

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 5, 2025 6:30 PM
Central

Lakeview Junior High School
701 Plainfield Road
Downers Grove, IL 60516

Steve Dlugo: Present
Megan DuPass: Present
Brian Liedtke: Present
Adam Sage: Present
Darren Spiegel: Present
Tiffany Watson: Absent
Doug Wiley: Present

Present: 6, Absent: 1.

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 Brian Liedtke.

II. Pledge

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President Brian Liedtke.

III. Recognition of Visitors

In-person visitors included Jason McGriff-Culver, Mia Culver, Mary Meyer, Jaxon Culver, Dylan Spiegel, Jamie Liedtke, Autumn Liedtke, Ava Sage, Austin Sage, Jessica Sage, Theresa Strong, Tracy Spakausky, Kyle Hendrickson, Director Tiede, Dr. Liles, Dr. Rhoads, Director Roberts, Principal Pagel, Principal Little, Vice-Principal Fitzgerald, and Jennifer Maas. Online attendees included Nikki Giancola-Shanks, Erika Myers, Heather Tran, Liz Uribe, Beth Nyhlen, Linda Sage, Sheri Sulima, Hyuna Kim, Kari Gemmell, Joy DeFors, Jessica Rost, Annie Diver, Tracey Cushing, Victor Sage, Len Clair, Jennifer South, Kristin Platt and Meghan Aleo.

IV. Scheduled Time to Address the Board

There were no scheduled speakers at the November 5, 2025 Board of Education meeting.

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 the Hire of Holly Janotta, Kindergarten Maternity Leave, Elizabeth Ide

V.D.2. Approve the Hire of Anjali Glowacz, Paraprofessional, Prairieview

V.D.3. Approve Resignation of Jacquie Caniano, Paraprofessional, Prairieview

V.D.4. Approve the Resignation of Joe Fraticola, District Bus Driver

V.D.5. Approve the Pitney Bowes Lease Agreement for Postage Equipment

VI. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Steve Dlugo and seconded by Adam Sage, Passed.

Tiffany Watson: Absent, Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Darren Spiegel: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

VII. Communication

VII.A. Washington D.C. Trip - Autumn Liedtke and Ava Sage

The Board heard a presentation from Autumn Liedtke and Ava Sage about their experiences on the Washington D.C. trip. Sincere thanks were expressed to Jennifer Maass for organizing and chaperoning, as well as to Annie Diver, Teagan Halik, Yulissa Zagal, Will Kettelkamp, Ali Beseth, and Mallory Shealy for their support.

VII.B. Lakeview Boys Baseball Team - Jaxon Culver and Dylan Spiegel

Jaxon Culver and Dylan Spiegel, representing Lakeview's Baseball Team, shared their individual as well as their team's success. Also, both boys received the IESA sportsmanship awards! Jaxon received the IESA Regional Sportsmanship award and Dylan received the IESA Sectional Sportsmanship award. Both students expressed their appreciation and gratitude to their coaches.

VII.C. Prairieview Food Drive - Theresa Strong and Tracy Spakauskys

Prairieview teachers, Theresa Strong and Tracy Spakauskys shared some insight on the Prairieview SEL/Sunshine Committee. They plan and organize lessons around cultural awareness for staff to use with their students. They are currently collecting items for the Prairieview Food Pantry Drive starting November 12 through the 21st.

VII.D. SY24-25 Audit - Kyle Hendrickson, Gorenz & Associates

Kyle Hendrickson from Gorenz and Associates presented the audit. The District received a clean opinion with no findings. Mr. Hendrickson also shared that as a result of the District's financial stewardship, the District's financial profile score has improved each of the last three years. Dr. Wise thanked the Board for their commitment to restore financial health, as well as office staff for their hard work and keeping and producing accurate data.

VII.E. Walk Zone Presentation - Director Tiede

Director Tiede presented conceptual drawings of walk zones for Prairieview and Lakeview. Walk Zones are areas within walking distance to school in which schools do not provide school bus transportation. The information shared was in response to recent and projected bus driver retirements with no applicants to fill the positions. Simply put, the District does not have enough bus drivers to pick up all students, and something has to change in the very near future to avoid significant delays and route changes. While no vote was taken, there was a sentiment to explore all options first, before implementing walk zones. Board members are asking if anyone is interested in driving a school bus, to please contact Transportation Director Tiede.

VII.F. Skyward Presentation

Skyward was selected in 2022 as the all-in-one system, which handled the District's academic, student, personnel, and financial needs. The implementation of each piece was successful, except the very last, which was the Standards Gradebook. The Admin Team shared that although the Standards Gradebook component provided to the District was not programmed as asked, the District has corrected errors and the system is functioning. Dr. Liles shared that she will meet with Lakeview students in their classrooms this week and next week to ensure they have a grasp of the feedback system provided in the handbook. Dr. Liles will be sending home the presentation to parents next week so they can reinforce the practices with parents.

VIII. Principal Reports

VIII.A. Elizabeth Ide Elementary

Elizabeth Ide Principals Gilmartin and Pagel reported that the K-2 teachers are enhancing reading and writing skills through a structured literacy approach that emphasizes phonemic awareness and decoding fluency, with regular assessments guiding instruction. Students engage in small group stations for targeted support or enrichment, leading to noticeable growth in confidence and skill application in reading and writing. At Elizabeth Ide, students are growing both academically and socially-emotionally through SEL lessons and the Lion Pride! expectations, with rewards like Pride Bucks and celebrations fostering a positive school culture. The school also hosted engaging events like a science assembly and a band concert, supported by strong teamwork among staff to help students develop empathy, emotional regulation, and self-control. Elizabeth Ide School remains a warm and student-centered environment as it prepares for the second trimester, with flexible seating and calm corners enhancing learning spaces. Recent fall events and upcoming Veterans Day Assembly foster community spirit, while staff continue to improve safety routines, ensuring a positive, supportive atmosphere where students feel valued and families are encouraged to participate.

VIII.B. Prairieview Elementary

Prairieview continues to strengthen its focus on academic growth and competency-based education by providing meaningful feedback and involving students and parents in goal setting. Staff are actively analyzing achievement data to support individual student success, close achievement gaps, and implement targeted Tier 1 interventions through ongoing collaboration. Fifth graders enjoyed a visit to Lakeview Junior High, and students are actively engaged in goal-setting and self-assessment to foster academic ownership and growth. Additionally, Prairieview promotes kindness, empathy, and inclusion through student-led presentations and participation in Unity Day, emphasizing the development of confident, compassionate learners. Team 66 hosted a festive Trunk or Treat and Halloween celebrations, creating a fun and safe community event supported by dedicated parent volunteers. Additionally, the school celebrated Bus Driver Appreciation Day, highlighting the important role bus drivers play in making Center Cass a welcoming and special environment for students.

VIII.C. Lakeview Junior High

Lakeview teachers foster creativity through activities like 7th graders sharing their Spooky Stories with 5th graders, supporting both leadership development and the upcoming transition for Prairieview students. The event was made possible by dedicated teachers who organized and adapted schedules to create a meaningful, engaging experience for all students. Lakeview has launched Principal Advisory Councils for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, giving interested students a platform to share ideas and promote positive change. This initiative reflects the school's commitment to empowering students as leaders and fostering a sense of belonging within the school community. Lakeview's ACE classes promote camaraderie, leadership, and a strong sense of belonging among students across grade levels, fostering a positive learning environment. The recent ACE assembly energized students with school spirit, peer speeches, and friendly competition, highlighting their enthusiasm and pride in being part of the Lakeview community.

IX. Director Reports

IX.A. Director of Student Services

District 66 is actively enhancing inclusive and equitable teaching by collaborating with SASSED's support teams to improve instructional practices and student learning environments. These efforts demonstrate the district's commitment to providing responsive, student-centered support that promotes equity, belonging, and high expectations for all learners. District 66's Preschool for All program at Elizabeth Ide Elementary has earned the Gold Circle of Quality recognition from the Illinois State Board of Education, reflecting its excellence in instruction, family partnerships, and staff qualifications. This achievement results from a thorough evaluation process and recognizes the dedicated efforts of many staff members committed to providing high-quality early learning experiences. On October 22, 2025, the District's Student Services Parent Advisory Council hosted a family engagement evening at Elizabeth Ide Elementary, offering parents and guardians of students receiving IEP or 504 support a chance to connect, share ideas, and build relationships. Participants appreciated the welcoming environment and opportunities for collaboration, with more PAC events planned throughout the school year to foster ongoing communication and family partnership.

IX.B. Director of Learning

Dr. Liles sincerely appreciates Mrs. Amy Burrows for securing a Team 66 Grant last spring, and thanked Team 66 for funding the new greenhouse project. The greenhouse, assembled last week, will provide GATE students with valuable hands-on learning opportunities as they transfer their seedlings and engage in innovative projects. After collecting fall benchmark data, each school has reviewed the data to identify students needing intervention, and intervention groups are now in progress across all buildings. Staff are actively using this data to guide instruction and facilitate meaningful collaboration with Grade-Level Teams and administrators to improve student outcomes. On October 31, the district held a School Improvement Day focusing on professional development, covering topics such as school safety, equity initiatives, progress monitoring, and CBE implementation. Upcoming Institute Day on November 10 will include district updates, AI-focused training, executive functioning

strategies, and collaborative sessions to refine assessment practices and lesson alignment across all schools.

IX.C. Director of Technology

This month, the technology department has prioritized strengthening our data and grading systems to better support teaching and learning district-wide. Prairieview staff received training on the new standards-based, competency-based gradebook, a significant step toward aligning assessments with learning goals and improving communication of student progress. At Lakeview, efforts to refine the standards gradebook are ongoing, focusing on enhancing its structure and reporting to accurately reflect student mastery and support meaningful feedback. Additionally, they are reviewing department operations and responsibilities to improve efficiency, with the new Data and Systems Specialist position expected to streamline processes and strengthen data management. As the department approaches December, preparations are underway for next year's Skyward setup, ensuring key systems like course structures, grading, and reporting are aligned for a smooth transition into the 2026-27 school year.

IX.D. Director of Transportation/Buildings and Grounds

The district is quickly moving from the start-up phase into planning for summer improvements, focusing on enhancing parking, traffic flow, and safety at PV/LV campuses, with an update expected at the December board meeting. Additionally, the board is being asked to approve the bid process for reroofing remaining sections at Lakeview in summer 2026, utilizing a cost-effective retrofit approach to extend the roof's life with a 30-year warranty. Smaller-scale plans are also underway to upgrade Gym1 at Lakeview, including new flooring, lighting, A/V systems, and a possible new scoreboard, with detailed costs and plans to be presented in December. During National School Bus Safety Week, drivers received refresher training, and the week was celebrated with appreciation events and tokens from students, staff, and parents. At the meeting, discussions explored the potential implementation of a "walk zone" to address ongoing challenges in recruiting and retaining bus drivers, which remains a nationwide issue despite increased pay and efforts to recruit staff. Recognizing the possibility of a future driver shortage, the district may need to limit transportation options for students living close to their schools, with feedback helping to refine plans and inform the 2026-2027 fleet strategy at the December board meeting.

X. Superintendent Report

X.A. District Dashboard

The new Dashboard, part of the ECRA agreement, will be available by December.

X.B. SY24-25 Audit

Kyle Hendrickson from Gorenz and Associates presented the audit. The District received a clean opinion with no findings. Mr. Hendrickson also shared that as a result of the District's financial stewardship, the District's financial profile score has improved each of the last three years. Dr. Wise thanked the Board for their commitment to restore financial health, as well as office staff for their hard work and keeping and producing accurate data.

X.C. Tentative Levy

Dr. Wise presented the tentative levy reflecting an approximate 4% increase. Due to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) or otherwise referred to as tax caps, the District is unable to capture the 8% growth in assessed value of the area. The District is allowed to capture the Consumer Price Index as well as apply the rate to any new property inside the District's boundaries. It was noted that new revenue is needed to keep up with the rising cost of public education. He also added that they continue to receive less federal funding each year, and this past year, only 2% of funding was federal, yet over a quarter of budget goes to funding laws created by the federal government. Lastly, he thanked the community for their funding of public education, and wished that the District would receive a larger portion of the state and federal allocation, which would reduce reliance on local sources.

X.D. Steering Committee Update

X.E. Woodridge TIF and Zigfield Troy Meeting

Discussion took place on a proposed housing development at the current Zigfield Troy 9 hole golf course, which would produce over 200 dwellings, and resides inside the potential 75th Street Corridor Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District. A TIF freezes the tax extension for the taxing bodies inside the TIF zone, and then the Village/City receives the annual increase in taxes, instead of the taxing bodies inside the TIF (ie.. School District, Fire Departments, etc..). The Village then uses those proceeds to help develop the area outlined in the proposal (75th Street Corridor). The TIF can remain in place for up to 23 years. While TIF's generally hurt school districts, Dr. Wise shared that Mayor Cunningham, Village Manager Stonrich, and Village Planner Clarke have expressed interest in helping the school district with capital needs. This support is in response to the increased enrollment resulting from the 200 dwellings replacing the current 9-hole golf course at Zigfield Troy. Although there are no plans at the moment for Woodridge to turn Village Greens into residential, the 120+ acres that comprise the 18-hole course adjacent to Zigfield Troy, would be a prime location for single-family homes to attract young families wanting a quality school district. Since Village Greens is also inside the TIF, without an intergovernmental agreement in place to address capital needs and educational needs of new students, the District could be left trying to house and educate new students without the funds to do so. The Board agreed that a special meeting might be needed prior to the regular December meeting to discuss.

X.F. Veterans Day

Each year, our schools host Veterans to help students gain a deeper understanding of the significance of this day. Each school will celebrate in their own special way to make this a truly memorable day.

X.G. Lakeview Graduation Date - May 26, 2026 @ 7:00p.m.

The Lakeview Graduation date has been established. It will be held on May 26, 2026, at the Downers Grove High School Auditorium.

X.H. Lakeview Roofing Retrofit Bid Process

Director Tiede included information on the retro-fit of the Lakeview roof. By maintaining the insulation's dryness, the District will reduce costs by avoiding the need for a complete replacement.

X.I. IASB Fall Meeting

Dr. Wise mentioned that several Board members accompanied him to the Fall IASB meeting last week, which was highly productive and featured discussions on many interesting topics.

X.J. Board Conference Preview

The IASB Board Conference is an annual event offering a wide range of educational sessions throughout the weekend. Dr. Wise expressed his gratitude to the Board in advance for their participation in the conference.

X.K. Principal Appreciation

X.L. School Board Member Appreciation Day

The Board shared their appreciation to Principals and Directors as their special recognition day occurred during October. Dr. Wise shared his appreciation for the Board and wished them a happy Board Member Appreciation Day, and thanked them for their leadership.

XI. Public Comment

There were no public comments received during the November 5, 2025, Board of Education meeting.

XII. Action items

XII.A. Approve the SY 24-25 Audit

Motion to approve the SY 24-25 Audit. This motion, made by Doug Wiley and seconded by Darren Spiegel, Passed.

Tiffany Watson: Absent, Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Darren Spiegel: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XII.B. Approve the Tentative Levy for December 2025

Motion to approve the Tentative Levy for December 2025. This motion, made by Doug Wiley and seconded by Steve Dlugo, Passed.

Tiffany Watson: Absent, Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Darren Spiegel: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XII.C. Approve the Lakeview Roofing Retrofit Bid Process for Summer 2026

Motion to approve the Lakeview roofing retrofit bid process for summer 2026. This motion, made by Steve Dlugo and seconded by Adam Sage, Passed.

Tiffany Watson: Absent, Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Darren Spiegel: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. This motion, made by Steve Dlugo and seconded by Megan DuPass, Passed.
Tiffany Watson: Absent, Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Adam

Sage: Yea, Darren Spiegel: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

The November 5, 2025 Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Gannon, recording secretary

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education