



**LINCOLNWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 74
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 7:30 PM**

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Kevin Daly, President
Peter D. Theodore, Vice President
John P. Vranas, Secretary
Myra A. Foutris
Ted Kwon
Jay Oleniczak
Rupal Shah Mandal

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, May 1, 2025.***

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

President Daly called the May 1, 2025 Board of Education meeting to order to 7:30 p.m., roll call was taken and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>MEMBER NOT PRESENT</u>
Kevin Daly Myra A. Foutris Ted Kwon Rupal Shah Mandal Peter D. Theodore John P. Vranas	Jay Oleniczak

<u>ADMINISTRATORS/STAFF PRESENT</u>		
Dr. David L. Russo Dr. Dominick M. Lupo Courtney Whited Mark Atkinson	Chris Harmon Aliaa Ibrahim Jennifer Ruttkay Erin Curry	Jordan Stephen Joseph Segreti Renee Tolnai

OTHERS PRESENT

Elissa B. Rosenberg
Mihra Seta

2. DISTRICT RECOGNITION

- a. Lincolnwood SD74 Student Art Exhibit on display from May 1 through May 28, 2025 at the Lincolnwood Village Hall located at 6900 Lincoln Ave, Lincolnwood, IL. The District is honored to celebrate and showcase the creativity and dedication to the Visual Arts of Lincoln Hall, Rutledge Hall, and Todd Hall students. This event is free and open to families. A special reception honoring the students and art teachers took place this evening from 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- b. *Lincoln Hall Spring Musical* - Under the direction of Ms. Hayley Reynolds, the students at Rutledge and Lincoln Halls are preparing to transform Lincoln Hall's auditorium into the magical Land of Oz as they present *The Wizard of Oz: Youth Edition!* During this year's musical, the cast of 5th-8th grade students will take the audience down the yellow brick road to the Emerald City, all created by our students and art department, as they share Dorothy's adventures that lead her to the realization that there is no place like home. Lincolnwood will be able to enjoy this production the night of May 16, 2025 and during the afternoon and evening on May 17, 2025.

Kindergarten teacher Hayley Reynolds, the Director and choreographer, along with student performers for the Spring Musical gave the Board of Education a sneak peek of the upcoming performances.

3. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - **APRIL 3, 2025**
- b. Regular Board Meeting - Closed Session Minutes - **APRIL 3, 2025**

It was moved by Secretary Vranas and seconded by Vice President Theodore that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approve the Regular and Closed Session minutes from the April 3, 2025 Board of Education meeting.

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

5. DISTRICT RECOGNITION: Dr. David L. Russo, Superintendent of Schools

- a. Honoring Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education Retirees:

- Kevin Daly
- Rupal Shah Mandal

On behalf of the Lincolnwood Learning Community Superintendent Russo said good-bye to President Kevin Daly after thirteen years on the Board and Member Rupal Shah Mandal after nine years.

6. BOARD WILL ADJOURN SINE DIE FOR THE PURPOSE OF RE-ORGANIZATION

It was moved by Secretary Vranas and seconded by Member Shah Mandal that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education adjourn into Sine Die for the purpose of Board of Education re-organization.

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

- a. Election of President Pro-Tem and Secretary Pro-Tem

It was moved by Member Vranas and seconded by Member Shah Mandal that Dr. David L. Russo be appointed as President Pro-Tem and Renee Tolnai be appointed Secretary Pro-Tem for the purpose of conducting the election of School Board President.

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

7. RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- a. Results of April 1, 2025 Election: Dr. David L. Russo, Superintendent of Schools

Results of April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election to Four-Year Term

Ted Kwon
Elissa B. Rosenberg
Mihra Seta
Peter D. Theodore

8. RECONVENE FOR THE PURPOSE OF RE-ORGANIZATION

- a. Oath of Office for Newly Elected and Continuing Board of Education Members

President Pro-Tem Russo lead the newly elected and continuing Board of Education members in the Oath of Office.

9. CALL TO ORDER: **Dr. David L. Russo, President Pro-Tem**

President Pro-Tem Russo called the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education meeting to order, and roll call was taken.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Myra A. Foutris
Ted Kwon
Elissa B. Rosenberg
Mihra Seta
Peter D. Theodore
John P. Vranas

MEMBER NOT PRESENT

Jay Oleniczak

10. RE-ORGANIZATION/OATH OF OFFICE: **Dr. David L. Russo, President Pro-Tem**

a. Length of the Term for Board Officers

The next item was to determine the length of the term of office for Board officers. The School Code sets the term of office at two years unless the Board chooses to make it one year.

It was moved by Member Vranas and seconded by Member Theodore that the Lincolnwood School District 74 term of office for Board officers be established for one year.

President Pro-Tem Russo submitted the motion to a voice vote and the motion passed. The term of office for Board officers was established for one year.

b. Nominations for and Election of Board President

President Pro-Tem Russo called for nominations for the office of PRESIDENT.

Member Foutris nominated Peter D. Theodore for PRESIDENT.

Member Kwon seconded.

Member Theodore was nominated for PRESIDENT. No further nominations were voiced, nominations were closed.

President Pro-Tem Russo submitted the motion to a voice vote and the motion passed. The Board elected Peter D. Theodore to the office of President.

The newly elected PRESIDENT immediately assumed the chair and conducted the election of other Board officers.

11. RE-ORGANIZATION CONTINUED: **Peter D. Theodore, President**

a. Nominations For and Election of Board Vice President and Secretary

President Theodore called for nominations for the office of VICE PRESIDENT.

Member Vranas nominated Myra A. Foutris for office of VICE PRESIDENT.

Member Kwon seconded.

Member Foutris was nominated for the office of Vice President. No further nominations were voiced, nominations were closed.

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

Myra A. Foutris as Vice President.

The newly elected Myra A. Foutris immediately assumed the position of Vice President.

President Theodore: Called for nominations for the office of SECRETARY.

Vice President Foutris nominated John P. Vranas for SECRETARY.

Member Seta seconded.

Member John P. Vranas was nominated for office of Secretary. No further nominations were voiced, nominations were closed.

President Theodore submitted the nomination to a voice vote and the motion passed. The Board elected John P. Vranas as Secretary.

The newly elected John P. Vranas immediately assumed the position of Secretary.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

a. EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

I. Personnel Report

II. New Employment

1. **Elana Dermer**, Pre-K Teacher, Todd Hall, effective August 25, 2025, Class 1, Level 6, \$64,170
2. **Theresa Hill**, Social Worker, Todd Hall & Rutledge Hall, effective August 25, 2025, Class 3, Level 3, \$69,498, qualifies for the ASWB LCSW Certification 15.11.2 of the LTA/CBA 2025-2029, \$5,000 yearly stipend.
3. **Andriana Evangelopoulos**, Speech Language Pathologist, Lincoln Hall & Rutledge Hall, effective August 25, 2025, Class 3, Level 4, \$70,999 - qualifies for the ASLHA Certification 15.11.2 of the LTA/CBA 2025-2029, \$5,000 yearly stipend
4. **Fatima Usman**, Bilingual Urdu Teacher, Rutledge Hall & Todd Hall, effective August 25, 2025, Class 1, Level 2, 58,060

III. Retirement

1. **James Caldwell**, Director of Buildings & Grounds, Administration Building, effective June 30, 2028

b. Consolidated District Plan 2025-2026

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the Board of Education approve the FY26 Consolidated District Plan.

c. District Shed Purchase and Installation

The Facilities Committee concurred with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve the installation of a Premier Pro Ranch garage with Tuff Shed Inc. or any other vendor that can provide this unit at a more competitive price in an amount not to exceed \$30,767.50 to be installed in Summer 2025.

d. Summer 2026 - Todd Hall Classroom Additions and Interior Renovations

The Facilities Committee concurred with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve Concept One for 2026 construction to accommodate NTDS, Pre-K expansion, as well as to incorporate Children's Care and Development Center into the future of the Village.

e. Annual Renewal of Director's Contracts

- I. Director of Buildings and Grounds, James Caldwell, Sr.

f. Palo Alto Support Contract Extension for 2025-2026

The Finance Committee members in attendance stated their support of the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve this SHI International Corp. quote for the purchase of one-year of support and services in the amount of \$15,429 from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

It was moved by Secretary Vranas 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, Theodore, Vranas, Seta, Kwon, Rosenberg

Nays: None

Absent: Oleniczak

Motion passed.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

14. NEW BUSINESS

None

15. COMMUNICATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS

a. NTDSE/District 807: **John P. Vranas**

The NTDSE Governing Board last met on April 24, 2025. Besides regular business, the following items would be of interest to our Board:

- We heard a presentation on the extensive work done by the Speech and Language Pathologists.
- The Executive Director provided a staffing update for the 2025-2026 school year. Enrollment at Molloy increased 11% year over year and we will need to add four classrooms. Enrollment at the Satellite locations increased 10%. This will require an increase of 28 staff members, including seven teachers, 12 paraprofessionals and eight related services staff.
- The renovation of Pod 5 will start after the end of the Extended School Year at Molloy.

We were thrilled to hear that TEN SD74 staff members were recognized as a "Friend of NTDSE this past month:

- Ms Azernoosh adapted PE activities for a couple of gen ed students. She comes up with solutions of her own to make PE accessible to our NTDSE students as well.
- Mr Dinkha, showing compassion and understanding for NTDSE students while having high academic expectations.
- Mr Dupriest goes out of his way to modify materials, so no student is left behind, learning equally along with their peers.
- Ms Durakovic demonstrates an admirable ability to speak to NTDSE students with the same respect and enthusiasm that she shows to their peers, enhancing the learning experience for our students.
- Mr Edman's positive advocacy for our students and his commitment to integration and socialization have made a significant impact, allowing all kids to explore STEM for the first time.
- Ms Kovacs's dedication to including our students in the gen ed art classes, building rapport and engaging with each student creating an inclusive and supportive environment.
- Mr Kuchuris brings passion to his job, celebrating our students' growth, involvement and ownership of their STEM work. He has learned sign language to ensure that he is able to communicate with one of our students!
- Ms Maldonado presumes competence in our students, helping them find books that excite them. Accommodating diverse forms of communications comes second nature to her.

- Ms McAdams’s willingness to go above and beyond is evident as she builds rapport with each NTDSE student, treating them as she would any other child in her classroom, contributing to the vibrant community at Todd Hall.
- Ms Schreck went above and beyond expectations to provide assistance to a student who was not yet comfortable wearing hearing aids, making a significant impact on this student.

The next meeting is on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the NTDSE Administrative Center

b. IASB (Illinois Association of School Boards): **Jay Oleniczak/Myra A. Foutris**

No report.

c. Finance Committee: **Peter D. Theodore/Jay Oleniczak**

The Finance Committee last met on April 17, 2025.

The Committee sent one item to the Consent Agenda:

1. Palo Alto Support Contract Extension for 2025-2026

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

d. Facilities Committee: **John P. Vranas**

The Facilities Committee last met on April 15, 2025.

- StudioGC presented three concepts for discussions relative to the future of Todd Hall.
- The Facilities Committee concurred with the Administration’s recommendation to the Board of Education to approve Concept One for 2026 construction to accommodate NTDSE, Pre-K expansion, as well as to incorporate CCDC into the future of the Village and the installation of a Premier Pro Ranch garage at Lincoln Hall.
- The Committee would like to relocate the pennants within Lincoln Hall and replace the pennant wall with “Welcome to Lincoln Hall: Home of the Jaguars”
- The Committee agreed that the current Rutledge Hall map should be taken down and a new concept with a geographic theme be developed and presented at a future Committee meeting.

The next Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. The public is welcome.

e. Policy Committee: **Myra A. Foutris**

The Policy Committee last met on Friday, November 15, 2024. The April Policy Committee meeting was cancelled due to a light agenda.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 23, 2025 at 8:30am in the Administration Building. The public is welcome.

f. President’s Report: **Peter Theodore**

i. Preliminary Committee Appointments

Newly-elected President Theodore will confer with the Board members to determine Committee appointments which will be added to the scheduled June 5, 2025 Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education meeting agenda.

Delegate/Chair Alternate/Co-chair

District 807/NTDSE: _____

IASB Representative: _____

Facilities Committee: _____

Finance Committee: _____

Policy Committee: _____

16. 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): **Stacey Johnson (President)**

No report.

17. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

I. John Cahill Community Service Scholarship Recipients

Niles West Students - Class of 2025: Saniya K., Benjamin K., Lorelai M., Jonathan N., Kira O.

At an event last month, we welcomed back the Lincoln Hall Class of 2021 for a reunion. The District also recognized this year's recipients of the John Cahill Scholarship. There were 21 applicants this year. Each of them had a compelling story to tell about the impact growing up in Lincolnwood has had on their lives and what future aspirations are in store for their education. With a generous donation from PALS, we were able to award five, \$1,000 scholarships. He also thanked the 14 community members who anonymously reviewed and ranked the applicants. This year's recipients are: Kira O., Jonathan N., Seniya K., Lorelei M., and Benjamin K. Congratulations to all the applicants on their impending high school graduation!

II. District Updates

- Before the meeting, the public was invited to an outstanding display of students' talent in the visual arts. Superintendent Russo was impressed not only with the quality of the artwork from all grade levels, but also all the different media students used to create their masterpieces. Thank you to our Art Department...Mrs. Kovacs, Mrs. Weilgosz, and Mrs. Yanchuk along with all our talented artists.
- Good luck to the cast of the *Wizard of Oz* as you walk down the yellow brick road! Audiences have a great deal to be excited about. There has been a huge amount of effort into preparing for opening night on May 16, 2025. There are directions on the District's website for how to purchase any remaining tickets. Those are on sale through May 9, 2025.
- The District is on the verge of celebrating an extremely special milestone in the calendar next week, Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week. Every adult in our organization plays a vital role in serving as a role model to students and providing the highest quality educational experience possible. Through your creativity, compassion, and tireless efforts, you inspire a love of learning and empower our students to reach their full potential. Thank you for the countless hours you invest in preparing instruction, building relationships, and fostering a positive learning environment. We are incredibly grateful for all that you do. A thank you as well to all those who contributed to providing gifts, purchasing treats, and making visible reminders for how important our teachers and staff are to this community. The PALS organizing committee has put forth a huge amount of effort not only raising funds for the celebration earlier this year but also generating activities each day centered around the theme of Hollywood.
- Please don't forget to register your child or children for the 2025-2026 school year. There is a **\$20.00 Early Registration Incentive** in the form of a lunch credit given to each K-8 student who is completely re-registered by May 9, 2025, with full payment submitted. Re-registration must be complete, meaning all required paperwork has been submitted and approved, along with full fee payment. There will be a **\$25.00 Late Registration Fee** applied to the account for **each student** beginning August 1, 2025. Currently, there are 487 total registrations in some state of completion. Of the 374 re-registrations, 192 are approved and finalized. There have been 43 new registrations. Please keep in mind that this figure includes Pre-K, kindergarten, and students new to the District at all other grade levels.

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

I. Curriculum Department Updates

- Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction Lupo welcomed the new Board members. The Administrative team is excited to work with the group in their new roles.

- SD74 Summer Adventures registration closes on May 2, 2025.
- Planning is underway for the initial K-5 Literacy professional development.
- The final MAP Assessment test is forthcoming, please watch for District communications.

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

I. Finance Report - **FEBRUARY 2025**

Courtney Whited, Business Manager/CSBO presented the February 2025 Finance Report.

II. Bills Payable in the Amount of \$1,215,430.58.

Bills reviewed this month by: John P. Vranas and Jay Oleniczak

It was moved by Secretary Vranas and seconded by President Theodore that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approve invoices and bills in the amount of \$1,215,430.58.

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Oleniczak

Motion passed.

18. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

None

19. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Secretary Vranas and seconded by President Theodore 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 8:14 p.m.

Peter D. Theodore, President

John P. Vranas, Secretary