

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 6, 2024 6:30 PM Central

Prairieview Elementary School
699 Plainfield Road
Downers Grove, IL 60516

Megan DuPass: Present
Christopher Esposito: Present
Brian Liedtke: Present
Liane Raso: Absent
Donna Sobotka: Present
Tiffany Watson: Present
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 Vice-President Brian Liedtke.

II. Pledge

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

III. Recognition of Visitors

In-person visitors included Joan Cullen, Jennifer Maass, Andrea Scheiwe, Meghan Aleo, Jennifer Nawrot, Christine Wiley, Jamie Liedtke, Director Liles, Director Rhoads, Director Tiede, Director Roberts, Dr. Mark Orszula, Principal Jake Little, and Principal Katie Johnson. Online attendees included Tammie Pry, Sheri Sulima, Jessica Sage, Adam Sage, Amy Willer, Elizabeth Uribe, and Debbie Gustafson.

IV. Scheduled Time to Address the Board

There were no scheduled speakers.

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 Retirement of Dawn Wrzesinski, Paraprofessional, Prairieview

VI. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Christopher Esposito and seconded by Megan DuPass, Passed.

Liane Raso: Absent, Megan DuPass: Yea, Christopher Esposito: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Donna Sobotka: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

VII. Communication

VII.A. Washington D.C. Trip - LV Students

Lakeview students provided highlights from their Washington D.C. Trip. The students packed a lot into their extended weekend in DC. They thanked their trip coordinator Jen Maass and chaperones Annie Diver, Erika Myers, Ali Beseth, and Teagan Halik.

VII.B. Curriculum and Assessment Update - Dr. Liles

Dr. Liles and Principals presented their achievement results and school improvement plans. These are a few of the key points that were shared. Over the past 4 years, the percentage of students who met or exceeded standards on the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) given to students in grades 3rd through 8th grade in Math and Reading has increased, and has also surpassed State Averages. On average, the percentage of students who have met their growth goals on the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) has increased. While most of District 66 students rise above the 50th percentile on the MAP assessment, there are many students who have not ascended to that level yet. While many of our students enter the primary grades ready for learning, there are many students who have not yet developed foundational literacy skills.

VII.C. School Improvement Plan Presentation - Dr. Liles and Principals

VII.D. Annual Transportation Update - Director Tiede

Director Tiede recommended trading in 3 of the district's oldest buses and leasing 3 new ones, which would cost an additional \$2,000 per bus per year but would improve maintenance and availability. If the transportation department needed to add a new route next year, purchasing one of the leased buses for \$27,000 instead of entering a new 5-year lease would save the district over \$100,000, including maintenance costs.

VII.E. FOIA Request

There was a FOIA request received from SmartProcure which the district complied with.

VIII. Principal Reports

VIII.A. Elizabeth Ide Elementary

Principal Johnson conveyed that as the first trimester concluded, she wanted to take a moment to applaud our amazing students! In the primary grades, establishing strong routines and expectations is crucial. To foster a positive learning environment, several initiatives have been implemented: PRIDE Bucks: This rewards system not only motivates students but also promotes financial literacy. Students are earning and managing their own money, learning

valuable life skills along the way. PAWsitive Vibes: Our revamped Class Paw program celebrates positive behavior and creates a sense of community. When a class reaches a milestone, they enjoy a special reward and a visit from me to celebrate their teamwork. These initiatives have been instrumental in creating a more supportive and engaging school culture. Students are thriving, and she is excited to see what they'll accomplish in the coming months. Walking through the classrooms, she is observing evidence of teachers providing targeted instruction by utilizing small groups and flexible learning spaces. The flexible learning spaces accommodate a variety of instructional approaches, including hands-on activities, collaborative projects, and independent learning. Students are receiving targeted instruction tailored to their individual learning styles and paces, fostering a deeper understanding. She is eager to see students progress and grow in the upcoming months.

VIII.B. Prairieview Elementary

Principal Little reported on Prairieview students engaging in enriching learning experiences, particularly in STEM, led by Mrs. Gemmell, who incorporated non-fiction texts about prominent Hispanic Americans into related activities. The 5th graders maintained their tradition of visiting Lakeview to share spooky stories with 7th graders, promoting creative writing and helping them acclimate to the junior high environment. Additionally, teacher development was prioritized, with staff attending training on utilizing MAP reports to enhance student achievement and an IXL workshop for improving student self-direction. During the November 1st SIP day, teachers participated in project-based learning through a new resource called Defined Learning, which will be integrated into various subjects, mainly Science and Social Studies. In the past month, Prairieview's building environment has been vibrant thanks to Team 66's efforts. They played a crucial role in organizing various events, including a book fair, an ice cream social, Trunk or Treat, and classroom Halloween activities. Their contributions significantly enhance the students' sense of community.

VIII.C. Lakeview Junior High

Dr. Orszula conveyed that Lakeview has been recognized as an Exemplary School by the Illinois State Board of Education, placing it in the top 10% of schools in Illinois, a reflection of the hard work of students, staff, and the community. Recently, 8th grade students enjoyed an educational trip to Washington D.C., and Mrs. Newman's class participated in authentic photography at Honey Bee Farm. Additionally, Mrs. Mixon and Mrs. Burrows facilitated a visit with Prairieview's 5th graders, who shared spooky stories with Lakeview students, fostering connections with future classmates. The end-of-quarter assembly highlighted school spirit through color-coded ACE class competitions and chants, while the ACE program continues to emphasize positive interactions and team building among students. The band program also made a strong impression with its first performance of the year. School Improvement Days (SIP) have proven to be essential for all staff, providing valuable learning opportunities. Recently, staff focused on strategies for supporting English Language Learners (ELL) and differentiated instruction to cater to all students' needs.

IX. Director Reports

IX.A. Director of Student Services

Director Rhoads shared that on October 27th, the District's Panorama Ed Subcommittee participated in a professional development session focused on utilizing data from the Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) screener and Culture & Climate Survey. The Fall 2024 data indicated that students in grades 3-5 rated Teacher-Student Relationships at 75% and reflected a positive school climate, while grades 6-8 showed lower ratings, particularly in Sense of Belonging at 66%. Additionally, the SEL Benchmark Data highlighted strengths in Self-Management and Classroom Effort, while areas for growth included Emotion Regulation and Perseverance across different grades. To further enhance the environment, District 66 paraprofessionals began nonviolent crisis prevention training to improve their de-escalation skills. Lastly, a Bilingual Parent Advisory Council (BPAC) is being established to support English Learners and their families, enabling them to collaborate on district bilingual programs and strengthen community engagement.

IX.B. Director of Learning

Director Liles stated that each month, she has the opportunity to observe exceptional teaching and learning in classrooms throughout District 66, collaborating closely with Vanguard Teachers to enhance assessment practices. While implementing Competency-Based Reporting is a considerable challenge, she is proud of the steady progress being made, thanking the dedicated and talented staff, and she shares these insights in a monthly newsletter dedicated to teaching and learning. This fall, grade-level teams and departments have been finalizing their "I Can Statements" in student-friendly language, aiming for consistent integration into classroom routines by January 2025. She is proud of the commitment shown in this process, and is pleased to announce that the final "I Can Statements" are now ready for K-8 in ELA, Math, PE, and Encore classes, with K-5 teams currently completing statements for Science and Social Studies.

IX.C. Director of Technology

Director Roberts communicated that technology concentrated on enhancing family engagement, student safety, and access to instructional technology. They implemented Family Access in Skyward for parent-teacher conferences, streamlining the scheduling process for families and aiding teachers in managing their time more efficiently. In addition, they redesigned the report card for Elizabeth Ide School to incorporate standards-based grading, which aligns with learning standards and provides families with clearer insights into their child's progress. To improve safety, they installed additional exterior security cameras and are addressing the high volume of Chromebook repairs by promoting responsible usage and seeking ways to reduce repair times for an effective digital learning environment.

IX.D. Director of Transportation/Buildings and Grounds

Director Tiede reported as part of the requirements from ISBE and an initiative preceding School Bus Safety Week, he coordinated School Bus Evacuation Drills across all school buildings, emphasizing the importance of safety during the process. With the help of the PE teachers, he engaged small groups of students in discussions about the significance of bus safety and decision-making in various hypothetical situations. Additionally, he presented the updated transportation fleet plan and bus lease recommendations for the 2025-26 school year. Mr. Tiede noted that he met with Dr. Wise and the HVAC and BAS contractor to discuss the upcoming summer HVAC and automation projects, primarily at LV but also involving all three buildings. He stated that they are on track with the timeline, as all equipment has been ordered and contractor teams are being finalized, which will allow establishing a construction schedule soon. In addition to the major projects planned for summer, smaller tasks will be tackled during the Thanksgiving and Winter breaks, including fire pump improvements, HVAC tuning, door replacements, and the start of flooring work at Lakeview.

X. Superintendent Report

X.A. District Dashboard

The District Dashboard is included in the Boardbook.

X.B. Goal One Committee Update

Dr. Wiseshared that he met with the Goal1Sub Committee. The Committee has been impressed with the increased clarity for students via "I Can" statements, assessments which measure competencies, and the construction of reporting tools that will provide parents more information about how their students are growing in each content area.

X.C. School Report Card

Dr. Wise informed everyone that the Illinois School Report Card had been released. He noted that parents could see District demographics, achievement, and financial information on the [Report Card Website](#).

X.D. Lakeview Designation

Lakeview was designated for performing as one of the top 10% of schools in the state. Board members congratulated Dr. Orszula and the Lakeview staff on the recognition.

X.E. Tentative Levy

The Board received the tentative levy which shows the District could receive up to \$850,000 in new money next year due to increased value of the District. Dr. Wise noted that the \$850,000 was the high end of the estimate, stating that it is very possible that the new money amount would be closer to \$700,000. He continued to share that the new money is much needed as the District's demographics continue to change, noting that 20% of the District Budget goes to providing special services to help a very diverse (in terms of needs) student population base. He pointed out that when the IDEA (the Individuals with Disabilities Act) was created, the federal government was to contribute 40% of the cost to help educate students

with special needs, while the current contribution is approximately 15%. While the federal government continues to fall short of providing funding to meet students' needs, Dr. Wise commended the community for passing a referendum to help the District add special education teachers, English-language teachers, special education paraprofessionals, speech-language pathologists, social workers, counselors, and nursing services to help our students.

X.F. Bus Lease

Director Tiede is recommending the trade-in of three old buses and leasing three new ones, aligning with the original plan. The new lease will cost an additional \$2,000 per bus annually, but is justified by benefits in maintenance, repairs, and availability. If a new route is added next year, the plan is to purchase the best of the three leased buses for \$27,000, which would save over \$100,000 compared to a five-year lease on another bus, even after considering maintenance costs.

X.G. School Maintenance Grant Application

The Board was asked to approve an ISBE School Maintenance grant to assist with the cost of the Lakeview Flooring Project.

X.H. Veterans Day

Veterans Day Celebrations are set in each school for Monday, November 11th.

X.I. Lakeview Graduation Date - May 22, 2025 7:00p.m.

This year's 8th grade graduation is set for Thursday, May 22nd in the Downers Grove South Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

X.J. New May Board Meeting Date - May 7

Due to needing to seat the Board within 45 days of the Election, the May 14 Board of Education meeting needs to be moved to May 7, 2025.

X.K. Board Conference

X.L. School Board Member Appreciation Day

The audience joined Dr. Wise in recognizing the Board for their service on Happy Board Member Appreciation Day (November 15th).

X.M. Those Who Excel Building and District Winners

Dr. Wise shared the "Those Who Excel" Building winners as well as the District winners

XI. Public Comment

There was no public comment shared at the November 6th Board of Education meeting.

XII. Action items

XII.A. Approve the Tentative Levy for December 2024

Motion to approve the Tentative Levy for December 2024. This motion, made by Christopher Esposito and seconded by Tiffany Watson, Passed.

Liane Raso: Absent, Megan DuPass: Yea, Christopher Esposito: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Donna Sobotka: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XII.B. Approve a new 5 year lease with Central States for 3 busses in the amount of \$83,979.30

Motion to approve a new 5 year lease with Central States for 3 buses in the amount of \$83,979.30. This motion, made by Doug Wiley and seconded by Megan DuPass, Passed.

Liane Raso: Absent, Megan DuPass: Yea, Christopher Esposito: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Donna Sobotka: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XII.C. Approve the School Maintenance Grant Application for Flooring Replacement at Lakeview in the amount of \$356,730.

Motion to approve the School Maintenance Grant Application for flooring replacement at Lakeview in the amount of \$356,730. This motion, made by Tiffany Watson and seconded by Megan DuPass, Passed.

Liane Raso: Absent, Megan DuPass: Yea, Christopher Esposito: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Donna Sobotka: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XII.D. Approve moving the May 14, 2025 BOE Meeting Date to May 7, 2025

Motion to approve moving the May 14, 2025 BOE meeting date to May 7, 2025. This motion, made by Christopher Esposito and seconded by Donna Sobotka, Passed.

Liane Raso: Absent, Megan DuPass: Yea, Christopher Esposito: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Donna Sobotka: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XII.E. Motion to Enter Executive Session

There was no need to hold an Executive Session.

XIII. Executive Session - Enter Executive Session to discuss student discipline, the appointment, employment, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity, and/or litigation 5ILCS120/2(c)(1) or collective negotiating matters or deliberations concerning safety schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5ILCS120/2(c)(3)

XIV. Action Items (cont.)

XIV.A. Motion to Re-Enter Open Session

XV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. This motion, made by Doug Wiley and seconded by Tiffany Watson, Passed.
Liane Raso: Absent, Megan DuPass: Yea, Christopher Esposito: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Donna
Sobotka: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea, Doug Wiley: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

The November 6th, 2024 BOE meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Gannon, recording secretary

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education