

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Monday, July 20, 2026 6:30 PM Central

Heritage Middle School
19266 Burnham Ave
Lansing, IL 60438

Mrs. Desiree Ambrose: Present
Derrick Burks: Present
Tammara Hill: Present
Ms. Kenisha LeSure: Present
Serene Smith: Absent
Timothy Terrell: Present
Mrs. Nicole Thompson: Present

Present: 6, Absent: 1.

Tammara Hill: Absent

Present: 5, Absent: 2.

A. Call to Order

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. The mission of Sunnybrook School District #171 is to maximize student achievement by cultivation: critical thinking skills, innovative instructional practices and a collaborative school, home and community partnership.

D. Roll Call

E. Any person wishing to address the board about an item that is on the agenda should do so when that item is up for discussion. Visitors' statements will be limited to two minutes per person. A total of 30 minutes will be allocated for visitor comments. All comments about items not on the agenda will be held until the visitors' statements at the end of the meeting. Items related to personnel issues will be redirected to the appropriate Administrator.

F. Recommended Motion:

To approve the Regular Board of Education meeting minutes of June 15, 2026, closed session meeting minutes of June 15, 2026, July expenses and June payroll in the amount of: \$1,926,907.02, as presented.

G. Communications

- School District Calendar 2026-2027 School Year

H. Informational Items:

Superintendent Search Firms

- IASB (Illinois Association of School Boards)
- BWP & Associates
- Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA)
- School Exec.

I. Board Reports

J. Administrator Reports:

Dr. Erika Millhouse Pettis, Superintendent

Dr. Lori Owens Stranc, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. David Shrader, Chief School Business Official

Ms. Juliann Greene, Director of Pupil Services

Dr. Mike McGowan, Technology Director

Mrs. Chantelle Cambric, Principal, Heritage Middle School

Mr. Joseph Kent, Principal, Nathan Hale School

K. Recommended Motions:

K.1. Recommended Motion:

To approve the adoption of Savvas myWorld Interactive, a comprehensive grade 6–8 social studies program integrating World Geography, World History, American History, and Civics, including digital resources, consumable student journals, and embedded professional learning supports, for a six-year term at a cost of \$67,975.51 from general funds, as presented.

K.2. Recommended Motion:

To approve the adoption of Studies Weekly, a K-5 social studies program providing standards-aligned, periodical-based instructional materials with training and implementation support, at a cost of \$7,953.55 from general funds.

K.3. Recommended Motion:

To accept the resignation of Ms. Hannah Hands, teacher, Nathan Hale School, effective immediately, as presented.

K.4. Recommended Motion:

To accept the resignation of Ms. Kimberly Creed, teacher, Nathan Hale School, effectively immediately, as presented.

K.5. Recommended Motion:

To approve the employment of Ms. Lisa Lipkovitch, 3rd grade teacher, Nathan Hale School, salary of \$58,699.00, MA + 10 effective for the 2026-2027 school year, pending successful background check results, as presented.

K.6. Recommended Motion:

To approve the employment of Ms. Trinity Duckworth, PK/Early Childhood Long Term Substitute, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, salary daily rate of \$284.03, pending successful background check results, as presented.

K.7. Recommended Motion:

To approve the employment of Ms. Maria Vergara, Secretary, Nathan Hale School, salary of \$21.50 per hour, effective immediately, pending successful background check results, as presented.

K.8. Recommended Motion:

To approve the employment of Ms. Maria Welser, 5th grade teacher, MA, salary of

\$57,542.00, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, pending successful background check results, as presented.

K.9. Recommended Motion:

To approve the contract for Ms. Kathy Martin, for an as-needed Pupil Services Case Manager, salary of \$500.00 per day, effective July 21, 2026 ending no later than June 30, 2027, as presented.

K.10. Recommended Motion:

To accept the resignation of Ms. Kiana Clark, Social Worker (hired at the June 15, 2026 board meeting), effective immediately.

K.11. Recommended Motion:

To approve the contract with Kaleidoscope Education Solutions for an Occupational Therapist effective for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented.

K.12. Recommended Motion:

To approve the Strategic Action Plan for Sunnybrook S.D. #171, as presented.

K.13. Recommended Motion:

"To approve the installation of safety fencing for the Heritage Track Project in the amount of \$17,215 as presented."

K.14. Recommended Motion:

To approve the employment of Ms. Siembra Adams-Trujillo as a long term substitute teacher, salary of daily rate of \$284.03, effective August 17, 2026, pending successful background check results, as presented.

K.15. Recommended Motion:

To approve the budget and levy timeline, as presented.

- August 10, 2026: Tentative 2026-2027 Budget (Informational only, no Board Action). Tentative Budget on display in the District Office.
- August 12, 2026: Publish Notice of Time and Date for Budget Public Hearing.
- September 21, 2026: Budget Public Hearing. (1st Meeting)
- September 21, 2026: Adopt Annual Budget. (Follows Budget Public Hearing).
- October 19, 2026: Tentative Levy (Informational only, no Board Action).
- November 16, 2026: Hearing on Tax Levy
- November 16, 2026: Adopt Levy Resolutions

K.16. Recommended Motion:

To adopt the Earnings Resolution designating interest accrued in each fund during the 2026-2027 fiscal year to remain as interest and not part of the principal balance for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, as presented.

K.17. Recommended Motion:

To approve the School Employees Loss Fund (SELF) Workers Compensation 2026-2027 insurance premium in the amount of \$33,128, as presented.

K.18. Recommended Motion:

To approve the Classroom Lease Agreement between Sunnybrook SD 171 and Exceptional Children Have Opportunities (ECHO) for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented.

K.19. Recommended Motion:

To approve the employment of Ms. Naomi Arebalo, Social Worker, salary of \$54,314.00, MA + 9, effective August 17, 2026, pending successful background check results, as presented.

K.20. Recommended Motion:

To accept the resignation of Ms. Skylar Stargel, EC teacher, Nathan Hale School, effective immediately, as presented.

K.21. Recommended Motion:

To approve the FMLA (Family Medical Leave) for Mrs. Jenna Holzhauser, ELL teacher, Heritage Middle School, effective August 10, 2026, return date to be determined, as presented.

K.22. Recommended Motion:

To move in to closed session for the purpose of the appointment, compensation, student discipline, performance for dismissal of specific employees of the district. 5ILCS 120/2 (c) (1).

L. Visitors' Statements

M. Adjourn Meeting