



DISTRICT 300

Tuesday, November 18, 2025
BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP/BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

D300 Central Office - Anne B Miller Boardroom
2550 Harnish Drive
Algonquin, IL 60102
6:00 PM

Members present

President Christine Birkett, Secretary Tola Makinde, Steve Fiorentino, Alisa Lindmark, Patrick Malia, and Nancy Zettler

Members absent

Leslie LaMarca

1. Call to Order

President Christine Birkett called the meeting to order in open session at 6:00pm

1.1. Roll Call

Christine Birkett, Steve Fiorentino, Alisa Lindmark, Tola Makinde, Patrick Malia, Nancy Zettler

2. Closed Session, 6:00pm

2.1. Motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing: 1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body 2(c)(1); 2. Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees 2(c)(2); 3. Litigation 2(c)(11); and 4. Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel to respond to an actual, a threatened or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public or public property 2(c)(8).

Motion by Patrick Malia, second by Steve Fiorentino

Aye: Patrick Malia, Steve Fiorentino, Alisa Lindmark, Tola Makinde, Nancy Zettler, Christine Birkett

2.2. Motion to suspend closed session

Motion by Patrick Malia, second by Alisa Lindmark

Aye: Patrick Malia, Alisa Lindmark, Tola Makinde, Nancy Zettler, Steve Fiorentino, Christine Birkett

3. Reconvene in Open Session (no later than 6:30pm)

President Christine Birkett reconvened the meeting in open session at 6:30pm

3.1. Roll Call

Christine Birkett, Steve Fiorentino, Alisa Lindmark, Tola Makinde, Patrick Malia, Nancy Zettler

4. Pledge of Allegiance, Eastview Elementary School

Superintendent Dr. Martina Smith invited Dr. Meggan Buchanan, Principal of Eastview Elementary School, to the podium to introduce student pledge leaders who were chosen to be a SOSA – Student

on Special Assignment: Harper Nowak, Gavin Voights, Henry Bernacki, Gannon Hackl, Sloane Daly, Hanna Kass

5. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Steve Fiorentino, second by Nancy Zettler

Aye: Steve Fiorentino, Nancy Zettler, Patrick Malia, Tola Makinde, Alisa Lindmark, Christine Birkett

6. Recognition

6.1. Staff Recognition - Years of Service Awards

Superintendent Dr. Martina Smith invited Assistant Superintendents Jorge Almodovar, Dr. Jeff Herb, Kristin Sainsbury, Dr. Niki Burkey, Kellie Mainolfi, and Eberto Mora to the podium to introduce staff with 30 or more years of service.

Jorge Almodovar, Assistant Superintendent of Title I Schools, recognized:

- Debra LaRue, Perry Elementary School Literacy Interventionist, 30 years of service
- Lisa Feltman, Meadowdale Elementary School Instructional Coach, 35 years of service

Dr. Jeff Herb, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, recognized:

- Kerri Blaus, Sleepy Hollow Elementary School 2nd Grade Teacher, 30 years of service
- Francesca Herrera, Hampshire Elementary School 3rd Grade Teacher, 30 years of service
- Rebecca Meyer, Sleepy Hollow Elementary School PE Teacher, 30 years of service
- Kate Nangle, Liberty Elementary School 3rd Grade Teacher, 30 years of service
- Theresa Nelis, Liberty Elementary School, School Social Worker, 30 years of service
- Philicia Thorne, Liberty Elementary School Special Ed Paraprofessional, 30 years of service
- Dorene Petersen, Westfield Community School 4th Grade Teacher, 35 years of service

Kristin Sainsbury, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, recognized:

- Dr. Jane Halligan, Eastview Elementary School Cross Categorical Resource Teacher, 30 years of service
- Abbey Kassaye, Algonquin Lakes Elementary School Bilingual General Education Paraprofessional, 30 years of service

Dr. Niki Burkey, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, recognized:

- Tammy Hamrick, Hampshire Middle School Social Studies Teacher, 30 years of service
- Michele Spoerlein, Carpentersville Middle School Cross Categorical Resource Teacher, 30 years of service

Kellie Mainolfi, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, recognized:

- Earlene Hunley, Oak Ridge School Principal Secretary, 30 years of service
- Fred Wendt, Jacobs High School Custodian, 40 years of service

Eberto Mora, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, recognized:

- Laura Ornelas, Central Office Human Resources Specialist, 30 years of service

6.2. Staff Appreciation

Superintendent Dr. Martina Smith recognized the following staff groups:

- School Psychology Appreciation Day, November 3
- Education Support Professionals Day, November 19
- National Substitute Educators Day, November 21

6.3. Veterans Day

President Christine Birkett, on behalf of District 300, extended heartfelt gratitude to the following members of the District 300 family who have self-reported their military service:

- Jacob Crenshaw
- Everlean Dodson
- Dana Garnett
- Luis Gonzalez Gavin

- Carlos Hernandez
- Eric Hunt
- Andrew Jones Marquez
- Kyle Lobdell
- Daniel Martens
- Felicia Maxa
- Steven Nakamura
- David Nowak
- Leander Portokalis
- Robert “Andy” Quitno
- Kenneth Ransom
- Stebe Rivera
- Vincent Serritella
- Vince Sifuentes, Jr.
- Thomas Sitkie
- Jason Smith
- Michael Storer
- Daniel Vital
- Daniel Wagner

6.4. School Board Members Day

Superintendent Dr. Martina Smith invited Mark Wetzel, Deputy Superintendent, to lead the celebration of our School Board Members for School Board Members Day, November 15th.

- Mr. Wetzel expressed sincere appreciation to our Board of Education members
- Mr. Wetzel announced that the District 300 Board of Education recently earned the School Board Governance recognition from the Illinois Association of School Boards. This recognition was also earned in 2021 and 2023.
- Mr. Wetzel announced that the following schools have adopted Board members for the 2025-2026 school year. Each Board Member was presented with a small gift from their adopted school.
 - Board President Christine Birkett has been adopted by Carpentersville Middle School
 - Board Vice President Leslie LaMarca has been adopted by Jacobs High School
 - Board Secretary Tola Makinde has been adopted by Liberty Elementary School
 - Board Member Steve Fiorentino has been adopted by Eastview Elementary School
 - Board Member Alisa Lindmark has been adopted by Oak Ridge School
 - Board Member Patrick Malia has been adopted by Big Timber Elementary School
 - Board Member Nancy Zettler has been adopted by Lake in the Hills Elementary School

- 7. Public Participation: Members of the public, especially residents of District 300, are welcome to contribute during public participation. To do so, you must sign up electronically via a computer located in the Central Office lobby between 6:00-6:30pm, or the start of the open meeting; be 18 years old or older or have a parent/legal guardian present with you, give your full name and respectfully state your comments, and you are not permitted to mention the names of specific staff members or students. The Board will not respond in this forum but will thoughtfully consider your statements.**

- Jennifer Grant, parent, asked the school board to create a safe zone around district schools from ICE. No one wants to see our community members in handcuffs, being beaten or

- kidnapped. ICE agents' disregard for Illinois law has taken a toll on our children. ICE agents don't care about the status of the person they are trying to kidnap, they only care about quotas, and photos, and chaos. Banning ICE agents from our school grounds will help students, parents, and school employees feel safer coming and going from school. Let's give people one less thing to worry about so we can get back to learning and teaching. Steps to a safer environment: Pass a resolution to prohibit ICE from conducting any activities on school property; require permanent, clearly visible signs on all parking lots that ICE enforcement is prohibited in addition to window signs clearly stating that masks or other coverings are prohibited to be worn by ICE agents; prohibit ICE from entering school property without a signed judicial warrant.
- Dr. David Scarpino, community member, stated that he has been fortunate to work alongside many remarkable individuals during his tenure at D300, and several of these individuals were recognized tonight for their significant years of dedicated service to our district. I offer my congratulations and sincere gratitude to those honored this evening for 30 or more years of service. Congratulations to everyone who was recognized this evening.
 - Arianna Realzola, parent, thanked the board for some of the changes the district has made to give some families a bit of peace, as well as the staff at Dundee-Crown High School who have kept an eye out for our students and the cars that enter the school property. I ask that the board figure out what more they can do. We also have families who are Polish, Ukrainian, African and other nationalities who are either undocumented or in the process of receiving some form of relief to be here in the United States legally. Many of these families are scared to send their children to school, and they are being reprimanded by their school or the district because of the policies that are enforced regarding truancy. What can we do to keep these students safe? Parents are willing to meet with you to help figure out what we can do as a community. The safety of the children is the focus.
 - Deicy Olvera, parent, thanked the board and district for holding virtual Know Your Rights presentations and for having staff be vigilant at the schools. Please keep the informative practice continued monthly. Please come up with some additional measures to prohibit ICE in areas surrounding schools and all bus stops. Protect our staff from retaliation for exercising their rights if they are recording or taking pictures of violent ICE raids or refusing to disclose information without warrant to these agents.
 - Sanjuana Solis, parent, spoke on behalf of her family and other families who cannot be here because they continue to be afraid. There has been ICE activity everywhere. You can't turn a blind eye to this situation. Our students are living this and you shouldn't have to wait until "we come up with the numbers". The chaos is not going away. You need to do more. Setting up presentations for Know Your Rights was a good start, but I did not see any of the Know Your Rights Power slides in the presentation. Do better. Walkers are afraid to use the hub stop bus service. Over 50% of the school district are Latino. White students are afraid too. Someone got kidnapped down the street from Golfview Elementary School when taking out their trash. Other school districts have passed ICE ordinances. Staff should be able to speak about this topic. Students should feel safe talking about this topic and need to be heard. Treat ICE activity as an active shooter protocol.
 - Patty Macias, community member, stated that after the last meeting you added a couple buses for walkers, and some presentations with no slides. You are failing our students and our parents. We are not going to take your little effort to shut us up. We are going to hold you accountable. I am here to ask for more accountability and responsibility from the board. Provide a safe space for children to speak up and not minimize their fears and traumas. Allow faculty and teachers to freely speak about resources available about immigration support, to freely provide and give emotional support to students, and no retaliation for employees who want to talk. I hope the next time we come here you will have done more.

- Amairani Jarvis, parent, stated that our families deserve clarity, safety, and protection. Every child who walks into D300 buildings deserves to feel safe and protected. When we see headlines about ICE entering neighborhoods and targeting public spaces, every parent in the community fears the same thing – will my child be protected? This is a real fear and deserves a real answer, not silence. A protocol is not politics, it is basic emergency preparedness, and this should be no different. We ask the school district to train all school personnel so everyone knows their rights. A clear protocol protects students, school staff and the district. Without a plan there is panic, confusion, and the possibility of mistakes that could traumatize a child or violate a family's rights. We are asking for something responsible, humane, and necessary to address this crisis. Please act on this and show our families that their safety matters.

8. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Dr. Martina Smith invited Dr. Frank Williams, Chief Financial Officer, to the podium to present the Tax Year 2025 Tentative Levy

8.1. Tentative Levy

Dr. Williams presented the Tax Year 2025 Tentative Levy

- Tax Key Terms were reviewed
 - Levy (ASK) – request to counties for local revenue needed to operate the district. Use estimated EAV from all 4 counties
 - Extension (ACTUAL) – actual revenue received. Determined in March/April
 - Rate – determined by the counties and calculated once the final EAV is received from the state
 - EAV – Equalized Assessed Value. Determined by the County Assessor. Taxable value of home
 - Ballooning – method of asking for more than what is statutorily allowed per PTELL in order to capture all available funding because of the use of estimations and not actuals
 - PTELL – Property Tax Extension Limitation Law, commonly referred to as “tax caps”. Established in 1991. Limits annual increase of new tax revenues to the lesser of 5% or the rate of Consumer Price Index (CPI) regardless of increase in property values
- PTELL: CPI rates
 - Tax Year 2025 (December 2024) = 2.90%
- D300 Historical EAV and New Property information was shared

EAV changes + new property coming online are two major drivers of our revenue
When we file a levy, these numbers are still estimates.
The valuation of your property determines the tax rate and how much you pay in taxes, the district does not determine the valuation of your property or the tax rate, both are done by the county. The district simply asks for revenue.

 - 20 year avg EAV Inc 3.33%
 - 10 year avg EAV Inc 7.77%
 - 5 year avg EAV Inc 8.46%
 - 20 year avg New Prop \$60,334,002
 - 10 year avg New Prop \$62,057,128
 - 5 year avg New Prop \$74,174,603
 - 3 year avg New Prop \$82,676,354
- Tax Levy & Preliminary Tax Extension
 - For tax year 2025, I am recommending a tax levy of approx. \$248.5M in local revenue, this represents a 4.99% increase including new property. We balloon our ask in order to ensure the capture of the new revenue we are statutorily allowed.
 - 2025 Expected Extension with new property 3.99%

- Levy Revenue 4.99%
- New Expected Revenue without new property 2.90%
- Tax Levy: Asking for the full 2.90%
- Taxes to the District vs Per Capita Tuition Charge (PCTC)
 - FY24 Per Capita Tuition Charge \$14,398.81
- Impact to Homeowner
 - Kane County – estimated change in tax payment for home value of \$365,000 in 2025 is \$164.94
 - McHenry County – estimated change in tax payment for home value of \$355,000 in 2025 is \$155.57
 - Cook County – estimated change in tax payment for home value of \$602,500 in 2025 is \$253.24
 - DeKalb County – estimated change in tax payment for home value of \$286,700 in 2025 is \$129.90
- Next Steps
 - Board of Education Approval of Tentative Levy Resolution – November 18, 2025
 - Place legal ad regarding Levy Hearing – December 8, 2025
 - Levy Hearing held & Board of Education approves Certificate of Tax Levy – December 16, 2025
 - Administration files Certificate of Tax Levy with four counties – December 17, 2025
 - Statutory due date for Certificate of Tax Levy – December 30, 2025

9. Board Discussion

9.1. Board Committee Reports

The next Board Operations Committee Meeting is Tuesday December 9, 2025 at 4:30pm

9.2. Board Discussion

9.2.1. IASB Board Resolutions

Board President Christine Birkett invited Board Member Alisa Lindmark to review the IASB Board Resolutions with Board members

Mrs. Lindmark reviewed the IASB Board Resolutions:

- There are 10 constitutional amendments that are recommended to adopt, most are wording changes. Board members agree with these resolutions.
 - Consent Agenda Resolution – School Bus Safety Funding.
 - Establishes a dedicated school bus safety equipment grant which will provide financial assistance, subject to appropriation, for the verified incremental cost of factory installed 3-point seat belt systems on new or leased school buses purchased on or after July 1, 2031.
 - Creates a Small-District Waiver that extends the compliance deadline to July 1, 2034 for districts with under 2,000 students.
 - Authorizes qualifying districts to use Transportation Fund bond proceeds or revolving lease agreements for the local cost-share without counting against the district's statutory debt limit; and
 - Directs the IDOT to approve alternative, research-based occupant-protection technologies that may offer equal or greater safety at lower cost, giving districts flexibility to comply.
 - IASB recommends DO ADOPT.
- Discussion:
- Where are they going to take the money from for the grant? Dr. Frank Williams, CFO, noted that if they are taking it from the transportation claim reimbursement that means it impacts everybody, and that money would

only go to the schools who do apply for the grant. We may not even qualify for this grant.

- Would this require us to have seatbelts installed? The seatbelt law goes into effect in 2031, right now the legislation doesn't say they are required to be used, but the buses are required to have the seatbelts. New buses ordered from that day on would have to have the seatbelts. Old buses will not have to be retrofitted.
- Mrs. Lindmark was given direction by Dr. Williams and the Board regarding the resolution

10. Consent Items

10.1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for October 28, 2025

10.2. Approval of Disposal Report

10.3. Approval of Bills Payable

10.4. Approval of Treasurer's Report

10.5. Approval of Donation Report

10.6. Approval of Human Resources Report

10.7. Approval of Freedom of Information Act Report

Motion to approve the Consent Items by Nancy Zettler, second by Patrick Malia

Aye: Nancy Zettler, Patrick Malia, Tola Makinde, Alisa Lindmark, Steve Fiorentino, Christine Birkett

11. Roll Call Action Items

11.1. Approval of Copier Paper Bid (Extension)

Motion by Steve Fiorentino, second by Patrick Malia

Aye: Steve Fiorentino, Patrick Malia, Nancy Zettler, Alisa Lindmark, Christine Birkett, Tola Makinde

11.2. Approval of Employee Benefits Contracts

Motion by Nancy Zettler, second by Steve Fiorentino

Aye: Nancy Zettler, Steve Fiorentino, Patrick Malia, Tola Makinde, Alisa Lindmark, Steve Fiorentino, Christine Birkett

11.3. Approval of Science Supplies Contract (Extension)

Motion by Patrick Malia, second by Tola Makinde

Aye: Patrick Malia, Tola Makinde, Nancy Zettler, Alisa Lindmark, Steve Fiorentino, Christine Birkett

11.4. Approval of Time & Materials Contract (Extension)

Motion by Nancy Zettler, second by Alisa Lindmark

Aye: Nancy Zettler, Alisa Lindmark, Patrick Malia, Steve Fiorentino, Christine Birkett, Tola Makinde

11.5. Approval of Outdoor Awning Project Proposal

Motion by Nancy Zettler, second by Patrick Malia

Aye: Nancy Zettler, Patrick Malia, Alisa Lindmark, Tola Makinde, Steve Fiorentino, Christine Birkett

11.6. Approval of School Maintenance Project Grant Program

Motion by Nancy Zettler, second by Alisa Lindmark

Aye: Nancy Zettler, Alisa Lindmark, Steve Fiorentino, Christine Birkett, Patrick Malia, Tola Makinde

11.7. Approval of Tentative Levy & Resolutions

Motion by Patrick Malia, second by Nancy Zettler

Aye: Patrick Malia, Nancy Zettler, Christine Birkett, Steve Fiorentino, Alisa Lindmark, Tola Makinde

11.8. Approval of Proposed School Calendar 2026-2027, 2027-2028, 2028-2029

Motion by Tola Makinde, second by Nancy Zettler

Aye: Tola Makinde, Nancy Zettler, Patrick Malia, Alisa Lindmark, Steve Fiorentino, Christine Birkett

11.9. Approval of Working Cash Fund Loan Resolution

Motion by Patrick Malia, second by Alisa Lindmark

Aye: Patrick Malia, Alisa Lindmark, Nancy Zettler, Tola Makinde, Steve Fiorentino, Christine Birkett

11.10. Approval of Boundary Change

Motion by Alisa Lindmark, second by Patrick Malia

Aye: Alisa Lindmark, Patrick Malia, Nancy Zettler, Christine Birkett, Steve Fiorentino, Tola Makinde

11.11. Approval of Instructional Materials Curriculum Adoption

Motion by Nancy Zettler, second by Steve Fiorentino

Aye: Nancy Zettler, Steve Fiorentino, Christine Birkett, Alisa Lindmark, Tola Makinde, Patrick Malia

Board Member Tola Makinde asked a question regarding the adoption. Mr. Mike Williamson, LEAD President, provided information regarding the process that was used to include LEAD teams in reviewing the curriculum to provide recommendations.

12. Closed Session

12.1. Motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing: 1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body 2(c)(1); 2. Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees 2(c)(2); 3. Litigation 2(c)(11); and 4. Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel to respond to an actual, a threatened or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public or public property 2(c)(8).

Motion by Steve Fiorentino, second by Patrick Malia

Aye: Steve Fiorentino, Patrick Malia, Nancy Zettler, Alisa Lindmark, Tola Makinde, Christine Birkett

12.2. Motion to adjourn closed session and return to open session

Motion by Patrick Malia, second by Steve Fiorentino

Aye: Patrick Malia, Steve Fiorentino, Christine Birkett, Alisa Lindmark, Nancy Zettler, Tola Makinde

13. Reconvene in Open Session

President Christine Birkett reconvened the meeting in open session at 8:48pm

13.1. Roll Call

Christine Birkett, Steve Fiorentino, Alisa Lindmark, Tola Makinde, Patrick Malia, Nancy Zettler

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Nancy Zettler, second by Steve Fiorentino

Aye: Nancy Zettler, Steve Fiorentino, Christine Birkett, Alisa Lindmark, Patrick Malia, Tola Makinde

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

Christine Birkett

1B1EC9BBB3D725C85C855A8DDD58F81E contractworks.

Signature of Board President

Tola Makinde

86F68676DF3E20365097E45B987CD9CA contractworks.

Signature of Board Secretary