Sutenbach, Dennis Peterson
Vince Engstrom, and Gina Vlantis
Absent: Eric Rogers and Bridgette Pedersen
Nays: None

Approval of the 10-Year Health Life Safety Survey
Motion to approve the 10-Year Health Life Safety Survey, as presented. This motion was made by Andrew Drinnin and seconded by Gina Vlantis, passed.
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Don Sutenbach, Dennis Peterson
Vince Engstrom, and Gina Vlantis
Absent: Eric Rogers and Bridgette Pedersen
Nays: None

Approval of the Benjamin Middle School Gym and Lobby Renovation Project
Motion to approve the Benjamin Middle School Gym and Lobby Renovation Project, as presented. This motion was made by Andrew Drinnin and seconded by Gina Vlantis, passed.
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Don Sutenbach, Dennis Peterson
Vince Engstrom, and Gina Vlantis
Absent: Eric Rogers and Bridgette Pedersen
Nays: None

Approval of the School Maintenance Project Grant Approval

Motion to approve the School Maintenance Project Grant Approval, as presented. This motion was made by Don Sutenbach and seconded by Andrew Drinnin, passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Don Sutenbach, Dennis Peterson
Vince Engstrom, and Gina Vlantis
Absent: Eric Rogers and Bridgette Pedersen
Nays: None

Approval of the Benjamin Middle School Yearbook Contract

Motion to approve the Benjamin Middle School Yearbook Contract, as presented. This motion was made by Dennis Peterson and seconded by Don Sutenbach, passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Don Sutenbach, Dennis Peterson
Vince Engstrom, and Gina Vlantis
Absent: Eric Rogers and Bridgette Pedersen
Nays: None

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

None

Discussion Items

Communication To and From the Board: As a reminder, per Board of Education Policy 2:140, during the Board's regular meetings, the Superintendent will report to the Board all questions or communications submitted through the active electronic link, along with the status of the District's response.

Executive Session

Entered closed session for the purpose of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. Under Exemption #1, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

Motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:11 p.m. This motion was made by Don Sutenbach and seconded by Gina Vlantis, passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Don Sutenbach, Dennis Peterson
Vince Engstrom, and Gina Vlantis
Absent: Eric Rogers and Bridgette Pedersen
Nays: None

Motion to Return to Open Session
Motion to return to open session at 8:32 p.m. This motion was made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Don Sutenbach. Passed.
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Don Sutenbach, Dennis Peterson
Vince Engstrom, and Gina Vlantis
Absent: Eric Rogers and Bridgette Pedersen
Nays: None

No action items resulted from Executive Session

Adjournment (Voice Vote)
Motion to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting at 8:32 p.m. This motion was made by Andrew Drinnin and seconded by Gina Vlantis. Passed.
Voice Vote: **Unanimously Passed**

Respectfully submitted by:
Solly Garcia, Board Recorder

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

Recorded: October 19, 2026
Approved: November 9, 2026