



LINCOLNWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 74
BOARD OF EDUCATION
 Regular Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 7:30 PM

BOARD OF EDUCATION
 Peter D. Theodore, *President*
 Myra A. Foutris, *Vice President*
 John P. Vranas, *Secretary*
 Ted Kwon
 Jay Oleniczak
 Elissa B. Rosenberg
 Mihra Seta

ADMINISTRATION
 Dr. David L. Russo, *Superintendent of Schools*
 Dr. Dominick M. Lupo, *Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction*
 Courtney L. Whited, *Business Manager/CSBO*

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Lincolnwood School District 74, Cook County, Illinois, was held in the Lincolnwood Village Hall - Gerald C. Turry Village Board Room 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois 60712, on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Theodore called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., roll call was taken and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Myra A. Foutris
 Ted Kwon
 Jay Oleniczak
 Elissa B. Rosenberg
 Mihra Seta
 Peter D. Theodore
 John P. Vranas

ADMINISTRATORS/STAFF PRESENT

Dr. David L. Russo
 Dr. Dominick M. Lupo
 Courtney L. Whited

Dr. Chris Harmon
 Dr. Aliaa Ibrahim
 Jackie McGoey

Erin Curry
 Jordan Stephen
 Renee Tolnai

2. DISTRICT RECOGNITION

- a. **Curricular Highlight** - The District’s journey through EL highlights students’ experiences in the English Learner program, with a focus on the intermediate years at Rutledge Hall. The presentation reflects on students’ starting points, their growth in language proficiency and confidence, and the milestones achieved along the way. Through the voices of students and teachers, we celebrate progress and reaffirm our commitment to access, opportunity, and academic achievement—recognizing multilingualism as a powerful asset that strengthens both our learners and our school community.

Rutledge Hall principal Aliaa Ibrahim introduced staff and students who presented about their experiences in the English Learner program, with a focus on the intermediate years at Rutledge Hall.

President Theodore called for a two-minute break at 7:44 p.m.

President Theodore returned to **OPEN SESSION** at 7:46 p.m.

3. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

None.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- I. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - **FEBRUARY 5, 2026**
- II. Regular Board Meeting - Closed Session Minutes - **FEBURARY 5, 2026**

b. EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

I. **Personnel Report**

II. Resignation

- 1. **Yolanda Santos**, Paraprofessional, Lincoln Hall, effective February 20, 2026

III. Retirement

- 1. **Julie Hammel**, 3rd Grade Teacher, Rutledge Hall, effective the end of the 2029-2030 school year.

IV. FMLA Leave Request

- 1. **Bennett Nelson**, 6th Grade Science Teacher, Lincoln Hall, effective March 13, 2026, with an expected return of May 4, 2026
- 2. **Ana Ryan**, 7th Grade Language Arts Teacher, Lincoln Hall, effective January 20, 2026

c. Adding Vanguard to SD74's SRA Offerings

The Finance Committee members in attendance supported the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve this Agreement to offer Vanguard for Supplemental Retirement Accounts to eligible SD74 employees beginning Spring 2026 at no cost to the District.

d. PowerSchool Multi-Year Contract Agreement

The Finance Committee members in attendance supported the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve the presented multi-year contracts for PowerSchool products for SIS Maintenance and Support, and Registration Maintenance from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2031.

e. Student 1:1 Technology Refresh For 2026-2027 School Year

The Finance Committee members in attendance supported the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to continue with the replacement of District equipment in an amount not to exceed \$127,000.

It was moved by Secretary Vranas and seconded by Member Kwon that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approves those items on the Consent Agenda as appear above.

President Theodore submitted the motion to a vote and the following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Foutris, Vranas, Kwon, Oleniczak, Rosenberg, Seta, Theodore

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None.

7. COMMUNICATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS

a. NTDSE/District 807: **John P. Vranas/Elissa B. Rosenberg**

The NTDSE Governing Board did not meeting in February 2026. The next meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the NTDSE Administration Center.

b. IASB (Illinois Association of School Boards): **Ted Kwon/Jay Oleniczak**

Secretary Vranas provided a brief overview of the Tuesday, March 3, 2026 North [IASB North Cook Divisional Meeting](#), Topic: State funding in education.

c. Finance Committee: **Jay Oleniczak/Mihra Seta**

The Finance Committee last met on February 19, 2026. There were no formal recommendations voted on due to the lack of a quorum. The Finance Committee members in attendance supported the Administrative recommendation to the Board of Education for three (3) items on the Consent Agenda:

1. Adding Vanguard to SD74's SRA Offerings
2. PowerSchool Multi-Year Contract Agreement
3. Student 1:1 Technology Refresh for the 2026-27 School Year

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

d. Facilities Committee: **John P. Vranas/Myra A. Foutris**

The Facilities Committee last met on October 21, 2025. The February 2026 Facilities Committee meeting was canceled due to a light Agenda. The next Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Administration Building. The public is welcome.

e. Policy Committee: **Myra A. Foutris/Ted Kwon**

The Policy Committee last met on Friday, December 12, 2025. The February and March 2026 Policy Committee meetings were canceled due to a light agenda. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 24, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in the Administration Building. The public is welcome.

f. President's Report: **Peter D. Theodore**

I. Important District Dates

President Theodore shared important District upcoming dates. Please see the District website for information: sd74.org.

8. COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

a. LTA (Lincolnwood Teacher Association): **Travis DuPriest/Kevin Conley (Co-Presidents)**

No report.

b. LSSU (Lincolnwood Support Staff Union): **Tommy Bujnowski (President)**

No report.

c. PALS (People Active with Lincolnwood Schools): **Abby Jones (President)**

PALS Vice President Stacey Johnson shared upcoming PALS events, and reported on the successes of the group's recent fundraising efforts.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a. Superintendent's Report: **Dr. David L. Russo**

I. District Updates

- Superintendent Russo thanked Dr. Ibrahim, the teachers, and students for showcasing the work within our English Learner program. About one-fifth of our overall student population is supported with English Learner services. They do such important work building students' social and academic language so they can both navigate material in their classes and engage their classmates on a daily basis.
- Dr. Ibrahim was named one of seven finalists for the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Leadership. [The Golden Apple Foundation](#) is the leading Illinois nonprofit committed to preparing, honoring, and retaining great educators who advance educational opportunities for students. This was a highly competitive award process resulting in the selection of seven Pre-K-12th grade school leader finalists from nearly 100 nominations received.

The Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Leadership honors exemplary performance in school leadership by a principal or head of school who has had a significant and sustained positive impact on the school, created a culture of inclusivity, and delivered dramatic student growth. In addition to a monetary award, recipients also become Fellows of the Golden Apple Academy of Educators, a community of educators who play an important role in preparing the next generation of teachers in the Golden Apple Scholars and Accelerators programs—initiatives dedicated to addressing the teacher shortage in Illinois.

- Superintendent Russo thanked all those on the PALS committee who put forth time and effort to host such an outstanding fundraising event last month. It was a great evening of community building. Part of the funds raised will go to the Cahill Scholarship program, which we are currently in the window of accepting applications. The District is also looking forward to the Teacher Appreciation Week festivities coming up later in the year.
- Families should be looking out for the Sign-Up Genius information regarding spring Parent-Teacher conferences. Signups begin March 10, 2026. Make sure you are consulting the directions to ensure you are signing up for the correct teacher(s). If you do not receive any communication next week, reach out to your respective school office for the details. Registration for conferences will be available through March 20, 2026. March 13, 2026 is our launch date for 2026-2027 re-registration/registration. More information on that process can be found in upcoming *Tuesday Newsday* editions.
- On February 25, 2026 the District played host to 28 of the best spellers in our area. Our Lincoln Hall Auditorium is an outstanding venue for this event and the sponsors truly appreciate our staff's partnership to host. We had nearly a three-hour long competition with several twists and turns including multiple appeals to judges' decisions. In the end, a student from Palatine spelled the word "triforium" correctly, which means a gallery or arcade above the arches of the nave, choir, and transepts of a church. There was a three-way tie for second place. All four spellers will move on to the next round of competition later this month.
- On March 14, 2026 our region will host an educational career fair at Forest View Educational Center in Arlington Heights. Prospective candidates can find more information and register for the fair at ncisc.org.
- Although it is still a couple of weeks away, we wish everyone a wonderful Spring Break. This year, Spring Break is March 30-April 3, 2026. Travel safely for those heading out of town or enjoy a more relaxed schedule for a few days as we head into the final weeks of the school year.

II. Color Portraits, Inc. Contract for 2026-2027 School Year

It was moved by Secretary Vranas and seconded by Member Seta that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approve the Contract from Color Portraits, Inc., and its employees, for school photos in the 2026-2027 school year, as recommended by the Administration, and as presented.

President Theodore submitted the motion to a vote and the following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Foutris, Vranas, Kwon, Oleniczak, Rosenberg, Seta, Theodore

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

b. Curriculum and Instruction, Assistant Superintendent's Report: **Dr. Dominick M. Lupo**

I. Curriculum Department Update

- Dr. Lupo will be asking for the Board's approval on the middle school literacy Committee's reading and language arts curriculum recommendations in the coming months.
- SD74 Summer Adventures registration opens March 6, 2026 for out of district families.

c. Business and Operations, Business Manager/CSBO: **Courtney Whited**

I. Finance Report - **DECEMBER 2025**

Business Manager/CSBO Whited presented the December 2025 Finance Report.

II. Bills Payable in the Amount of \$937,150.78

Bills reviewed this month by: Jay Oleniczak and Mihra Seta

It was moved by Member Oleniczak and seconded by Member Seta that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education approve invoices and bills in the amount of \$937,150.78.

President Theodore submitted the motion to a vote and the following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Foutris, Vranas, Kwon, Oleniczak, Rosenberg, Seta, Theodore

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

10. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

None.

11. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by President Theodore and seconded by Secretary Vranas that the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education recess into Closed Session for the purposes of: **5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), amended by P.A. 101-459 - Personnel, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) - Collective Negotiating and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10) - the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students.**

President Theodore submitted the motion to a voice vote and the motion passed.

11a. Superintendent's Report: **Dr. David L. Russo**

Superintendent Russo provided information to the Board about the upcoming PALS events and requested input regarding the use of the District's facilities for fundraising purposes.

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by President Theodore and seconded by Secretary Vranas to adjourn the Regular meeting of the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education.

President Theodore submitted the motion to a voice vote and the motion passed at 8:52 p.m.

Peter D. Theodore, President

John P. Vranas, Secretary