

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 4, 2026 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: Absent
Darren Spiegel: Absent
Tiffany Watson: Present
Doug Wiley: Present
Present: 5, Absent: 2.

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 Director Tom Tiede, Principal Jake Little, Interim Principal Laura Gilmartin, Mrs. Carrie Fitzgerald, Dr. Sean Rhoads, Dr. Kim Liles, and Director Keith Roberts. Also in attendance were Lakeview students, Sebastian Espinoza, Joey Frytz, Dominic Getchel, Max Heavrin, Leo Papadopoulos, Jyoti Rodriguez, Vinny Urias, Jacob Serafin, Coco Serafin and Ilija Simov, along with many of their parents. Online attendees included Meghan Aleo, Kristin Platt, Kari Gemmell, Sheri Sulima, Jessica Sage, Jessica Rost, Elizabeth Uribe, Interim Principal Mark Pagel and Megan Calhoun.

IV. Scheduled Time to Address the Board

There were no scheduled speakers for the February 4th, 2026 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 Financial Consulting Agreement with PMA in the amount of \$15,000.

V.D.2. Approve the Agreement for the Panorama Renewal for SY 26-27 in the amount of \$21,478.

V.D.3. Approve the Hire of Megan Tack, Paraprofessional, Prairieview

V.D.4. Approve the Hire of Olivia Mitchell, District Help Desk Technician

V.D.5. Approve the Hire of Bakhita Cunningham, BACC Aide, Prairieview

V.D.6. Approve the Resignation of D. Schueneman, Prairieview Teacher

V.D.7. Approve Retirement of J. Balinski, Paraprofessional, Elizabeth Ide, effective June 3, 2026

VI. Approve Consent Agenda

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

Adam Sage: Absent, Darren Spiegel: Absent, Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

VII. Communication

VII.A. Lakeview Students - Wrestling Program Proposal for the 26-27 School Year

Lakeview students, Sebastian Espinosa, Joey Frytz, Dominic Getchel, Max Heavrin, Leo Papadopoulos, Jyoti Rodriguez, Vinny Urias, Jacob Serafin, Coco Serafin, and Ilija Simov presented their Wrestling Program Proposal for the 26-27 school year.

VII.B. Student Achievement Presentation - Dr. Liles

VIII. Principal Reports

VIII.A. Elizabeth Ide Elementary

Elizabeth Ide Interim Principals shared that second-grade students at Ide School participated in a hands-on math project where they used measurement and proportional reasoning to design and build paper giants, demonstrating teamwork and problem-solving skills. These creative projects now welcome visitors at the school entrance, showcasing student learning.

Additionally, staff will review student performance data to inform support strategies and ensure targeted interventions aligned with curriculum goals. On January 27, the Lakeview Leadership Team visited Ide School to lead engaging, collaborative activities for K-2 students, fostering enthusiasm, teamwork, and problem-solving. Their thoughtful planning and positive energy created meaningful learning experiences, and the school appreciates their dedication and support, guided by their advisor Amy Mesker. During winter, Ide School focuses on maintaining a positive and welcoming environment through student work, seasonal celebrations, and engaging activities that boost morale. Staff promote movement, connection, and creativity to support student well-being and keep enthusiasm for learning alive. These efforts ensure that the school remains a warm, vibrant place where students feel supported and motivated despite the cold months.

VIII.B. Prairieview Elementary

Prairieview staff creatively turned winter benchmarking into a positive experience by celebrating student achievements and organizing Spirit Week to boost morale. Third-graders have fully embraced their "Panther Mode," demonstrating high engagement, self-direction, and collaboration through varied activities and consistent classroom routines. Additionally, the widespread adoption of the Writing Warriors program showcases Prairieview's commitment to data-driven, flexible instruction that builds foundational writing skills and fosters collaborative

growth among teachers. In Mr. Trinco's STEM lesson, students acted as astronauts to research and design 3D models of constellations, enhancing their science and communication skills through hands-on activity and presentations. Mrs. Gemmell has fostered engaging, cross-curricular science experiences, and her upcoming role as Student Experiences Coordinator promises to further promote hands-on, data-driven learning. Additionally, Mrs. Csorba's use of Keva blocks in the library fosters engineering exploration and collaborative, functional design projects among students. Mr. Little praised all the parent volunteers who helped bring the new Winterfest event to life at Prairieview! While there are so many barriers to getting a new event off the ground, this one rivaled PantherPalooza and the 5th-grade Friendsy. Great job of taking the time to meet with our student leadership team to include their ideas, and see this thing through from idea to core memory for our Panthers!!

VIII.C. Lakeview Junior High

Assistant Principal Fitzgerald shared that 7th grade students are actively engaged in their National History Day projects, showcasing strong research, critical thinking, and creative presentation skills. Their enthusiasm and independence reflect deep learning, and we look forward to celebrating their final projects. Students recently participated in a leadership experience where they designed and led learning activities for classrooms at Elizabeth Ide, showcasing their creativity, confidence, and sense of responsibility. Students took full ownership of the experience, demonstrating strong interpersonal skills and enthusiasm. This collaboration between our learning communities was a powerful example of student leadership in action. The school community recently participated in Rachel's Challenge, a program aimed at building empathy and a positive school culture. Student leaders, including members of the Student Council and Principal Advisory Committees, received additional training on kindness, inclusion, and peer leadership. The program helped to reinforce these values through SEL activities that all students could participate in.

IX. Director Reports

IX.A. Director of Student Services

Dr. Rhoads reported that from January to early March, the Multilingual Interventionists will administer the ACCESS assessment to evaluate the language proficiency of our Multilingual Learners, providing insights to support their academic success. We appreciate them and their dedication in administering the assessment and supporting students and teachers. On January 28, 2026, Center Cass School District 66 hosted its 3rd Annual Parent University at Elizabeth Ide Elementary, featuring Keynote speaker Laura Wurzburger and various breakout sessions on social-emotional well-being, learning, and family supports. Approximately 40 families attended in person, and resources from the event will be shared district-wide to benefit all families. The event's success was driven by collaboration among district staff, PAC members, and community partners, providing a valuable and positive experience for families. On January 26, 2026, Center Cass School District 66's Multilingual Parent Advisory Council finalized plans to distribute a survey to gather feedback from multilingual families on communication preferences, support needs, and engagement interests. The data will help guide district efforts to strengthen relationships and support within the multilingual community. Additionally, early planning discussions began for a district-wide multicultural fair to celebrate diverse cultures and foster community connection.

IX.B. Director of Learning

Dr. Liles explained that in January, ELA committees across buildings began collaborating to review current writing rubrics and explore the Writing Rope framework to improve writing instruction and alignment from K-8. In February, they will focus on vertical alignment within rubrics and identify opportunities for growth to further strengthen writing instruction across grade levels. The Winter Benchmark assessment period concluded last week. Students and staff showed great effort throughout. Dr. Liles and the building principals were eager to share the Winter Student Achievement data with the Board. On February 27, the District's next Professional Development day will be held, coinciding with DuPage County Institute Day. Instead of broad participation in county-wide offerings, most staff will engage in district-led professional learning focused on learner characteristics, advancing Competency-Based Education, and a special session with researcher Rebecca Winthrop, ensuring targeted and impactful professional growth aligned with district goals.

IX.C. Director of Technology

Director Roberts reported that budget planning for next year's instructional and staff devices is underway, including student device replacements and staff computer updates at IDE and Prairieview, with additional Chromebooks being ordered to support spring assessments. Work continues on enhancing Skyward for the upcoming school year, focusing on streamlining online registration and improving system integration. Significant modifications have also been made to Skyward's report card system, resulting in a stronger gradebook configuration that will be shared with teachers soon. The District has awarded a five-year contract to Konica Minolta for new copiers, which maintains a neutral cost increase, adds an extra device, and includes a print governance system to enhance oversight and control. Additionally, the interview process for the Help Desk Technician position concluded, and Olivia Mitchell has been recommended for hire. Next month, there will be highlights of exciting upcoming tech projects across the district.

IX.D. Director of Transportation/Buildings and Grounds

Director Tiede explained that preparing buses for extended cold weather involved careful planning and ongoing efforts to ensure they run smoothly and provide adequate heat for students. This included blending special additives into diesel fuel to prevent gelling at low temperatures, as well as using electrical engine heaters to preheat the engines each night. Behind the scenes, drivers and maintenance crews often arrive early in the morning to start buses, address issues, and ensure safe transportation despite the challenging winter conditions. A special thank you to our dedicated drivers for their commitment to safe winter driving. District #66 handles snowplowing, salting, and shoveling in-house for parking lots and building entrances, saving money and maintaining control over timing and response. A big thank-you goes to the crew, and custodial staff, for their hard work during challenging winter conditions. Additionally, bids for Gym 1 flooring and Phase 1 parking lot renovations are in progress, with approvals expected soon.

X. Superintendent Report

X.A. District Dashboard

The District Dashboard is available online on the District website. There are no changes to report for this month.

X.B. Woodridge Joint Review Board Meeting Recap on TIF

Dr. Wise shared that the most recent Woodridge Joint Review Board meeting on January 26th went well. Many details were clarified, and an explanation was provided on how the TIF financing would be structured.

X.C. Public Hearing and TIF Vote

Dr. Wise informed the Board that he will be voting the next day on the eligibility of the Woodridge TIF District, along with other taxing bodies, under Illinois School Code. While the vote is mostly ceremonial, he emphasized that the Joint Review Board's role is to assess whether the TIF meets the legal eligibility criteria, not to express support or fairness opinions.

X.D. Gathering Information on Transportation Revenue for 2026-2027

The Board continues to look at ways to increase revenue in the transportation fund, as the state's financial contribution to the regular education transportation program has decreased to its lowest levels, currently collecting \$8,000 per year in the regular transportation account. Since the District is not required to transport students who do not require special transportation, it should not expect state revenue in this area to increase. Board members requested a recommendation on a small increase to discuss at the next meeting.

X.E. Draft Student Fees for SY 26-27

Draft registration fees for the 26-27 school year were presented to the Board. No increase in current registration fees was being recommended for next year. However, the Board continues to look at ways to increase revenue in the transportation fund.

X.F. SY 26-27 School Calendar

The Board will be approving the proposed SY 26-27 Calendar. It is included in Boardbook.

X.G. Lakeview Gym Renovation Costs

The District intends to spend under \$200,000 on renovating Lakeview Gym 1. Dr. Wise and the Board expressed their gratitude to Team 66 for their donation towards the renovation. Some of the upgrades will include flooring, AV enhancements, two video boards w/power, 8 cafeteria tables with proper wheels, new paint, flags, and banners.

X.H. Lakeview Gym 1 Flooring Replacement

The bid for the Lakeview Gym 1 floor replacement went to Consolidated Flooring of Chicago in the amount of \$100,000.

X.I. Parent University Recap

The Board thanked those who attended and sponsored Parent University last week. They also encouraged parents to attend the presentation by Dr. Rebecca Winthrop, co-author of the Disengaged Teen, and Director of Education at the Brookings Institute, on Thursday, February 26, 2026 @ 6:30 pm in the LRC at Lakeview Junior High.

X.J. Parent Engagement Opportunities

Dr. Wise stated that the District is really fortunate to have one of the foremost educational leaders come to Center Cass and speak to our parents, students, and teachers. Dr. Rebecca Winthrop from the Brookings Institute (and author of the Disengaged Teen) will be on campus Thursday, February 26 and Friday, February 27.

X.K. DuPage IASB Board Meeting

Dr. Wise congratulated and thanked both the current and former Board members. This marked the fourth year that the Center Cass Board of Education has been honored by IASB with the Governance Recognition Award.

X.L. District Printers (Multifunction Devices)

X.M. Student Services Coordinator Positions

X.N. Assistant Superintendent for Learning

XI. Public Comment

XII. Action items

XII.A. Motion to approve the SY 26-27 School Calendar

Motion to approve the SY 26-27 School Calendar. This motion, made by Tiffany Watson and seconded by Steve Dlugo, Passed.

Adam Sage: Absent, Darren Spiegel: Absent, Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

XII.B. Motion to approve the Bid for the Lakeview Gym 1 Floor Replacement in the amount of \$100,000 to Consolidated Flooring of Chicago.

Motion to approve the bid for the Lakeview Gym 1 Floor Replacement in the amount of \$100,000 to Consolidated Flooring of Chicago. This motion, made by Megan DuPass and seconded by Steve Dlugo, Passed.

Adam Sage: Absent, Darren Spiegel: Absent, Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

XII.C. Motion to approve the Proposal for District Printers (Multifunction Devices) in the amount of \$3750/month for 60 months to Konica Minolta.

Motion to approve the proposal for District Printers (Multifunction Devices) in the amount of \$3750/month for 60 months to Konica Minolta. This motion, made by Steve Dlugo and seconded by Megan DuPass, Passed.

Adam Sage: Absent, Darren Spiegel: Absent, Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

XIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. This motion, made by Doug Wiley and seconded by Steve Dlugo, Passed.

Adam Sage: Absent, Darren Spiegel: Absent, Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

The February 4, 2026 Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Gannon, recording secretary

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education