

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

I. Call Meeting to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:31 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 Dr. Sean Rhoads, Mrs. Katie Matthews, Dr. Kim Liles, Director Tom Tiede, Mr. Mark Pagel, Mrs. Carrie Fitzgerald, Mrs. Ashley Sanchez, Mrs. Joy DeFors, Mrs. Kari Gemmell, and Sharon Dadepogu. Online attendees included Director Keith Roberts, Megan Calhoun, Sheri Sulima, Liz Uribe, Heather Tran, Ryan Gemmell, Meghan Aleo, Led Tasso, Jessica Sage, and Jessica Rost.

IV. Scheduled Time to Address the Board

There were no scheduled speakers for the August 5, 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 Hires of K. Enriquez and Nicholas Emanuele, BACC Aides

V.D.2. Approve the Hire of Frank Caliendo, District Bus Driver

V.D.3. Approve the Resignation of Kathy Wysocki, BACC Aide

VI. Approve Consent Agenda

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

Darren Spiegel: Absent, Doug Wiley: Absent, Steve Dlugo: Yea, Megan DuPass: Yea, Brian

Liedtke: Yea, Adam Sage: Yea, Tiffany Watson: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

VII. Communication

VII.A. Start of the School Year Presentation

Information included bell times, sample schedules, and staffing updates. Some Board members had questions/comments on how minutes inside the school day were being used, more specifically in the area of instructional minutes, plan minutes, encore, and recess. Principals provided answers in relation to rationale for changes.

VII.B. Real Skills for Real Life - Ashley Sanchez, Kari Gemmell, Carrie Fitzgerald, Joy DeFors

Joy DeFors, Kari Gemmell, Ashley Sanchez, and Carrie Fitzgerald provided overviews of monthly workshops last year for teachers to help them teach kids to take risks, think through situations/opportunities, exhibit self-control, achieve goals, give-take perspectives, innovate, connect prior experiences to new situations/learning, preserve through tough material, etc. The Board commended the presenters, and shared that teaching the students "life and workplace skills" better prepares them for the real world.

VII.C. FOIA Requests

There were four FOIA requests that the District received and complied with.

VIII. Principal Reports

VIII.A. Elizabeth Ide Elementary

Principal Fitzgerald announced that Elizabeth Ide has developed a master schedule that prioritizes uninterrupted instructional time and provides teachers with 50 minutes of daily common planning to enhance collaboration and data analysis. This intentional scheduling aims to support high-quality instruction for every student and strengthen the Professional Learning Community practices. The collective efforts have already led to positive student achievement, reflecting the dedication of staff, students, and families in fostering a culture of growth and excellence. As the new school year begins, the goal is for every student to feel a strong sense of belonging and support within a caring community that promotes social-emotional learning and skill development. Elizabeth Ide staff are committed to fostering student growth through opportunities for perspective-taking, problem-solving, and collaboration, while emphasizing learner characteristics and executive functioning skills. They look forward to a year of growth, achievement, and endless possibilities for their students to learn and thrive.

VIII.B. Prairieview Elementary

The Prairieview Building Leadership Team met to plan for the 2026-27 school year, focusing on key events, priorities, and grade-level needs, including developing plans for opening week, special events, and the School Improvement Plan. They reviewed the draft master schedule, collaboration times, and discussed curriculum, assessment, and budget considerations, all while expressing enthusiasm and commitment to a strong, organized start. The team is excited to support student success and foster a positive, collaborative school community throughout the year. As preparations are being made for the new school year, the focus is on creating a safe, supportive environment where students can grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

through strong relationships and engaging learning experiences. Prairieview is excited to collaborate with families and staff to foster a positive school culture and ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed and thrive.

VIII.C. Lakeview Junior High

Dr. Liles states that as the 2026-2027 school year begins, Lakeview is filled with excitement and a renewed sense of purpose under the theme "Be the Difference," reminding everyone of the power to positively impact others through actions and relationships. They are committed to creating a welcoming, supportive environment where every student feels valued, challenged, and included, encouraging all members of our community to lead with integrity and compassion. Lakeview will launch a "One School, One Book" initiative with the novel **Amazing Generation**, with all students and teachers receiving a copy to read and discuss during ACE periods starting in September. Additionally, a parent meeting will be held in early September to introduce the program, which focuses on promoting responsible technology use.

IX. Director Reports

IX.A. Director of Student Services

District staff have been working together on collaborative planning and professional development in preparation for the 2026-27 school year. Important Student Services meetings, such as IEP, PPS, Multilingual, Preschool for All, SLP, and New Teacher workshops, have been scheduled to ensure a smooth and coordinated beginning to the year. Interventionists will start supporting students using current data, and fall benchmark assessments will help refine intervention groups within our districtwide MTSS framework. The District will hold its Annual Emergency Crisis Response Planning Meeting, collaborating with local first responders to review emergency procedures, safety plans, evacuation routes, and crisis protocols, ensuring practices stay current and aligned with best standards. Additionally, District 66 will conduct its annual Substitute Teacher Orientation, providing expectations, safety procedures, and instructional resources, to ensure a consistent onboarding experience for substitutes. Finalized specialized transportation routes for students in outplaced services will be in place for the start of the year, and a recent Student Services Audit will inform the District's strategic planning, highlighting strengths and growth opportunities to enhance support for students, staff, and families in the upcoming years.

IX.B. Director of Learning

Over the summer, various teacher teams met to prepare for the 2026-2027 school year, focusing on curriculum alignment, instructional practices, and family communication. Progress continues on refining Skyward gradebook workflows and implementing competency-based reporting, emphasizing clear learning targets and proficiency levels. A team of twelve staff members attended the national Marzano Mastery Institute to deepen expertise in proficiency scales, assessment literacy, and equity. New teacher orientation on August 13 will introduce district values, instructional practices, and mentoring programs to support first-year staff. The district wide Opening Day Institute on August 18 will focus on elevating student voice and engagement, with professional development and collaborative planning to enhance classroom instruction. Finally, a recent Curriculum Review by Education Elements highlighted strengths in competency-based education and provided strategic recommendations to strengthen instructional coherence and educator capacity in the coming years.

IX.C. Director of Technology

Director Roberts reported that this summer, device deployments went smoothly, with new Chromebooks replacing outdated ones for 2nd and 6th grades, and new iPads provided for Kindergarten and 1st grade, while the fleet was prepared for students through repairs. Significant time was dedicated to aligning grade-level standards for the upcoming year, and the annual Skyward system rollover was completed successfully, with ongoing efforts to refine grading, attendance, and reporting processes. In compliance and special projects, efforts included supporting the DOJ Title IX records request by exploring eDiscovery tools like Logikcull, ensuring timely data management across districts. Additionally, plans are underway to align the district's AI framework with the state's framework, working closely with the Assistant Superintendent of Learning, to integrate AI initiatives effectively.

IX.D. Director of Transportation/Buildings and Grounds

This summer, the transportation department utilized 4 buses and drivers for outplaced ESY students and an in-house summer enrichment program, while also conducting annual maintenance and DOT inspections to prepare for the upcoming school year. To manage rising new bus costs, the district decided to purchase leased buses, a decision supported by the board and aided by increased maintenance support from within the team. By retaining existing vehicles, the district is acting as good financial stewards, recognizing the need for future new bus purchases as the fleet ages. Also this summer, projects across the district are wrapping up just in time for staff and students to return, thanks to the efforts of custodians and maintenance despite challenging weather and delays. Key upgrades include exterior masonry tuckpointing at Elizabeth IDE, roofing retrofit and gym renovations at Lakeview—including new flooring, graphics, and an event entry—and extensive parking lot improvements with new lighting, storm drains, and an expanded asphalt track. At Prairieview, the playground has been expanded to reduce mud and improve safety, along with grading and seeding of sports fields and replacement of main corridor tiles. Overall, these repairs and upgrades reflect ongoing facility improvements supported by the board and community.

X. Superintendent Report

X.A. District Dashboard

The District Dashboard is available online, no changes for this month. Dr. Wise explained that it would be updated in a couple of months once school started and state data was released.

X.B. Draft Agenda for the August 13 Strategic Plan Meeting

A draft agenda for the August 13 Strategic Plan Meeting is included in Boardbook. Dr. Wise reiterated that a small group of Administration has been joining him to review District Audits and Data, to be better prepared to answer questions and help facilitate the Strategic Planning process.

X.C. Tentative FY27 Budget

Dr. Wise shared that the FY 27 budget met the needs of students, while being fiscally responsible and projecting nearly \$500,000 to be put in reserves.

X.D. Executive Summary from Education Elements/Engage2Learn

Education Elements/Engage2Learn is a curriculum, instruction, and competency based educational auditing firm. The audit highlighted many success stories and also provided opportunities for growth and/or next steps to success. The audit can be found on the District homepage.

X.E. Executive Summary from TJ Consultants

TJ Consultants is an educational firm that analyzes programming, staffing, and student services. This audit also highlighted many achievements as well as the potential for development. This audit can also be found on the District homepage.

X.F. Opening Day Information

Opening day information was shared, including bell times, schedules, and staffing updates. The Board and Dr. Wise thanked everyone for their efforts this summer and wished everyone a great start to the school year.

XI. Public Comment

No public comment.

XII. Action items

XII.A. Motion to Approve Placing the FY27 Tentative Budget on Display for 30 days

Motion to approve placing the FY27 Tentative Budget on display for 30 days. This motion, made by Adam Sage and seconded by Tiffany Watson, Passed.

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

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

XIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. This motion, made by Steve Dlugo and seconded by Adam Sage, Passed.

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

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2