



LINCOLNWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 74
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 8, 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, January 8, 2026.*

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.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Myra A. Foutris
Ted Kwon
Jay Oleniczak
Elissa B. Rosenberg
Mihra Seta
Peter D. Theodore

MEMBERS ABSENT

John P. Vranas

ADMINISTRATORS/STAFF PRESENT

Dr. David L. Russo
Courtney L. Whited
Mark Atkinson

Dr. Chris Harmon
Dr. Aliaa Ibrahim
Jackie McGoey
Jennifer Ruttkay

Jordan Stephen
Joseph Segreti
Renee Tolnai

President Theodore appointed Elissa B. Rosenberg Secretary Pro-Tem without objection.

2. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

I. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - **DECEMBER 4, 2025**

b. EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

I. **Personnel Report**

II. New Employment

1. **Claire Kitchens**, Paraprofessional, Lincoln Hall, effective January 5, 2026 - April 27, 2026, \$17.83/hr

III. Resignation

1. **Mine Karatas**, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, Rutledge Hall, effective December 18, 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 #120 - October 2025

(1) Draft - Update

- (1) 7:70 Attendance and Truancy
- (2) 5:100 Staff Development Program
- (3) 5:190 Certification
- (4) 5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal
- (5) 5:220 Substitute Teachers
- (6) 5:280 Duties and Qualifications
- (7) 5:300 Schedules and Employment Year
- (8) 6:130 Program for the Gifted
- (9) 6:160 English Learners
- (10) 6:260 Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs
- (11) 6:315 High School Credit for Students Who Qualify
- (12) 7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention
- (13) 7:310 Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools
- (14) 7:340 Student Records

(2) Draft Update - Rewritten

- (1) 7:150 Agency and Law Enforcement Requests

II. 2nd Reading/Adoption of Policy

1. Press Plus Issue #120 - October 2025

(1) Draft - Update

- (1) 4:30 Revenue and Investments
- (2) 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
- (3) 6:60 Curriculum Content
- (4) 2:270 Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited

It was moved by Secretary Pro-Tem Rosenberg 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, Kwon, Oleniczak, Rosenberg, Seta, Theodore

Nays: None

Absent: Vranas

Motion passed.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

None

6. COMMUNICATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS

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

The NTDSE Governing Board last met on December 10, 2025. The following are brief

highlights:

- The Board received a presentation on the middle school PALS (Peers And Leisure Skills) program.
- Tarin Kendrick, Executive Director, presented three different options regarding classroom space shortage. She recommended the third option: discontinue taking out of District High School students.
- Tarin, along with seven district directors, will conduct interviews with firms to perform a special education audit. She also gave an update on SB3606 - Equalized Special Education Funding and on legislation regarding paraprofessional licensure.
- NTDSE's Collective Bargaining Agreement with the union expires in August 2026. Negotiations will begin in March 2026.
- Candice Hartranft, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reported that NTDSE's Collaborative for Curriculum (CFC) literacy leaders are beginning their next round of the Pilot curriculum. She also thanked CFC for bringing the Star Lab to the PALS program.
- Christine Perry, Principal of Molloy, reported that:
 - Every student has a Google Slides presentation at their IEP meetings.
 - Toys for Tots will be at Molloy on December 11th with toys for students and their families.
 - Interns from the Lutheran General paramedic program recently completed their rotation at Molloy.
- Sheila Arad, Assistant Director of NTDSE Services, reported that:
 - A Behavior Parent Event was held on December 9th, focusing on supporting students' behavior.
 - The Speech-Language Intervention for Multilingual Learners event took place on December 5.
 - The Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) teachers hosted two field trips for all the DHH students throughout the Township.
- Joydeep Singh, Director of Technology, reported that the 5-year E-Rate cycle is starting and that they will be looking at upgrading firewall servers.
- The Board approved the following:
 - The Transportation Contract Extension with North Shore.
 - The Extended School Year (ESY) 2026 proposals
 - The decision to discontinue the high school program at Molloy, effective for the 2026-2027 school year.

The next meeting of the NTDSE Governing Board is scheduled at the NTDSE Administrative Center on January 28, 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 November 20, 2025. The December 2025 Finance Committee meeting was canceled due to a light Agenda.

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 22, 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 October 21, 2025. The December 2025 Facilities Committee meeting was canceled due to a light Agenda.

The next Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 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 #120 - October 2025
 - (1) Draft - Update
 - (1) 4:80 Accounting and Audits

- (2) 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
- (3) 7:190 Student Behavior

The Policy Committee last met on Friday, December 12, 2025 and fifteen policies to tonight's Consent Agenda, and three policies to 1st Reading by the Board of Education.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 20, 2026 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.

7. 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)***

No report.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

I. The Barry and Taffy Berger Foundation Donation

It was moved by Secretary Pro-Tem Rosenberg and seconded by Member Oleniczak that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education accept this donation from the Barry and Taffy Berger Foundation in the amount of \$75,000, as presented.

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Vranas

Motion passed.

II. 2024-2029 Strategic Plan Board of Education Update

Superintendent Russo delivered the second update on the progress of the five goal areas of the Strategic Plan. He expressed that was proud of the way the Administrative Team has lived the plan and used it as a guide in setting priorities. The District's Mission and Vision are concepts the Administration routinely bring up and keep at the forefront of what we do as a District. The work of the Strategic Planning process has definitely impacted the District in a positive way.

III. District Updates

- Superintendent Russo wished every family a Happy New Year. Over the break, the District Building and Grounds team took the opportunity to address routine and preventative maintenance tasks in preparation for the winter season. The team does a great job of taking advantage of these times to keep the District's physical plant running smoothly. The Administration looks forward to a fun and productive 2026 both in the classrooms and in the extracurricular activities!

- **Save the Date: Growing Up in Public - Milestones of Growing Up in the Digital Age on January 29, 2026.**

Join us for a [parent presentation on digital wellness](#) with Dr. Devorah Heitner, taking place on January 29, 2026 at 7 p.m. at Lincoln Hall Auditorium. Discussion topics include:

- How to mentor kids as they grow up on social media apps.
- How to assess readiness for a new tech milestone.
- How to work on sleep habits to balance screen time and rest.
- How to help kids navigate exposure to problematic content.

Dr. Devorah Heitner is the author of "Growing Up in Public: Coming of Age in a Digital World and Screenwise: Helping Kids Thrive (and Survive) in Their Digital World." Her work has appeared in the New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, and CNN Opinion. She has a Ph.D. in Media/Technology & Society from Northwestern University and has taught at DePaul University and Northwestern University. This event is hosted by SD74 in partnership with PALS, Fairview SD72, East Prairie SD73, Skokie SD 73.5, and Morton Grove SD70 PTO.

- **Lincoln Hall Clothing Drive**

Students and families are encouraged to donate new or gently used clothing items to the Lincoln Hall Clothing Drive benefitting The Niles Township Community Clothing Closet. Donations will be accepted in Mrs. Lange's and Ms. Bordenet's rooms until January 30, 2026.

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

I. Curriculum Department Update

No report.

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

I. Finance Report - **OCTOBER 2025**

Business Manager/CSBO Whited presented the October 2025 Finance Report.

II. Bills Payable in the Amount of \$2,239,397.74

Bills reviewed this month by: Ted Kwon and Peter D. Theodore

It was moved by Secretary Pro-Tem Rosenberg and seconded by Member Kwon that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approve invoices and bills in the amount of \$2,239,397.74.

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Vranas

Motion passed.

9. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

None

10. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by President Theodore and seconded by Secretary Pro-Tem Rosenberg 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, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) - Collective Negotiating and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10) - The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students.**

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by President Theodore and seconded by Secretary Pro-Tem 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 9:20 p.m.

Peter D. Theodore, President

Elissa B. Rosenberg, Secretary Pro-Tem