



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
SCHOOL DISTRICT 25, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
May 12, 2025**

Call to Order

President Rogers called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. on May 12, 2025, in the Administrative Service Center, Boardroom, 28W250 St. Charles Road, West Chicago, IL 60185.

Roll Call

Board Recorder Solly Garcia took a roll call vote of the members present: Jack Buscemi, Andrew Drinnin, Jodi Krause, Bridgette Pedersen, Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis.

Other attendees included John Langton, Interim Superintendent; Dr. Patrick McGill; Dr. Mike Fitzgerald, Principal and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum; Dr. Joel Filas, Business Manager; Dr. Julie Salamone, Director of Student Services; Sarah Smith, Evergreen Principal; and Allison Agres, Evergreen Assistant Principal.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Rogers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented. This motion, made by Dennis Peterson and seconded by Gina Vlantis, Passed.

Voice Vote: Passed

Approval of Draft Minutes (Roll Call Vote)

Approval of Draft Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on April 14, 2025

Motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on April 14, 2025. This Voice Vote: Passed

Approval of Draft Minutes from the Special Closed Session Meeting on April 15, 2025

Motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the Special Closed Session Meeting on April 15, 2025. This motion, made by Jack Buscemi and seconded by Gina Vlantis, Passed.

Voice Vote: Passed

Approval of Draft Minutes from the Special Closed Session Meeting on April 16, 2025

Motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the Special Closed Session Meeting on April 16, 2025. This motion, made by Dennis Peterson and seconded by Jodi Krause, Passed.

Voice Vote: Passed

Approval of Draft Minutes from the Joint Board Meeting on April 21, 2025

Motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the Joint Board Meeting on April 21, 2025. This motion, made by Andrew Drinnin and seconded by Gina Vlantis, Passed.

Voice Vote: Passed

Approval of Draft Minutes from the Special Board of Education Meeting on April 28, 2025

Motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the Special Board of Education Meeting on April 28, 2025. This motion, made by Jodi Krause and seconded by Jack Buscemi, Passed.

Voice Vote: Passed



Canvass of Votes (Roll Call)

That the Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the DuPage County Canvass of Votes for the Consolidated General Election for Benjamin School District 25 Board of Education Members and made a part herof. This motion, made by Dennis Peterson and seconded by Gina Vlantis, Passed.

Voice Vote: Passed

Adjournment Sine Die (Voice Vote)

Motion to adjourn Sine Die at 7:03 p.m. This motion, made by Jodi Krause and seconded by Dennis Peterson, Passed.

Voice Vote: Passed

Recognition of Board Members

President Rogers and the Benjamin 25 community honored the outstanding dedication and contributions of long-serving board members Jodi Krause and Jack Buscemi. As a gesture of gratitude, both members received a plaque and a flower arrangement. Throughout their tenure, Mrs. Krause and Mr. Buscemi played pivotal roles in steering the board's initiatives, influencing policy decisions, and advocating for the needs of students, staff, and families within the Benjamin 25 district. As they transition from their roles, their significant impact leaves a legacy that will continue to inspire future boards and generations of students.

Organizational Meeting

Call to Order of the Organizational Meeting (2025-2029 Board)

President Rogers called the Regular Board of Education Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. to welcome the new board members.

Roll Call

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

Board Member's Oath of Office

Mr. Langton led the Board Members in taking the Oath of Office.

Appointment of Temporary Office (Roll Call)

Nomination(s) taken from the floor for President Pro Temp

Member Rogers nominated Mr. Langton as the President Pro Tempore.

Elect President Pro Temp

Motion to approve Mr. John Langton as President Pro Temp of the Organizational Meeting of the Board.

This motion, made by Andrew Drinnin and seconded by Dennis Peterson, Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach

Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Nays: None

Election of President (Roll Call)

Nominations taken from the floor

Gina Vlantis nominated Eric Rogers for the role of Board President.

Nomination closed by Motion and Vote Motion to close the nomination(s) for Board President. This motion, made by Andrew Drinnin and seconded by Vince Engstrom, Passed.

Voice Vote: Passed



Final Vote

Roll call taken to approve the appointment of Eric Rogers as Board President. This motion, made by Gina Vlantis, Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Nays: None

Member Eric Rogers was elected Board President

Election of Vice President (Roll Call)

Nominations taken from the floor

Andrew Drinnin nominated Bridgette Pedersen for the role of Vice President.

Don Sutenbach nominated Vince Engstrom for the role of Vice President.

Nominations closed by Motion and Vote

Motion to close the nomination(s) for Board Vice President. This motion, made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Andrew Drinnin, Passed.

Voice Vote: Passed

Roll call was taken for Vice President Candidate Bridgette Pedersen and a second roll call was taken for Candidate Vince Engstrom.

Motion for Board Member Bridgette Pedersen to be elected Vice President of the Board of Education.

This motion, made by Andrew Drinnin, Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen
Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Nays: Dennis Peterson and Don Sutenbach

Election of Secretary (Roll Call)

Nominations taken from the floor

Don Sutenbach nominated Gina Vlantis for the role of Board Secretary

Nominations closed by Motion and Vote

Motion to close the nomination(s) for Board Secretary. This motion, made by Dennis Peterson and seconded by Bridgette Pedersen, Passed.

Voice Vote: Passed

Final Vote

Motion for Gina Vlantis to be elected Secretary to the Board of Education. This motion, made by Don Sutenbach, Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Nays: None

Appoint SASED Governing Board Representative (Roll Call)

Nomination(s) taken from the floor

Bridgette Pedersen nominated Vince Engstrom for the role of SASED Governing Board Representative.

Nominations closed by Motion and Vote

Motion to close the nomination for the SASED Governing Board Representative. This motion, made by Andrew Drinnin and seconded by Gina Vlantis, Passed.

Voice Vote: Passed



Final Vote

Motion to appoint Vince Engstrom to serve as its representative to the SASED Governing Board for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years, and execute the resolution and made a part. This motion, made by Bridgette Pedersen, Passed.

Voice Vote: Passed

Appoint SASED Governing Board Alternate Representative (Roll Call)

Nomination(s) taken from the floor

Don Sutenbach self-nominated to serve in the role of the SASED Governing Board Alternate Representative.

Nomination(s) closed by motion and vote

Motion to close the nominations for the SASED Governing Board Alternate Representative. This motion, made by Vince Engstrom and seconded by Gina Vlantis, Passed.

Voice Vote: Passed

Final Vote

Motion to appoint Don Sutenbach to serve as its alternate representative to the SASED Governing Board for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years, and execute the Resolution and made a part. This motion, made by Don Sutenbach, Passed.

Voice Vote: Passed

Reports

Learning and Teaching Report: Dr. Fitzgerald presented an update on the Learning and Teaching Department, focusing on several key topics. He emphasized the district's literacy plan, which aligns with the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan and aims to provide high-quality literacy instruction to all students. He also discussed the PACE framework, designed to prepare students for career opportunities beginning in sixth grade by identifying areas of success and students who may require extra resources. Regarding professional development, Dr. Fitzgerald shared updates on the SAAVAS Elevate Science Activation Training and additional resources for asynchronous training. He highlighted the Class 360 Dashboard, which facilitates teachers' access to student data, and mentioned the upcoming Student 360 Dashboard. Dr. Fitzgerald intends to hold the Learning Meeting in October to discuss these developments further. Lastly, he and Mrs. Smith will organize an update on the school improvement plan for the June meeting.

Business and Operations Report: Dr. Filas updated the board regarding the Business and Operations Department, emphasizing that the district has achieved a financial profile score of 4.0. This milestone underscores the district's strong fiscal health and effective management strategies. Additionally, Dr. Filas reported a positive trend in insurance rates across various plans, including medical, dental, life, and vision, with an overall reduction of 3.5%.

Dr. Filas also acknowledged NIHIP's proactive measures to ensure employees connected with Advocate Hospital can maintain their insurance coverage seamlessly and without interruption. Looking ahead, the upcoming board meeting will focus on important budget considerations, as well as the potential transfer of accrued interest from alternative funds.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Langton took a moment to extend his heartfelt congratulations to Dr. McGill in his recently appointed leadership role, which will start on July 1st. He also noted that Dr. McGill will hold individual meetings with board members prior to his start date. In an exciting development for the district, live broadcasting of board meetings will officially begin on June 9th. This initiative aims to enhance transparency and allow greater community access to district proceedings.



Mr. Langton expressed his sincere appreciation to Greg Martin, who brought attention to a concerning TikTok trend that poses risks to students. Additionally, Mr. Langton acknowledged the efforts of the PTA for their contributions during Educator Appreciation Week, where they sponsored various events to honor the hard work of teachers and staff.

West Chicago High School District 94 appointed Dr. Lemaris Pueyo as the new principal. Dr. Pueyo resides in West Chicago, and we wish her the best as she embarks on this new leadership role.

As we celebrate the achievements of eighth-grade students, their graduation ceremony is scheduled to take place on May 27th at 7:00 p.m., with board members requested to arrive by 6:35 p.m.

Lastly, the district will host a year-end luncheon on May 30th at 12:30 p.m. Professional photographs of board members and administrators are slated to be taken on June 9th.

FOIA Requests:

None.

Other Reports

At the SASSED board meeting on April 16th, Mr. Langton reported on stable enrollment numbers but highlighted ongoing challenges with facility maintenance and upgrades. He noted that Dr. Kim Dryier updated the strategic plan, including new audiological building models and necessary HVAC system improvements. Additionally, Mr. Peterson and Mr. Langton reviewed the LEND meeting, announcing a \$134 increase in dues for the next year, reflecting a 2.9% CPI-based rise to support the organization's initiatives.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

Consent Agenda: Items Removed

None

Consent Agenda (Roll Call)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. This motion, made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Andrew Drinnin, Passed.

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

Action Items (Roll Call Vote)

Approval of the Sodexo Food Contract, Meal Rates, Milk and Juice rates for 2025-2026

Motion to approve the 2025-2026 Sodexo Food Contract, Meal Rates, Milk and Juice rates, as presented. This motion, made by Andrew Drinnin and seconded by Gina Vlantis, Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis
Nays: Don Sutenbach

Approval of the Audit Engagement Letter for FY 25

Motion to approve the FY26 Audit Engagement Letter, as presented. This motion, made by Bridgette Pedersen and seconded by Don Sutenbach, Passed.

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



Approval of the cost for paid bus riders for the 2025-2026 school year

Motion to approve the 2025-2026 cost for paid bus riders, as presented. This motion, made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Bridgette Pedersen, Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Nays: None

Approval of Support Staff salary increases for 2025-2026

Motion to approve the 2025-2026 Support Staff salary increases, as presented. This motion, made by Andrew Drinnin and seconded by Don Sutenbach, Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Nays: None

Approval of Administrator Contracts

Motion to approve the Administrator Contracts, as presented. This motion, made by Andrew Drinnin and seconded by Gina Vlantis, Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Nays: None

Approval of the Extra Duty Stipend Proposal Recommendation

Motion to approve the Extra Duty Stipend Proposal Recommendation, as presented. This motion, made by Vince Engstrom and seconded by Gina Vlantis, Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Nays: None

Approval of the First Reading of PRESS Plus Issue 118 Board of Education Policy Updates

Motion to approve the First Reading of PRESS Plus Issue 118 Board of Education Policy Updates, as presented. This motion, made by Andrew Drinnin and seconded by Vince Engstrom, Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Nays: None

Approval of the First Reading of the Revised Board of Education Policy 2:150 Committees

Motion to approve the First Reading of the Revised Board of Education Policy 2:150 Committees, as presented. This motion, made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Bridgette Pedersen, Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Nays: None

Approval of DuPage ROE Treasurer Bond Calculation Form

Motion to approve the DuPage ROE Treasurer Bond Calculation Form, as presented. This motion, made by Andrew Drinnin and seconded by Gina Vlantis, Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Nays: None



Approval of Computer Purchase

Motion to approve the Lenovo Computer Purchase, as presented. This motion, made by Don Sutenbach and seconded by Gina Vlantis, Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Nays: None

Approval of the Disposal of School District Assets (Laptops, BenQ's and Doc Cameras)

Motion to approve the Disposal of School District Assets, as presented. This motion, made by Andrew Drinnin and seconded by Bridgette Pedersen, Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Nays: None

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

None.

Discussion Items

Standing Board Committees Assignments - Board Policy 2:150: Board members interested in joining the policy, finance, or facilities committee are encouraged to inform Mr. Rogers prior to the upcoming meeting on June 9th, during which he will finalize the committee appointments as part of the meeting agenda. There is also an opportunity for additional representation on several important groups, including the Legislative Education Network for DuPage (LEND), IASB DuPage Division, PTA, and the Education Foundation. All board members are invited to participate in the dinner meetings for the DuPage division. Furthermore, Mr. Sutenbach has shown interest in becoming involved with both the PTA and the Education Foundation.

2025-2026 Board of Education Meeting Dates: The board discusses the board meeting calendar days for the coming year, deciding to keep the meetings on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. A board workshop is scheduled for July 14, 2025.

Joint Annual Conference - November 21-23, 2025: Mr. Langton shared details about the upcoming joint annual conference and suggested that Solly secure reservations as soon as they become available. Board members are encouraged to stay downtown during the event to promote learning and networking opportunities.

Adjournment (Voice Vote)

Motion to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting at 8:12 p.m. This motion, made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Vince Engstrom, Passed.

Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed

Respectfully submitted by:
Solly Garcia, Board Recorder

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

Recorded: May 12, 2025

Approved: June 9, 2025