



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
School District 45, DuPage County
Villa Park, Illinois

Regular Board Meeting: March 24, 2026

The Board of Education of School District No. 45, DuPage County, Illinois, met on the 24th day of March 2026, in regular session in the Jefferson Middle School Cafeteria, 255 W. Vermont Street, Villa Park, Illinois, at 6:30 p.m., according to the rules of the Board.

The meeting was called to order by President Judith Degnan, who presided. Members of the Board were present and absent as follows:

- PRESENT:**
- Mrs. Deborah Cain
 - Mrs. Judith Degnan, President
 - Mrs. Sarah Godzicki
 - Mrs. Carol Klamecki, Vice President
 - Dr. Allen Legutki, Secretary
 - Mrs. Emily Shultz
 - Mrs. Katie Wagner

ABSENT:

Administrative staff members were present and absent as follows:

- PRESENT:**
- Ms. Christine Arado, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
 - Dr. Brian Graber, Superintendent
 - Dr. Adam Parisi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance/CSBO
 - Mr. Mike Pinney, Chief Information Officer
 - Dr. Annetta Spychalski, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

ABSENT:

- 032426 (1) Call to Order**
- 032426 (1a) Pledge of Allegiance**
- 032426 (1b) District 45 Mission Statement**
- 032426 (1c) Student Board Member Report**

Student Board Member Lily Castaldi, a student of Jackson Middle School, presented a report to the Board of Education.

(See official board book)

- 032426 (1d) Public Hearing Regarding the Proposed Reduction in Force and Honorable Dismissal for 2026-2027**
- 032426 (1d-1) Comments**

032426 (1d-a)

Superintendent/Board of Education Comments:

Dr. Graber outlined the Public Hearing regarding the proposed reduction in force and honorable dismissal for the 2026-2027 school year. Dr. Graber went on in great detail about the reductions and how the decisions were made. Dr. Graber expressed how difficult this was.

Mrs. Degnan expressed her concern and the Board's concern about the outcome of the referendum. Mrs. Degnan commended the support that came from families and committees.

(See official board book)

032426 (1d-b)

Public Comments:

Rachel Kayser, Cathy Walker, Taylor Thinnes, and Jacqueline Luna-Montes expressed concerns regarding the reductions in District 45. The Board of Education listened to all input.

(See official board book)

032426 (1d-c)

Superintendent/Board of Education Comments:

Mrs. Degnan and Dr. Graber addressed past and future communications.

Mrs. Godzicki inquired about future communications. A discussion ensued.

Mrs. Shultz expressed how difficult this decision has been.

Mrs. Cain clarified that hearing tonight is referring to the people being affected by the reduction in force. Future decisions have not been decided yet. A discussion ensued.

Dr. Graber clarified the action being taken tonight. Dr. Graber stated that actual staffing for next year is not complete. Dr. Graber stated there is a preliminary draft. Dr. Graber expressed that these are all difficult decisions.

(See official board book)

032426 (1d-2)

Close Public Hearing

032426 (1e)

District 45 Early Childhood Center Presentation

Mrs. Kelly Nettleton, District 45 Early Childhood Center Principal, presented to the Board of Education a Principal Report. A discussion ensued.

(See official board book)

032426 (2)

Comments Regarding Agenda: None

032426 (3)

Public Comments:

Taylor Thinner, Meg Donakowski, J.P. Hochbaum, David Morrison, Lisa Grover, Carlos Roblos, Kimberly Fugarino, and Tony Alberico expressed concerns about current and future reductions in District 45. The Board of Education listened to all input.

(See official board book)

032426 (4)

Board of Education and Superintendent Comments:

Mrs. Degnan thanked everyone who made a public comment. Mrs. Degnan thanked the teachers for attending tonight.

Dr. Graber made some comments regarding the point of the year we are in and some upcoming events. Dr. Graber mentioned upcoming registration for the 2026-2027 school year. Dr. Graber expressed gratitude to the families and members of community who attended the town hall meetings. Dr. Graber also expressed appreciation to the Yes Committee who went door to door to help educate that community about the referendum.

Mrs. Cain gave an update on LEND.

Mrs. Godzicki thanked everyone for coming out tonight and working together.

Mrs. Wagner expressed that it has been disheartening what has happened. Mrs. Wagner expressed how it's been nice seeing the community come together.

Mrs. Degnan stated that District 45 has a Finance Committee that is open to the public that are recorded and can be accessed on the website. Mrs. Degnan went on to detail where information regarding the meetings can be found.

Mrs. Shultz clarified that the Board is not able respond to specific questions asked during public comments and that anyone who would like further communication should email Dr. Graber.

(See official board book)

032426 (5)

Approval of Action Items (Discussion Agenda)

032426 (5a1-5a3)

**Approve District 45 Financial Reports (5a1-5a3)
5a1 Operating Statement; 5a2 Balance Sheet; 5a3 Budget Management Update**

Dr. Legutki moved, seconded by Mrs. Klamecki, to approve the Financial Reports as presented in Agenda Items 5a1-5a3.

Dr. Parisi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance/CSBO, reviewed the financial information with the Board of Education. A discussion ensued.

(See official board book)

Roll Call

Ayes: Mrs. Cain, Mrs. Degnan, Mrs. Godzicki, Mrs. Klamecki, Dr. Legutki, Mrs. Shultz, Mrs. Wagner
Nays: None

032426 (5b)

Capital Improvement Bond Renewal

Dr. Legutki moved, seconded by Mrs. Klamecki, to approve the Resolution Approving the Capital Improvement Bond for Treasurer as presented in agenda item 5b.

Dr. Parisi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance/CSBO, reviewed Capital Improvement Bond Renewal with the Board of Education. A discussion ensued.

(See official board book)

Roll Call

Ayes: Mrs. Cain, Mrs. Degnan, Mrs. Godzicki, Mrs. Klamecki, Dr. Legutki, Mrs. Shultz, Mrs. Wagner Nays: None

032426 (5c)

Adopt Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of a Part-Time, Non-Tenured Teacher

Dr. Legutki moved, seconded by Mrs. Klamecki, to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of a Part-Time, Non-Tenured Teacher: Gail Scimeca as presented in agenda item 5c.

(See official board book)

Roll Call

Ayes: Mrs. Cain, Mrs. Degnan, Mrs. Godzicki, Mrs. Klamecki, Dr. Legutki, Mrs. Shultz, Mrs. Wagner Nays: None

032426 (5d)

Adopt Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers

Dr. Legutki moved, seconded by Mrs. Klamecki, to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers: Josephine Desir, Megan Herrera, Kathy Huynh, Eileen Lynn, Isabella Miller, Emily Mulvoy, Nicole Niecestro, Loren Perry, Allison Polakowski, Kimberly Solis as presented in agenda item 5d.

(See official board book)

Roll Call

Ayes: Mrs. Cain, Mrs. Degnan, Mrs. Godzicki, Mrs. Klamecki, Dr. Legutki, Mrs. Shultz, Mrs. Wagner Nays: None

032426 (6)

Action Items (Consent Agenda): 6a - 6g

Dr. Legutki moved, seconded by Mrs. Klamecki, to approve the Action Items as presented in Agenda Items 6a-6g.

032426 (6a)

Approve Payrolls

032426 (6b2)

Approve Check Listing: Bills Payable

032426 (6c1)

Approve Personnel Changes: Termination(s)/Resignation(s)

032426 (6c2)

Approve Personnel Changes: Appointment(s)

032426 (6c3)

Approve Personnel Changes: Leave(s) of Absence

032426 (6d)

Approve Meeting Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of March 3, 2026

032426 (6e)

Approve Closed Meeting Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of March 3, 2026

032426 (6f)

Approve Salary Adjustment(s)

- 032426 (6g) Approve Authorization to Prepare Tentative FY2027 Budget, Fix the Fiscal Year and Allow Purchases from FY2027 Budget up to 75% of the Tentative Budget**
(See official board book for copies of agenda items 6a--6g)
- Roll Call** Ayes: Mrs. Cain, Mrs. Degnan, Mrs. Godzicki, Mrs. Klamecki, Dr. Legutki, Mrs. Shultz, Mrs. Wagner Nays: None
- 032426 (7) Information and Consideration**
- 032426 (7a) Organic Life Contract Renewal Discussion**
- Dr. Parisi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance/CSBO, reviewed with the Board of Education the Organic Life Contract Renewal. A discussion ensued.
- (See official board book)
- 032426 (7b) 2026-2027 Board of Education Meeting Schedule**
- Dr. Graber, Superintendent, reviewed with the Board of Education the 2026-2027 Board of Education Meeting Schedule.
- (See official board book)
- 032426 (7c) Referendum Review and Future Financial Planning and Considerations**
- Dr. Graber, Superintendent, reviewed with the Board of Education the Referendum Review and Future Financial Planning and Considerations. A discussion ensued.
- (See official board book)
- 032426 (8) Requests under Freedom of Information Act**
- Dr. Spychalski, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, reviewed with the Board of Education the FOIAs.
- (See official board book)
- 032426 (9) Adjournment to Executive Session**
- At 8:07 p.m., Dr. Legutki, seconded by Mrs. Klamecki to adjourn to Executive Session for discussion of 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).
- Roll Call** Ayes: Mrs. Cain, Mrs. Degnan, Mrs. Godzicki, Mrs. Klamecki, Dr. Legutki, Mrs. Shultz, Mrs. Wagner Nays: None
- 032426 (10) Reconvene Board Meeting**
- At 9:04 p.m., Mrs. Godzicki moved, seconded by Mrs. Shultz, to reconvene the Board Meeting.
- 032426 (11) Adjournment**
- At 9:04 p.m., Mrs. Godzicki moved, seconded by Mrs. Shultz, to adjourn the Board Meeting.

President

Secretary

