

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 10, 2025 6:30 PM
Central

Lakeview Junior High School
701 Plainfield Road
Downers Grove, IL 60516

Steve Dlugo: Present
Megan DuPass: Present
Brian Liedtke: Present
Adam Sage: Present
Darren Spiegel: Present
Tiffany Watson: Present
Doug Wiley: Present
Present: 7.

I. Call Meeting to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Board President Brian Liedtke.

II. Pledge

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President Brian Liedtke.

III. Recognition of Visitors

In-person visitors included Dr. Sean Rhoads, Director Keith Roberts, Director Tom Tiede, Dr. Kim Liles, Assistant Principal Carrie Fitzgerald, Principal Jake Little, Interim Principal Mark Pagel, Dylan Panuska, Laura Panuska, Elle Panuska, Kevin Sweeney, Sean Sweeney, Alex Molina, Julie Molina, Emily Molina and Brian Ohlsen. Online attendees included Jessica Stabley, Sheryl Sulima, Jessica Sage, Jessica Rost, Mark Orszula, Susan Nielsen and Rusty Novotny.

IV. Scheduled Time to Address the Board

There were no scheduled speakers.

V. Consent Agenda

V.A. Monthly Meeting Minutes

V.B. District's Monthly Financial Statements

V.C. Monthly Board Bills Payable

V.D. New Items

V.D.1. Approve Retirement of Brian Ohlsen, effective June 2025.

V.D.2. Approve Employment of William Oliver, BACC Aide, Prairieview.

V.D.3. Approve Employment of Jacqueline Caniano, Paraprofessional, Prairieview, pending licensure and background check.

V.D.4. Approve the Resignation of Antoinette Zaino, Social Worker, Lakeview

V.D.5. Approve the EIS and Administrative Compensation Report for FY25.

V.D.6. Approve Annual Threat Assessment Teams per ISBE Regulation.

V.D.7. Approve Contract for SuperEval

VI. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Steve Dlugo and seconded by Brian Liedtke, Passed.

Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Darren Spiegel: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

VII. Communication

VII.A. Lakeview Drum Majors - Emily, Elle, and Sean

The Board received feedback from Lakeview Drum Majors Elle Panuska, Emily Molina, and Sean Sweeney concerning their leadership within the Lakeview Marching Band. Board members expressed their admiration for the students and praised their outstanding performance at the Von Steuben Day parade. Additionally, a special invitation was extended to the Board to participate in marching with the Lakeview athletics, activities, and band on the afternoon of Friday, September 26, 2025.

VII.B. FOIA Request

There were four FOIA requests, all of which the District complied with.

VIII. Principal Reports

VIII.A. Elizabeth Ide Elementary

Interim Principals Pagel and Gilmartin expressed that the 25-26 school year began successfully, thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Elizabeth Ide School staff. During their opening Institute Day, Ide staff conducted Student Success meetings to strategize supporting students effectively from day one, with a focus on meeting students where they are and ensuring a strong start to the year. Interventionists and service providers are already working with students to maintain their progress, and teams are collaborating during common planning times to share successes, especially with structured literacy routines. The fall assessment window is now open, and data collected will be reviewed during the Fall Data Dig on October 1 to inform necessary adjustments. The main goal at the start of the year was to foster excitement and a strong sense of belonging among students through "getting to know you"

activities and community-building efforts. Teachers have focused on establishing routines, promoting respectful and responsible behavior, and encouraging students to earn Pride Bucks for following school expectations. Our families' presence was appreciated, and both Meet the Teacher and Teaching and Learning Night were highly successful. The leadership team reviewed and adjusted the master schedule to improve transitions, supported staff needs, and implemented safety measures like sidewalk yellow lines to ensure smooth arrivals and dismissals.

VIII.B. Prairieview Elementary

Principal Little stated that Prairieview prioritized building strong relationships and routines at the start of the year, with students enthusiastically engaging in curriculum and STEM activities. Students in Ms. Rost's class applied the engineering and design process through hands-on challenges that emphasized collaboration, communication, problem-solving, and reflection, fostering a positive and evolving learning environment. The staff focused on building strong relationships and routines early in the year, using morning meetings and the CHAMPS approach to foster a safe, positive, and structured environment. This foundation supports both academic and social success, with collaborative efforts extending to bus expectations to ensure a safe and supportive commute for all students. This year, CHAMPS expectations are expanding school-wide to promote consistent behavior across all shared spaces, fostering collaboration among teachers for reteaching and problem-solving. Additionally, the custodial team made significant improvements to school spaces, including updating the Multi-Purpose Room and transforming areas into a joint music and art room for more hands-on learning.

VIII.C. Lakeview Junior High

Lakeview reported that the school year started on a highly positive note, with teachers building strong relationships, setting high expectations, and engaging students in critical thinking and problem-solving. Additionally, a teacher received a Petco grant to include a class pet in her curriculum, exemplifying the staff's commitment to innovative and enriching learning experiences. Many students have already embraced a variety of clubs and sports, with 183 participating so far, reflecting strong enthusiasm for extracurricular activities. Our goal remains for every student to be involved in at least one activity, and we are committed to supporting them in finding a sense of connection and belonging. Recent upgrades to Lakeview's learning environment, including flexible seating, bright hallways, and comfortable classrooms, have created a welcoming space that enhances student engagement. Students and teachers alike are embracing the positive climate, making Lakeview an exciting place for learning and growth.

IX. Director Reports

IX.A. Director of Student Services

Director Rhoads stated that during the August 18 Institute Day, building teams reviewed student support plans across MTSS, Section 504, and IEPs to ensure supports were in place for Day 1. This effort continues prior work on vertical alignment, aiming to maintain service continuity, reduce transition gaps, and guarantee safe, equitable access for all students from the start of the year. Also, during August's Institute Days, the district's social work and counseling team led a professional development session on strategies from **Raising Kids with Big, Baffling Behaviors** to equip staff with practical tools for supporting students experiencing stress and adversity. The training, which also introduced the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT), aimed to create a shared framework and language to better address increasing behavioral challenges and promote student well-being. Prairieview Elementary's Multi-Needs program team, led by Christina Miller, has been collaborating regularly with staff to develop a shared understanding of each student's specialized needs. These meetings focus on reviewing goals and strategies to ensure consistent, inclusive support that empowers students to succeed and reach their full potential.

IX.B. Director of Learning

Dr. Liles shared that starting the week of September 8, she would visit Elizabeth Ide on Tuesdays and Prairieview on Thursdays to observe and support teaching, with a focus on implementing Competency-Based Education (CBE). An example of CBE in action is when a third-grade teacher used peer modeling with former students to help her current class demonstrate their understanding of story problem rubrics, fostering student ownership and peer learning. The fall assessment window in District 66 is underway, providing valuable baseline data on student performance to guide instructional planning and targeted supports. This data will help inform school improvement goals and support ongoing efforts to ensure growth and achievement for all students. Plans are underway to offer four additional professional development opportunities beyond traditional SIP and Institute Days, including extended sessions on the Seven Strategies, and book studies on **The Breakthrough Years** and **Teaching with Empathy**. These voluntary offerings demonstrate our commitment to supporting ongoing teacher growth and leadership.

IX.C. Director of Technology

Director Roberts conveyed that the school year had started strongly, with the district fully implementing the new Cisco Webex phone system, enhancing communication across schools. Touchscreen Chromebooks being successfully rolled out for students, especially benefiting younger grades with their accessible touch navigation, and all were prepared in advance to ensure seamless use from day one. Additionally, new classroom technology upgrades are underway, including the arrival of document cameras and the installation of Apple TVs in every instructional space, making lessons more interactive and flexible. The Lakeview LRC has been reconfigured as a versatile space for district meetings and large events, featuring improved sound and video systems. The efforts of the technology team, including Sharon Dadepogu and Rusty Novotny, have been crucial in ensuring that staff and students have

reliable systems and ready-to-use devices, despite the significant effort involved. Overall, these updates reflect the commitment to providing a modern, efficient learning environment for all.

IX.D. Director of Transportation/Buildings and Grounds

Director Tiede offered thanks to the dedicated efforts of many staff members that helped make the 2025-2026 school year start successfully and on time, with buildings at Lakeview, Prairieview, and IDE fully prepared and welcoming for students, staff, and families. While some behind-the-scenes work on building automation and system balancing continues, the schools are already in full operation, thanks in large part to the custodial staff's tireless efforts. Planning for next summer's projects, including roofing replacements and parking lot improvements, is underway, with updates expected throughout the fall and early winter as plans are finalized. As we reach the fourth week of school, bus routes are now running smoothly, with ongoing adjustments to improve timing for on-time arrivals, serving over 800 students across three schools with seven large routes and additional smaller or special needs routes. Despite consistent numbers that remain higher than pre-pandemic levels, recruiting new drivers remains challenging, although the current dedicated drivers who keep the system running efficiently, are appreciated. The district also kicked off extracurricular activities, including sports and parade performances, with special thanks to the drivers for their flexibility in covering extra duties to support student activities.

X. Superintendent Report

X.A. District Dashboard

Upon approval of the FY26 Budget, the District Dashboard will be revised.

X.B. FY 2026 Budget

Dr. Wise shared that the budget is operating as it should and the increased expenditures this year were primarily due to the renovation work necessary on the roofs, sidewalks, and parking lots at Lakeview and Prairieview. He shared that the process to complete these items would span over two fiscal years. While the Board continues to support the Administration in adding to balances, improving facilities, expanding opportunities, and enhancing the educational environment, the Board recognizes that it takes time to build the ideal school system that students deserve, and commended the District for making so much progress over the last two years.

X.C. Start of the School Year Update

Dr. Wise expressed that it had been a great start to the year! And Board President Liedtke closed the meeting by thanking the Administration for a great start to the school year, as well as thanking the Board for being so visible and accessible.

X.D. Lakeview Homecoming Celebration

A special invitation was extended to the Board to march with the Lakeview athletics, activities, and band the afternoon of Friday, September 26, 2025, during the Lakeview Homecoming parade.

X.E. PV-LV Concept Design

Dr. Wise shared a PV Traffic Flow Design and a LV Traffic Flow Design, all within a redesigned area with new parking lots. He explained that the proposed plan would add parking, eliminate pinch points at arrival—dismissal, and provide a safer Prairieview/Lakeview campus. With approximately \$3,000,000 earmarked, the redesign plan falls within the budget. The board was pleased with the concept and were excited to hear the next steps.

X.F. Panorama as the State's Survey Tool

Dr. Wise confirmed that Panorama is an approved State Survey assessment and meets all requirements to replace the 5 Essentials. Parents will no longer need to take the 5 Essentials survey, just the Panorama survey twice a year. The first survey will be released mid-September.

X.G. Summer 2026 Projects

Besides the PV-LV Campus Concept Design for Traffic Flow/Parking, another large scale project that was discussed was the Lakeview Roof retrofit for remaining sections. The Board anticipates a bid to be approved late Fall and work to begin on June 1, 2026. Estimated roof costs are \$1,500,000 and comes with a 30 year warranty.

X.H. Goal 1 Sub Committee Update

Board Members DuPass and Liedtke provided an update from the recent Goal One Administrative Sub Committee meeting in which they attended with District staff. They were pleased with the focus on personalized learning, which prioritizes the growth of each student, regardless of where they are on the learning continuum. In addition, they shared that the State Board "rightsized" the cut scores for meeting standards on the IAR, which could impact District 66 scores when released this Fall. They also shared that the District would be looking to make improvements in areas such as Parent Teacher Conferences, Advanced Mathematics, and updating curricular information on the school website.

X.I. Community and Development Update

Dr. Wise shared that he is in communication with the City of Darien and Village of Woodridge regarding Tax Increment Financing (TIF) areas. He shared that although no meetings transpired the last couple of weeks, he plans to attend future meetings and update the Board. In addition, he would like the Board to enter into Intergovernmental agreements with both

parties to ensure the school district receives some protection from the TIF. As soon as more information becomes available, Dr. Wise will provide financials to determine the impact on our current financial situation.

X.J. Date for Finance Workshop

Dr. Wise explained that once more information becomes available regarding the TIFs, he would provide financials to determine the impact on the District's current financial situation. At that time, a special finance session could be called, but until then, the October 1st, 2025 Special Board meeting would be postponed.

X.K. SuperEval

The Board was asked to approve a new evaluation system that several area school districts are using to evaluate leadership called SuperEval. Dr. Wise shared that the system is user friendly and provides a structure that can provide historical data over time. This will allow for a smoother, evidence-based evaluation of the Superintendent and will house data from a historical perspective.

XI. Public Comment

No public comments were given during the September 10, 2025, Board of Education meeting.

XII. Action items

XII.A. Approve the FY 2026 Budget

Motion to approve the FY 2026 Budget. This motion, made by Steve Dlugo and seconded by Doug Wiley, Passed.

Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Darren Spiegel: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XII.B. Approve PV-LV Campus Concept Design for Traffic Flow/Parking

Motion to approve the PV-LV Campus Concept Design for Traffic Flow/Parking. This motion, made by Steve Dlugo and seconded by Megan DuPass, Passed.

Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Darren Spiegel: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XII.C. Approve Panorama as the State's Survey Tool replacing 5Essentials

Motion to approve Panorama as the State's Survey Tool replacing 5Essentials. This motion, made by Megan DuPass and seconded by Adam Sage, Passed.

Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Darren Spiegel: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Motion to adjourn. This motion, made by Tiffany Watson and seconded by Darren Spiegel,
Passed.

Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Darren Spiegel:

Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XIII. Adjournment

The September 10, 2025 Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Gannon, recording secretary

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education