



Executive Summary Board of Education Meeting

DATE: January 8, 2026

TOPIC: The Barry and Taffy Berger Foundation Donation

PREPARED BY: David Russo

Recommended for:

- ☒ Action
- ☒ Discussion
- ☒ Information

Purpose/Background:

SD74 alumnus, Barry Berger (Lincoln Hall '68), moved out West after graduating from Niles West. Upon completing his degree from Arizona State University, he settled in California. In the early 1980's, he started Accredited Home Care.

Throughout the years Accredited grew by providing skilled and unskilled home health care services to the senior and developmentally disabled population. Accredited developed a delivery system for the state of California that saved the state millions and millions of dollars per year by providing a service that offered respite care to the developmentally disabled. Accredited provided skilled home health care including nursing, physical, occupation and speech therapy.

Mr. Berger has fond memories of and great appreciation for the upbringing and education he received from the Lincolnwood community and schools. In an effort to demonstrate his appreciation, he has pledged a donation totaling \$500,000 to the District. The pledge is for \$50,000 annually each "Giving Tuesday" from 2022-2031. The pledge was again raised to \$75,000 this year.

The District is looking at using the monies for projects that are already slated for completion on the Master Facilities Plan; as well as those ideas that will emerge in the coming years over the duration of the pledge period.

Fiscal Impact:

\$75,000 in revenues (\$50,000 pledge + \$25,000 extra)

Recommendation:

It is the Administrative recommendation that the Board of Education accept this donation from the Barry and Taffy Berger Foundation in the amount of \$75,000.