



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

January 12, 2026

Call to Order

Board President Rogers called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. on January 12, 2026, in the Benjamin Multipurpose Room, located at 28W300 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, Bridgette Pedersen, Dennis Peterson, Don Sutenbach, Eric Rogers and Gina Vlantis.

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

Approval of Draft Minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting of December 8, 2025.

Motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting of December 8, 2025. This motion, made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Bridgette Pedersen, passed.

Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed

Approval of Draft Minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting of January 8, 2026.

Motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting of January 8, 2025. This motion, made by Vince Engstrom and seconded by Gina Vlantis, passed.

Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed

Presentations

4.0 GPA Awards: Dr. Fitzgerald recognized and congratulated students who earned a 4.0 GPA during the first trimester of the 2025-2026 school year. Students received certificates, had photos taken, and enjoyed a small treat in celebration of their accomplishments.



Special Services: Dr. Salamone shared an overview of the Student Services Department, highlighting continued progress toward state targets related to the identification of special education needs and supports for multilingual learners. She reported that the district received the highest performance rating from the state, with no corrective action required.

She noted stable trends in 504 plans, positive outcomes in multilingual programming, and ongoing work related to early childhood screening and placement. Dr. Salamone also reviewed the District's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework, including support structures and responsibilities related to transportation and services for McKinney-Vento and Youth in Care students.

Future priorities include strengthening collaboration within the MTSS framework, refining practices for identifying special education needs, and expanding the early childhood program.

Reports

Learning and Teaching: Dr. Fitzgerald provided an update from the Teaching and Learning Department, highlighting professional development planning for the February 27, 2026 countywide institute day. Staff will participate in a combination of external conferences and in-house professional development across multiple institutional areas.

He reviewed the district's assessment schedule, including ACCESS, IAR, ISA, and CogAT testing, and noted the continuation of learning walks in both buildings. Dr. Fitzgerald also shared that high school articulation visits are underway across multiple content areas.

Operations Report: Dr. Filas shared a brief update from the Business and Operations Department, noting that the district's school maintenance grant application was approved by ISBE, resulting in \$50,000 in state funding. He thanked the Finance Committee for their support in this effort. Dr. Filas provided a legislative update from ASBO related to ongoing advocacy for full state reimbursement of mandated categorical programs.

Superintendent Report : Dr. McGill provided an update on the District's strategic planning process, noting strong community engagement with more than 100 survey responses contributing to the draft SWOT analysis. He shared that this feedback will be used during the upcoming vision retreat to finalize the SWOT analysis and establish the district's core values, mission, vision, and future priorities.

Dr. McGill also shared an update regarding the December 26 water main failure at Evergreen Elementary School, highlighting the rapid response of emergency teams from GSF and FH Paschen. He commended the coordinated mitigation efforts and project oversight that supported the timely restoration of the building.

In addition, Dr. McGill recognized the outstanding December band, choir, and music performances from both schools. He commended Mrs. Tepe, Ms. Gjata, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Martin,



Ms. Orr, Mrs. Anthony and Mrs. DeChristopher for their dedication to the district's performing arts programs, describing the performances as top-tier and highly enjoyable.

Lastly, Dr. McGill highlighted upcoming GPS Parent Series events, including:

- January 13: Lighthouse Parenting: Guiding Teens to Develop Independence and Coping Skills to Navigate Their Own Journey.
- January 21: Empowered Athletes: Fostering Confidence for Peak Performance.
- January 27: Checked-Out/Stressed-Out: Moving Kids from Disengagement to Drive.
- February 4: Superthinkers: Raising Tomorrow's Leaders Today.

Board Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: Member Engstrom reported that the Finance Committee met at Evergreen to review the mid-year budget. He noted that the district remains financially stable, with revenues and expenditures in alignment with the adopted budget, board policy, and long-term financial plan.

PTA: Member Sutenbach provided a brief PTA update, noting a return to regular activities following a busy December. He highlighted the success of the recent holiday Bazaar and shared that Evergreen's new choir club has been well received. He also announced the next PTA meeting is scheduled for January 26, as well as upcoming family events, including a roller skating outing and a hockey night.

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 Dennis Peterson 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

Action Items (Roll Call Vote)

Approval of the Second Reading and Subsequent Adoption of PRESS Plus Issue 120

Motion to approve the Second Reading and Subsequent Adoption of PRESS Plus Issue 120 recommendations for the following school board policies.

• 2:150	• 4:140	• 5:190
• 2:270	• 4:190	• 5:200
• 4:10	• 5:10	• 5:220
• 4:30	• 5:90	• 5:280
• 4:90	• 5:100	• 5:300

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- 6:20
- 6:40
- 6:60
- 6:130
- 6:160
- 6:260
- 6:280
- 7:10
- 7:70
- 7:150
- 7:180
- 7:190
- 7:290
- 7:310
- 7:340
- 8:30

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 Resolution Affirming Approved Depositories of the School District

Motion to approve the Resolution Affirming Approved Depositories of the School District, 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

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 for the Board's consideration all questions or communications submitted through the active electronic link, along with the status of the District's response.

Motion to Enter Executive Session

Motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:13 p.m. This motion, made by Don Sutenbach and seconded by Gina Vlantis.

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

Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Nays: None

Motion to Return to Open Session

Motion to return to open session at 8:31 p.m.. This motion was made by Vince Engstrom 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



Adjournment (Voice Vote)

Motion to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting at 8:32 p.m. This motion, made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Don Sutenbach, passed.

Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed

Respectfully submitted by:
Solly Garcia, Board Recorder

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

Recorded: January 12, 2026

Approved: February 9, 2026