



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
SCHOOL DISTRICT 25, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
August 11, 2025**

Call to Order

President Rogers called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. on August 11 2025, in the Evergreen School Gymnasium, located at 1041 Evergreen Drive Carol Stream, Carol Stream IL 60188.

Roll Call

Board Recorder Solly Garcia took a roll call vote of the members present: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, Don Sutenbach, and Gina Vlantis.

Other attendees included Dr. Patrick McGill, Superintendent; Dr. Joel Filas, CSBO; Dr. Michael Fitzgerald, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching/Principal; Dr. Julie Salamone, Director of Student Services; Mrs. Sarah Smith, Evergreen Principal; Mrs. Allison Agres, Assistant Principal

Pledge of Allegiance

President Rogers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented. This motion, made by Vince Engstrom and seconded by Dennis Peterson, passed.

Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed

Approval of Draft Minutes (Roll Call Vote)

Approval of Draft Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on June 9, 2025

Motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on June 9, 2025. This motion, made by Dennis Peterson and seconded by Gina Vlantis, passed.

Voice Vote: Passed

Approval of Draft Minutes from the Special Board Meeting on July 14, 2025

Motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the Special Board Meeting on July 14, 2025. This motion, made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Bridgette Pedersen, passed.

Voice Vote: Passed

Presentations/Hearings

Preliminary Budget Presentation - During the hearing, Dr. Joel Filas reviewed the preliminary revenue and expenditure projections for FY26. As in previous years, revenue will be received primarily through local sources, with 91% (\$15,036,671) of the District's \$16,450,576 total projected revenues to be distributed through local property taxes. Total revenue for FY26 is projected to decrease by 36%, as the District received \$9 million through last year's working cash bond issue, which will not be obtained again this year. Preliminary expenditures are projected to reach \$21,743,745, driven primarily by capital expenditures related to the

Evergreen addition and the Evergreen and Benjamin classroom refresh and hallway reunification. In total, the District's preliminary projections estimate a total budget deficit of \$5.2 million, as the money received from the working cash bond issue within the last budget year will be utilized during this budget year. The budget is on display and will be available for review at the District Office until the Final Budget is adopted at the September 15th Board Meeting.

Reports

Learning and Teaching - Dr. Fitzgerald shared an update on teaching and learning, highlighting the curriculum resources for our science and English Language Arts (ELA) programs that will be rolled out across the district. He also previewed professional development plans for the 2025–2026 school year, with a focus on training in science, ELA, and added support for our English language learners.

In reviewing assessment results, Dr. Fitzgerald explained the state's shift in performance standards, from five categories to four: above proficient, proficient, approaching proficient, and below proficient.

He also reviewed the Mentoring Program, which will begin with a full-day new teacher orientation on August 18, 2025. This day will include opportunities to meet key staff members, receive training in technology and instructional coaching, and learn more about special education supports.

Operations Report - Dr. Filas reported on recent district projects, noting the completion of a six-classroom addition, classroom refresh, and hallway reunification at Evergreen Elementary School. At Benjamin Middle School, work included the completion of 12 classrooms, hallway reunification, and the installation of new student lockers. A tour of these completed spaces will be provided to Board members in September.

Technology Report - Dr. Filas commended Greg and his team for the successful installation of interactive panels in classrooms, a significant project completed while coordinating with construction schedules. He also recognized Vanessa for her professionalism, positive attitude, and coordination throughout the process, and acknowledged Greg's ongoing contributions to the district's technology initiatives.

Superintendent Report - Dr. McGill provided an update on the upcoming strategic planning process, which will include approximately 40–50 participants representing students, parents, staff, faculty, and Board members. The process will involve five key meetings:

- Virtual Orientation
- Data Retreat – focusing on a SWOT analysis
- Vision Retreat – defining the mission and the profile of a graduate and an educator
- Setting Direction Retreat – establishing key performance indicators
- Final Virtual Meeting

A core team of Board representatives, union representatives, and PTA leadership has been established to guide the work. The process is designed to produce a five-year strategic plan with specific action items and a scorecard dashboard for monitoring progress. The formal launch is scheduled for mid-September, with a completed recommendation to the Board expected by April. A public website will also be created to ensure transparency and provide opportunities for community feedback, with annual refinement of the plan thereafter.

Dr. McGill reported that one FOIA request was received from C.T. Mills, requesting all current contracts on file. The request was fulfilled within the required time frame.

He also announced several upcoming events: new faculty and staff orientation on August 18, 2025; Teacher Institute Day on August 25, 2025; and a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Evergreen on August 26, 2025, from 1:45 to 2:00 p.m., with Kona Ice provided by Arcon. In addition, Dr. McGill noted that he will hold informal meet-and-greet opportunities with families and community members during the district's curriculum nights.

SASED - Dr. McGill provided an update on preliminary discussions regarding SASED facilities management. The organization is considering options to either expand its current building or utilize additional properties it owns. These discussions remain in the early stages, and no decisions have been made; however, the eventual outcomes may have implications for the district's future planning.

Member Engstrom reported on the recent Board of Governors meeting, where a budget of \$41 million was approved. Updates on summer activities were also shared. This year, SASED consolidated its projects into a single facility, allowing administrators to focus more closely on individual programs and resulting in a positive experience for students. Given the strong attendance and success of this approach, the organization may continue this model next summer and explore the use of additional nearby facilities to support its programs.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

Consent Agenda: Items Removed

None

Consent Agenda (Roll Call)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. This motion, made by Vince Engstrom and seconded by Andrew Drinnin, passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis
Nays: None

Action Items (Roll Call Vote)

Approval of the Agreement with Soldwedel Consulting



Motion to approve the Agreement with Soldwedel Consulting, as presented. This motion, made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Dennis Peterson, passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis
Nays: None

Approval of the Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes and Audio Recordings

Motion to approve the Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes and Audio Recordings, as presented. This motion, made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Dennis Peterson, passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis
Nays: None

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

None.

Discussion Items

Communication To and From the Board: As a reminder, per Board of Education Policy 2:140, during the Board's regular meetings, the Superintendent will report for the Board's consideration all questions or communications submitted through the active electronic link, along with the status of the District's response.

Board Agreements 2nd Draft - Dr. McGill reviewed the second draft of the Board Agreements, which have been shared with members for review. The agreements are intended to clarify interactions among board members, as well as between the board, the superintendent, and the district. They establish informal norms that set clear expectations and help minimize surprises. The board remains open to further discussion and suggestions for adjustments. The goal is to approve the agreements at the September Board Meeting and establish an annual review process to ensure they remain current and relevant.

Adjournment (Voice Vote)

Motion to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting at 7:47 p.m. This motion, made by Vince Engstrom and seconded by Gina Vlantis, passed.

Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed

Respectfully submitted by:
Solly Garcia, Board Recorder

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

Recorded: August 11, 2025
Approved: September 15, 2025