

**LIBERTYVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**  
**District No. 70**  
**Libertyville, Illinois**

**November 17, 2025**

The meeting of the Board of Education District No. 70, Lake County, Illinois, was called to order at 6:00pm in the boardroom at the ERC, 1381 Lake St., Libertyville on Monday, November 17, 2025.

The following members answered present at roll call: Mrs. Dahlke, Mrs. Khan, Mr. Sticklen, Mrs. Grove, Mr. Lawton Mr. McGhee and Mrs. Schilling. Absent - None.

Also present: Superintendent Rebecca Jenkins, Dr. Bongle, Mr. Theis, Mr. Vipond, Ms. Donev, Ms. Bachar, Mrs. Kollman and Mrs. Coyle. District guests included: Mr. Cieciva, Mrs. Crenshaw, and Dr. Hallmark and student board members Caroline A. and Camilo C.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The regular meeting started with the pledge of allegiance.

**HONORING STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY**

HMS sixth grader Tatum S., was honored for her work over the last three years in gathering school supplies for District 70 students in need by filling backpacks for the start of school.

One Highland Middle School orchestra student, Edward Z., was selected to play for the Illinois Music Education Association District 7 Honor Orchestra and was honored at the board meeting. District 70 orchestra teacher Ms. Carol Janossy said that students have to audition and be selected to play in the ILMEA Honor Orchestra. This is one of the highest honors a musician can receive in their younger years. Ms. Janossy said 350 young musicians from ILMEA Districts virtually auditioned for the orchestra, and 23 were accepted.

Highland Middle School Spanish teacher Mr. Justin Buehler was honored with a prestigious Distinguished Service Award to recognize his exceptional contributions and dedication to language education, which has “markedly improved world language education in Illinois.” He was honored by the Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ICTFL). Mr. Buehler was honored with a Distinguished Service to World Language Learning Award for developing teaching materials and curricula, including those designed for teacher training.

A short break to meet and mingle with honorees took place after honoring students and community from 6:09pm - 6:17pm. The regular meeting resumed at 6:17pm.

**BOARD COMMUNITY NEWS**

Board member Wendy Schilling announced, on behalf of the Libertyville Junior Women's Club, that the group is donating to nine families who are part of District 70's Care Closet gift cards of \$100 each, in addition to \$50 gift cards that also will be donated to each member of each family.

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion was made by Mr. McGhee, seconded by Mr. Lawton, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda as presented in Board Report 3. The following items were contained in the consent agenda:

#### **3.1 - Minutes of the Regular Meeting, October 27, 2025**

#### **3.2 - Approval of Finance Reports**

- Agenda of Bills
- Payroll
- Budgetary
- Treasurer's Report

#### **3.3 - Approval of Personnel**

- Change of Assignment
- Resignation/Retirement
- Leave of Absence
- New Hires

A link to this report may be found on the website under Board section.

On roll call vote: ayes – Mr. Sticklen, Mrs. Schilling, Mrs. Grove, Mr. Lawton, Mr. McGhee, Mrs. Dahlke, and Mrs. Khan. Absent – None. Nays - None. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **PRESENTATIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

There were no presentations from the floor.

### **STUDENT BOARD REPORT**

Highland Middle School student Caroline A., who was introduced by Mrs. Jenkins, is a new member of the Superintendent's Student Leadership Advisory Council. She noted that she joined SSLAC to let students know that they have a voice and to help amplify that voice. As a sixth-grader, Caroline enjoys meeting new people and changing classrooms for each topic. She is enjoying performing arts and looking forward to attending a student conference in Chicago soon.

Also speaking at the meeting was SSLAC member Camilo C., an eighth-grader, who said he also wants to be a voice of the students and wants to help the D70 school grow. As a new student at HMS, he appreciates getting to know more students and the social events. Camilo was recently a part of a Future Ready Student panel and spoke about AI before a room full of educators and administrators.

The council was created by Mrs. Jenkins to bring student voice forward into decision-making. Members of the council will help Highland and District administration identify areas of celebration and areas of growth at Highland Middle School and in District 70 overall.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Supt. Jenkins shared several district highlights, including:

- Board of Education Appreciation
  - Thanked board members for their dedicated service.
  - Noted Nov. 15 as School Board Appreciation Day.
  - Board Members toured all five D70 schools, seeing changes, improvements, and meeting students who served as tour guides.
- Future Ready Leadership Forum
  - D70 administrators and learning center directors attended All4Ed's Future Ready AI Leadership Forum.
  - Students Camilo C. and Molly T. served on a panel, doing an outstanding job discussing the use and future of AI.
- Special Education Parent Network
  - This month's event was a huge success.
- Seasonal Celebrations
  - Photos were shared of students and staff celebrating Halloween.
  - Veterans Day events honored local veterans.
- School Highlights
  - Butterfield: Students became "young Olympians" while studying Ancient Greek Civilization.
  - Adler Park: Students explored Math in Motion and hosted a fall singing concert.
  - Rockland: Staff held their first pumpkin decorating competition and the event was won by a movie-themed pumpkin.
  - Highland Middle School: Sixth graders attended a three-day Camp Timber-Lee outdoor education experience together; photos were also shared of the school's Battle of the Bands held during lunch.
  - Copeland Manor: Kindergarteners learned about unique Native American cultures; Libertyville Firefighters visited all elementary schools to teach fire prevention strategies.
- IPA Principal of the Year of the Lake County Region
  - Rockland Principal Steve Feldman was named to the prestigious award
  - He will be honored at an upcoming District 70 Board of Education meeting

## **APPROVAL OF ESTIMATED TAX LEVY**

Board Report 6.1 sought formal approval of the tentative levy estimate.

Per the Illinois Property Tax Code, a Tentative Levy Estimate is to be presented at least 20 days prior to the adoption of a school district's Final Aggregate Levy. If the aggregate estimate is more than 105% of the prior year, a public hearing must be held on the district's Final Aggregate Levy before it can be adopted. Additionally, a notification of the public's hearing must be published no more than 14 days nor less than 7 days prior to the date of the public hearing. See below for a detailed timeline.

Levy Estimate Presented to Board of Education - November 17, 2025

Truth in Taxation Notice in Daily Herald - December 5, 2025  
Levy Hearing - December 15, 2025  
Levy Adoption - December 15, 2025

Motion was made by Mr. McGhee, seconded by Mr. Lawton, that the Board of Education approve the estimated tax levy as presented in Board Report 6.1.

On roll call vote: ayes – Mrs. Dahlke, Mr. Sticklen, Mrs. Khan, Mrs. Grove, Mr. Lawton, Mr. McGhee, and Mrs. Schilling. Absent – None. Nays - None. All in favor. Motion carried.

A link to this report may be found on the website under Board section

### **APPROVAL OF D70 FOUNDATION DONATION**

Board Report 6.2 sought approval for the donation of \$53,120 from the District 70 Foundation for Excellence in accordance with Board Policy 8:80, Gifts to the District. This policy outlines the procedures for accepting gifts, ensuring they align with the district's educational objectives, maintain equity among schools, and comply with all applicable laws. Upon acceptance, all gifts become the property of the district.

Motion was made by Mr. Lawton, seconded by Mrs. Dahlke, that the Board of Education approve the donation as submitted in Board Report 8.2.

On roll call vote: ayes – Mr. Sticklen, Mrs. Dahlke, Mrs. Khan, Mrs. Grove, Mrs. Schilling, and Mr. Lawton. Abstain - Mr. McGhee. Absent – None. Nays - None. All in favor. Motion carried.

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### **ASSESSMENT REPORT**

During the November 17 board meeting, Dr. Kerri Bongle, assistant superintendent of teaching, learning, and assessment, updated the board on District 70's annual report card, which is assembled by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The report card reflects data from the 2024-25 school year in areas of student achievement, growth, and attendance, as well as school climate and culture.

Compared to schools across Illinois, District 70 students performed in the 97th percentile in science, 94th percentile in English Language and Literature, and 92nd percentile in math. Illinois assigns one of five summative designations to schools: Exemplary, Commendable, Targeted, Comprehensive, and Intensive. All District 70 schools earned either Exemplary or Commendable status, and several schools currently rated Commendable are very close to achieving Exemplary status.

Looking ahead, District 70 will continue to prioritize strengthening math proficiency and growth, reducing achievement gaps for Black/African American and Latino students, and increasing proficiency levels for students receiving special education services.

Dr. Kerri Bongle also noted recently released information from US News and World Report school rankings that all D70 buildings were rated highly in the State of Illinois and in Lake County.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

1. Mr. Sticklen discussed the upcoming SEDOL Governing Board Meeting taking place on December 3.
2. Mr. Lawton discussed ED-RED and potential future bills.
3. Mrs. Schilling mentioned 6th Grade Outdoor Ed and noted the success and learning opportunities the new location has provided.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no Board of Education correspondence.

### **OTHER ITEMS**

There were no other items.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Mr. McGhee, seconded by Mr. Lawton that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting at 7:31p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jennifer Khan, Board President

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Nanette Dahlke, Board Secretary