



**LINCOLNWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 74
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 5, 2025 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 Lincoln Hall Auditorium,
6855 North Crawford, Lincolnwood, IL 60712, on Thursday, June 5, 2025.***

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

President Theodore called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m., roll call was taken and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u> Myra A. Foutris Ted Kwon Elissa B. Rosenberg Mihra Seta Peter D. Theodore John P. Vranas	<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u> Jay Oleniczak	
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<u>ADMINISTRATORS/STAFF PRESENT</u> Dr. David L. Russo Dr. Dominick M. Lupo Courtney Whited Mark Atkinson	Chris Harmon Aliaa Ibrahim Jackie McGoey Jennifer Ruttkay Erin Curry	Jordan Stephen Joseph Segreti Renee Tolnai
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2. DISTRICT RECOGNITION

a. *Curricular Highlight - PE in Motion: Foundations for Skills, Fun, and Movement*

This year, our PE program energized students through skill-building, creative activities like Cosmic Bowling and Spooky PE, and impactful additions like Gaga Ball—thanks to PALS support. From Wellness Day to pickleball, we’ve woven together skills, academics, and fun to lay strong foundations for lifelong fitness activities and game play. Rutledge Hall is excited to bring a group of students to share their experience navigating all of these exciting opportunities this year!

Rutledge Hall PE teachers Beeta Azarnoosh and Alia Durakovic shared their presentation that highlighted the skill-building and creative activities in which their students took part. The Board of Education was invited to take part in one of the cup-stacking activities.

b. National Spanish Exam Award Winners - The National Spanish Exam (NSE) is an online, motivational competition that recognizes, stimulates, and promotes students’ linguistic competence and proficiency in Spanish.

Eighth-Graders:
 Joaquin V. - Perfect Score
 Arman D. - Honorifico

Samuel (Noah) E. - Bronze
Nathan V. - Honorifico
Simra M. - Oro
Alondra G. - Oro

Lincoln Hall Spanish teacher Michelle Lange-Gad proudly distributed the National Spanish Exam awards to the above students.

c. Village of Lincolnwood - 2025 Vehicle Sticker Artwork Winner - Rimsha S., 7th Grade
Lincoln Hall principal Mark Atkinson made special mention of the honor that Rimsha S. was awarded by the Lincolnwood Village Hall administration.

d. Honoring Lincolnwood School District 74 Retirees
Sharon McAdams - Todd Hall 1st Grade Teacher
Jennifer Tunelius – Rutledge Hall Reading Interventionist
Tracey Uruba - Lincoln Hall EL Teacher

The District 74 retirees were honored by Superintendent Russo, on behalf of the Board, by a speech highlighting the retirees many accomplishments over the years at Lincolnwood School District 74. Retirees were presented with vases from the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education.

At 8:02 p.m. President Theodore called for a four-minute recess. President Theodore called the meeting back to order at 8:06 p.m.

3. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

None

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

I. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - **MAY 1, 2025**

b. EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

I. Personnel Report

II. New Employment

1. **Bailey Room**, 1st Grade Teacher, Todd Hall, effective August 25, 2025, Class 3, Level 1, \$66,683
2. **Jennifer Pellemounter**, 2nd Grade Teacher, Todd Hall, effective August 25, 2025, Class 1, Level 6, \$64,170
3. **Hannah Fox**, 7th Grade Social Studies Teacher, Lincoln Hall, effective August 25, 2025 Class 1, Level 2, \$58,060
4. **Christine McGowan**, 4th Grade Teacher, Rutledge Hall, effective August 25, 2025, Class 1, Level 4, \$60,999
5. **Elizabeth Reese**, 5th Grade Teacher, Rutledge Hall, effective August 25, 2025, Class 3, Level 1, \$66,683

III. Retirement

1. **Siham Younan**, Paraprofessional, Todd Hall, effective June 12, 2025
2. **Carol Krikorian**, School Administrative Assistant, Lincoln Hall, effective August 14, 2026
3. **Robin Mann**, Interventionist, Lincoln Hall, effective the end of the 2028-2029 school year

IV. Resignation

1. **Natalie Shmoon**, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, Rutledge Hall, effective May 2, 2025
2. **Elvira Delovic**, Paraprofessional, Todd Hall, effective May 30, 2025
3. **Allison Chambers**, Paraprofessional, Rutledge Hall, effective May 5, 2025

V. FMLA Leave Request

1. **Kelly McDermott**, 3rd Grade Teacher, Rutledge Hall, effective on or about August 31, 2025, with an expected return date of December 1, 2025
2. **Jennifer Savage**, 2nd Grade Teacher, Todd Hall, effective May 22, 2025

c. 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 #118 - April 2025

(1) Draft - Update

- (1) 4:15 Identity Protection
- (2) 4:80 Accounting and Audits
- (3) 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited
- (4) 5:60 Expenses
- (5) 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities
- (6) 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited
- (7) 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure
- (8) 5:100 Staff Development Program
- (9) 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
- (10) 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited
- (11) 7:210 Expulsion Procedures
- (12) 7:310 Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools
- (13) 7:340 Student Records

(2) Draft Update - Rewritten

- (1) 2:265 Title IX Grievance Procedure

d. Donation from ROSE Foundation

The Finance Committee members in attendance stated their support of the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to accept the donation of \$100 from the Recognize Our Staff's Excellence (ROSE) Foundation.

e. Donation from ROSE Foundation to Rutledge Hall

The Finance Committee members in attendance stated their support of the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to accept the donation of \$100 from the Recognize Our Staff's Excellence (ROSE) Foundation.

f. FY26 Workers' Compensation Insurance Coverage from IPRF

The Finance Committee members in attendance stated their support of the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to accept Workers' Compensation Insurance Coverage from the Illinois Public Risk Fund in the amount of \$69,623 for the period beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

g. 2025-26 Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC) Property/Casualty and Fiduciary Liability Insurance Renewal

The Finance Committee members in attendance stated their support of the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to issue a payment to CLIC for Fiscal Year 2026 Property/Casualty and Fiduciary Liability insurance in the amount of \$114,111.

It was moved by Secretary Vranas and seconded by Vice President Foutris 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, Rosenberg, Seta, Theodore

Nays: None

Absent: Oleniczak

Motion passed.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. COMMUNICATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS

a. NTDSE/District 807: **John P. Vranas**

The NTDSE Governing Board last met on May 22, 2025. The following are brief highlights:

- We heard a presentation from the Project ABLE team and staff members from Niles West High School on the collaboration between NTDSE students and the Collaborative for Curriculum program.
- The Board reorganized. Dr Mark Chao D69 was elected President, John Vranas D74 was elected Vice-President, and Pamela Alper D70 was elected Secretary.
- Tarin Kendrick, Executive Director, gave updates on:
 - Morton Grove has a new Mayor Janine Witko
 - Ancillary staff will be relocating to make space for additional classrooms.
 - Collaboration continues with District 68 on a potential facility partnership.
 - Governing Board meetings will now be held on the 4th Wednesday of each month beginning in August.
 - 265 students will attend ESY at the satellite location: 150 students at Molloy
- Kathy Gavin, Director of Finance and Facilities, reported:
 - The Fund Balance Committee will meet in June to review FY 24 financials
- The next meeting of the NTDSE Governing Board is scheduled at the NTDSE Administrative Center on June 26, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

b. IASB (Illinois Association of School Boards): **Jay Oleniczak/Myra A. Foutris**

No report.

c. Finance Committee: **Peter D. Theodore/Jay Oleniczak**

The Finance Committee last met on May 22, 2025.

- There were no formal recommendations voted on due to the lack of a quorum. The Finance Committee members in attendance supported the Administrative recommendation to the Board of Education for:
- Four (4) items sent to the Consent Agenda:
 1. Donation from ROSE Foundation to the District
 2. Donation from ROSE Foundation to Rutledge Hall
 3. 2025-26 Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC) Property/Casualty and Fiduciary Liability Insurance Renewal
 4. FY26 Workers' Compensation Insurance Renewal from IPRF
- The FY26 Preliminary Budget Assumptions for the District were presented.
- District Finance Update:
 - IGS, the District's electricity supplier, prepared estimates for the upcoming capacity rate increase that ComEd will be passing along to its customers, both residential and commercial.
 - The Chicago Tribune posted news about the likelihood that August property tax bills will arrive late due to issues between the Cook County Assessor's Office and Tyler Technologies.

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

d. Facilities Committee: **John P. Vranas**

The Facilities Committee last met on April 15, 2025. The May 20, 2025 Facilities Committee meeting was canceled due to a light Agenda.

The next Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. The public is welcome.

e. Policy Committee: **Myra A. Foutris**

I. 1st Reading by the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education

1. Press Plus Issue #118 - April 2025

(1) Draft - Update

(1) 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment

(2) 7:60 Residence

(3) 7:70 Attendance and Truancy

(4) 6:150 Home and Hospital Instruction

(5) 6:235 Access to Electronic Networks

(6) 7:190 Student Behavior

(7) 7:200 Suspension Procedures

(8) 7:250 Student Support Services

(9) 7:270 Administering Medicines to Students

(2) Draft Update - New

(1) 7:255 Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence

The Policy Committee last met on Friday, May 23, 2025.

- The Committee sent (14) policies to the Consent Agenda and (10) policies to 1st Reading by the Board.
- The Committee did not adopt the Press Plus Issue #116 - June 2024 version of Policy 2:265; however, the version from Issue #118 was included in the policies sent to tonight's Consent Agenda.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 25, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. 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.

II. Final Committee Appointments

NTDSE/District 807:

Chair: John P. Vranas

Co-Chair: Elissa B. Rosenberg

IASB (Illinois Association of School Boards):

Chair: Ted Kwon

Co-Chair: Jay Oleniczak

Finance Committee:

Chair: Jay Oleniczak

Co-Chair: Mihra Seta

John P. Vranas (BOE)

Community Members: Steve Pawlow, Mike Bartholomew, Adam Kriticos

Facilities Committee:

Chair: John P. Vranas

Co-Chair: Myra A. Foutris

Elissa B. Rosenberg (BOE)

Community Member: Emily McCall

Policy:

Chair: Myra A. Foutris

Co-Chair: Ted Kwon

Community Member: Melissa Theodore

It was moved by Secretary Vranas and seconded by Vice President Foutris that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approve the final Committee appointments without objection.

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

8. COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

No report.

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

No report.

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

PALS President Abby Jones reported on the numerous successful initiatives that PALS sponsored during the 2024-25 school year.

The new PALS Executive Board has been named for the 2025-26 school year:

- Abby Jones, *President*
- Stacey Johnson, *Vice President*
- Miriam Ratowitz, *Secretary*
- Adam Kriticos, *Treasurer*
- Brie Zdravkovic, *Community & Member Liaison*
- Suzanne Bartels, *Director*
- Raul Tomsa, *Director*

9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

I. District Updates

- Superintendent Russo thanked students and PE staff members for sharing all the wonderful things that have happened this year in that curriculum. It is wonderful to have so many meaningful ways for students to learn about both staying active and building collaboration and team building skills that can be leveraged in other areas of their lives.
- About a year and a half ago we had some citizens come talk about composting and several other environmental themed suggestions. Earlier this year we began to partner with the WasteNot Corporation to compost our food scraps instead of them ending up in a landfill. The program began with 8th graders and the Lincoln Hall kitchen only. Now, it has expanded to all three middle schools grades and all three kitchens. Students created a Public Service Announcement style video informing their peers about composting and how to throw out their lunch waste appropriately. Students and staff have been doing an amazing job with this initiative. We recently passed the one-ton mark of food waste composted. About 90% of the food composted is scraps coming from food preparation with the other 10% waste from food not eaten at lunch. We plan to expand the effort to younger students next year.
- We are extremely excited to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2025 at their upcoming graduation ceremony this coming Monday at 7:00 p.m. at Niles West. We appreciate the role model that this class has served to be this year and look forward to what is in store for them at high school in the coming years. You are always welcome back!
- At this time next week, the school year will have concluded. We thank everyone for a productive and fun academic year. We have a busy summer hosting SD74 Summer Adventures and the NTDSE Extended School Year program, along with our annual summer construction projects. Superintendent Russo wished everyone a fun and safe summer!

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

I. Curriculum Department Update

- The Rutledge and Todd teachers spent a portion of a day last week in an initial professional development led by the curriculum developer's official training team. The day was spent learning about all of the teacher and student tools that are available with this new program. The teams were eager to work with the new program and everything that it has to offer. The District is looking forward to the final initial training in August where we will focus on individual lesson planning.
- Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Lupo reported that the individual MAP reports are finalized, and ready for delivery. The Administration will email the reports the week of June 9, 2025.
- The SD74 Summer Adventures Parent/Child Informational meeting is Tuesday, June 17, 11:00 a.m. in the Lincoln Hall Auditorium.

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

I. Finance Report - **MARCH 2025**

Business Manager/CSBO presented the March 2025 Finance Report.

II. Bills Payable in the Amount of \$2,756,603.07

Bills reviewed this month by: Ted Kwon and John P. Vranas

It was moved Secretary Vranas and seconded by Member Kwon that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approve invoices and bills in the amount of \$2,756,603.07.

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Oleniczak

Motion passed.

10. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

None

11. 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)(11) - Pending or Imminent Litigation.**

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Vice President Foutris 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 8:56 p.m.

Peter D. Theodore, President

John P. Vranas, Secretary