



**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 25, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
March 19, 2025**

**Call to Order**

President Rogers called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00pm on May 19, 2025, in the Multi-Purpose Room at Benjamin Middle School in West Chicago, IL 60185.

**Roll Call**

Board Recorder John Langton took a roll call vote of the members present: Bridgette Pedersen, Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis.

Absent: Andrew Drinnin, Vince Engstrom, Don Sutenbach

Other attendees included John Langton, Interim Superintendent, and consultant, Dr. Bhavna Sharma-Lewis.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President Rogers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approve Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda as presented. This motion was made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Bridgette Pedersen. Passed.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Bridgette Pedersen, Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis.

Nays: None

**Public Comment:** None.

**Discussion Items:**

Dr. Bhavna Sharma-Lewis reviewed the progress with the BOE Operating Principles, District Strategic Priorities, and the Recommendations for Areas of Growth for Organizational Health. She explained that they will finalize the Mission Statement before beginning efforts for branding.

She further explained that it is the Board's responsibility to develop a mission statement, under their governance responsibility. Dr. Sharma-Lewis elaborated on the Board's Strategic Priorities which include: Excellence in Communication; Organizational Health; Teaching and Learning; and Finance and Operations.

The board member survey outcomes, from the March meeting, were reviewed, resulting in the four themes of strategic, leadership, ownership, and critical thinking. She conveyed that these themes can help build their mission statement and shared suggested mission statement language with three different approach options, including formal, inspiring, and bold.

Next, she reviewed Taglines for Impact. Examples of these included LeadBoldly: Think, Innovate, and Inspire; and RiseOn: Lead with Purpose. She suggested that the next step should be to receive input from stakeholders.

Dr. McGill explained his appreciation for the work that has been completed to this point. Additionally, he expressed a desire to begin the strategic planning process as it is the first goal in his employment contract. He suggested that, while we need to honor this work, we should pause the mission statement efforts to make it part of the strategic planning process. Members expressed their support for Dr. McGill to lead the process. Mrs. Pedersen reinforced that she felt it is important to stress the importance of a continuous Pre-K through 8th grade experience in our two schools.

**Adjournment (Voice Vote)**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48pm. This motion was made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Bridgette Pedersen.

Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed

Respectfully submitted by:  
John Langton, Board Recorder

---

President, Board of Education

---

Secretary, Board of Education

Recorded: May 19, 2025

Approved: June 9, 2025