

**Regular Board Meeting
Board of Education School District No. 6
Lake County, Illinois
2800 29th Street, Zion, IL 60099
April 14, 2025 at 6:00 PM**

Roll Call

President Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and held the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Latoya Barnes, Ken Fielding, Denise Lear, and Margie Taylor.

Absent: Netya Perez Rivera, Robert Surano, and Wesley Walker.

Board Member Perez Rivera entered the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Administration and staff present: Julious Lawson, Superintendent, Samantha Snyder, Accountant/Grant Writer, Erik Youngman, Director of Teaching & Learning, and Kimberly Hall, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education Secretary.

Approval of Agenda

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the Amended Agenda changing Other Business Item D. Student Discipline to Dismissal of ESP for Reasons other than Reduction in Force as presented.

Motion made by Latoya Barnes, seconded by Denise Lear.

Roll Call: Ayes; Latoya Barnes, Denise Lear, Ken Fielding, and Margie Taylor.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Celebrations and Recognitions

Julie Gentzen and Denise Casali, staff members, who head the Zealous Art Club at ZCMS, presented photos and students Xaveri Diaz and Connor Gwizdak, provided information on their artwork at the school this year. The Ms. Gentzen and Casali expressed their gratitude for the board and district supporting their art club.

The ZCMS 8th grade girls basketball team along with Coach Adedoyin Sanni were recognized for their winning season this year.

Dr. Lawson recognized the nominees for the May 7th Educator of the Year event hosted by the Lake County Regional Office of Education.

Public Participation

There were no public comments.

Approval of Consent Agenda

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, which involves one roll call vote for all recommendations including the minutes for the March 17, 2025 Special and Regular Board Meetings.

It is the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following resignations.

- **Anderson, Katrina**, resignation from the position of Digital Citizenship Teacher for Zion Central Middle School, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year

It is the Superintendent's recommendation to approve employment of the following personnel for the positions and dates of employment as indicated, subject to successful completion of the medical examination and forms, as required by Section 24-5 of the Illinois School Code, successful completion of a criminal background investigation as required by Section 1-21.9 of the Illinois School Code, a Child Abuse Registry check, and submission of all forms, documents and certifications required by law and/or requested by the District.

None

It is the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following leave of absence requests:

- **Espinoza, Tania**, request for an unpaid leave of absence beginning April 4, 2025, through September 2025.

Motion made by Denise Lear, seconded by Netya Perez Rivera.

Roll Call: Ayes; Denise Lear, Netya Perez Rivera, Margie Taylor, Latoya Barnes, and Ken Fielding.

Nays; None.

Motion carried.

President's Report

President Taylor reviewed the May calendar with the board noting that May 5th has a Special Board meeting due to an IASB workshop and the April 1st election results. There were no updates for the taxing bodies, SEDOL, and TIF. The finance committee met on March 13th to review a number of completed projects by our maintenance staff saving the district money rather than outsourcing work. There will also be insurance changes presented to the board for approval at this meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Teaching and Learning Update

Erik Youngman, Director of Teaching and Learning presented an update on Teaching and Learning including the Math Programming Review Committee, Mentee Meetings, Summer Professional earning and a Summer School Update. The Math Programming recommendation will be brought to the board for approval in June. Marianne Fidishin, Director of Special Education presented information about Extended School Year for students with IEPs.

New Business

Tentative Amended FY25 School Budget

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the Tentative Amended FY25 School Budget as presented and set the Hearing Date as June 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. as presented.

Motion made by Ken Fielding, seconded by Denise Lear.

Roll Call: Ayes; Ken Fielding, Denise Lear, Margie Taylor, Latoya Barnes, and Netya Perez Rivera.

Nays; None.

Motion carried

School Supply Kits

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the purchase of school supply kits for all students in Grades K-8 for the 2025-2026 school year with a total cost \$40,888 as presented.

Motion made by Latoya Barnes, seconded by Netya Perez Rivera.

Roll Call: Ayes; Latoya Barnes, Netya Perez Rivera, and Margie Taylor.

Nays; Ken Fielding and Denise Lear.

Motion carried

School Safety Drills 2024-2025

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the School Safety Drills for the 2024-2025 School Year as presented.

Motion made by Latoya Barnes, seconded by Ken Fielding.

Roll Call: Ayes; Latoya Barnes, Ken Fielding, and Margie Taylor.

Nays; Denise Lear and Netya Perez Rivera.

Motion carried

Board Procedures and Agreements and Communication Expectations

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the Board Procedures and Agreements and Board-Superintendent Communications Expectations from the March 17, 2025 self-evaluation workshop as presented.

Motion made by Denise Lear, seconded by Latoya Barnes.

Roll Call: Ayes; Denise Lear, Latoya Barnes, Netya Perez Rivera, Margie Taylor and Ken Fielding.

Nays; None.

Motion carried

Treasurer and Treasurer's Bond

President Taylor asked for a motion to appoint Samantha Snyder as Treasurer and approve the Treasurer's Bond effective April 15, 2025 to July 1, 2026 as presented.

Motion made by Denise Lear, seconded by Latoya Barnes.

Roll Call: Ayes; Denise Lear, Latoya Barnes, Netya Perez Rivera, Margie Taylor and Ken Fielding.

Nays; None.

Motion carried

Dental Carrier

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the change of dental carriers from Delta Dental to Guardian Dental, with an effective date of July 1, 2025 as presented.

Motion made by Ken Fielding, seconded by Denise Lear.

Roll Call: Ayes; Ken Fielding, Denise Lear, Margie Taylor, Latoya Barnes, and Netya Perez Rivera.

Nays; None.

Motion carried

Flexible Spending Account

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the transition of the Flexible Spending Account (FSA) from Allied to WEX as the new carrier and approve the shortened plan year for the 2025-2026 school year, from September 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 to align with the Health Savings Account (HSA) as presented.

Motion made by Ken Fielding, seconded by Denise Lear.

Roll Call: Ayes; Ken Fielding, Denise Lear, Latoya Barnes, Netya Perez Rivera, and Margie Taylor.

Nays; None.

Motion carried

Closed Session

President Taylor asked for a motion to enter into Closed Session for the purpose of:

- A. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals, who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body, or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).
- B. Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).

Motion made by Denise Lear, seconded by Latoya Barnes, to enter into Closed Session.

Roll Call: Ayes; Denise Lear, Latoya Barnes, Ken Fielding, Netya Perez Rivera, and Margie Taylor. Nays; None

Motion carried and the Board entered Closed Session at 6:49 p.m.

There being no further business, the Board exited Closed Session at 8:00 p.m. and resumed Open Session.

Other Business

Memorandum of Understanding

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the continuation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Zion Education Association (ZEA) regarding Hiring and Retention of the 2025-2026 School Year as presented.

Motion made by Ken Fielding, seconded by Denise Lear.

Roll Call: Ayes; Ken Fielding, Denise Lear, Netya Perez Rivera, Margie Taylor, and Latoya Barnes.

Nays; None.

Motion carried

Administrator Contract

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the Administrator Contract for Dr. Erik Youngman, Director of Teaching and Learning effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 as presented.

Motion made by Denise Lear, seconded by Latoya Barnes.

Roll Call: Ayes; Denise Lear, Latoya Barnes, Netya Perez Rivera, Margie Taylor, and Ken Fielding.

Nays; None.

Motion carried

Administrator Contracts

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the Administrator Contracts for Samantha Snyder, Chief School Business Official, effective April 15, 2025, through June 30, 2025, and July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 as presented.

Motion made by Latoya Barnes, seconded by Denise Lear.

Roll Call: Ayes; Latoya Barnes, Denise Lear, Margie Taylor, Ken Fielding, and Netya Perez Rivera.

Nays; None.

Motion carried

Educational Support Personnel – Position Update

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the adjustment to the Translators work calendar beginning with the 2025-2026 School year to an 11-month calendar schedule as presented.

Motion made by Denise Lear, seconded by Netya Perez Rivera.

Roll Call: Ayes; Denise Lear, Netya Perez Rivera, Latoya Barnes, Ken Fielding and Margie Taylor.

Nays; None.

Motion carried

Dismissal of Educational Support Personnel

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the Resolution to dismiss the following Educational Support Personnel employee, Giovanni Batista-Lopez, for Reasons other than Reduction-In-Force at the end of the 2024-2025 School Year as presented.

Motion made by Denise Lear, seconded by Ken Fielding.

Roll Call: Ayes; Denise Lear, Ken Fielding, Netya Perez Rivera, Margie Taylor, and Latoya Barnes.

Nays; None.

Motion carried

Review of Closed Session Minutes

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the recommendation to release the closed session minutes for the following meetings which no longer require confidential treatment and to report that the need for confidentiality still exists as to all other closed session minutes: May 13, 2024, June 17, 2024, July 23, 2024, August 12, 2024, September 30, 2024 and October 21, 2024 as presented.

Motion made by Ken Fielding, seconded by Denise Lear.

Roll Call: Ayes; Ken Fielding, Denise Lear, Netya Perez Rivera, Margie Taylor, and Latoya Barnes.

Nays; None.

Motion carried

Review of Closed Session Minutes Verbatim Recordings

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the recommendation to destroy the closed session verbatim recordings for the following meetings: April 17, 2023, May 1, 2023, May 15, 2023, June 5, 2023, June 26, 2023 and August 21, 2023 as presented.

Motion made by Latoya Barnes, seconded by Denise Lear.

Roll Call: Ayes; Latoya Barnes, Denise Lear, Netya Perez Rivera, Margie Taylor, and Ken Fielding.

Nays; None.

Motion carried

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the board motioned to adjourn.

Ayes; All in favor. **Nays;** None.

Roll Call: Latoya Barnes, Denise Lear, Ken Fielding, Netya Perez Rivera, and Margie Taylor.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting stood adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Dated: _____

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education