



LINCOLNWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 74
BOARD OF EDUCATION
 Regular Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 7:30 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, May 7, 2026.***

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

President Theodore called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m., roll call was taken and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>
Myra A. Foutris Jay Oleniczak Elissa B. Rosenberg Mihra Seta Peter D. Theodore John P. Vranas	Ted Kwon

<u>ADMINISTRATORS/STAFF PRESENT</u>		
Dr. David L. Russo Dr. Dominick M. Lupo Courtney L. Whited Mark Atkinson	Dr. Chris Harmon Dr. Aliaa Ibrahim Jackie McGoey Jennifer Ruttkay	Erin Curry Jordan Stephen Joseph Segreti Renee Tolnai

2. DISTRICT RECOGNITION

- a. The Lincolnwood SD74 Student Art Exhibit, featuring more than 150 works of art, is currently on display at Village Hall. The District is honored to celebrate and showcase the creativity and dedication to the visual arts of students from Lincoln Hall, Rutledge Hall, and Todd Hall. A special reception honoring the student-artists and art teachers took place from 5:30-7:00 p.m. before the Board of Education meeting.
- b. Lincoln Hall Spring Musical - The prince is throwing a ball! Under the direction of Ms. Hayley Reynolds, SD74 students will be presenting Rodgers + Hammerstein’s Cinderella: Youth Edition. This year’s spirited cast and crew of 5th–8th-grade students gave the Board of Education a sneak peek of the upcoming performances. The Lincolnwood community is invited to join the fun on the evening of May 15, 2026, and during the afternoon and evening performances on May 16, 2026.
- c. Lincoln Hall Spanish teachers Michelle Lange and Maria Ricotta presented the National Spanish Exam award winners recognition certificates. The National Spanish Exam (NSE) is an online, motivational competition that recognizes, stimulates, and promotes students’ linguistic competence and proficiency in Spanish.

3. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Two Lincolnwood School District 74 students shared their positive interactions with a staff member.

4. BOARD WILL CONDUCT AN ELECTION OF OFFICERS

a. Election of President Pro-Tem (*See Policies 2:210 and 2:110*)

It was moved by President Theodore and seconded by Secretary Vranas that Dr. David L. Russo be appointed as President Pro-Tem for the purpose of conducting the election of School Board President.

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

b. Nominations for and Election of Board President (*See Policy 2:110*)

President Pro-Tem stated that nominations were in order for the office of PRESIDENT.

Member Foutris nominated Peter D. Theodore for PRESIDENT.

Member Vranas seconded.

President Pro-Tem declared that Member Theodore was nominated for PRESIDENT. Hearing no further nominations were voiced, nominations were closed.

President Pro-Tem submitted the motion to a voice vote and the nomination passed. The Board elected Peter Theodore to the office of President.

The newly elected President Theodore immediately assumed the chair and conducted the election of other Board officers.

c. Nominations For and Election of Board Vice President and Secretary (*See Policy 2:210*)

President Theodore called for nominations for the office of VICE PRESIDENT.

Member Vranas nominated Myra A. Foutris for office of VICE PRESIDENT.

Member Oleniczak seconded.

President Theodore declared that Member Foutris was nominated for the office of Vice President. Hearing no further nominations were voiced; nominations were closed.

President Theodore submitted the motion to a voice vote and the nomination passed. The Board elected Myra A. Foutris as Vice President.

The newly elected Vice President Foutris immediately assumed the position of Vice-President.

President Theodore called for nominations for the office of SECRETARY.

Vice President Foutris nominated John P. Vranas for SECRETARY.

Member Rosenberg seconded.

President Theodore declared that Member John P. Vranas was nominated for office of Secretary. Hearing no further nominations were voiced, nominations were closed.

President Theodore submitted the nomination to a voice vote and the nomination passed. The Board elected John P. Vranas as Secretary.

The newly elected Secretary Vranas immediately assumed the position of Secretary.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

(Any member of the Board wishing to vote separately on a Consent Agenda item should request removal of that item from the Consent Agenda.)

a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

I. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - **APRIL 9, 2026**

II. Regular Board Meeting - Closed Session Minutes - **APRIL 9, 2026**

b. EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

I. Personnel Report

II. New Employment

1. **Allison Jones**, 2nd Grade Teacher, Todd Hall, effective August 24, 2026, Class 3, Level 3, \$71,601

2. **Claire Kitchens**, Paraprofessional, Lincoln Hall, effective April 27, 2026 through June 9, 2026, \$17.83/hr

III. Retirement

1. **Sylvia Hernandez**, Accounts Payable Coordinator, Administration Building, effective August 31, 2026
 2. **Stephanie Shortell**, Special Education Teacher, Lincoln Hall, effective the end of the 2029-2030 school year
- IV. FMLA Leave Request

1. **Carmel Maloney**, School Nurse, Lincoln Hall, effective April 21, 2026, with an expected return of May 11, 2026

c. 6-year | Middle School Literacy Program Adoption | Simplify Learning

The Finance Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve this contract from Simplify Learning® for the adoption of the grades 6-8 reading curriculum in the amount of \$3,952 from the 2026-2027 school year to the 2031-2032 school year.

d. 6-year | Middle School Literacy Program Adoption | Panorama Education Class Companion

The Finance Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve this contract from Panorama Education © 2026 for the adoption of grades 6-8 writing curriculum tool in the amount of \$3,000 for the 2026-2027 school year.

e. 6-year | Middle School Literacy Program Adoption | CommonLit

The Finance Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve this contract from CommonLit © 2025 for the adoption of the 6-8 reading curriculum in the amount of \$35,100 from the 2026-2027 school year to the 2031-2032 school year.

f. 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 #121 - March 2026

(1) Draft - Update

(1) 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria

(2) 5:50 Drug - and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition

(3) 6:65 Student Social and Emotional Development

(4) 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited

(5) 7:50 School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools

(6) 8:90 Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs

(7) 2:200 Types of Board of Education Meetings

(8) 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure

(9) 6:100 Using Animals in the Educational Program

(10) 6:145 Migrant Students

(11) 6:170 Title I Programs

(12) 6:180 Extended Instructional Programs

(13) 7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students

(14) 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited

(15) 7:240 Code of Conduct for Participants in Extracurricular Activities

(16) 7:260 Exemption from Physical Education

(2) Review & Monitoring

(1) 7:220 Bus Conduct

(2) 7:230 Misconduct by Students with Disabilities

(3) 7:280 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease

g. Approval of Directors' Contracts

The Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approves all Directors' Contracts.

I. **Erin Curry**, Director of Student Services

II. **Peter Lembessis**, Director of Food Services

III. **Jaelyn McGoey**, Director of Communications and Community Relations

IV. **Jennifer Ruttkay**, Director of Special Education

h. Approval of Administrator Contracts

The Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approves all Administrator Contracts.

i. **Aliaa Kamara-Ibrahim**, Rutledge Hall Principal

i. Winters 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29 Snow Removal Services from Contour Landscaping Inc.

The Facilities Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve the three-year Contract from Contour Landscaping, Inc. for snow removal services for the base amount of \$9,958 per winter season from November 1, 2026 through March 31, 2029.

j. Rutledge Hall Kitchen Renovation

The Facilities Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve the Agreements from Tri-Mark for Rutledge Hall Kitchen renovations in an amount not to exceed \$80,000 to be completed during Summer 2026.

k. Renaissance Communication System Installation of the Todd Hall, Rutledge Hall and Lincoln Hall Door Intercom/Video Surveillance Systems

The Facilities Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve the quotes from Renaissance Communication Systems for the installation of door intercom and video surveillance systems (Air Phone) at Todd Hall, Rutledge Hall and Lincoln Hall in the amount of \$31,750.

l. Renaissance Communication System Installation of District Updated Panic Alarm System

The Facilities Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve the quote from Renaissance Communication Systems for the installation of an updated Bosch Panic and Alarm System in all buildings at Lincolnwood School District 74 in the amount of \$18,570.

m. Frontline Financial Planning Analytics FY27 Implementation & Annual Subscription

The Finance Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve this Agreement from Frontline Education for the Financial Planning Analytics Implementation and Subscription in the amount of \$14,200 from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

n. District Server Replacement

The Finance Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to continue with the installation of a Scale Computing Server infrastructure, training and migration of Virtual Machines and data in an amount not to exceed \$76,000.

o. Marcia Brenner Associates (MBA) Installation of a Parent Portal Based Attendance System

The Finance Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve the Marcia Brenner Associates (MBA) quote in the amount of \$8,201.80 for licensing, implementation and training of the Attendance Monitor and Report Creator between July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

p. Nextiva Phone System Upgrade

The Finance Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve the 5-year contract for Nextiva in the amount of \$2,107.24 per month for equipment, implementation, training and migration of services to the Nextiva platform starting between June 2026 through June 2031.

It was moved by Secretary Vranas and seconded by Member Oleniczak 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, Oleniczak, Rosenberg, Seta, Theodore

Nays: None

Absent: Kwon

Motion passed.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

7. NEW BUSINESS

None

8. COMMUNICATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS

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

The NTDSE Governing Board last met on April 22, 2026. The following are brief highlights:

- The Board received a presentation on the NTDSE Raptors basketball players and cheerleaders' season.
- Tarin Kendrick, Executive Director, reported on the following:
 - Staff vacancies have been filled by excellent candidates.
 - Legislative update on HB 4416, Unemployment Equity Act.
 - Seven districts are participating in the Special Education Audit.
- Candice Hartranft, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, provided an update on the work of the Collaborative for Curriculum (CFC) reading curriculum. Next year's project will focus on grades 6 - 8 math programming.
- Christine Perry, Principal of Molloy, reported that:
 - Registration for the 2026-27 school year is open.
 - Staff is working closely with D219 and D207 to support the transition to high school.
- Sheila Arad, Assistant Director of NTDSE Services, reported that: Professional Learning planning has begun for the 2026-27 school year.
- The Board approved the following:
 - The budgets for the Extended School Year for Molloy and the satellite location.
 - The Resolution Authorizing Honorable dismissal for Full-time Educational Support Personnel.
 - Resignation agreement between NTDSE and a certified staff member.
 - Staffing recommendations for the 2026-27 school year.
 - Non-Reemployment of first-year paraprofessionals.

The next meeting of the NTDSE Governing Board is scheduled at the NTDSE Administrative Center on May 27, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

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

No report.

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

The Finance Committee last met on April 23, 2026. The Committee sent seven (7) items to the Agenda:

1. 6-year | Middle School Literacy Program Adoption | Simplify Learning
 2. 6-year | Middle School Literacy Program Adoption | Panorama Education Class Companion
 3. 6-year | Middle School Literacy Program Adoption | CommonLit
 4. Frontline Financial Planning Analytics FY27 Implementation & Annual Subscription
 5. District Server Replacement
 6. Marcia Brenner Associates (MBA) Installation of a Parent Portal Based attendance System
 7. Nextiva Phone System Upgrade
- The Preliminary Timeline to pursue a \$6.0 million series 2026 general obligation working cash bond with an 11-year payback schedule for the purposes of renovating Todd Hall School in Summer 2027 is on the Agenda for approval.

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 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 April 21, 2026.

- Dr. Russo discussed the Proposed Mural Artwork in the Door 7 Stairwell at Rutledge Hall. The Committee would like to see an Abraham Lincoln reference incorporated.
- Dr. Russo proposed replacement of the Crawford Ave. sign. The Committee would like to see a new concept that incorporates student involvement.
- The Facilities Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve the following:
 - The 3-year contract from Contour Landscaping, Inc. for snow removal services
 - The Agreements from Tri-Mark for the Rutledge Hall Kitchen renovations to be completed during Summer 2026.
 - The Quotes from Renaissance Communication Systems for the installation of a Door Intercom/Video Surveillance system for Todd Hall, Rutledge Hall, and Lincoln Hall.
 - The Quote from Renaissance Communication Systems for the installation of an updated Bosch Panic and Alarm System in all buildings on Lincolnwood School District 74's campus.
- District Facilities Update:
 - Dr. Russo will inquire about the outcome of a traffic grant the District applied for through the Village of Lincolnwood. Funds would be used to install flashing lights at crosswalks on Crawford and Pratt Avenues.
 - On April 23, 2026, the Finance Committee discussed the pursuit of a \$6.0 million general obligation working cash bond.

The next Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 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 #121 - March 2026

(1) Draft - Update

(1) 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure

(2) 2:250 Access to District Public Records

(3) 4:165 Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors

(4) 5:250 Leaves of Absence

(5) 5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves

(6) 7:300 Extracurricular Athletics

The Policy Committee last met on Friday, April 24, 2026. The Committee sent nineteen policies to the Consent Agenda. Six policies were sent to the agenda for 1st Reading by the Board.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 21, 2026 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.
- President Theodore thanked PALS for all the work to show appreciation to all the Lincolnwood School District 74 teachers and staff.

9. COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

Co-President Travis DuPriest reported the LTA membership was thankful to PALS and the Administration for their efforts for Teacher and Staff Appreciation week.

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

No report.

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

No report.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

I. District Updates

- The annual art show at the Village Hall is currently on display. The array of artwork and talent is tremendous. This event is an outstanding way for the community to see the breadth of the art curriculum across campus. Thank you to our Art Department...Mrs. Kovacs, Mrs. Weiligosz, and Mrs. Yanchuk along with all our talented artists for sharing their talent with the community.
- Good luck to the cast of Cinderella as they prepare to delight audiences on May 15th and 16, 2026. Our sneak-peak let the community know what a treat we are all in store for with the full production in a couple of weeks! Every person associated with *Cinderella* has been putting forth a tremendous amount of effort for the past several months and we are all appreciative of your time and talent. There are directions on the District's website for how to purchase any remaining tickets that are on sale through Friday, May 8, 2026.
- Additionally, Dr. Russo thanked all the fine arts directors and general music teachers for their time and effort to put together capstone performances throughout the latter part of April and all throughout May. These are wonderful events to bring the community together and share in the collective talent and achievements of our students. He also thanked and congratulated Mrs. Ricotta, Mrs. Lange, and the National Spanish Exam recognition recipients.
- The District is in the final days of recognizing our outstanding team through Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week. Each member of our team plays an essential part in shaping the experiences of our students and modeling what it means to learn, grow, and contribute. Their dedication, creativity, and care create classrooms where curiosity thrives and students feel encouraged to push toward their very best. The time and energy you devote—whether planning meaningful lessons, building strong connections, or cultivating welcoming spaces—make a lasting difference, and it does not go unnoticed. We are equally appreciative of those who helped bring moments of recognition and celebration to life through thoughtful gifts, treats, and visible gestures of appreciation. As someone whose formative years were in the 90's, a special note of thanks goes to the PALS organizing committee, whose commitment and hard work not only supported fundraising efforts earlier this year, but also brought joy and excitement to each day in a 90's inspired theme.
- At an event last month, we welcomed back the Lincoln Hall Class of 2022 for a reunion. We also recognized this year's recipients of the John Cahill Scholarship. There were 27 applicants this year. Each of them had a compelling story to tell about the impact growing up in Lincolnwood has had on their lives and what future aspirations are in store for their education. With a generous donation from PALS, we were able to award five, \$1,000 scholarships. I also wanted to thank the community members who anonymously reviewed and ranked the applicants. This year's recipients are: Julian Gabal, Jeffrey Le, Christine Vuong, Camea Pastor, Penelope Hutchison. Congratulations to all the applicants on their impending high school graduation!
- Don't forget to register your child or children for the 2026-2027 school year. There is a **\$20.00 Early Registration Incentive** in the form of a lunch credit given to each K-8 student who is completely re-registered by **May 8, 2026**, with full payment submitted. Re-registration must be complete, meaning all required paperwork has been submitted and approved, along with full fee payment. There will be a **\$25.00 Late Registration Fee** applied to the account for **each student** beginning August 1, 2026. Currently, there are 665 total registrations in some state of completion. Of the 607 re-registrations, 234 are approved and finalized. There have been 58 new registrations. Please keep in mind that this figure includes Pre-K, kindergarten, and students new to the District at all other grade levels.

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

I. Curriculum Department Update

- The District is looking forward to wrapping up our IAR State testing in the next couple of weeks. As Dr. Lupo mentioned last month, students in grades 3 thru 8 are assessed in Language Arts in Math by taking the IAR, and students in grades 5 & 8 are assessed in Science via the Illinois Science Assessment.
- On the curriculum front, the District is excited about work in collaboration with other schools in the Township in regards to our new literacy programs. Our instructional coaches have connected with other district coaches and we are in the process of refining our planning and instructional approaches with our newly adopted curriculum.

- SD74 Summer Adventures' courses are in the planning phase, and the District will have more information in the next month regarding final details.

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

I. Finance Report - **FEBRUARY 2026**

Business Manager/CSBO Whited presented the February 2026 Finance Report.

II. Bills Payable in the Amount of \$2,796,522.68

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

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 \$2,796,522.68.

President Theodore submitted the motion to a vote and the following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Foutris, Vranas, Oleniczak, Rosenberg, Seta, Theodore

Nays: None

Absent: Kwon

Motion passed.

III. Preliminary Timeline for a General Obligation Working Cash Bond Issuance

In general, the Board of Education needs three meetings to address all necessary legal steps for the sale of a General Obligation Working Cash Bond. This timeline enables the District to generate a General Obligation working cash bond proceed by late February 2027:

December 3, 2027 - Board adopts Resolution of Intent & a Resolution calling a BINA hearing at Regular meeting

January 7, 2027 - Board holds BINA hearing at Regular meeting for a General Obligation Working Cash Bond

February 4, 2027- Board approves parameters Resolution authorizing a General Obligation Working Cash Bond

February 8, 2027- Bond sold; delegates approve results

February 25, 2027- Bond issue closes; District receives General Obligation Working Cash Bond proceeds

It was moved by Secretary Vranas and seconded by Member Oleniczak that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education authorize the Administration to begin the process necessary to sell a General Obligation Working Cash Bond in the amount of \$6,000,000 using an 11-year payback scenario, as presented.

Secretary Vranas confirmed this motion is just directing the Administration to move forward, it is not obligating the Board to issue the bond at this point.

President Theodore reported the public has access to all discussion on this agenda item on the Finance Committee packet as well as the Board of Education packets. The public is always welcome to attend the meetings as well.

President Theodore submitted the motion to a vote and the following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Foutris, Vranas, Oleniczak, Rosenberg, Seta, Theodore

Nays: None

Absent: Kwon

Motion passed.

11. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

None

12. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by President Theodore and seconded by Member Rosenberg that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education recess into Closed Session for the purposes of: **5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) - Collective Negotiating, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10) - the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), amended by P.A. 101-459 - Personnel.**

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

13. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Member Seta 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 9:36 p.m.

Peter D. Theodore, President

John P. Vranas, Secretary