

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 14, 2025 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: Absent
Tiffany Watson: Present
Doug Wiley: Present
Present: 6, Absent: 1.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President Brian Liedtke.

III. Recognition of Visitors

In-person visitors included Brian Ohlsen, Beth Nyhlen, Briella Coppoletta, Sarah Coppoletta, Kattarina Wrublik, Max Heavrin, Will DuPass, Henry Feylo, Joey Rossi, Caleb Plagman, Nicole Plagman, Todd Plagman, Christopher Wrublik, Jeff Heavrin, Bill Garner, Dan Kritta, Carrie Fitzgerald, Laura Gilmartin, Dr. Kim Liles, Director Tom Tiede, Director Keith Roberts, Principal Jake Little. Online attendees included Principal Mark Pagel, Director Sean Rhoads, Jessica Sage and Kristen Platt.

IV. Scheduled Time to Address the Board

There were no scheduled speakers.

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 Eli Stellwagen as Social Worker, Elizabeth Ide School

V.D.2. Approve the one year contract with ECRA for \$3,000 for the 25-26 school year for Dashboard and IAR Reporting.

VI. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Megan DuPass and seconded by Adam Sage, Passed.

Darren Spiegel: Absent, Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam

Sage: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

VII. Communication

VII.A. Eagle Scout Project - Caleb Plagman

The Board saw an Eagle Scout proposal from Caleb Plagman to provide seating under the Lakeview awning and beautify the area under the Lakeview sign.

VII.B. Lakeview Golf - Max Heavrin and Will DuPass

Max Heavrin and Will DuPass, representing Lakeview's Golf Team, shared their individual as well as their team's success. Both boys showed great appreciation for the adults that supported and encouraged them, especially their Lakeview coaches.

VII.C. Lakeview Crosscountry - Henry Feylo, Joey Rossi

Lakeview's Cross Country team members, Henry Feylo and Joey Rossi, provided highlights from Cross Country. Both showed great appreciation for the adults that supported and encouraged them, especially their Lakeview coaches.

VII.D. Lakeview Softball - Briella Coppoletta & Katarina Wrublik

Briella Coppoletta and Katarina Wrublik from Lakeview's Softball team recapped their run to the Conference Championship game. Both girls showed great appreciation for the adults that supported and encouraged them, especially their Lakeview coaches.

VII.E. WOLD Presentation

Dan Kritta from WOLD presented costs and timelines to replace pavement, concrete, and curb at the Prairieview and Lakeview campuses, and reinstall it in a manner that provides ample parking and safer traffic flows. Work will begin in the Summer of 2026 and conclude in the Summer of 2027. More details will be released as the District gets closer to the summer.

VII.F. School Improvement Presentation

Dr. Liles and Principals communicated their School Improvement Plans which focused on increasing achievement in reading and mathematics, by improving student attendance, student self-management, student engagement, and student goal setting. Staff members will be focused on improving assessment literacy, clear classroom targets, data analysis "digs", classroom tiered strategies, increasing student ownership/engagement, providing student feedback on the demonstration of student competencies, and collaborating on achievement and attendance.

VII.G. FOIA Requests

There were four FOIA requests, all of which the District complied with.

VIII. Principal Reports

VIII.A. Elizabeth Ide Elementary

Elizabeth Ide reported that on October 1, the grade-level teams, along with interventionists, special education teachers, administrators, and the school psychologist, collaboratively analyzed beginning-of-year assessment data to understand each student's strengths and

learning needs, enabling targeted instruction. With a focus on reading and consistent implementation of Structured Literacy across grades, all involved are dedicated to supporting every student's growth and building a strong foundation for lifelong reading success. Students and staff are excited about the annual Halloween Parade and classroom celebrations on October 31st, where students will showcase costumes and enjoy festive activities. These events foster joy, community spirit, and strengthen the connections that make our school a special place to learn and grow. On September 30th, the school partnered with the DuPage County Sheriff's Department to conduct a lockdown safety drill, during which staff and students responded effectively, with some opportunities for improvement identified. On October 3rd, a fire drill with the Darien-Woodridge Fire Department was also successful, with quick and calm evacuations, and minor adjustments are being made to enhance future procedures.

VIII.B. Prairieview Elementary

Principal Little explained that teachers are expanding their use of project and problem-based learning through STEM coaching and the Defined Learning platform, incorporating hands-on activities like crater measurements and surface area explorations. They are also analyzing fall benchmark data to differentiate instruction, which will be shared with parents during upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences. Prairieview has launched various extracurricular activities, including intramural floor hockey, choir rehearsals, and beginning band lessons, with fourth graders excited to receive instruments. Additionally, students enjoyed a visit to Downers Grove South's youth theater production of "Alice in Burgerland," and a new buddy reading program was introduced through a collaboration with Lakeview FACS, strengthening community partnerships. Team 66 has made a significant impact this year through events like the Boosterthon "Fun Fun," which raised funds and promoted character-building lessons, and the Book Fair and Ice Cream Social, fostering school community and student enthusiasm. Their efforts have greatly contributed to creating a positive, engaging environment that highlights the school's supportive community.

VIII.C. Lakeview Junior High

As the first quarter concludes, the school celebrates a strong start marked by resilient students and engaging classrooms, despite challenges with online grade access, and looks forward to continued success in the next quarter. Notably, students are gaining valuable skills through classes like Child Development, where they learn CPR and caregiving, while over 339 students participate in various clubs and sports, fostering community involvement. Since the start of the school year, these 339 students have participated in various clubs and sports, including popular new offerings like Fishing and Weightlifting, demonstrating a commitment to student interests. The enthusiasm and engagement among students, embracing the theme "Your Best Starts Now," highlight a thriving culture of involvement, growth, and community. School spirit at Lakeview has been vibrant, fostering a positive and welcoming environment through events like the Homecoming Parade and spirited participation from

students in marching bands, clubs, and sports. The enthusiasm and pride displayed reflect the school's commitment to celebrating community, achievement, and a positive culture for learning as the year begins.

IX. Director Reports

IX.A. Director of Student Services

During the 2024-2025 school year, Center Cass School District 66 focused on promoting equity by helping new teachers understand educational marginalization and encouraging staff to reflect on inclusive, asset-based practices, resulting in growth across Student Learning, Learning Conditions, and Elevating Educators. The district continues to implement the Integrated Comprehensive Systems for Equity (ICS) framework to foster systemic change and equitable outcomes across all schools. In addition, paraprofessionals have participated in coaching cycles with SASED instructional coaches, receiving targeted, collaborative support to enhance their skills and student interactions. The district also conducted a districtwide reunification simulation to strengthen emergency preparedness, ensuring staff are ready to safely and effectively reunify students with families during crises. These initiatives demonstrate the district's commitment to equity, staff development, and safety. Overall, CCSD66 is making meaningful progress toward creating inclusive, safe, and supportive learning environments for all students.

IX.B. Director of Learning

Learning is thriving in District 66, with engaged and enthusiastic students and dedicated staff creating a vibrant educational environment. The K-5 science program, led by Mrs. Gemmel and teachers, foster hands-on, inquiry-based learning that sparks students' curiosity and a love for science. This year, the District introduced Data Digs in each building to facilitate meaningful, data-driven discussions about student learning, focusing on analyzing reading and math data to identify patterns and inform supports. The initial promising results show that staff are actively engaging in reflective conversations and using data effectively to guide instruction and address individual student needs. The district has scheduled four major professional development opportunities throughout the year, including workshops on assessment strategies, book studies on supporting adolescent learners and teaching with empathy, and a session on providing effective student feedback. These sessions, offered outside of regular school hours with compensation, aim to enhance staff skills and foster ongoing professional growth.

IX.C. Director of Technology

The district has made significant progress in advancing technology initiatives, including developing and testing a standards-based gradebook for Lakeview to ensure accurate, meaningful reporting aligned with new standards. Efforts are underway to establish consistent standards for Prairieview, supporting districtwide implementation of the standards-based reporting model. The Cisco Webex phone system continues to perform reliably, with staff feedback indicating ease of use and smooth training progress. Apple TVs installed this summer are enhancing classroom flexibility by enabling wireless presentations, fostering interactive instruction. Additionally, the new Wide Area Network (WAN) connection between Lakeview and Elizabeth Ide has been successfully activated, increasing network capacity tenfold to improve speed and reliability. These enhancements collectively strengthen district infrastructure, supporting modern learning and digital tools for staff and students.

IX.D. Director of Transportation/Buildings and Grounds

Building activities are running smoothly, with a busy fall filled with student and community events made possible by community support from the recent referendum. The district proudly recognizes and thanks its dedicated custodians for their hard work, especially on Custodian Appreciation Day. Ongoing facility improvement plans include roofing projects, parking and traffic updates, and safety enhancements, with bids for Lakeview roofing expected to be approved soon for summer 2026 work, moving closer to improved campus traffic flow and facilities. Although the school year has just begun, district officials are preparing to finalize bus fleet needs for 2026-2027, facing challenges like low interest from new driver candidates despite increased pay and rising fleet costs. The district offers bus service to all students regardless of distance, and options include leasing or owning buses through purchase payments, with decisions on new vehicles likely to be made in upcoming board meetings. During National School Bus Safety Week in October, the district will celebrate safety advancements and show appreciation to drivers, culminating in a dedicated Driver Appreciation Day on October 23rd.

X. Superintendent Report

X.A. District Dashboard

Part of the ECRA agreement is to include a new dashboard, which has not changed since last month.

X.B. SY 24-25 Audit

Dr. Wise noted that while the District Audit will be presented at the November meeting, the District's Financial Profile Score will increase from a Category Two, to a Category Three, on a four scale. Due to the Board eliminating the use of tax anticipation warrants, eliminating the need to use early taxes to operate, adding fund balance, and keeping expenses in check the past few years, the District is ahead of schedule in regaining its financial footing.

X.C. Projected Financial Profile

The District's financial profile score will increase from a 2, to a 3.45. The Board has done a nice job helping us reach this goal.

X.D. Update on Summer Projects

Director Tiede and Dr. Wise shared a few other items on the District's short list for Spring Break 2026 and Summer 2026. Items included, Spring Break 2026 - Lakeview Gym Floor, Sound, Scoreboards, etc..., Summer Break 2026 - Lakeview Parking Lot and Lakeview Roof,

X.E. Community Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Update

Board President Liedtke shared that the Darien City Council passed the TIF. They shared that the TIF would cost the District less than a dollar per resident a year. Dr. Wise explained that in its current form, yes, but if they were to put residential on the property, the District would have to educate the students without additional revenue.

X.F. Goal 2 Sub Committee Update

Board Member Dlugo provided a summary of the Goal Two Administrative Sub Committee meeting, including upcoming audits, participation numbers, website enhancements, future student opportunities, Homecoming, surveys, communication tools, and Parent Advisory Council. He was pleased with the District's efforts and proud of the spirit, culture, and opportunities reflected by District 66.

X.G. Transportation Update for FY26 and Looking Ahead to FY27

Director Tiede shared that we are currently short drivers and substitute drivers, forcing the District to contract with outside agencies, instead of using its own drivers, to transport students not on the District's regular 9 routes. Board members commented on the research they had done that the lack of school bus drivers is a national crisis in which DuPage County is not isolated, adding that area Superintendents are sending messages to expect delays until bus drivers and substitute drivers can be obtained. Dr. Wise and Director Tiede voiced their appreciation for our drivers, as they do an amazing job for us. They added that we are one of the last Districts in the area to operate our own transportation system, and a handful of new drivers are needed to add to our remaining staff to ensure our transportation department's long-term viability. Dr. Wise encouraged each parent to reach out to a community member to inquire whether they would like to drive a bus for the school district. Walk zone plans will be presented during the November 5, 2025 Board of Education meeting.

X.H. School Board Resolutions

X.I. School Board Governance Recognition

The Center Cass School District Board was named by IASB as a Board of Recognition!

X.J. Superintendent Evaluation Process

The Board approved a new Superintendent Evaluation process using Super Eval which combines research-based indicators of effectiveness and the District's Strategic Plan goals.

X.K. Annual Superintendent Goals Aligned to the Strategic Plan

This is an annual process which needs to be done for multi-year contracts in the District. Superintendent Goals historically are the Strategic Plan goals.

XI. Public Comment

No public comments were heard during the October 14, 2025, Board of Education meeting.

XII. Action items

XII.A. Motion to approve the Superintendent Evaluation Process

Motion to approve the Superintendent Evaluation Process. This motion, made by Tiffany Watson and seconded by Steve Dlugo, Passed.

Darren Spiegel: Absent, Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XII.B. Motion to approve the Annual Superintendent Goals Aligned to the Strategic Plan
Motion to approve the annual Superintendent goals aligned to the Strategic Plan. This motion, made by Steve Dlugo and seconded by Adam Sage, Passed.

Darren Spiegel: Absent, Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. This motion, made by Tiffany Watson and seconded by Brian Liedtke, Passed.

Darren Spiegel: Absent, Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

The October 14, 2025 Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Gannon, recording secretary

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education