



LINCOLNWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 74
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 7:00 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, December 4, 2025.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Theodore called the meeting to order at 7:00 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
Dr. Dominick M. Lupo
Courtney L. Whited
Mark Atkinson

Dr. Chris Harmon
Jackie McGoey
Jennifer Ruttakay
Erin Curry

Jordan Stephen
Joseph Segreti
Renee Tolnai

2. DISTRICT RECOGNITION

a. ***Curricular Highlight*** - The second-grade students have been working hard to prepare for their upcoming music performance. They look forward to sharing the progression of their work and offering insight into their journey toward this event, as well as discussing details of the upcoming December 11, 2025 performance. Todd Hall Principal Chris Harmon shared a presentation highlighting the second-grade music performance preparation, and the second-grade teachers and students provided a delightful review of their upcoming performance in December.

President Theodore took a three-minute break for those who wished to be excused at 7:12 p.m.

President Theodore moved back into open session at 7:15 p.m.

3. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

A community member spoke on behalf of Children's Care & Development Center (CCDC) remaining a tenant of Lincolnwood School District 74.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

I. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - **NOVEMBER 6, 2025**

II. Regular Board Meeting - Closed Session Minutes - **NOVEMBER 6, 2025**

b. EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

I. **Personnel Report**

II. New Employment

1. **Aulona Abdullahu**, Paraprofessional, Lincoln Hall, effective November 13, 2025, \$17.83/hr.

2. **Olivia Rainey**, Paraprofessional, Rutledge Hall, effective December 1, 2025, \$17.83/hr

III. Leave of Absence

1. **Alkashish Alkashish**, Paraprofessional, Todd Hall, effective December 3, 2025, with an expected return date of January 5, 2026

IV. FMLA Leave Request

1. **Emily Morelli**, 3rd Grade Teacher, Rutledge Hall, effective on or about March 27, 2026, with an expected return for the 2026-2027 school year.

c. Policy

I. Consent Only - Policies Excluded from 1st Reading for Approval* *These policies are excluded from 1st Reading because they only involve changes in citations or immediate compliance with the law or Illinois School Code.

1. Press Plus Issue #119 - June 2025

(1) Draft - Update

(1) 2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct

(2) Review & Monitoring

(1) 3:30 Chain of Command

(2) 4:180 Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery

2. Press Plus Issue #120 - October 2025

(1) Draft - Update

(1) 2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct

(2) 4:10 Fiscal and Business Management

(3) 5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

(4) 6:20 School Year Calendar and Day

(5) 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities

(6) 8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property

(7) 2:120 Board Member Development

(8) 2:150 Committees

(9) 4:140 Waiver of Student Fees

(2) Review and Monitoring

(1) 6:280 Grading and Promotion

d. Anticipated Dates for the 2026 Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education Meetings

The Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education must approve dates for the 2026 Regular Board of Education meetings. The meetings are held at Lincolnwood Village Hall (6900 N. Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, IL) at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. *Please see the District website (sd74.org) for further information.*

January 8, 2026

February 5, 2026

March 5, 2026

April 9, 2026

May 7, 2026

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

June 25, 2026

August 6, 2026
September 3, 2026
October 1, 2026
November 5, 2026
December 3, 2026

e. FY25 Final Audit and The OPEB GASB 74/75 by Lauterbach & Amen, LLP

The Fiscal Year 2025 Lauterbach & Amen, LLP Audit Report was presented to the Finance Committee for informational purposes only on November 20, 2025. The Audit Report will be presented to the Board of Education at the December 4, 2025 Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education meeting and subsequently posted on the District's website.

It was moved by Secretary Vranas and seconded by Vice President Foutris that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approves those items on the Consent Agenda as appear above.

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

None

7. COMMUNICATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS

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

The NTDSE Governing Board did not meet in November 2025.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Member Kwon reported on the Delegate's Assembly during the Joint Annual Conference on November 22, 2025.

Key Outcomes:

- School Bus Safety: A key resolution passed, urging the state to provide funds and options for districts to implement new school bus safety features, like seatbelts required by 2031.
- Leadership Elections: Tracie Sayre (Triopia CUSD 27) was elected President, and Alva Kreutzer (THSD 214) became Vice President for the next two years.
- Constitutional Amendments: Delegates adopted several changes to the IASB Constitution, clarifying procedures and structure, with board-approved amendments passing.
- Advocacy Priorities: The adopted resolutions set the stage for IASB's legislative agenda, focusing on securing resources for unfunded mandates and supporting member needs.

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

The Finance Committee last met on November 20, 2025.

- The Committee sent two items to the Agenda:
 1. IGS Electricity Contract Beginning April 2026
 2. IGS Natural Gas Contract Beginning August 2026

- The Final Fiscal Year 2025 SD74 Audit and reports prepared by Lauterbach & Amen, LLP were reviewed and are being presented to the Board of Education for its review tonight.
- The Finance Committee concurred with the Administration's proposed final 2025 Levy that will be presented to the Board of Education during the public hearing this evening for adoption.

The December Finance Committee meeting was cancelled due to a light agenda. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 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 October 21, 2025. The November and December 2025 Facilities Committee meetings were canceled due to a light Agenda.

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

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

I. 1st Reading by the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education

1. Press Plus Issue #120 - October 2025

(1) Draft - Update

(1) 4:30 Revenue and Investments

(2) 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment

(3) 6:60 Curriculum Content

(4) 2:270 Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited

The Policy Committee last met on Friday, November 14, 2025. The Policy Committee sent thirteen policies to the Consent Agenda, and four policies to 1st Reading by the Board of Education.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 12, 2025 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): ***Travis DuPriest/Kevin Conley (Co-Presidents)***

Co-President Travis DuPriest wished everyone a very happy holidays.

He highlighted LTA members Fatima Usman and Aliana Burianek, as well as LSSU member Arleen LaRosa, for their work on the recent BPAC (Bilingual Parents Advisory Committee) event.

b. LSSU (Lincolnwood Support Staff Union): ***Tommy Bujnowski (President)***

No report.

c. PALS (People Active with Lincolnwood Schools): ***Abby Jones (President)***

No report.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

I. District Updates

- Superintendent Russo thanked Dr. Jermihov, the teachers, and all our wonderful second graders for giving such a beautiful preview of their upcoming show! The District is excited for the full performance next week! Additionally, the District is in store for more musical treats, with the Holiday concert that is scheduled for December 16, 2025. Sandwiched in between we are recognizing our Varsity Girls' Basketball team with a Red Out event on December 9, 2025. Although it is cold outside, we have many fun indoor plans in store before the Winter Break.

- Report cards will be emailed to families early next week. Please check your inboxes to make sure you receive this important information. If you have not received anything by Wednesday, contact your respective school office.
- Those who are scheduled to volunteer at classroom Winter Parties for Todd Hall and Rutledge Hall should check their email inbox for a reminder communication from the District in the coming days with all the details.
- Thank you to all the PALS volunteers and planning committee who helped make the Book Fair so successful! It was such a wonderful opportunity to connect students with great literature and continue to foster a love of reading!
- Finally, although we are still a couple of weeks away, everyone is wished a relaxing and memorable Winter Break and Happy Holidays and New Year to all!

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

- Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Lupo reported the NWEA Winter term assessments will be implemented prior to winter break in 2025.
- 2026 SD74 Summer Adventures planning is underway. Dates will be communicated soon.

I. Approval of the Lincoln Hall School Improvement Plan

It was moved by Secretary Vranas and seconded by Vice President Foutris that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approve the Lincoln Hall School Improvement Plan, as recommended by the Administration and as presented.

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.

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

I. Finance Report - **SEPTEMBER 2025**

Business Manager/CSBO Whited presented the September 2025 Finance Report.

II. Public Hearing and Adoption of the Final 2025 Property Tax Levy

PUBLIC HEARING

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

It was moved by Secretary Vranas and seconded by Member Oleniczak that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education open a public hearing regarding adoption of the Final 2025 Property Tax Levy.

President Theodore thanked the Business Office and Finance Committee for their work on the levy.

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

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

None

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

It was moved by Secretary Vranas and seconded by Member Kwon that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education close the public hearing regarding adoption of the Final 2025 Property Tax Levy.

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

2025 PROPERTY TAX LEVY APPROVAL

It was moved by Secretary Vranas and seconded by Member Seta that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education adopts the 2025 Property Tax Levy Resolutions, as presented. The Board also directs the Business Manager/CSBO, Courtney Whited, to file the Truth in Taxation Certificate of Compliance and all other documentation before the last Tuesday in December.

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.

III. IGS Natural Gas Contract Beginning August 2026

It was moved by Member Oleniczak and seconded by Secretary Vranas that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approve a 36-month contract with IGS for natural gas at a rate of \$5.045 per decatherm, as presented.

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.

IV. IGS Electricity Contract Beginning April 2026

It was moved by Member Oleniczak and seconded by Member Kwon that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approve a 36-month contract with IGS for electricity at a rate of \$0.1001 per kWh.

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.

V. Bills Payable in the Amount of \$2,262,505.57

Bills reviewed this month by: Jay Oleniczak and Mihra Seta

It was moved by Member Oleniczak and seconded by Member Seta that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approve invoices and bills in the amount of \$2,262,505.57.

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

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Secretary Vranas and seconded by Member Rosenberg 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 7:35 p.m.

Peter D. Theodore, President

John P. Vranas, Secretary