Streator Elementary School District 44

Regular Board of Education
Meeting & E-Learning Program
Plan Renewal Public Hearing

Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2026
Time: 5:00 PM
Location: Northlawn Junior High School Library

Closed Session

As stated in the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of:
Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Personnel, Litigation, School Security and Safety, and Review of Closed Session Minutes

Public Participation/Public Hearing for E-Learning Three Year Renewal

E-Learning Plan Renewal Overview

- The district is conducting a public hearing to renew the E-Learning Program Plan for a new three-year cycle pursuant to the Illinois School Code.
- The plan ensures instructional continuity during emergency closures by utilizing digital tools and paper/pencil alternatives.
- All students are equipped with district-managed Chromebooks to facilitate reliable remote access.
- All statutory requirements including public notice and board resolution processes have been fully met.

Decision and Communication Process

- Weather conditions and safety variables are assessed the day before whenever possible with student and staff safety as the top priority.

- Closure notifications are sent to families and staff via email and phone no later than 9:30 PM the prior evening or between 5:00 and 6:30 AM on the morning of the closure.

- Phone calls are reserved strictly for school closures rather than open status or ongoing decisions.

- Information is also published on the district website and official social media pages.

Student Attendance & Instruction

- Students are required to connect online or report attendance through designated tools by 9:00 AM.
- Certified staff and teachers remain available electronically from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM excluding their duty-free lunch.
- Accommodations are fully integrated for special education students, English language learners, and those without internet access.
- Students have two days following an e-learning day to complete and submit their assignments.

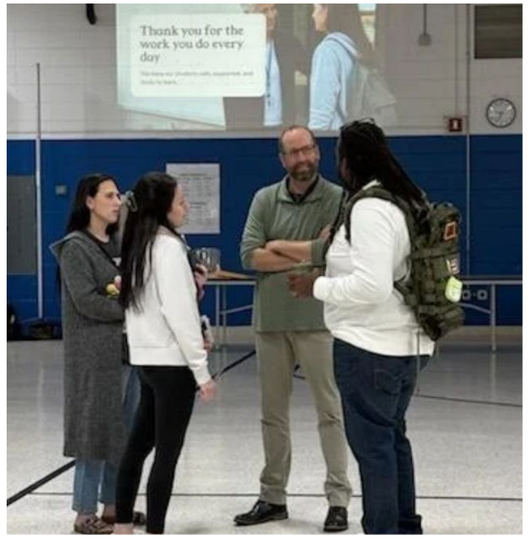
Public Participation

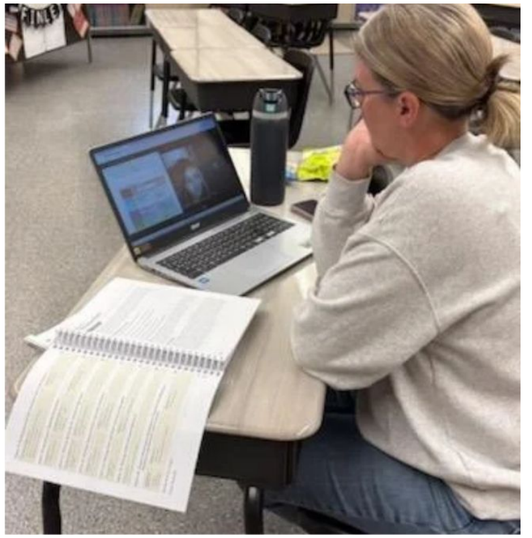
Adjournment of Public Hearing

Celebrations

Centennial Special Evening

Teacher Institute





Open Forum

NLJH Update

Northlawn + Kimes

Northlawn Meets Kimes: Buddies Across Schools

A visit that connects Northlawn 7th graders and 1st graders through conversation, imagination, and stories.

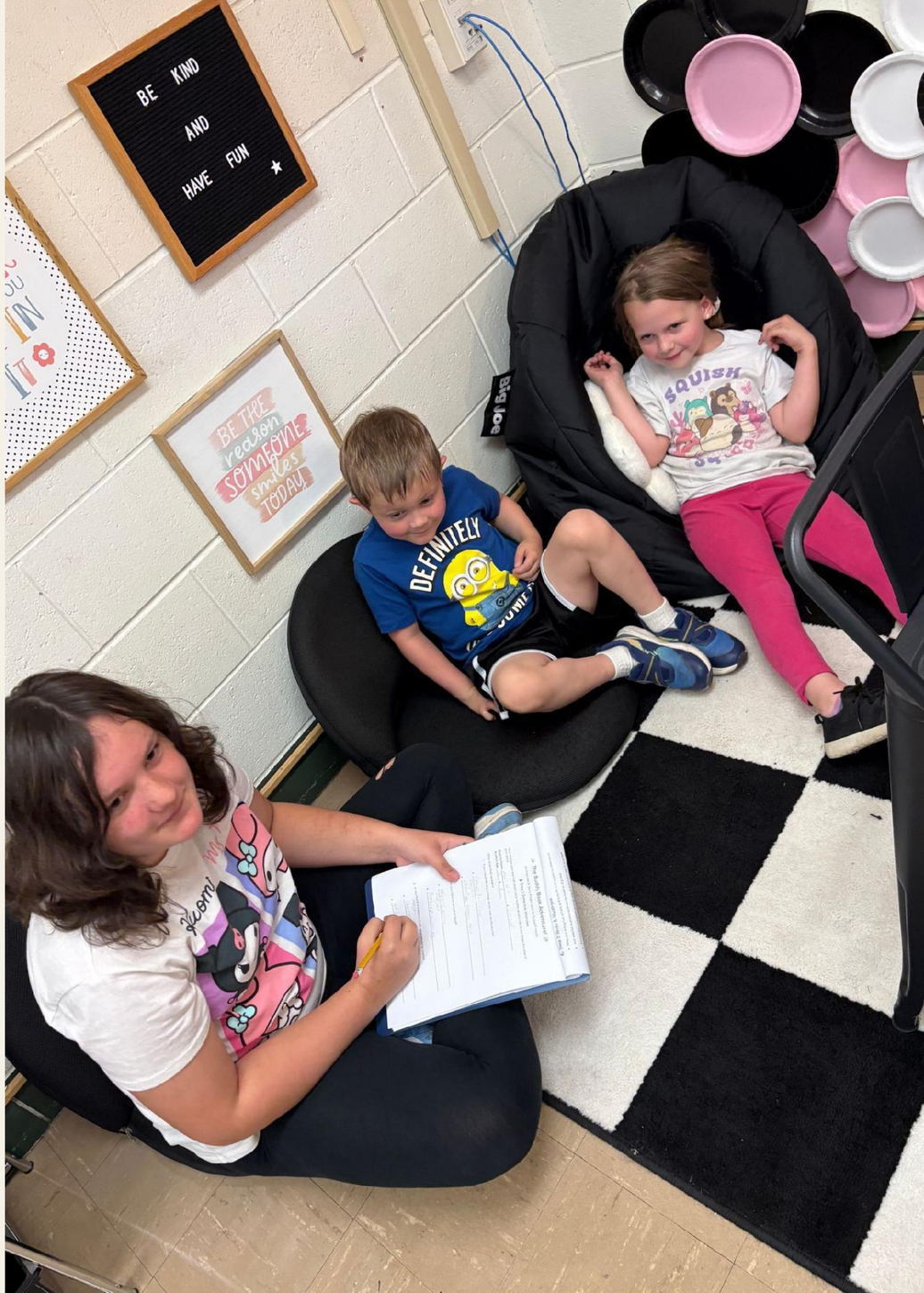
The visit

Mrs. Weber's High ELA class visited Kimes

Then 7th graders spent time with 1st graders, making connections beyond their own school.

The visit brought our ELA work into a new setting, with younger students at the heart of the project.

Presented to the Board of Education, Northlawn Junior High School



Getting acquainted

Every 7th grader met a 1st grade buddy

Pairs asked interview questions and took time to get to know one another.

They learned about interests, favorite things, and big imaginations: the details that would help each writer create a story for their buddy.

A room full of laughter

The 1st graders kept everyone smiling

Very creative answers gave Northlawn students plenty to enjoy and plenty to imagine.

There was laughter all around the room as new buddies shared their ideas.

From conversation to creation

Interviews become children's stories

01

Interview

Get to know a buddy's interests, favorite things, and imagination.

02

Write a story

Each student wrote a story. The 1st grade buddy is the main character.

03

Share

Return later in the year to share the finished stories with our buddies.

Student voices

What our students said:

"The Kimes kids learned about me, of course, and they also learned to use their imagination and let their ideas run wild" ~ Ava J.

"My favorite thing was meeting the kids. I would recommend this to the next high ELA 7th and 8th grade classes." ~ Lorelei K.

"When I went to Kimes, my favorite thing was making the kids feel special for having their own book that they are in!" ~ Melisa C.

Student voices

What our students said:

"I learned that it is important to include everyone. I learned this because I had to include a student that did not have a story." Gavin H.

"I learned how to communicate with younger student. In return I taught the first graders how to pronounce some of the words I had put in my story." Oliviah F.

"My Kimes experience was one of my favorite memories from 7th grade. It taught me how to be more patient with kids since their attention spans are lower than Jr. High students." ~Jersey L.

Student voices

What our students said:

> "It showed us leadership and taught us how to be role models for young minds." ~ Veralyn M.

> "The kids really enjoyed the story and I think more kids should get the opportunity to have a special buddy." Leander P.

New friendships

Students couldn't get enough of their new friends!

What they enjoyed

We got to read together! ~Marjorie D.

What they learned

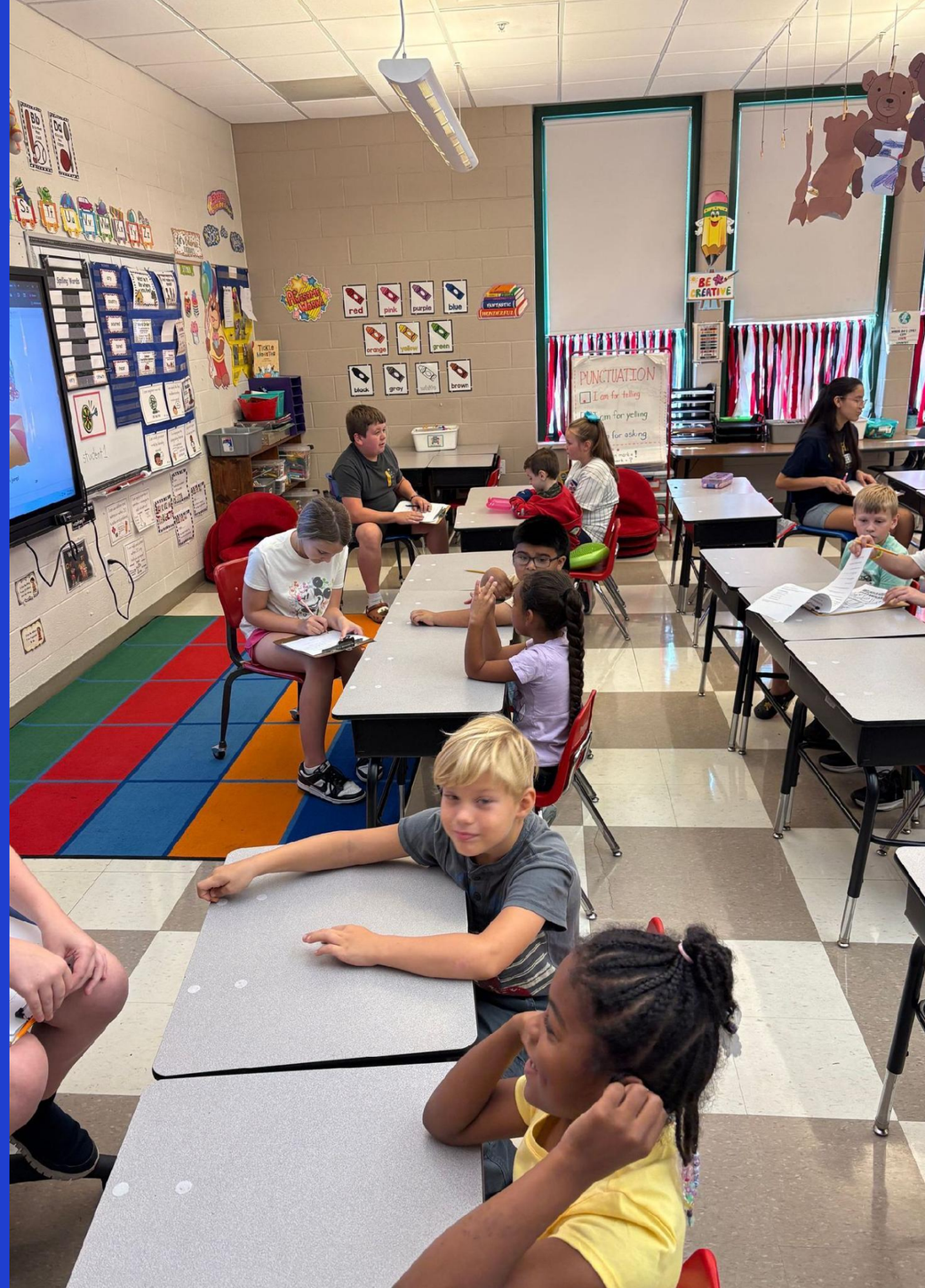
It helped my reading. ~ Marjorie D.

Until the next story

Thank you, Mrs. Rambo and Mrs. Albertson!

Thanks for lending us your amazing students.

The current 7th grade class will return later this year to start the process with the 1st grade buddies as the main characters.



Action Items

Approval of Agenda

Regular Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 5:00 PM
Northlawn Junior High School Library, 202 E. First St., Streator, Illinois 61364

I. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**
II. **CLOSED SESSION - As stated in the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of: Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Personnel, Negotiations, Student Discipline, Litigation, School Security and Safety, Sale of Property, and Review of Closed Session Minutes**
III. **6:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PUBLIC HEARING**
A. Public Participation/Public Hearing for E-Learning Three Year Renewal
B. Adjournment of Public Hearing
IV. **BOARD SALUTES**
V. **OPEN FORUM**
VI. **NLJH UPDATE**
VII. **ACTION ITEMS**
A. Approval of Agenda
B. E-Learning Plan Renewal
VIII. **CONSENT AGENDA**
A. Approval of Closed Session Minutes of the August 18, 2026 Regular Meeting, Open and Closed Session Minutes of the September 22, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
B. Approval of Payment of Bills, District Travel and Financial Statements
C. Approval of Human Resources Consent Agenda
D. Approval of Board Member to provide services to District not to exceed $1,000
IX. **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**
A. ELA Curriculum Pilot Update
B. Insurance Renewal Update
C. Maintenance Grant
D. Safety Grant
E. 2026 Tax Levy Process and Timeline
X. **FOIA REQUESTS**
XI. **CLOSED SESSION - As stated in the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of: Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Personnel, Negotiations, Student Discipline, Litigation, School Security and Safety, Sale of Property, and Review of Closed Session Minutes**
XII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Approval of E-Learning Plan Renewal

Streator Elementary School District #44

26-27 E-Learning/Inclement Weather Plan

Decision Process: The assessment of weather conditions will begin the day before, if possible, with student and staff safety as the number one priority. The variables the District considers include the following:

- Local weather forecasts
- Road conditions
- Temperature and Wind Chill
- The availability of drivers and buses
- Safety components (e.g. power, furnace, heat, water, phone) are functioning properly
- Communication/collaboration with Streator High School and the feeder schools

District Communication Process: We strive to notify families of closure as soon as possible. If a decision can be made the day before a closure, communication will be sent no later than 9:30 p.m. In the event of a day of closure, a communication will ideally be sent between 5:00 and 6:30 a.m. Setting these time parameters eliminates the need for families to check emails overnight while still allowing enough time to make childcare arrangements when necessary.

- Communication will be sent to the contact information on file for families and staff via email and phone. Phone calls will be made to families and staff only in the event that schools are closed.
  - Phone calls will not be made when a decision is still in progress or the decision has been made that school will be open.
- Closure information will also be posted on the District website and Facebook pages.
- Parents will be notified of E-Learning days through e-mail, the call notification system, and social media. A communication explaining the process will be sent out yearly.

E-Learning Plan Overview

Streator Elementary School District #44 (SES #44) will use E-Learning on emergency days. The district meets the legal requirements to use E-Learning days, which allow students to access learning opportunities from remote locations using digital tools.

All students have access to a district-managed Chromebook to facilitate this. The district will ensure that the needs of all students are met, including those in special education and English language learners.

General E-Learning Day Procedures

Student Attendance

- Students are required to connect online with their teachers for attendance by 9:00 AM.
- For students in grades K-4, a parent or older sibling can report the student as present.
- Teachers are responsible for taking attendance through a specified communication tool. Homeroom (PK-4) or advisory (5-8) teachers will record student attendance in Skyward by 10:00 AM.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF THE E-LEARNING PROGRAM PLAN FOR STREATOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 44

WHEREAS, Section 10-20.56 of the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-20.56) permits school districts to utilize e-learning days in lieu of emergency closure days, provided that the school district maintains an approved e-learning program plan, holds a public hearing, and adopts a formal resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Streator Elementary School District Number 44 has previously established an E-Learning Program Plan, and the current three-year approval cycle is concluding; and

WHEREAS, the District has developed a comprehensive 2026–2027 E-Learning/Inclement Weather Plan designed to ensure instructional continuity through digital tools and paper-pencil alternatives, accommodating all students, including special education students and English language learners; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has fulfilled statutory public notice requirements at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing via newspaper publication, direct parent communication, and employee/union notification; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has held a separate public hearing on the 2026–2027 E-Learning Program Plan Renewal to gather community feedback; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Streator Elementary School District Number 44, LaSalle and Livingston Counties, Illinois, as follows:

- The Board of Education hereby approves and adopts the 2026–2027 E-Learning Program Plan as presented, for a new three-year approval cycle pursuant to Section 10-20.56 of the Illinois School Code.
- The Superintendent, or designee, is authorized and directed to submit the approved E-Learning Program Plan and this formal resolution to the Illinois State Board of Education and any other required regional or state authorities as mandated by law.
- This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this 20th day of October, 2026, by the Board of Education of Streator Elementary School District Number 44, LaSalle County, Illinois.

_____

President, Board of Education

_____

Secretary, Board of Education

Recommendation: A motion to approve the E-Learning Plan and Resolution as presented.

Approval of Consent Agenda

- Approval of Closed Session Minutes of the August 18, 2026 Regular Meeting, Open and Closed Session Minutes of the September 22, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
- Approval of Payment of Bills, District Travel and Financial Statements
- Approval of Human Resources Consent Agenda
- Approval of Board Member to provide services to District not to exceed $1,000

Recommendation: A motion to approve the consent agenda.

Informational Items

ELA Curriculum Pilot Update

SES #44
ELA Pilot 26-27

Board of Education Update
October 20, 2026

Dr. Tatia Beckwith
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Summer 2026: Teacher Team Work

06.05.2026 1 hour goal setting and coordination meeting

- Create rubric for analysis of curriculum materials (Summer 2026)
- Analyze current curriculum materials (Summer 2026)
- Research potential pilot materials (Summer 2026)
- Attend potential pilot materials presentations (Summer 2026)
- Select pilot materials (Summer 2026)
- Attend pilot trainings (Fall 2026)
- Implement pilot materials (Trimester 2: 2026-2027)
- Conduct evaluation of pilot materials (Spring 2027)
- Select curriculum materials (Spring 2027)
- Lead the charge of implementation (Fall 2027)

Summer 2026: Teacher Team Work

06.08.2026 3 hours Work Session 1

- Developed common background knowledge
- Developed common working language
- Crafted SES#44 ELA Curriculum Evaluation Tool
- Resources
  - SES#44 ELA Pacing Guides
  - Science of Reading Literature
  - Science of Reading Teacher Expertise (M Devera)
  - ISBE Curriculum Evaluation Tool
  - ISBE Comprehensive Literacy Plan

Summer 2026: Teacher Team Work

06.10.2026 3 hours Work Session 2

- Created master list of current ELA resources
- Used SES#44 Curriculum Evaluation Tool to evaluate:
  - Wonders
  - Study Sync
- Researched potential pilot curricula
- Reached consensus on pilot presentations

Summer 2026: Teacher Team Work

06.23 & 24.2026 6.5 hours Work Sessions 3 & 4

- Attended 8 virtual potential pilot presentations
- Utilized SES#44 Curriculum Evaluation Tool to analyze each

Summer 2026: Teacher Team Work

06.30.2026 2 hours Work Session 5

- Selected 4 comprehensive ELA pilots
  - Grades 2-8
- Selected 1 writing pilot
  - Grades 5-7

Pilots

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Savvas			Cook	Irvine	Hill	Stephens	Kovash	Weber	
Bookworms			Sage	Devera	Holcomb	Salisbury			
Amplify			Sliker	Paton	Cashmer/ Donahue	Isermann			LeRette
Arts&Letters				Renken	Olbrot	Finley/ Averkamp			
The Structured Writing Teacher						Baker	Kovash	Urban	

Fall 2026: Pilot Training 10.09.2026

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Savvas			Cook	Irvine	Hill	Stephens	Kovash	Weber	
Bookworms			Sage	Devera	Holcomb	Salisbury			
Amplify			Sliker	Paton	*Cashmer Donahue	Isermann			LeRette
Arts&Letters				Renken	Olbrot	Finley/ Averkamp			
The Structured Writing Teacher						Baker	Kovash	Urban	

Next Steps

November 9-February 19: Pilot Implementation

Trainer check-ins

Collaboration

February-March: Curriculum materials selection process

Teacher team recommendation

April: Board of Education Update

Insurance Renewal Update

Insurance Renewal Update

- The initial renewal proposal from Blue Cross Blue Shield reflects a 36.10% adjustment, bringing the projected cost to $4,936,197.60.

- An increase of this size would significantly impact our annual budget, the district is proactively reviewing options to ensure long-term financial sustainability.

- The Insurance Committee is working closely with our broker to explore alternative plan designs and gather competitive options from the broader market.

- A special board meeting will be scheduled in the coming weeks to review these options and finalize approval ahead of the November 15 open enrollment deadline.

School Maintenance Grant Update

School Maintenance Grant Update

- The administration is collaborating with BCA Architects and project engineers to evaluate facility priorities for the Illinois State Board of Education School Maintenance Project Grant.

- The project scope has shifted to focus on HVAC system enhancements as a permanent capital improvement since roofing repairs exceed typical grant parameters.

- This dollar-for-dollar state matching grant provides up to $50,000, requiring a matching $50,000 local commitment from the district.

- Engineering consultations have moved the project update to November, with a finalized scope of work and Health/Life Safety Plan amendment targeted for board approval in December.

Safety Grant

Safety Grant

- The application requires system registrations followed by submissions through Grants.gov by October 30, 2026, and the full JustGrants application by November 6, 2026, ahead of a multi-year implementation timeline.

- The administration is developing the District 44 Physical Security, Infrastructure, and Comprehensive Safety Training Project to enhance facility security, update door locks, replace obsolete cameras, and build a secure double-entry visitor vestibule at Kimes Elementary School.

- The initiative may include a rotational security staffing framework with local law enforcement and advanced professional development in behavioral threat assessment and family reunification protocols.

- The district is partnering with local agencies like the Streator Police Department and finalizing grant budget details, narratives, and possible partner agreements.

2026 Tax Levy
Process and Timeline

2026 Tax Levy Process and Timeline

- The property tax levy is the formal process for requesting local revenue funds governed by the Illinois Property Tax Code, serving as the district's second largest source of local revenue.

- The proposed 2026 tax levy is designed to capture a 4.99% aggregate increase over the previous year totaling $5,936,203, which avoids formal Truth-in-Taxation publication and hearing requirements.

- The timeline spans from initial preliminary discussions in October, through tentative approval of the levy at the November meeting, to final adoption at the December board meeting ahead of the statutory deadline.

- Following final board approval, the signed certificate of tax levy is filed with the LaSalle County Clerk for rate calculation, tax extension, and subsequent distribution

2026 Proposed Tax Levy Breakdown

Levy Fund	2025 Extension	Proposed Levy Request	Proposed Rate
Education	$3,161,274	$3,519,853	1.32
O&M	$598,726	$666,639	0.25
Transportation	$287,389	$319,987	0.12
Tort Immunity	$690,000	$478,409	0.1794
IMRF	$202,200	$198,000	0.0743
Social Security	$307,200	$300,000	0.1125
Working Cash	$119,745	$133,328	0.05
Life Safety	$119,745	$133,328	0.05
Special Ed.	$47,898	$53,331	0.02
Lease	$119,745	$133,328	0.05
TOTAL AGGREGATE	**$5,653,922**	**$5,936,203**	**2.22616**

FOIA Requests

Future Agenda Items
Adjournment