

	<p>LINCOLNWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 74 BOARD OF EDUCATION Regular Meeting Minutes Thursday, November 6, 2025 at <u>7:30 PM</u></p>	<p>BOARD OF EDUCATION Peter D. Theodore, <i>President</i> Myra A. Foutris, <i>Vice President</i> John P. Vranas, <i>Secretary</i> Ted Kwon Jay Oleniczak Elissa B. Rosenberg Mihra Seta</p> <p>ADMINISTRATION Dr. David L. Russo, <i>Superintendent of Schools</i> Dr. Dominick M. Lupo, <i>Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction</i> Courtney L. Whited, <i>Business Manager/CSBO</i></p>
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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, November 6, 2025.

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

President Theodore called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., roll call was taken and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

<p><u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u> Myra A. Foutris Ted Kwon Jay Oleniczak Elissa B. Rosenberg Mihra Seta (arrived at 7:33 p.m.) Peter D. Theodore John P. Vranas</p>		
<p><u>ADMINISTRATORS/STAFF PRESENT</u> Dr. David L. Russo Dr. Dominick M. Lupo Courtney L. Whited Mark Atkinson</p>	<p>Dr. Chris Harmon Dr. Aliaa Ibrahim Jackie McGoey Erin Curry</p>	<p>Jordan Stephen Joseph Segreti Renee Tolnai</p>

2. DISTRICT RECOGNITION

a. Honoring Lincolnwood School District 74 Retiree

I. Celeste "CC" Pahos - Todd Hall Paraprofessional

Superintendent Russo publicly thanked Celeste Pahos for her work on behalf of the Lincolnwood Learning Community, and wished her well in retirement.

b. Lincoln Hall 2026 Spring Musical Announcement

Lincoln Hall EL teacher Hayley Reynolds announced the 2026 spring musical selection is Rodger's & Hammerstein's Cinderella.

c. Curricular Highlight - Rutledge Hall third grade students and their teachers will share highlights from their interdisciplinary dinosaur unit, where reading, science, and hands-on learning come together. From exploring Dinosaurs Before Dark to racing "dinosaurs" and studying fossils, students have brought curiosity and discovery to life. Join us as they showcase their learning and excitement about this engaging study.

The third-grade team, along with some of their students, showcased their interdisciplinary dinosaur unit.

3. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

A number of community members stated their support of Children's Care & Development Center, Inc. (CCDC) remaining a tenant of the District and in favor of the Option A Bond Issuance Language.

Members of the newly-formed community group, Lincolnwood Community Action Network (LCAN) shared their concerns about recent current events and a potential District response.

At 7:46 p.m. President Theodore called for a four-minute recess. President Theodore called the meeting back to order at 7:50 p.m.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

None

6. COMMUNICATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS

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

Member Rosenberg reported the NTDSE Governing Board last met on October 22, 2025.

The following are brief highlights:

- The Board received a presentation on Augmentative & Alternative Communication.
- Tarin Kendrick, Executive Director, continues to work with SD68 for rental space to create six classrooms for Molloy students. She discussed conducting a special education audit across all districts to assess needs and support building capacity with the focus on helping districts strengthen programs rather than expanding NTDSE.
- It was reported that several NTDSE administrators presented at both the Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education and the Council of Administrators of Special Education Conferences.
- Candice Hartranft, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reported that the Collaborative for Curriculum Committee met on October 20th and reviewed cohort data showing student progress in literacy and math since the inception of the CFC curriculum. She further reported that NTDSE has been supporting districts in the development of their Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment monitoring.
- Marie Sheedy, Co-Principal of Molloy, reported that the 2026 Extended School Year satellite location will be at Rutledge Hall.
- The Board discussed the feedback from an independent engineering firm regarding HVAC issues in the new building and the proposal for transportation rates over the next two years.
- The next meeting of the NTDSE Governing Board is scheduled at the NTDSE Administrative Center on December 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Member Kwon reported the Joint Annual Conference will be held November 21-23, 2025.

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

The Finance Committee last met on October 23, 2025.

The Committee sent five items to the Agenda:

1. Children's Care & Development Center, Inc. Lease Extension
 2. Pitney Bowes Postage Meter Lease Renewal
 3. Fiscal Years 2026 - 2030 Annual Audit Services
 4. Fiscal Years 2026 - 2030 Annual Actuarial Report Services
 5. PSACG Waiver Request- FY26 Facilities Rental Fees
- Courtney Whited, Business Manager/CSBO, provided an overview of the 2025 Estimated Levy Draft. The Finance Committee concurred with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve the Estimated 2025 Property Tax Levy in the amount of \$29,513,350 and the publication of the corresponding Truth-in-Taxation Notice. This represents a 2.90% increase on last year's capped funds

extension combined with a 4.49% decrease on debt service for an overall 2.52% increase on the prior year's extension.

- Member Oleniczak shared his gratitude to the Finance Committee and Administration for delivering a levy for the Board to approve.
- The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2025 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.

- StudioGC architecture+interiors Project(s) Update:
 1. The concrete adjustment is complete.
 2. The general trades punch list is in progress at Rutledge Hall and Lincoln Hall.
 3. The parking lot asphalt and striping is completed across campus.
- Dr. Russo discussed the Foresight Integrated Solutions Security Audit results and recommendations with the Committee.
- The Facilities Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve the Agreement from Everest Energy and Control Technologies, LLC to continue Annual BAS Maintenance and Support
- District Facilities Update:
 1. Alltown Bus Company submitted a request to use a room on a weeknight evening for their annual safety meeting in November.
 2. Skomor Soccer submitted a Facilities Rental Application.
 3. ISBE sent a notification about the Fiscal Year 2026 Round 1 School Maintenance Project Grant application.

The next Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2025 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 22, 2025. The October 24, 2025 Policy Committee meeting was cancelled due to a light agenda.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 14, 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.

7. COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

a. LTA (Lincolnwood Teacher Association): **Travis DuPriest/Kevin Conley (Co-Presidents)**

Co-president DuPriest and Rutledge Hall Special Education teacher, Mari Garvonado highlighted recent LTA positive working partnerships.

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

President Bujnowski was present. No report.

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

PALS President Abby Jones provided an overview of the upcoming fundraising and community events, as well as the successes of past events. For more information: [PALS WEBSITE](#).

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

i. Official School Board Members Appreciation Day - November 15, 2025

II. District Updates

- Superintendent Russo shared that November 15, 2025 is a very special day on the calendar, it is "School Board Members Day." We cannot thank our Board Members enough for the countless volunteer hours that they each commit to our District. Please know how much your passion and dedication to education means to all of us. You play a vital civic role in our community and we thank each of you for your leadership, guidance, and governance. On behalf of the staff, families, students, and administrative team of Lincolnwood School District 74; Superintendent Russo expressed his deep gratitude and appreciation for all that they do. Please accept this small token. Thank you for your dedication to the District!
- Superintendent shared how he really loved the way the teachers integrated that opportunity to directly connect the wonderful resources of the museum to a unit of study for students. It was tremendous how the team incorporated science, literacy, and writing into an engaging, hands-on set of activities for the third-grade dinosaur unit.
- On Tuesday, the window to sign up for Parent-Teacher Conferences opened. The Sign-Up Genius will remain open through November 14, 2025. There are options for in-person and video conferencing meetings with teachers. We ask families to pay particular attention that they are signing up for their child's correct homeroom teacher when scheduling their appointment. This is especially important for Lincoln Hall where specific teachers will lead the conference on behalf of all the teachers on a student's schedule. Conferences are November 18 and 20, 2025.
- After a couple of years, we enjoyed perfect weather for Halloween and had the opportunity for students to parade around the track on a more comfortable day. We had some amazing, themed costumes from our staff and students seemed to really get into the festivities! Thank you to all those families who volunteered at the Todd Hall and Rutledge Hall parties or attended the parades. Middle School students enjoyed a well-attended party on the evening of October 24, 2025 and participated in Wellness Day stations on Halloween.
- Speaking of the weather, families are encouraged to familiarize themselves with our school closing and e-Learning Plans should inclement weather impact our ability to hold in-person classes. Links to more information will appear in upcoming editions of *Tuesday Newsday*. Depending upon the timing, severity, and duration of winter weather we may implement a traditional snow day or e-Learning Day. Whenever possible, the District attempts to give families the greatest amount of time to prepare for either scenario. However, we suggest each family review how you would address e-Learning in your home should we need to use this type of instructional day at some point during the winter.
- Rutledge Hall and Lincoln Hall will host Veterans' Day assemblies on Tuesday, November 11, 2025. If you, or a family member, has served in a branch of our Armed Forces we invite you to join us. Contact either the Rutledge Hall or Lincoln Hall school office for more information.
- Finally, Superintendent Russo wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving season at the end of the month. Be safe in your travels and enjoy your gatherings and traditions!

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

I. Assessment Report: NWEA/MAP Data and Illinois Report Card Update

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Lupo presented the Student Assessment Reports as well as an Illinois State Report Card update.

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

I. Finance Report - AUGUST 2025

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

II. Approval of the 2025 Estimated Annual Property Tax Levy Resolution & Public Notice

It was moved by Member Oleniczak and seconded by Secretary Vranas that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approve the 2025 Estimated Annual Property Tax Levy Resolution & Public Notice, as presented and as supported by the Finance Committee.

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. Bills Payable in the Amount of \$1,273,104.56

Bills reviewed this month by: Elissa B. Rosenberg and Myra A. Foutris

It was moved by Member Rosenberg and seconded by Vice President Foutris that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approve invoices and bills in the amount of \$1,273,104.56.

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.

9. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Susan Fahey, Director of Children's Care & Development Center (CCDC) thanked the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education for their past support and shared her wishes to maintain the working partnership.

10. 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)(1), amended by P.A. 101-459 - Personnel and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6) - the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District.

President Theodore submitted the motion to a voice vote and the motion passed at 8:52 p.m.

11. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AT 9:23 P.M.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

I. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

II. Regular Board Meeting - Closed Session Minutes - SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

b. EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

I. Personnel Report

II. New Employment

1. **Michael Yim**, Paraprofessional, Rutledge Hall, effective October 6, 2025, \$17.83/hr

2. **Tara Khezeran**, Part-Time Kitchen Staff, Lincoln Hall, effective October 9, 2025, \$15.61/hr

3. **Mary Pellicano**, Paraprofessional, Rutledge Hall, effective October 14, 2025, \$17.92/hr

4. **Steven Tracy**, Building & Grounds Engineer, Rutledge Hall, effective October 27, 2025, \$32.53/hr

III. Retirement

1. **Celeste Pahos**, Paraprofessional, Todd Hall, effective October 31, 2025

IV. FMLA Leave Request

1. **Mauvette Johnson**, one to one nurse/Instructional Assistant, Rutledge Hall, effective September 29, 2025

V. Leave Request

1. **Nicole Lorusso**, Paraprofessional, Lincoln Hall, effective January 5, 2026 with a return date of April 27, 2026

c. Upcoming Staff Development Opportunities

The Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approves all overnight conferences.

I. **Amy Cattapan**, 6th Grade Language Arts/Reading, National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Convention, Denver, CO., November 20-23, 2025

II. **Hillary Schroer**, Rutledge Hall Music Teacher, Illinois Music Educators Conference (IMEC), Peoria, IL, January 29-31, 2026

d. Annual BAS Renewal with Everest

The Facilities Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to accept this Agreement from Everest Energy and Control Technologies, LLC to continue Annual BAS Maintenance and Support in the amount of \$9,464 from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

e. Pitney Bowes Postage Meter Lease Renewal

The Finance Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve this Agreement from Pitney Bowes for postage meter leasing in the amount of \$9,625.80 for 60 months beginning January 7, 2026.

f. Fiscal Years 2026 - 2030 Annual Audit Services

The Finance Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve this Letter of Engagement from Lauterbach & Amen, LLP for annual audit services averaging \$33,550 per year for five (5) fiscal years from 2026 through 2030.

g. Fiscal Years 2026 - 2030 Annual Actuarial Report Services

The Finance Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve the Letter of Engagement from Lauterbach & Amen, LLP for annual actuarial services at cost totaling \$17,890 for five (5) fiscal years from 2026 through 2030.

h. PSACG Waiver Request- FY26 Facilities Rental Fees

The Finance Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to maintain Class IV facility rental fee rates during fiscal year 2025-26 for West Loop Soccer Club doing business as Paris Saint-Germain Academy Chicago (PSGAC).

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.

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.

13. Children's Care & Development Center, Inc. Lease Extension

It was moved by Member Oleniczak and seconded by Secretary Vranas that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approve the lease extension with Children's Care & Development Center, Inc. from July 1, 2026 through May 31, 2027 at a total rental payment of \$94,215 or \$8,565 per month.

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.

14. Ballot Referendum Language — Resolution providing for and requiring the submission of the proposition of issuing \$12,100,000 School Building Bonds to the voters of the District at the general primary election to be held on the 17th day of March 2026.

Superintendent Russo provided an overview of the discussions regarding Todd Hall Renovations and potential Referendum.

President Theodore opened a discussion to all the Board members prior to the motions being made. Vice President Foutris questioned the costs involved. Chair of the Finance Committee Member Oleniczak further explained the finances involved and the impact to the District. Secretary Vranas spoke on the decision to steer away from non-referendum bonds due to the overall costs, and his beliefs on bonding District capital improvements. Secretary Vranas reported there will be an upcoming need for additional space regardless of CCDC remaining a tenant due to the re-development of the Lincolnwood Town Center with high-demand rental units, and the growing needs of the Special Education population. The needs of the Lincolnwood students must take precedence over outside tenants.

It was moved by Secretary Vranas that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approves a Resolution *with Option A language* providing for and requiring the submission of the proposition of issuing \$12,100,000 School Building Bonds to the voters of the District at the general primary election to be held on the 17th day of March 2026. The motion was not seconded and no vote was taken.

The motion failed due to lack of a second.

It was moved by Secretary Vranas that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approves a Resolution *with Option B language* providing for and requiring the submission of the proposition of issuing \$12,100,000 School Building Bonds to the voters of the District at the general primary election to be held on the 17th day of March 2026. The motion was not seconded and no vote was taken.

The motion failed due to lack of a second.

15. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Secretary Vranas and seconded by President Theodore 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 9:53 p.m.

Peter D. Theodore, President

John P. Vranas, Secretary