

	<p><b>LINCOLNWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 74</b>  <b>BOARD OF EDUCATION</b>  Regular Meeting Minutes  Thursday, September 4, 2025 at <u>6:30 PM</u></p>	<p>BOARD OF EDUCATION  Peter D. Theodore, <i>President</i>  Myra A. Foutris, <i>Vice President</i>  John P. Vranas, <i>Secretary</i>  Ted Kwon  Jay Oleniczak  Elissa B. Rosenberg  Mihra Seta</p> <p>ADMINISTRATION  Dr. David L. Russo, <i>Superintendent of Schools</i>  Dr. Dominick M. Lupo, <i>Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum &amp; Instruction</i>  Courtney L. Whited, <i>Business Manager/CSBO</i></p>
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***Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Lincolnwood School District 74,  
Cook County, Illinois, was held in the Lincoln Hall Auditorium,  
6855 North Crawford, Lincolnwood, IL 60712, on Thursday, September 4, 2025.***

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Theodore called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., roll call was taken and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u> Ted Kwon Jay Oleniczak Elissa B. Rosenberg Mihra Seta Peter D. Theodore	<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u> Myra A. Foutris John P. Vranas	
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<u>ADMINISTRATORS/STAFF PRESENT</u> Dr. David L. Russo Dr. Dominick M. Lupo Courtney L. Whited Mark Atkinson	Aliaa Ibrahim Jackie McGoey Jennifer Ruttkay	Jordan Stephen Joseph Segreti Renee Tolnai
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President Theodore appointed Member Oleniczak Secretary Pro-Tem.

**2. DISTRICT RECOGNITION**

**a. 2025-26 Lincolnwood School District 74 New Staff Introductions by Principals**

The Lincolnwood School District 74 principals introduced their school's respective new staff members.

**3. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

Two community members voiced their opposition to the potential upcoming referendum to accommodate the Children's Care & Development Center, Inc. (CCDC) remaining a tenant of the District.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

**a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

I. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - **AUGUST 7, 2025**

II. Regular Board Meeting - Closed Session Minutes - **AUGUST 7, 2025**

**b. EMPLOYMENT MATTERS**

I. **Personnel Report**

II. New Employment

1. **Enesa Dibra**, Full-Time Substitute, District Wide, effective August 25, 2025, Class 1, Level 1, \$56,683

2. **Mine Karatas**, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, Rutledge Hall, effective August 27, 2025, \$17.00/hr
3. **Maria Lamas**, Part-Time Kitchen Staff, Lincoln Hall, effective September 22, 2025, \$15.61/hr
4. **Jena Lazar**, Full-Time Substitute, District Wide, effective September 15, 2025, Class 1, Level 1, \$56,683
5. **Anna Salmon**, Full-Time Substitute, District Wide, effective September 8, 2025, Class 1, Level 1, \$56,683

### III. Resignation

1. **Basira Yousafzai**, Part-Time Kitchen Staff, Lincoln Hall, effective August 25, 2025
2. **Mary Pellicano**, Paraprofessional, Rutledge Hall, effective September 12, 2025

### IV. FMLA Leave Request

1. **Bennett Nelson**, 6th grade Science Teacher, effective August 29, 2025, with an expected return of October 6, 2025

### V. Leave of Absence Request

1. **Ana Ryan**, 7th Grade Language Arts Teacher, effective October 20, 2025, with an expected return November 3, 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 #119 - June 2025

##### (1) Draft - Update

- (1) 8:80 Gifts to the District
- (2) 2:130 Board-Superintendent Relationship
- (3) 7:140 Search and Seizure
- (4) 7:300 Extracurricular Athletics

##### (2) Review & Monitoring

- (1) 1:10 School District Legal Status
- (2) 1:20 District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements
- (3) 1:30 District Strategic Plan
- (4) 2:10 School District Governance
- (5) 4:50 Payment Procedures
- (6) 4:90 Student Activity and Fiduciary Funds
- (7) 5:20-E Resolution to Prohibit Sexual Harassment
- (8) 7:40 Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students
- (9) 7:90 Release During School Hours
- (10) 2:240 Board Policy Development
- (11) 5:270 Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment
- (12) 7:130 Student Rights and Responsibilities
- (13) 7:325 Student Fundraising Activities
- (14) 8:110 Public Suggestions and Concerns

### d. Upcoming Staff Development Opportunities

- I. Dr. David L. Russo, IASA 61st Annual Conference, Springfield, IL - September 24-26, 2025

The Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approves all overnight staff development opportunities.

### e. 2025-2026 Vivi Players

The Facilities Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve this quote for the purchase of four Vivi digital devices for \$2,148 from September 5, 2025 to September 4, 2028.

### f. Raptor Technologies, LLC Subscription Agreement

The Facilities Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve the contract for Raptor Technologies, LLC for the upgrade to the VisitorSafe Management System in the amount of \$2,154 from August 1, 2025 to January 31, 2026.

g. Video Camera Recommendations 2025-2026 School Year

The Facilities Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve the quotes from CDWG and Renaissance Communication Systems for the installation of the new Video Security systems in the amount not to exceed \$135,000.

h. Renaissance Communication System Installation of Door Access Control Installation

The Facilities Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve the quote from Renaissance Communication Systems for the upgrade to the door access control system in the amount of \$39,100.

i. 2024-25 Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefit Report Pursuant to PA 97-256

Attached to this Executive Summary is the 2024-25 Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefit Report with the required information to be compliant with PA 97-256.

j. 2024-25 IMRF Salary and Benefits Report Pursuant to PA 97-0609

Attached to this Executive Summary is the 2024-25 IMRF Salary and Benefits Report with the required information to be compliant with PA 97-0609, as presented.

k. MagicSchool AI Purchase for the 2025-2026 School Year

The Finance Committee members in attendance stated their support of the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve this quote from MagicSchool AI Corporation for the purchase of support and services in the amount of \$5,625 from September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026.

It was moved by Secretary Pro-Tem Oleniczak and seconded by Member Rosenberg 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: Kwon, Oleniczak, Rosenberg, Seta, Theodore

Nays: None

Absent: Foutris, Vranas

Motion passed.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. COMMUNICATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS

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

The NTDSE Governing Board last met on August 27, 2025. The following are brief highlights:

- Tarin Kendrick, Executive Director, reported that 40 staff members have vacated their offices at Molloy to create three additional classroom spaces designated as Pod 6. Districts 69, 73, and 74 accommodated space for 35 of these staff members. Classroom space at Molloy is at full capacity. A proposal regarding acquiring classroom spaces at District 68 will be presented at the September Board meeting.
- The possibility of conducting Special Education Audits was discussed with the Member Districts and the High

School.

- The renovations of Pod 4 at Molloy have been completed. Extended School Year (ESY) program was very successful, thanks to the staff at Molloy and Lincolnwood SD74.
- Professional Learning in August included CHAMPS (Conversation, Help, Activity, Movement, Participation, and Success) Classroom Management System, CPI (Crisis Prevention Intervention) training program, the Curriculum Gallery, the IEP system, Bootcamp for Paraprofessionals, Supporting Independence and Wilson Reading.
- Kathy Gavin, Director of Fiscal Services, gave a presentation of the proposed FY26 budget for review by the Finance Committee and the Board.
- The Board approved the new and amended policies from PRESS Issue 118 - April 2025.

The next meeting of the NTDSE Governing Board is scheduled at the NTDSE Administrative Center on September 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

b. IASB (Illinois Association of School Boards): **Ted Kwon/Jay Oleniczak**

Member Kwon reported that registration is open for the Joint Annual Conference in November 2025.

c. Finance Committee: **Jay Oleniczak/Mihra Seta**

The Finance Committee last met on August 21, 2025. There were no formal recommendations voted on due to the lack of a quorum.

- The Finance Committee members in attendance supported the Administrative recommendation to the Board of Education for three items on the Consent Agenda:
  - 2024-25 Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefit Report Pursuant to PA 97-256
  - 2024-25 IMRF Salary and Benefits Report Pursuant to PA 97-0609
  - MagicSchool AI Purchase for the 2025-2026 School Year
- Courtney Whited, Business Manager/CSBO, summarized the proposed Lincolnwood School District 74 Budget for the Fiscal Year 2026 which is on tonight's agenda for adoption after the Public Hearing.

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

d. Facilities Committee: **John P. Vranas/Myra A. Foutris**

The Facilities Committee last met on August 19, 2025.

- **StudioGC architecture+interiors Project(s) Update:**
  - Oak Brook Mechanical met the substantial completion deadline of August 1, 2025 for the Todd Hall HVAC Tunnel project, and the insulation application.
  - Substantial completion status was met by Abbey Construction by the July 25, 2025 deadline for the sitework. The striping of play areas was scheduled for the week of August 11, 2025 and is partially completed. The Gaga Ball Pit was installed last week.
  - Substantial completion status was NOT met by Construction Solutions, Inc. for General Trades by the August 1st deadline. The exterior door replacements will be completed on Saturdays in September. The contractor has been put on notice that they will be responsible for liquidated damages due to their failure to complete the project on time. The Committee suggested that this matter be reviewed by our attorney to verify compliance of notice requirements to the contractor.
  - Substantial completion status was met by the August 11, 2025 deadline for the Rutledge Hall Corridor Flooring by Construction Solutions, Inc.
  - The TuffShed storage was installed. Asphalt ramps will be added in front of both doors.
  - The Kindergarten playground surface was ready for student activity on August 25, 2025.
  - Athi Toufexis, StudioGC, explained that all but the lecterns have been delivered and assembled for first grade. The punch list notes scratches on some edges of items. Final payment will be held until punch list items are completed.
  - The District will accept the quote from Murphy for asphalt and parking lot striping based on the quotes received. The project includes permanently patching the area where a water main broke in front of Rutledge Hall and ramps to the new TuffShed structure. The Committee recommended use of a hot striping machine to

do the ADA stalls at Rutledge Hall.

- The Facilities Committee concurred with the Administration's recommendation to approve the quote from Vivi digital devices for four digital devices.
- The Facilities Committee concurred with the Administration's recommendation to approve the quote from Raptor Technologies, LLC for the upgrade to the VisitorSafe Management System.
- The Facilities Committee concurred with the Administration's recommendation to approve the quote from Renaissance Communication Systems for the upgrade to the door access control system.
- The Facilities Committee concurred with the Administration's recommendation to approve the quote from CDWG and Renaissance Communication Systems for the installation of the new Video Security systems.

#### **District Facilities Update**

- Superintendent Russo discussed the use of motorized bikes and scooters on campus.
- The Committee concurred with the Administration's decision to donate most of the bricks that were purchased during the 2023 masonry tuckpointing project to the Habitat for Humanity Restore, and retain one pallet of bricks for any future repairs.
- Superintendent Russo noted he has taken meetings with performance-based contract vendors. The Committee is not interested in pursuing this at this time.
- Business Manager/CSBO Whited gave an overview of the Facility Rental Requests thus far.
- Superintendent Russo discussed partnering with the Village of Lincolnwood to obtain grant funds for flashing crosswalk signage at the major crosswalks.

The next Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. The public is welcome.

#### **e. Policy Committee: *Myra A. Foutris/Ted Kwon***

The Policy Committee last met on Friday, August 22, 2025. There were no formal recommendations voted on due to the lack of a quorum. The Policy Committee member in attendance stated her support to adopt seventeen policies and one exhibit as presented and sent them to tonight's Consent Agenda. Additionally, three policies were kept in Committee for further discussion.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 19, 2025 at 8:30am 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](https://sd74.org).

#### **8. 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)***

President Abby Jones shared information on upcoming PALS events during the 2025-26 school year as well as reported on past initiatives.

#### **9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

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

##### **I. District Updates**

- Superintendent Russo reported how wonderful it was to welcome all of our students and staff back to campus last week! Many, many smiles as students reconnected with classmates and teachers. The point of emphasis in these first days is to establish both classroom routines and a positive working environment for all.
- The District's annual Ice Cream Social will be held tomorrow, September 5, 2025 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Thank you to the PALS organizing committee, along with our Director of Communications and Community Relations Jackie McGoeys for putting together another evening of family fun. There will be a bubble show, DJ, photo booth, face painting, crafts, games, and of course ICE CREAM! Please refer to this week's *Tuesday Newsday* on how to order food from the available options.
- Picture Day is September 9, 2025 for all three buildings. Consult this week's *Tuesday Newsday* for pre-ordering information to get your pictures faster and to save on shipping costs.
- All families are asked to please use the published drop-off and pick-up traffic patterns to ensure the safe arrival and dismissal of students. Families are requested to not use Crawford Ave. for any drop-off and pick-up. Also, students should cross at East Prairie and Pratt and proceed down East Prairie and walk in front of Rutledge Hall. We ask for there to be no pedestrian traffic on the island in the parking lot.
- The District is partnering with the Village of Lincolnwood to secure a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation that would fund the installation of traffic safety equipment along walking routes to campus. The District seeks responses to a survey that was made available through *Tuesday Newsday*. Please take a moment to download and complete the survey, sharing your thoughts on walking and biking to school, before Sept.15. You can email it to, [drusso@sd74.org](mailto:drusso@sd74.org), or print it and drop it off at the District's administration building. Thank you for your consideration!
- There are 1214 students enrolled in the District PK-3 through 8th Grade. We have over 800 students signed up for the bus. We encourage all families to consider the District's free bus service.

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

I. Curriculum Department Update

- MAP Assessment testing will be implemented in the next couple weeks.
- The Illinois State Board of Education approved lower cut scores for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) for the 2025 testing cycle to align with post-secondary expectations and address a prior misalignment. The changes affect the scores needed for students to be considered "proficient" in ELA and math, with the expectation that this will result in higher proficiency rates for students while maintaining the same rigorous learning standards.

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

I. Finance Report - **JUNE 2025**

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

II. Public Hearing and Adoption of the Lincolnwood School District 74 Budget for Fiscal Year 2026

**OPEN PUBLIC HEARING**

It was moved by Secretary Pro-Tem Oleniczak and seconded by Member Kwon that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education open the public hearing regarding the Budget for Lincolnwood School District 74 for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

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

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

None

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**

It was moved by Secretary Pro-Tem Oleniczak and seconded by Member Rosenberg that the Lincolnwood School

District 74 Board of Education close the public hearing regarding the Budget for Lincolnwood School District 74 for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

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

## **BUDGET APPROVAL**

It was moved by Secretary Pro-Tem Oleniczak and seconded by Member Seta that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education adopt the Budget for Fiscal Year 2026, as recommended by the Finance Committee members in attendance, and as presented.

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

Ayes: Kwon, Oleniczak, Rosenberg, Seta, Theodore

Nays: None

Absent: Foutris, Vranas

Motion passed.

President Theodore thanked the Finance Committee and the Business Office for their work on the FY26 Budget.

### **III. Bills Payable in the Amount of \$1,020,082.06**

**Bill Reviewers for the Month:** Peter D. Theodore and John P. Vranas

It was moved by President Theodore and seconded by Member Rosenberg that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approve invoices and bills in the amount of \$1,020,082.06.

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

Ayes: Kwon, Oleniczak, Rosenberg, Seta, Theodore

Nays: None

Absent: Foutris, Vranas

Motion passed.

### **10. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

None

### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by President Theodore and seconded by Secretary Pro-Tem Oleniczak 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 7:11 p.m.

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Peter D. Theodore, President

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Jay Oleniczak, Secretary Pro-Tem