

Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, December 11, 2024 6:30 PM  
Central

Prairieview Elementary School  
699 Plainfield Road  
Downers Grove, IL 60516

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 Liane Raso.

II. Pledge

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President Liane Raso.

III. Recognition of Visitors

In-person visitors included Heather Tran, Megan Calhoun, Lisa Brown, Erika Myers, Annie Diver, Carrie Fitzgerald, Joan Cullen, Adam Sage, Tom Tiede, Dr. Kim Liles, Sean Rhoads, Keith Roberts, Jake Little and Katie Johnson. Online attendees included Dr. Mark Orszula, Jessica Rost, Joyce Wilson, Jessica Sage, Elizabeth Uribe, Jessica Stabley and Lori Bryant.

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 Employment of Leah Gurnic, Paraprofessional, Elizabeth Ide

V.D.2. Approve the Re-Hire of William Walper, P/T Bus Driver

V.D.3. Approve Employment of Francisca Beltran, Substitute Custodian

VI. Approve Consent Agenda

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

Megan DuPass: Yea, Christopher Esposito: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Liane Raso: Yea, Donna Sobotka: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

VII. Communication

## VIII. Principal Reports

### VIII.A. Elizabeth Ide Elementary

Principal Johnson described how second-graders demonstrated their creativity and teamwork during the Balloons Over Broadway parade, where they designed and built a unique float. The students showcased their hard work in a schoolwide parade, sharing their excitement with friends, teachers, and families. In another initiative, the school garden thrived under the guidance of Mary Wisdom and students, resulting in fresh produce donations to the Woodridge Food Pantry to support the community. Additionally, the school honored veterans on Veterans' Day with a special tribute, including a breakfast, gratitude-filled "Thank You Veteran" books, and a performance highlighting their service. Through these activities, students learned values of creativity, community service, and appreciation for those who serve.

### VIII.B. Prairieview Elementary

Principal Little gave an account of the annual fall parent-teacher conferences, which were a highlight this month, featuring many student-led discussions on their goals and achievements, showcasing self-directed learning. Teachers are also leading the transition to competency-based assessment, with students in Mrs. Herndon's classroom collaboratively developing problem-solving strategies, while Mrs. Eiland's students track their own progress towards proficiency. The school celebrated Veterans Day by welcoming 22 veterans, with heartfelt speeches from fifth graders and a choir performance organized by Ms. Lindsay and Mrs. Csorba. Additionally, the school emphasizes collaboration as a key skill, with teachers integrating it into daily activities and demonstrating it through joint yoga sessions.

### VIII.C. Lakeview Junior High

Lakeview Middle School has once again been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the best middle schools in Illinois, a testament to the dedication of students, staff, and the community. Recently, Lakeview's leadership team visited Ide Elementary to engage younger students in interactive activities, fostering community connections. Additionally, Mrs. Maass's class gained national attention when a student's thoughtful response was featured in The Week in Rap video by Flocabulary. The school also hosted a heartfelt Veterans Day celebration, honoring those who served, accompanied by a parade to show appreciation. Furthermore, staff collaboration is a top priority at Lakeview, enhancing student support, and the newly updated weight room is proving to be a popular space for promoting physical fitness among students.

## IX. Director Reports

### IX.A. Director of Student Services

Paraprofessionals at Elizabeth Ide, Prairieview, and Lakeview Schools play an essential role in supporting students with diverse needs, fostering their growth through individualized encouragement and creating inclusive environments. The student support team collaborates weekly to enhance the newly implemented Multi-Needs programs at Elizabeth Ide and

Prairieview, ensuring tailored strategies and resources are available for student success. In response to state requirements, the district has developed a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan, training teams at each school to ensure a safe environment for all. Additionally, the upcoming Parent University event aims to engage parents in supporting their children's development, offering informative presentations and resources from local organizations. Families are encouraged to RSVP for this event, scheduled for January 29th.

#### IX.B. Director of Learning

Director Liles spent a day at Elizabeth Ide, and while there, the Leadership Team from Lakeview was at Ide to spend the morning with our youngest learners. It was so nice to see the Lakeview students and Ide students actively engaging and enjoying their time together. She was especially proud of the Leadership Team for their adaptability, well-prepared plans, and seamless execution throughout the activity. Their ability to "go with the flow" exemplified exceptional leadership and collaboration. The District Literacy Committee held its first meeting on December 4, co-facilitated by Principal Johnson and Director Liles. During this meeting, the committee reviewed the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan, discussed the importance of establishing a district-wide literacy committee, and began analyzing district literacy data to ensure it accurately identifies student needs and addresses achievement gaps. The committee will meet two more times this school year, resulting in the development of the District Literacy Plan.

#### IX.C. Director of Technology

In the past month, the technology department has seen a rise in Chromebook repairs and requests for staff device support, prompting them to partner with a new repair company to reduce turnaround times for device fixes. On a positive note, the launch of Skyward Family Access for conference scheduling has significantly improved participation rates by allowing parents to book conferences more conveniently. Also, technology is focused on maximizing Skyward's features to provide educators with real-time data through role-specific dashboards that help inform decision-making and improve student outcomes. Looking ahead, they plan on conducting preventive maintenance and network upgrades during winter break to enhance reliability and performance, thus reinforcing the commitment to a secure and effective technology environment for all users.

#### IX.D. Director of Transportation/Buildings and Grounds

Transportation has been busy and fortunate with milder early winter weather, allowing drivers to handle routes with fewer adverse conditions. Recent changes include adding PFA preschool children to existing routes and engaging in winter sports at Lakeview, while Prairieview prepares for their annual holiday trip to the Tivoli Theatre. During the upcoming Holiday Break, buses will undergo semi-annual safety certifications and maintenance to ensure they operate effectively in the cold weather. Meanwhile, significant upgrades funded by a federal grant for school safety enhancements are being implemented, including new security measures and building improvements, while various school-sponsored and community activities keep

the facilities active before and after school. Additionally, custodians are acknowledged for their efforts in managing these activities, and preparations for winter weather, including snow removal equipment and materials are in place.

## X. Superintendent Report

### X.A. District Dashboard

District dashboard is included in the Boardbook and did not change since last month.

### X.B. December 2024 Levy for the 2025-2026 School Year

Dr. Wise shared that the school district's health is improving due to the passage of the referendum in November of 2022. However, since the District had educational, operational, and facility needs which needed to be addressed first, the building of fund balance to state recommended levels will take a decade at current expense levels. He shared there was one tax objection. The total levy without bonds was \$17,412,300. He recommended approval at the end of the regular meeting.

### X.C. Review of Bond Rate

Dr. Wise shared that before the passage of the referendum, the community was ensured of a yearly bond rate review to see if it could be lowered. He stated that the District is not close to having 3-6 months cash on hand, so we are unable to lower the rate at this time.

### X.D. Proposal for Replacement of Elizabeth Ide Gym Floor

Dr. Wise explained that Elizabeth Ide's gym floor was not a part of the building's renovation and that it has not only started to worsen, but has become a safety issue. The price to finish the gym floor is approximately \$90,000. Also, the gym will be painted the broken lunch tables will be taken out.

### X.E. 5 Year Contract Agreement with CCEA for SY 2026-2030

Dr. Wise shared that Board President Raso, Board Vice President Liedtke, and Board Treasurer Wiley were instrumental in negotiating a 5-year contract with the Association. The Board commented that the negotiations were collaborative with the common goal of improving educational outcomes and experiences for students. A few highlights from the agreement were shared; more student instructional time at Prairieview and Elizabeth Ide Schools, an additional instructional day for students, an additional development day for teachers, the reduction of three half days, a more flexible approach to employee schedules, increased development for paraprofessionals, and a more competitive compensation package to attract and retain employees.

### X.F. 2025-2026 Calendar Update

Dr. Wise shared that the Calendar Committee met to share feedback on next year's calendar. He hopes to bring a recommendation to the Board for the January meeting.

### X.G. US News and World Report

Dr. Wise commended Prairieview and Lakeview students, employees, and parents for their partnership in earning those two schools recognition from US News and World Report.

X.H. First Reading of Policies - 2:120, 2:260, 2:265, 4:30, 4:150, 4:170, 4:350, 5:10, 5:20, 5:90, 5:100, 5:120, 5:125, 5:230, 6:135, 6:60, 6:270, 7:10, 7:20, 7:100, 7:180, 7:185, 7:200, 7:270, and 8:10

Dr. Wise shared updates pertaining to the revised policies, which will be reviewed again at the January meeting.

#### X.I. Board Conference Recap

Dr. Wise thanked all the Board for their commitment to growth and development by attending the Board Conference.

#### X.J. Illinois Vision 2030 Resolution

Dr. Wise shared updates on Vision 2030 which is a comprehensive effort developed by members of eight statewide education associations to create a framework of legislative goals and policy changes that would improve Illinois' public education system. Leading the charge from the eight statewide associations is the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) and the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA). The resolution of support specifically endorses Vision 2030's emphasis on keeping students safe; keeping high-quality educators in front of students; enhancing post-secondary success; and improving measurements of what is working well in schools.

#### XI. Public Comment

There was no public comment shared at the December 11th Board of Education meeting.

#### XII. Action items

XII.A. Approve the December 2024 Levy in the amounts of:

Educational: \$13,995,418

Operations and Maintenance: \$1,619,140

Transportation: \$958,619

Working Cash Fund: \$323,623

Municipal Retirement: \$209,419

Social Security: \$306,081

Motion to approve the December 2024 Levy in the amounts of Educational: \$13,995,418; Operations and Maintenance: \$1,619,140; Transportation: \$958,619; Working Cash Fund: \$323,623; Municipal Retirement: \$209,419; and Social Security: \$306,081. This motion, made by Christopher Esposito and seconded by Tiffany Watson, Passed.

Megan DuPass: Yea, Christopher Esposito: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Liane Raso: Yea, Donna Sobotka: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XII.B. Approve the Proposal for replacement of Elizabeth Ide's Gym Floor for the amount of \$90,676.48.

Motion to approve the proposal for replacement of Elizabeth Ide's Gym floor for the amount of \$90,676.48. This motion, made by Doug Wiley and seconded by Megan DuPass, Passed.  
Megan DuPass: Yea, Christopher Esposito: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Liane Raso: Yea, Donna Sobotka: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XII.C. Approve the Illinois Vision 2030 Resolution

Motion to approve the Illinois Vision 2030 Resolution. This motion, made by Brian Liedtke and seconded by Megan DuPass, Passed.

Megan DuPass: Yea, Christopher Esposito: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Liane Raso: Yea, Donna Sobotka: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XII.D. Motion to Enter Executive Session

Motion to Enter Executive Session. This motion, made by Christopher Esposito and seconded by Brian Liedtke, Passed.

Megan DuPass: Yea, Christopher Esposito: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Liane Raso: Yea, Donna Sobotka: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XIII. Executive Session - Enter Executive Session to discuss student discipline, the appointment, employment, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity, and/or litigation 5ILCS120/2(c)(1) or collective negotiating matters or deliberations concerning safety schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5ILCS120/2(c)(3)

XIII.A. Motion to Re-Enter Open Session

Motion to Re-enter Open Session. This motion, made by Christopher Esposito and seconded by Megan DuPass, Passed.

Megan DuPass: Yea, Christopher Esposito: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Liane Raso: Yea, Donna Sobotka: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XIV. Action Items (cont.)

XIV.A. Approve 5 year Contract Agreement with CCEA for SY 2026-2030

Motion to approve the 5-year Contract Agreement with CCEA for SY 2026-2030. This motion, made by Doug Wiley and seconded by Donna Sobotka, Passed.

Megan DuPass: Yea, Christopher Esposito: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Liane Raso: Yea, Donna Sobotka: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XV. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn. This motion, made by Christopher Esposito and seconded by Tiffany Watson, Passed.

Megan DuPass: Yea, Christopher Esposito: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Liane Raso: Yea, Donna Sobotka: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

The December 11, 2024 BOE meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria Gannon

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President, Board of Education

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Secretary, Board of Education