



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
SCHOOL DISTRICT 25, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
November 10, 2025**

Call to Order

Board President Rogers called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. on November 10, 2025, in the Administrative Service Center Boardroom, located at 28W250 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 Bridgette Pedersen and seconded by Gina Vlantis, passed.

Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed

Approval of Draft Minutes (Roll Call Vote)

Approval of Draft Minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting of November 10, 2025.

Motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting of November 10, 2025. This motion, made by Dennis Peterson and seconded by Don Sutenbach, passed.

Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed

Presentations

Board Appreciation Week: Dr. McGill shared his appreciation for the Board's dedication and service, highlighting that much of their work happens quietly but makes a meaningful difference in the community. Dr. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Smith presented books with personalized dedications for the school libraries, along with artwork created by students in the Art Club. Board members expressed their gratitude for the thoughtful gesture.

Benjamin and Evergreen School Improvement Plans: Dr. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Smith presented the District's School Improvement Plan and shared that the state identified both Evergreen and Benjamin Schools as commendable. Evergreen students performed above state averages in both math and reading, and Benjamin students demonstrated strong performance in reading with continued progress in math. The presentation highlighted positive growth trends across grade levels and emphasized the District's ongoing commitment to strengthening instructional practices. Next steps include using assessment data more intentionally to guide instruction, reinforcing essential skills, and expanding opportunities for targeted small-group learning to support continued student growth.

Tentative Tax Levy: Dr. Filas presented the tentative tax levy, noting that it is based on a 2.9% CPI and preliminary estimates for new construction, which have not yet been finalized. He noted that under the County Tax Cap Law, the District is limited to requesting the lesser of the CPI or 5%, resulting in an estimated 2.9% increase in local property tax revenue for Fiscal Year 2026. Dr. Filas reviewed the factors influencing the levy and the timeline for final approval. The Final Tax Levy Hearing will be held at the Regular Board Meeting on December 8

Reports

Learning and Teaching: Dr. Fitzgerald shared the agenda for the November 14 Institute Day. He noted that the full-day professional development will offer a range of learning opportunities to support instructional growth across the District. Teachers will participate in Phase 2 training for the new science curriculum, which emphasizes hands-on, project-based learning aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards. Dr. Salamone has also coordinated a professional development session focused on supporting English Language Learners in the general education classroom, providing teachers with strategies to better support their students and strengthen overall classroom instruction.

Operations Report: Dr. Filas provided updates on district operations, noting that Mr. Kazmierzak has scheduled several building maintenance and support projects to be completed over the Thanksgiving break to minimize disruption. In technology, Mr. Martin reviewed the rollout of the new teacher–parent conference scheduling system, and Board members shared positive feedback, noting that the platform was easy to navigate on mobile devices and offered helpful reminders for families.

Dr. Filas also provided an overview of per-pupil spending in relation to the data presented on the Illinois School Report Card. Lastly, he reported on the monthly District Safety Committee meeting, where the team reviewed the “I Love U Guys” Standard Response Protocols. These guidelines offer unified terminology for emergency procedures such as lockdown, soft lockdown, hold-in-place, and shelter-in-place. Dr. Filas noted that the District’s safety manuals are already closely aligned with these standards, and only minimal updates are anticipated. He added that the review was completed in response to recommendations from the regional safety network, which encourages districts to regularly evaluate their emergency response practices.

Superintendent Report : Dr. McGill provided an update on the District’s strategic planning process, noting that the orientation meeting will be held on December 4, followed by the first full-day data retreat on December 9. He also shared that the Benjamin community is supporting local food pantries by collecting non-perishable items during parent–teacher conferences.

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

- **November 18:** Nourishing the Modern Brain
- **November 24:** School–Parent Partnership
- **December 2:** Managing Your Emotions

Board Committee Reports: Member Sutenbach shared several positive updates from the PTA. She noted that the family outing at Sonny Acres was a great success, with approximately 125 attendees and 86 wristbands sold. The recent open gym night also saw an impressive turnout of nearly 200 participants. Looking ahead, the Butter Braid fundraiser pickup will be held on November 13, followed by a PTA



meeting on November 17 and a restaurant fundraiser at Fozzy's Bar and Grill on November 18. Ice cream days are also planned at both schools. Families are encouraged to review the PTA calendar for additional upcoming events.

Member Peterson shared that he attended the IASB DuPage Division Dinner on October 29 and highlighted an upcoming session by Jim Burgett focused on effective school board leadership, scheduled for Friday at 2:00 p.m. during the Triple I conference. He described the speaker as highly engaging, with many insightful stories and experiences from over 25 years in education.

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 Vince Engstrom and seconded by Dennis Peterson, passed.

Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed

Action Items (Roll Call Vote)

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.

Adjournment (Voice Vote)

Motion to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting at 8:17 p.m. This motion, made by Vince Engstrom and seconded by Andrew Drinnin, passed.

Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed

Respectfully submitted by:
Solly Garcia, Board Recorder

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

Recorded: November 10, 2025
Approved: December 8, 2025