



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
SCHOOL DISTRICT 25, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
September 15, 2025**

Call to Order

President Rogers called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. on September 15, 2025, in the Administrative Service Center, 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, Eric Rogers, Don Sutenbach, 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 Andrew Drinnin and seconded by Vince Engstrom, passed.

Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed

Approval of Draft Minutes (Roll Call Vote)

Approval of Draft Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on August 11, 2025

Motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on August 11, 2025. This motion, made by Dennis Peterson and seconded by Andrew Drinnin, passed.

Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed

Approval of Draft Minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting on August 19, 2025

Motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting on August 19, 2025. This motion, made by Dennis Peterson and seconded by Bridgette Pedersen, passed.

Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed

Presentations/Hearings

ACCESS Graduates

The Board recognized multilingual learners who achieved proficiency on the ACCESS assessment, earning scores of 4.8 or higher. Dr. Julie Salamone shared that this is the largest group of students to exit the ML program in the past four years and expressed appreciation for the dedication of the ML teaching staff. Students were presented with certificates and took photos with the Board President, Superintendent, and ML team.

Tenured Faculty

Eleven Evergreen teachers were honored for reaching tenure, an important career milestone that reflects hard work and dedication. The Board expressed gratitude for their continued commitment to students and the community. Each tenured teacher received a certificate and a small plaque in recognition of their service.

New Faculty Members

Dr. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Smith introduced Benjamin's new faculty members, each bringing diverse experience and fresh perspectives to the district. Several "homegrown" staff members were also welcomed back, returning to teach in the very schools they once attended.

Hearings

Public Hearing

Motion to enter into Public Hearing at 7:17 p.m. This motion, made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Vince Engstrom, passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis
Nays: None

Presentation of the FY26 Budget

Dr. Filas presented the finalized FY26 budget, outlining the key changes from the preliminary version. He explained that both anticipated revenues and expenditures are lower than last year, primarily due to the completion of the previous year's bond issue, which had temporarily impacted financial projections

Public Comment Regarding the FY26 Budget

None

Board Discussion on Public Comment Regarding the FY26 Budget

None

Adjourn Public Hearing

Motion to adjourn Public Hearing and return to Open Session at 7:23 p.m. This motion, made by Dennis Peterson and seconded by Gina Vlantis, passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis
Nays: None

Reports

Learning and Teaching - Dr. Fitzgerald presented the Teaching and Learning report, noting ongoing efforts to address both electronic and physical resource needs for teachers. He emphasized the importance of securing a new K-4 social studies resource to better support instruction at the elementary level. Dr. Fitzgerald also outlined upcoming professional development initiatives, including a scheduled series of learning walks with Dr. McGill and Mrs.

Smith. These non-evaluative classroom visits are designed to provide insight into instructional practices and promote collaborative growth across grade levels.

Operations Report - Dr. Filas expressed his appreciation to Tim and the Buildings and Grounds team for completing the retaining wall repair near the small gyms and for successfully negotiating reduced project costs. He also recognized Greg and the Technology Department for their recent BenQ training sessions, which have enhanced wireless integration across classrooms. In addition, Dr. Filas informed the Board of new state requirements for the Annual Statement of Affairs, which now mandate a full-page newspaper publication in addition to the online posting, despite ongoing advocacy for a more efficient process.

Superintendent Report - Dr. McGill announced the launch of the district's strategic planning process, set to begin on Wednesday. A letter will be sent to the community, accompanied by updates on social media and a new webpage containing all related materials. The district is seeking 12 parents or community members and 12 faculty or staff members to serve on the strategic planning team, ensuring a broad and diverse range of perspectives. In addition, 8th graders and high school juniors or seniors from Benjamin schools will be invited to participate. For those not serving on the committee, feedback opportunities will be available through surveys following key meetings.

Dr. McGill also highlighted the **GPS Parent Series** (formerly the Glenbard Parent Series), a free resource available to families throughout DuPage County. The series offers speakers on a variety of parenting and educational topics, with both in-person and virtual sessions scheduled for September and October.

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 Dennis Peterson and seconded by Gina Vlantis, passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Nays: None

Action Items (Roll Call Vote)

Approval of Board Agreements

Motion to approve the Board Agreements, as presented. This motion, made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Vince Engstrom, passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Nays: None

Approval of Faculty Tenure

Motion to approve Faculty Tenure, as presented. This motion, made by Vince Engstrom and seconded by Gina Vlantis, passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Nays: None

Approval of the FY26 Budget

Motion to approve the FY26 Budget, as presented. This motion, made by Don Sutenbach and seconded by Bridgette Pedersen, passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Nays: None

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

None.

Discussion Items

First Reading of PRESS Plus Issue 119 - Dr. McGill reviewed the policy updates included in PRESS Plus Issue 119, noting that most of the revisions involve minor wording changes. He also highlighted a temporary update to the district's mission and vision statement, which will stay in place until the new strategic plan is completed and officially adopted.

Annual Threat Assessment - Dr. Salamone provided an update on the annual threat assessment meeting, noting that teams have been established at each building. She shared that the district is working to align and standardize assessment tools across both the elementary and middle school levels to ensure consistency in procedures and response.

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.

Enter Executive Session

Motion to enter Executive Session at 7:49 p.m. This motion, made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Don Sutenbach, passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Nays: None

Return to Open Session

Motion to return to open session at 8:24 p.m.. This motion was made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Bridgette Pedersen. Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Nays: None



Adjournment (Voice Vote)

Motion to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting at 8:28 p.m. This motion, made by Vince Engstrom and seconded by Eric Rogers, passed.

Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed

Respectfully submitted by:
Solly Garcia, Board Recorder

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

Recorded: September 15, 2025
Approved: October 20, 2025