



**Winfield School District 34
Minutes of Regular Board of Education Meeting**

Thursday, April 30, 2026 7:00 PM
Winfield School Central Cafeteria, 0S150 Park St, Winfield, IL 60190

I. CALL TO ORDER 7:00PM

II. ROLL CALL

Board of Education Members in attendance: Carrie Linden, Dave Hempe, Alisa Wolfe, Dan Krasinski, Heather Armstrong,
Absent: Matt Tibble, Lynn Kammes,
Also, Present: Matt Rich, Superintendent; Melissa Doucet, Building Leader; Dave Baum, Tech Support; Lisa Honaker, CSBO; Amanda Melsa, Board Secretary; Jennifer Gendel, Coordinator of Student Services;
Staff: Megan Ryder, Matt Wdowiarz,
Visitor(s): Ettore Family, Willix Family, Amigon Family,

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Action(s): I move to approve the agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Alisa Wolfe, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Carrie Linden: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**,
Absent: Lynn Kammes, Matt Tibble,

V. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

A. Student of the Month - Hollie Willix and Mara Amigon

B. Cardboard Arcade:

Presenter: Megan Ryder, STEAM Teacher - [Presentation](#)

C. Odell Showalter & Board Awards

The Board discussed the status of award nominations. One nomination has been received for the Odell/Showalter Volunteer Award and was recognized as deserving. Board members were asked to volunteer to help review nominations. Heather Armstrong and Alisa Wolfe volunteered. The Board Award was also discussed as an opportunity to recognize staff for their long-term contributions, especially with upcoming retirements. It was noted that multiple awards may be given to the upcoming retirees. The Board will continue to gather and review nominations for the Odell/Showalter Award.

D. 8th Grade Band/Music Pin

Presenter: Matt Wdowiarz, Music/Band Teacher

Matt expressed appreciation for leading the music program and highlighted its impact on student growth, including collaboration, persistence, and community engagement. He shared the history of the program, emphasizing how a former teacher (Bob) built the band program from very limited resources into a highly successful and widely participated program.

A formal request was made to rename the 8th Grade Musician of the Year Award in his honor to recognize his lasting contributions and legacy.

The Board was receptive to the idea and will consider the request at a future meeting.

E. Consideration of Distinguished Alumni Award

Discussion was introduced about creating a formal way to recognize distinguished alumni.

Ideas included establishing nomination criteria, forming a review committee, and recognizing alumni accomplishments both locally and beyond.

The recognition could also provide opportunities for alumni to connect with and inspire current students.

The Board expressed interest in developing a structured process, with additional details and criteria to be created for future consideration.

F. Board Calendar and Board Retreat

Board Calendar:

The Board discussed adjusting the April/May meeting schedule due to the upcoming election cycle and timing of canvassed results. Consensus supported consolidating business into a single meeting on May 6, 2027 rather than holding a separate April 29, 2027 meeting. The revised calendar will reflect this change, with the March 25, 2027 meeting remaining prior to spring break (adjusted due to the early Good Friday).

Board Retreat:

The Board discussed the structure of the annual retreat, including whether to continue joint sessions with staff/association members. There was general support for a collaborative retreat model to strengthen alignment, communication, and trust. The possibility of also holding a separate Board-focused session for specific governance topics was noted. Topics for the retreat will be identified in the coming months, with input from both the Board and staff.

- G. SASED Revised Articles of Agreement and Facilities Development:** SASED has explored facility needs and is proposing a revised, cost-neutral plan to replace/streamline facilities. The proposal was reduced significantly from an initial ~\$80M concept to approximately \$20–25M. The project would be funded through debt certificates, repaid via tuition revenue, not through additional district tax burden. Current lease/facility costs are already embedded in tuition, and the expectation is that overall costs remain comparable to current spending. Updated Articles of Agreement are required to authorize the debt structure and clarify that repayment will come from tuition-based revenue.

District Impact & Risk: Member districts, including ours, would not take on direct debt; financial responsibility is tied to student participation (tuition usage). If a district exits before the project, it may do so without penalty (with notice). If exiting after the project is underway, costs would be based on the district's average tuition usage over the previous five years (for us, roughly <1% share). Overall, the revised plan is considered more manageable and lower risk than earlier proposals.

Additional Considerations: SASED continues to provide specialized, low-incidence services (e.g., vision, hearing, therapy) that are not cost-effective for the district to operate independently. Leaving SASED would likely result in higher costs or reduced access to services. Demand for SASED programs remains stable, with some unmet need and waitlists.

Next Steps: The Board will be asked to approve the revised Articles of Agreement, enabling SASED to proceed with the facility plan.

H. TIF 2

Board members discussed the recent village meeting regarding TIF 2, noting limited attendance due to the school's Showcase Night. Updates will be shared in the upcoming *Tiger Times*, which includes a detailed section addressing key concerns.

Concerns were raised about the village's financial position, highlighting strong fund balances and reserves, particularly within the water and sewer fund, and questioning the necessity of TIF 2 given available resources. It was noted that projected capital

improvement costs appear to be significantly lower than current reserves.

The Board contrasted the village's financial flexibility with the district's more limited cash flow and reliance on property tax timing, emphasizing the district's conservative financial management and lower tax rate compared to neighboring districts.

Additional concerns included the limited number of proposed TIF projects expected to increase property tax revenue, with most identified as infrastructure improvements. Overall, the discussion reflected skepticism about the need for TIF 2 and its potential impact on taxpayers.

VII. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Action(s): I move to approve the minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Alisa Wolfe, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Carrie Linden: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**,

Absent: Lynn Kammes, Matt Tibble,

A. March 26, 2026 Policy Hearing Minutes

B. March 26, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

C. March 26, 2026 Closed Session Minutes

VIII. **CONSENT AGENDA (Routine matters that do not require discussion)**

Action(s): I move to approve the Consent Agenda action items A and B (read every listed item) as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Alisa Wolfe, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Carrie Linden: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**,

Absent: Lynn Kammes, Matt Tibble,

A. **Approval of Finance Reports**

1. Bill List - Payable List and List of Other Payments

2. Treasurer/Fund Balance/Bank Reconciliation Report

B. **Other Approvals**

IX. **COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD**

A. **Superintendent's Report**

1. **Legislative Update** - The legislature is working on a variety of bills which may have an impact on student learning and school operations. The session will be highlighted by the end of May budget approval. This is expected to be a tighter fiscal year. As such there is a fair bit of maneuvering in regards to how funds are allocated. One area we are watching carefully is Mandated Categorical Funding. These funds provide some reimbursement in the area of special education transportation. There are a variety of proposals from hold even funding, which would result in a decrease in reimbursements as there will be higher claims this year to fund just enough to keep the 79% reimbursement proration, which would allow districts to keep the balance between state and local expenditures but would require significantly more funding from the State. While we are spending less this year, in general this typically \$100,000 - \$150,000 line item for the district. The difference between 60% reimbursement and 80% reimbursement in this item is \$20,000-\$30,000 that would come from local resources. Another interesting item that is moving through the State is the Mega projects bill to potentially fund the Bear's Stadium. In this type of project, the Joint Review Board will make decisions using a weighted voting system. "The vote of the local review board shall be weighted in proportion to each voting member's taxing district's share of property taxes levied on the proposed site." This type of scenario would have resulted in very different conversations with Winfield TIF 2 as CHSD 94 and Winfield 34 represent nearly 75% of the revenue impacted by that decision. Clearly the legislature

is beginning to see some of the challenges that exist in the current system of TIFs and PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) initiatives.

2. **Facility Updates** - We are beginning to prepare for summer facilities work. While we have few big projects, the most visible one will be the replacement of the 1 room school house roof. This was intended to occur over Spring Break, but the weather really didn't comply. We also will begin working on some needed painting in high traffic areas. Many of the areas at Central were last painted during the 2002 remodel/addition. Our summer teams will be working to paint many of the common areas where hundreds of hands pass each day. During the next several years we will move from the common areas to the classroom wings, probably one wing a summer. The summer team will also be working on cleaning and the replacement of the LED lights. Finally, we will be working on the IT side, upgrading our switches, access points, and wireless controller pending Board approval this evening. In addition, the Primary Gym Floor was unable to be completed over Spring Break and is scheduled to be done as soon as school is out. It should be completed and paid for this Fiscal Year.
3. **WEF Update** - We are excited for Tiger Run this Sunday! It will start and finish at Lions park. We'll begin with the kids dash at 8:15 a.m. and the 5k/1 mile at 8:30 a.m. Huge thanks to all our sponsors, participants and volunteers! You can register up until race day--check out the WEF website or Tiger Prints for the link to sign up. Check out Tiger Prints for more info on activities and events we have coming up. Our final WEF/PTO meeting of the school year is this Wednesday, May 6th at 7 p.m. in the Central School Commons. All are welcome to join!

B. **Principal's Report** - [Presentation](#)

C. **Finance Report from Director of Business Services**

X. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Approve 10 year Health Life Safety Assessment

Action(s): I move to approve the proposal from FGM to complete our 10 year Health Life Safety Assessment at a cost of \$22,020.68 as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Alisa Wolfe, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hemepe: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Carrie Linden: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**,
Absent: Lynn Kammes, Matt Tibble,

XI. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Personnel**

1. Accept Paraprofessional Resignation

Action(s): I move to accept the resignation of Flavia Farinha as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Alisa Wolfe, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hemepe: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Carrie Linden: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**,
Absent: Lynn Kammes, Matt Tibble,

2. Accept Resignation of Building and Grounds Supervisor

Action(s): I move to accept the resignation of Antoine Blake as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Alisa Wolfe, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hemepe: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Carrie Linden: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**,
Absent: Lynn Kammes, Matt Tibble,

3. Approve Summer Maintenance Additional Workers

Action(s): I move to employ Cal Doucet, Jaden Aldaco, and Ashton Aldaco as summer maintenance workers for summer 2026 as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Alisa Wolfe, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempt: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Carrie Linden: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**,
Absent: Lynn Kammes, Matt Tibble,

4. Approve Stipend Plan 2026-27

Action(s): I move to approve the 2026-27 Stipend Plan as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Alisa Wolfe, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempt: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Carrie Linden: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**,
Absent: Lynn Kammes, Matt Tibble,

5. Approved initial 2026-27 Stipend Assignments

Action(s): I move to approve the initial 2026-27 stipend assignments as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Alisa Wolfe, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempt: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Carrie Linden: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**,
Absent: Lynn Kammes, Matt Tibble,

6. Approve Summer School Assignments

Action(s): I move to approve the 2026 Summer Assignments as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Alisa Wolfe, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempt: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Carrie Linden: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**,
Absent: Lynn Kammes, Matt Tibble,

B. Approve Consolidated District Plan

Action(s): I move to approve the FY27 Consolidated District Plan as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Alisa Wolfe, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempt: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Carrie Linden: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**,
Absent: Lynn Kammes, Matt Tibble,

C. Revise 2026-27 School Calendar

Action(s): I move to approve the revised 2026-27 school calendar as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Alisa Wolfe, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempt: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Carrie Linden: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**,
Absent: Lynn Kammes, Matt Tibble,

D. Approve Board Calendar

Action(s): I move to approve the 2026 - 2027 Board Meeting Calendar as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Alisa Wolfe, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempt: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Carrie Linden: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**,
Absent: Lynn Kammes, Matt Tibble,

E. Approve Replacement of Network Switches

Action(s): I move to approve the proposal from Net56 to replace our network switches at a cost of \$190,062.64 as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Alisa Wolfe, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempt: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Carrie Linden: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**,
Absent: Lynn Kammes, Matt Tibble,

F. Approve First Reading Of Policies

Draft Update Policies:

- 2:200 Types of Board of Education Meetings
- 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure
- 2:250 Access to District Public Records
- 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure
- 4:165 Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors
- 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria
- 5:50 Drug-and Alcohol -Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition
- 5:250 Leaves of Absence
- 5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves
- 6:65 Student Social and Emotional Development
- 6:100 Using Animals in the Educational Program
- 6:145 Migrant Students
- 6:170 Title I Programs
- 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited
- 7:50 School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools
- 7:100 Health, Eye and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students
- 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited
- 7:240 Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities
- 7:260 Exemption from Physical Education
- 7:300 Extracurricular Athletics
- 8:90 Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs

Review and Monitoring Policies:

- 7:220 Bus Conduct
- 7:230 Misconduct by Students with Disabilities
- 7:280 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease

Action(s): I move to approve the first reading of policies as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Carrie Linden and seconded by Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.
Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempt: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Carrie Linden: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**,
Absent: Lynn Kammes, Matt Tibble

G. **Board Procedures and Exhibit Updates**

For information only, no Board approval needed.

H. **Freedom of Information Act Requests**

1. CT Mills
2. David Freeman
3. Jules Goonewardena, foia@lakecountygazette.com
4. Michael Henry **michaelfhenry@live.com**
5. Carla Carlos **c.carlos@employeeersearchdata.org**
6. Owen Wang - foia@lakecountygazette.com

XII. **Items for Future Agendas**

- XIII. **ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION – Reason 1.** *The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to*

consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with [the Open Meetings Act]. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). **Reason 12.** Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

Action(s): I move to adjourn to closed session. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Alisa Wolfe, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Carrie Linden: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**,

Absent: Lynn Kammes, Matt Tibble

XIV. **ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION TO REGULAR SESSION**

Action(s): I move to adjourn from closed session to open session. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Dave Hempe and seconded by Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Carrie Linden: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**,

Absent: Lynn Kammes, Matt Tibble

XV. **ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION**

A. None

XVI. **ADJOURNMENT**

Action(s): I move that the Board of Education Meeting be adjourned. A voice vote was taken at 10:20PM. This motion, made by Dave Hempe and seconded Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Carrie Linden: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**,

Absent: Lynn Kammes, Matt Tibble

Regular Board of Education Meetings:

***Unless otherwise noted, all Board of Education Meetings are on Thursdays and begin at 7:00 PM. They are located in the Winfield Central School Cafeteria.**

Regular Thursday, April 30, 2026

Approved:

Dan Krasinski, President
Board of Education

Carrie Linden, Member
Board of Education