



ANTIOCH COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 34

INSPIRE TO DREAM - EMPOWER TO ACHIEVE

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026 – 6:30 P.M.

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Antioch School District 34 was held on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at Antioch Upper Grade School at 800 Highview Dr., Antioch, Illinois, in said District. President Hulting called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following members were present: Members Baronello, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski
Absent: Member Beall

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Ruminski moved to approve the agenda as presented. Member Karner seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 5. Nay - None. | Motion carried

BOARD RECOGNITIONS

- A. Coordinator of Student Services, McKenna Gomez presented the Mary Kay McNeill Early Learning Turtley Awesome Students
- B. Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Anita Hernandez, presented Oakland Elementary Recognitions for Sportsmanship
- C. AUGS Instructional Coach, Tonya Mitchell, presented the D34 Published Poets
- D. AUGS Choir teacher, Cindy Blachowski, presented Antioch Upper Grade Solo & Ensemble Perfect Scores
- E. AUGS Principal Joe Koeune presented the Antioch Upper Grade Social Studies and Fine Art Teachers recognition for their work in integrating lessons to provide authentic learning experiences.
- F. Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Anita Hernandez, presented the February Teacher Institute Day Recognitions for staff who presented at the February Professional Development In-service day
- G. Lori Bednar Board Spotlight Award
 - a. Oakland Speech and Language Pathologist teacher Jacklyn Durnil, Oakland Special Education Teacher, Kay Batchelder, and Board Member Mary Beth Hulting recognized the Lori Bednar Spotlight award recipient for 2025-26, Elaine Johnson, Oakland Elementary School Speech and Language Pathologist Teacher.

CLOSED SESSION

Member Ruminski moved to enter a closed session at 7:09 pm for the following reasons per the Open Meetings Act:

- 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



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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. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

- B. Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
- C. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)
- D. Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).

Member Karner seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 5. Nay - None. | Motion carried

President Hulting announced that action will be taken once open session reconvenes.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Member Karner called the open session to order at 7:50 PM. Member Ruminski seconded.

Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 5. Nay - None. | Motion carried

AGENDA AMENDMENT

Member Ruminski motioned to change the order of the agenda to move action items 13 A and B to be considered prior to the Superintendent's report and to table action item 13 H to a later date. Member Baronello seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 5. Nay - None. | Motion carried

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE: ACTION ITEMS

A. Appointment of New Board Member

The Board of Education would like to formally appoint Kyle Buak to fill the vacant seat on the Antioch CCSD 34 Board of Education, effective immediately, to serve the remainder of the term vacated by Lori Linck, ending in 2027.

Member Ruminski seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 5. Nay - None. | Motion carried



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B. New Board Member Oath of Office

New member Kyle Buak took the oath of office for the Antioch CCSD 34 Board of Education.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Aron Borowiak, Superintendent, reported 1 FOIA request since the last regular board meeting. As of today, 1 request has been completed.

He also reported on the following:

Early Learning Center

- Our preschool classrooms have been diving into the Creative Curriculum study, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! Through high-energy, hands-on activities and vibrant discussions, students learned simple, impactful ways they can help care for the Earth. Teachers are incorporating lively sorting games, art projects using recycled materials, and meaningful conversations about how everyday items can be reused instead of thrown away. Our youngest learners are practicing identifying materials such as paper, plastic, and metal while discovering why recycling is so important. This engaging unit is building early environmental awareness while strengthening vital problem-solving, language, and collaboration skills!
- Furthermore, students are exploring the important role that worms and decomposition play in helping the Earth. Through hands-on investigations, students are learning how worms break down food scraps and other natural materials, turning them into nutrient-rich soil that helps plants grow. Classrooms have been observing worms closely, discussing what happens to items like fruit peels and leaves over time, and discovering how decomposing materials return to the soil instead of going into the trash. This study is sparking a wonderful curiosity about nature and the environment!

Hillcrest

- At Hillcrest, Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students put their creativity to work by making spectacular banners to cheer on our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders as they begin the Illinois Assessment of Readiness! It was a phenomenal example of our building coming together as a team to support one another. The banners celebrate the hard work and learning happening across all grade levels and encourage our students to take ownership of their learning and show off everything they know!
- Over the past month, Hillcrest families had several wonderful opportunities to experience the creativity happening in our school through music concerts and STEM Night. Second grade presented Sing, Give, Grow!, inspired by The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein, while first grade brought amazing energy to the stage with their Punk Farm themed concert. STEM Night was also a massive success, giving families the opportunity to explore hands-on stations where they built, experimented, and problem solved together. A huge thank you goes to Mrs. Smith, Mr. Ness, Mrs. Schott, and all the volunteers for their dedication to creating these engaging experiences!

Oakland



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- This March, Oakland is transforming reading into a competitive sport with the first annual Book March Madness Tournament! Designed to mirror the excitement of the national basketball tournament, this initiative pits 16 beloved picture books against one another in a bracket style showdown. Students are engaging in read alouds, participating in scouting discussions about plot and character, and casting their votes to see which book advances. The winner will be crowned tomorrow! Thank you to Mrs. Caruso and Mrs. Guevara for spearheading this brilliant idea!
- Our Battle of the Books final teams battled it out on Wednesday, March 4th, to see who would come out victorious! Team O took the Championship after some very hard fought battles. All of our students did an amazing job reading the selections and working together as a team. Thank you to Mrs. Henning and Mrs. Latuszek for sponsoring Oakland's Battle of the Books!

Petty

- Blair Z., a talented 5th grade student from W.C. Petty, participated in the Pi Day competition at AUGS during her advanced math class. During the event, she impressed everyone by reciting 112 digits of pi from memory! It was a great opportunity for Blair to challenge herself and share her passion for mathematics. Mrs. Struss's class was thrilled to celebrate with her upon her return to Petty!
- In Mrs. Niemi's class, students worked collaboratively to deepen their understanding of goods and services. The lesson was co taught by Mrs. Niemi and Dr. Kip Keckler, a senior specialist with Apple, Inc. Dr. Keckler supported students in using their iPads to enhance the lesson while Mrs. Niemi guided their learning of economic concepts. Students worked together to explore the content while simultaneously strengthening their technology skills!

AUGS

- Regional Geography Bee | Several AUGS students proudly represented our school at the Regional Geography Bee hosted at Daniel Wright Junior High. A special congratulations goes to Alex Lukowski, who advanced to the final round and finished 8th overall in the 8th-grade division! This earned Alex a qualification for the National Competition, which is an outstanding accomplishment!
- We also want to recognize Lynkin Lynch and Aiden Nelson for their strong performances and their willingness to challenge themselves. Students answered a wide range of geography questions covering countries, U.S. states, major cities, oceans, and world flags. We are so proud of these students for representing AUGS so well and continuing to Level Up their learning!
- Our 6th-grade social science students have been diving deep into the rich history of Ancient China! They are exploring fascinating culture, groundbreaking achievements, and the powerful dynasties that shaped one of the world's oldest civilizations. To bring their learning to life, students connected their studies to an art class where they created incredible dragon masterpieces! In Chinese culture, dragons symbolize power, wisdom, and strength, and each student designed a unique dragon blending creativity with historical understanding. We love seeing this cross-curricular learning in action!

District:

- D34 WEEK
 - Congratulations to Oakland Elementary School, for once again winning the D34 Week Spirit Award!
 - During D34 Week we collected over 2612 (1700 last year) items for the food drive at Open Arms Mission Food Drive Congratulations, Antioch Upper Grade School, winner of the D34 Day Community



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Service Award! | AUGS collected the most items during our district-wide food drive - 1,772 items! All donations will go to Open Arms Mission to support local families in need. Total - 2,612 items

- 5 Essentials

03/13/2026	School	Student Response Rate	Teacher Response Rate	Parent Response Rate
	Threshold	50%	50%	20%
	Overall	91%	91%	25%
	AUGS	93%	91%	25%
	HILLCREST	90%	87%	23%
	ELC	0%	95%	28%
	OAK	94%	97%	28%
	PETTY	77%	89%	24%

Job Openings for 25-26

- AUGS:
 - Secretary
 - Paraprofessionals
 - Long Term Subs (Math)
- Elementary
 - Paraprofessionals
- OTC
 - Bus Monitor
- District
 - Receptionist

Job Openings for 26-27

- ELC
 - Teacher
- Elementary
 - Principal
 - Assistant Principal
 - Classroom teachers
- AUGS
 - Special Education Resource
 - PLTW

Upcoming Events

- March 23-27 | Spring Break
- March 31 | Spring Showcase - AUGS: 6-7
- April 3 | Board Holiday - No School
- April 6 | Spring Showcase - MKM-ELC: 5-6



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- April 7 | Spring Showcase - K-2: 6-7
- April 9 | Spring Showcase - 3-5: 6-7
- April 21 | Facilities and Regular Board Meeting

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- A. Annual Staffing Update for 2026-27
 - a. Amy Mahr proposed the staffing plan for the 2026-27 school year.
 - b. Superintendent Borowiak presented Policy 7:100 for First Reading.
 - c. Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Treto-French, presented the proposed addition of a Service fee for credit card transactions.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Member Baronello discussed the Data Committee Meeting

DONATIONS

Frequently, we receive charitable donations in the form of monetary donations and gifts through various formats. We will inform the Board of Education of these donations to the best of our ability.



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March 19, 2026				
Company/Person Making Donations	Date Donated	Item (Description) Donated	Dollar Value	Beneficiary of Donation
Spring Valley Country Club	1/9/26	18-hole round of golf and cart for 2 (2 prizes)	\$110.00	D34 Day Donation Winners
Antioch Pizza	1/26/26	16" one topping coupons		D34 Day Donation Winners
Starbucks on 173	1/26/26	12 cups of various size (average \$20 per cup)	\$240.00	D34 Day Donation Winners
MZ's Spotless Cleaning	2/2/26	Gift Card	\$150.00	D34 Day Donation Winners
L.A. Tan Antioch	2/2/26	Large Gift Basket and \$50 gift card		D34 Day Donation Winners
Latte Cafe	2/3/26	Two Cups w/ free drink coupon inside		D34 Day Donation Winners
Salt Salon + Spa	2/13/26	Gift basket including hair products and \$25 gift card		D34 Day Donation Winners
129 Center Cut	2/23/26	Two Gift Cards	\$75.00	D34 Day Donation Winners
Coopers Hawk Gurnee	2/3/26	Lux Tasting for 4	\$65.00	D34 Day Donation Winners
The Lodge	2/13/26	Gift Card	\$20.00	D34 Day Donation Winners
Rivalry Alehouse	2/13/26	Gift Card	\$20.00	D34 Day Donation Winners
Fire Pitt	2/13/26	Gift Card	\$25.00	D34 Day Donation Winners
Modern Home Products	2/17/26	Grill Supplies Basket		D34 Day Donation Winners
WCP Boosters	2/17/26	Amazon Gift Card	\$50.00	D34 Day Donation Winners
Colony House	2/19/26	Gift Card	\$50.00	D34 Day Donation Winners
Lou Malnati's Grayslake Gurnee	2/23/26	Gift Card	\$25.00	D34 Day Donation Winners
Antioch Pizza	2/8/28	96 2-slice and drink coupons 88 12-inch pizza coupons	\$2,047.60	Student D34 Day Donation Winner
Culvers Antioch	1/26/26	Food Vouchers		Student D34 Day Donation Winner
Kenosha Kingfish	1/26/26	Stadium Box Seat Certificate	\$88.00	Student D34 Day Donation Winner
Bella's Bouncies	2/2/26	Gift Certificate	\$50.00	Student D34 Day Donation Winner
Boundless Adventures	2/2/26	(2) 3 hour general admission climbing pass	\$128.00	Student D34 Day Donation Winner



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Milwaukee Admirals	2/4/26	Voucher for 4 tickets	\$60.00	Student D34 Day Donation Winner
McDonald's Antioch	2/4/26	10 BOGO Coupons		Student D34 Day Donation Winner
Action Territory	2/5/26	Gift Certificate for family of 4		Student D34 Day Donation Winner
Chicago White Sox	2/12/26	4 Ticket Pass		Student D34 Day Donation Winner
Chicago Wolves	2/12/26	2, 2-Ticket Passes		Student D34 Day Donation Winner
Kane County Cougars	2/12/26	4 Ticket Pass	\$60.00	Student D34 Day Donation Winner
RecPlex	2/13/26	5 day pass certificate		Student D34 Day Donation Winner
Antioch Bowling Lanes	2/17/26	15 free game of bowling coupons	\$150.00	Student D34 Day Donation Winner
Just for Fun Roller Rink	2/17/26	3 skating party coupons for up to 10 people		Student D34 Day Donation Winner
Bertrand Lanes	2/17/26	Certificate for 4 people		Student D34 Day Donation Winner
Racine Zoo	2/17/26	Certificate Zoo Admission for 4 people		Student D34 Day Donation Winner
PML Theater	2/17/26	Two seats for one show in season 63		Student D34 Day Donation Winner
Antioch Uppergrade School	2/18/26	t-shirts, 10 wristbands, water bottles and pins		Student D34 Day Donation Winner
Lakes Eagles Booster Club	2/18/26	6 t-shirts, 1 sweatshirt, 1 hat, 1 bag, 1 fanny pack, 1 tote bag, 1 vehicle magnet		Student D34 Day Donation Winner
Hillcrest Elementary	2/19/26	2 Spiritwear T-shirt Vouchers (1 staff, 1 student)		Staff Member Hillcrest Student
Chicago Bears	2/23/26	8.5x11 print		Student D34 Day Donation Winner



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Antioch Public Library	2/24/26	books, key chains, stickers, pen, puzzle box, lego set		Student D34 Day Donation Winner
Bowlero	3/3/26	Bowling coupon 2 free hours for 2 guests		Student D34 Day Donation Winner
Sequoit Pride: ACHS Booster Club	3/3/26	3 t-shirts and water bottle		Student D34 Day Donation Winner
Rebecca Abel, community member	3/11/26	check	\$500.00	Drama Club

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE: CONSENT AGENDA

Member Karner motioned approval of the consent agenda as presented.

- A. Minutes
 - a. Minutes | Regular Meeting | February 17, 2026
 - b. Minutes | Regular Meeting | Closed Session | Session 1 | February 17, 2026
 - c. Minutes | Regular Meeting | Closed Session | Session 2 | February 17, 2026
 - d. Minutes | Special Meeting | March 10, 2026
 - e. Minutes | Special Meeting | Closed Session | March 10, 2026
- B. Financial Reports
 - a. Activity Fund Statement | February 2026
 - b. Bills | February 2026
 - c. Bills | March 2026
 - d. Payroll Report | February 2026
 - e. Treasurer's and Investment Report | February 2026
- C. Personnel Consent Agenda
 - a. New Hires/Appointments, Leave of Absence Requests, Resignations, Notification of Intent to Retire, and Discharge of Staff
 - b. Stipend Report
- D. Enrollment Report

Member Baronello seconded the approval of the consent agenda

Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Buak, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 6. Nay - None. | Motion carried

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE: ACTION ITEMS

C. AEEA Contract

- Member Karner moved to approve and adopt the three-year collective bargaining agreement with the Antioch Elementary Education Association for 2026-27 through 2028-29 school years as presented.
- Member Ruminski seconded the motion.



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- Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Buak, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 6. Nay - None. | Motion carried

D. Director of Student Services Contract

- Member Ruminski moved to approve McKenna Gomez as the Director of Student Services for the 26-27 school year.
- Member Baronello seconded the motion.
- Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Buak, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 6. Nay - None. | Motion carried

E. Coordinator of Student Services Contract

- Member Karner moved to approve Debora Johnson as the Coordinator of Student Services for the 26-27 school year.
- Member Ruminski seconded the motion.
- Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Buak, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 6. Nay - None. | Motion carried

F. 26-27 Administration Renewal

- Member Ruminski moved to approve the Administrator contract renewals for the 26-27 school year.
- Member Karner seconded the motion.
- Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Buak, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 6. Nay - None. | Motion carried

G. Resolution Authorizing the Reduction-in-Force of Licensed Teachers

- Member Henning moved to approve the Resolution for a Reduction in Force of licensed teachers.
- Member Karner seconded the motion.
- Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Buak, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 6. Nay - None. | Motion carried

H. Request to Rescind Retirement Letter

Item removed from agenda

I. United Way Kindergarten Countdown Camp

- Member Karner moved to approve the contract with United Way of Lake County for the summer 2026 Kindergarten Countdown Camp program.
- Member Baronello seconded the motion.



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- Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Buak, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 6. Nay - None. | Motion carried

J. AUGS ELA Pilot

- Member Ruminski moved to approve the purchase of pilot materials and associated supports for the Savvas myPerspectives and Carnegie Learning Lenses on Literature middle school ELA programs for use at Antioch Upper Grade School during the 2026–2027 school year, at a cost not to exceed \$3,550 for Savvas myPerspectives and \$4,500 for Carnegie Learning Lenses on Literature.
- Member Karner seconded the motion.
- Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Buak, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 6. Nay - None. | Motion carried.

K. Facilities | HVAC Upgrade at Oakland

- Member Henning moved to approve the contracting agreement with Siemens in the amount of \$1,794,219.43 for the proposed HVAC upgrade project at Oakland per MEP Recommendations and the mechanical service agreements in the amounts of \$8,256.00 for FY27, \$8,484.00 for FY28, and \$8,700.00 for FY29.
- Member Karner seconded the motion.
- Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 5. | Member Buak - Abstain | Nay - None. | Motion carried.

L. Contract Approval | The Northwestern Illinois Association Service Agreement for 2026-27

- Member Ruminski moved to approve the Service Agreement with the Northwestern Illinois Association (NIA) for the provision of specialized professional development and professional supervision for district-related service personnel for a not-to-exceed amount of \$2623.50
- Member Baronello seconded the motion.
- Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Buak, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 6. Nay - None. | Motion carried.

M. Proposal Approval | STARS and LINKS Curriculum 2026-27

- Member Karner moved to approve the proposal for the STAR Online and LINKS curriculum license renewals for the Structured Learning Programs, effective for the upcoming academic cycle, in the total amount of \$3,650.
- Member Baronello seconded the motion.
- Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Buak, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 6. Nay - None. | Motion carried.



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N. Credit Card Service Fee

- Member Ruminski moved to approve the implementation of a \$2 per transaction fee for credit/debit card payments effective July 1, 2026.
- Member Baronello seconded the motion.
- Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Buak, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 6. Nay - None. | Motion carried.

O. Activity Bus Purchase

- Member Karner moved to approve the purchase of a 14-Passenger Chevy Collins MFSAB activity bus with a five-year extended warranty through 2031, for a total amount not to exceed \$108,824.00.
- Member Henning seconded the motion.
- Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 5. | Member Buak - Abstain | Nay - None. | Motion carried.

P. Policy 7:100

- Member Ruminski moved to approve policy 7:100 as presented.
- Member Baronello seconded the motion.
- Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Buak, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 6. Nay - None. | Motion carried.

Q. Revised 2026-27 Board Calendar

- Member Karner moved to approve the 2026-27 Board Meeting Schedule, as presented.
- Member Karner moved to approve. Member Baronello seconded the motion.
- Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Buak, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 6. Nay - None. | Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Member Ruminski moved to enter a closed session at 8:49 pm for the following reasons per the Open Meetings Act:

- 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. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public



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and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

- B. Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
- C. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)
- D. Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).

Member Henning seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Buak, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 6. Nay - None. | Motion carried.

President Hulting announced that no action will be taken once they reconvene to open session.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Member Hulting called the open session to order at 9:05 PM. Member Ruminski seconded.

Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Buak, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 6. Nay - None. | Motion carried.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND MEETING SUMMARY

- April COW Facilities Meeting
- Lake County Sales Tax

ADJOURNMENT

Member Hulting motioned, and Member Ruminski seconded to adjourn at 9:19 PM.

Roll call vote: Members Baronello, Buak, Henning, Hulting, Karner, and Ruminski | Aye - 6. Nay - None. | Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth Hulting, President

Angela Baronello, Secretary