

**Minutes of Gurnee School District 56
Board of Education Meeting
June 24, 2026**

The following Board members were in attendance: Odie Pahl, Becky Kotsinis, Jim Blockinger, and Cesar Garcia. Mark Pos (via telephone). Absent: Germain Castellanos and Mandi Florip

Also in attendance:

Luis Correa, Superintendent
Martin Da Costa, Director of Business | CSBO
Eric Esteban, Director of Technology
Sean Smith, Director of Facilities & Grounds
Rachel Solomon, Director of Student Services
Principals: Dominique Geocaris, Jen Glickley, Sara Rosheger, and Allison Waller
Aurora Orozco, Board Clerk

Board Vice President Blockinger called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and asked that everyone join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Member Kotsinis made a motion, seconded by Board Member Pahl, to accept the minutes from the regular meeting on May 27, 2026, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote. Roll Call: Ayes: Jim Blockinger, Cesar Garcia, Odie Pahl, Becky Kotsinis, and Mark Pos (via telephone). Absent: Germain Castellanos and Mandi Florip.

The regular May 31, 2026, Treasurer's Report identified cash and investments of \$19,882,250.22. The Revenue Report identified receipts of \$2,693,901.36, and the Expenditure Report identified expenses totaling \$3,222,160.95. The cash balance in the Activity Fund for May was \$115,510.96. The Financial Reports for the regular June (\$1,561,595.26) and Bills for Payment Reports were approved on a motion by Board Member Pahl and seconded by Board Member Kotsinis. Motion carried on a roll call vote. Roll Call: Ayes: Jim Blockinger, Cesar Garcia, Odie Pahl, Becky Kotsinis, and Mark Pos (via telephone). Absent: Germain Castellanos and Mandi Florip.

During the *Public Participation* portion of the meeting: During the *Public Participation* portion of the hearing, no one wished to address the Board of Education.

Dr. Correa introduced Josh as the new Assistant Principal at Prairie Trail School. Josh previously served as the Director of Technology in Antioch. Dr. Correa also introduced Cuauhtémoc Méndez as the District's new Director of Buildings and Grounds, effective July 1, 2026. Mr. Méndez also comes to the District from Antioch.

Dr. Correa requested that each building principal provide the Board of Education with highlights that had occurred at their building since the previous Board of Education meeting. This included pictures from:

Spaulding: Principal Rosheger shared highlights from Spaulding School, including staff presentations of their Champion Chart projects, preschool students visiting the kindergarten classrooms, and the traditional Bubble Parade honoring retiring staff members Mrs. Klode and Mrs. Quinones.

Prairie Trail: Principal Waller shared highlights from Prairie Trail School, including welcoming incoming second-grade students, Field Day, end-of-year reading and PBIS assemblies, and the beginning of the IPP planning process for the upcoming school year. Students also participated in spirit days and a beach bash.

River Trail: Principal Dr. Glickley shared highlights from River Trail School, including distributing classroom library books to students for summer reading, Field Day activities for students in kindergarten through sixth grade with assistance from seventh-grade students, and the eighth-grade promotion walk through the school.

Viking: Principal Geocarlis shared highlights from Viking School, including sixth-grade students learning about masa and Mesoamerican culture, the National Junior Honor Society's spring cleanup at Depot Road, the sixth-grade band's Memorial Day performance at the Veterans Memorial, and a bowling celebration for Students of the Month. End-of-year activities included spirit days and the eighth-grade dance.

Mrs. Solomon shared photographs from the Standard Reunification Method practice held at Spaulding School. Administrators practiced reuniting parents with students, while custodial staff participated as students. The exercise followed the I Love U Guys Foundation's best practices and demonstrated the staffing required during a reunification event.

Dr. Correa reported that the Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp at Viking School had consistent daily attendance of approximately 150–170 students and offered a variety of indoor and outdoor activities.

At this time, Dr. Correa requested that each administrator report on department projects/tasks that they were currently focused on:

Business Department: Mr. Da Costa reported that the FY27 budget was being finalized with input from principals and department leaders. His department was also processing the July and August teacher payrolls for TRS accrual reporting and updating salary increases for 12-month employees effective July 1, 2026.

Pupil Services Department: Ms. Solomon reported that the department conducted a reunification exercise, attended a similar event in Lake Zurich, worked on the special education grant, conducted staff interviews, participated in professional learning with Lake County special education directors, and prepared orders for the Preschool for All grant.

Multilingual Department: Ms. Torres reported that the department conducted kindergarten screenings to identify new multilingual students, submitted the Bilingual Service Plan detailing teachers and programs, and completed the State Assessment Survey.

Buildings and Grounds Department: Mr. Smith reported that work began on the Prairie Trail kitchen project, including coordination with mechanical, electrical, and plumbing contractors and the start of weekly construction meetings. The department also began districtwide summer cleaning, preventive maintenance, and teacher moves while including the new director in project communications.

Technology Department: Mr. Esteban reported that fiber construction from the Transportation Department to Viking School was completed, and the department was awaiting new equipment. The department was also preparing for the Skyward rollover, planning a phishing-awareness campaign for summer staff, and transitioning from traditional for summer staff, and transitioning from telephone lines to a VoIP system by 2027 to reduce costs while maintaining emergency calling capabilities.

Dr. Correa presented the District 56 Learning Framework, developed collaboratively by teachers, instructional coaches, and administrators to promote consistent instructional practices and deeper learning across the District. The framework focuses on content knowledge, collaboration, critical thinking, communication, and independent learning. Principals are developing Instructional Priority Plans aligned with the framework for presentation to the Board in August.

Dr. Correa presented the 2026–2027 Board meeting calendar for review. The May meeting was scheduled for May 19, 2027, to accommodate the District’s promotion ceremony at Warren Township High School.

A Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request was received by Dr. Luis Correa on June 2, 2026, from Mr. Isacc Delton (databranchusa.com) via email, requesting purchasing data of all products from CDW-G, AG Parts, K-12 Tech, and Vivacity Tech fields of interest are Purchase order number (or equivalent), Purchase date, Vendor ID or name, Department or issuing entity (if available), Line item description, Quantity, Unit price, Total price.

Mrs. Orozco emailed the requested information to Mr. Sonny Connor on June 5, 2026, per the instructions provided in the FOIA request.

A Second Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request was received by Dr. Luis Correa on June 4, 2026, from Morgan Delaney of DataBranch USA via email. The request sought records related to Apptegy, Finalsity, ParentSquare, SchoolMessenger, and Blackboard, Inc. from 2022 to the present, including contracts, service agreements, order forms, purchase orders, RFPs or solicitation documents, and task orders issued under cooperative purchasing agreements.

Mrs. Orozco emailed the requested records to Archibald Quigley on June 5, 2026, as requested in the email.

A third Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request was received by Dr. Luis Correa on June 8, 2026, from Daniel Cramer (Upgraid RE) via email requesting utility statements and invoices, energy usage records, facility condition assessments, deferred maintenance reports, capital improvement plans, energy audits, and related facility and energy reports for District facilities.

Mrs. Orozco responded to Mr. Cramer via email on June 8, 2026, with the information requested.

A fourth Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request was received by Mr. Martin Da Costa on June 15, 2026, from Reagan Fletcher (databranchusa.com) via email, requesting all products from: CDW Government, Xerox, and MGT Impact Solutions (MGT Consulting), as well as College and Career Readiness from Lead Public Schools Contracts, service agreements, order forms, Purchase orders relating to the above vendors, RFP or solicitation documents, task orders issued against cooperative purchasing agreements from 2022 to now.

Mrs. Orozco sent the requested information to Louis Duplessis via email on June 15, 2026.

A fifth Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request was received by Dr. Correa on June 19, 2026, from Paige Smith (databranchusa.com) via email, requesting all products from: School Asset Manager, Collaborative Student Transportation, Prismatic Services Inc, and TransPar Group, records from 2022 to now that reflect the pricing structure of any such engagement, including (if available), per-unit costs, subscription or licensing terms, and/or implementation fees.

Mrs. Orozco responded to Thornton Wheeler via email on June 19, 2026, informing him that Gurnee School District 56 has no responsive records related to the vendors identified in the request.

A sixth Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request was received by Dr. Luis Correa on June 22, 2026, from Piper Donahue (databranchusa.com) via email, requesting all products from Sapling, records from 2022 to now showing the pricing arrangements associated with these vendors, such as licensing or subscription terms, per-unit costs,

and any implementation or setup fees that may apply. Records we are looking for include: contracts, service agreements, order forms, purchase orders relating to the above vendors, RFP or solicitation documents, and task orders issued against cooperative purchasing agreements.

Mrs. Orozco responded to Bess Hoffman via email on June 22, 2026, informing him that Gurnee School District 56 has no responsive records related to the vendors identified in the request.

A seventh Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request was received by Dr. Luis Correa on June 22, 2026, from Lindsey Harper (databranchusa.com) via email, requesting all products from ESS/ESI, Kokua Education, Scoot Education, Zed Educate, and BuildEd, records from 2022 to now showing the pricing arrangements associated with these vendors, such as licensing or subscription terms, per-unit costs, and any implementation or setup fees that may apply. Relevant records may include: contracts, service agreements, and order forms, purchase orders involving the above vendors, RFP or solicitation documents, and task orders issued under cooperative purchasing agreements.

Mrs. Orozco responded to Arabella Jackson via email on June 22, 2026, informing him that Gurnee School District 56 has no responsive records related to the vendors identified in the request.

On a motion from Board Member Blockinger with a second from Board Member Castellanos, the Board voted to approve Board policies under review (Policies 7:305 and 7:310) and to adopt those policies as presented by the administration. Motion carried on a roll call vote. Roll Call: Ayes: Jim Blockinger, Cesar Garcia, Odie Pahl, Becky Kotsinis, and Mark Pos (via telephone). Absent: Germain Castellanos and Mandi Florip.

On a motion from Board Member Castellanos with a second from Board Member Kotsinis, the Board voted to adopt the attached policies from PRESS Issue 121, March 2026 as presented by the administration. Motion carried on a roll call vote. Roll Call: Ayes: Jim Blockinger, Cesar Garcia, Odie Pahl, Becky Kotsinis, and Mark Pos (via telephone). Absent: Germain Castellanos and Mandi Florip.

On a motion from Board Member Kotsinis with a second from Board Member Blockinger, the Board voted to authorize the administration to pay the FY27 bills presented by the administration on July 1, 2026. Motion carried on a roll call vote. Roll Call: Ayes: Jim Blockinger, Cesar Garcia, Odie Pahl, Becky Kotsinis, and Mark Pos (via telephone). Absent: Germain Castellanos and Mandi Florip.

On a motion from Board Member Pahl with a second from Board Member Blockinger the Board voted to approve approved the agreement between CESO Communications to provide communications support services to the district, presented by the

administration. Motion carried on a roll call vote. Roll Call: Ayes: Jim Blockinger, Cesar Garcia, Odie Pahl, Becky Kotsinis, and Mark Pos (via telephone). Absent: Germain Castellanos and Mandi Florip.

On a motion from Board Member Blockinger with a second from Board Member Castellanos, the Board voted to approve the proposal from AASA to provide Strategic Planning Partnership Services for the District for \$30,000, as presented by the administration. Motion carried on a roll call vote. Roll Call: Ayes: Jim Blockinger, Cesar Garcia, Odie Pahl, Becky Kotsinis, and Mark Pos (via telephone). Absent: Germain Castellanos and Mandi Florip.

On a motion from Board Member Blockinger with a second from Board Member Pahl, the Board voted to approve the proposal from Howard Technologies for \$223,600.00 for the purchase of 650 Lenovo 100e Gen 5 Chromebooks and 650 Chrome OS licenses for middle school students, as presented by the administration. Motion carried on a roll call vote. Roll Call: Ayes: Jim Blockinger, Cesar Garcia, Odie Pahl, Becky Kotsinis, and Mark Pos (via telephone). Absent: Germain Castellanos and Mandi Florip.

On a motion from Board Member Kotsinis with a second from Board Member Pahl, the Board voted to approve the proposal from Apple Inc. for \$319,330.00 for the purchase of 220 Apple 13-inch MacBook Air laptops and 220 Apple iPad A16 (128GB) devices for district staff, as presented by the administration. Motion carried on a roll call vote. Roll Call: Ayes: Jim Blockinger, Cesar Garcia, Odie Pahl, Becky Kotsinis, and Mark Pos (via telephone). Absent: Germain Castellanos and Mandi Florip.

During the *Public Comment* portion of the meeting, no one wished to address the Board of Education.

On a motion by Board Member Pahl and seconded by Board Member Castellanos, the Board voted to adjourn open session at 6:02 p.m. The Board went into closed session at 6:07 p.m. to discuss the following items on a roll call vote:

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District, to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057.
- Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).
- The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).
- Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

- Discussion of lawfully closed meeting minutes, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).

Motion carried on a roll call vote. Roll Call: Ayes: Jim Blockinger, Cesar Garcia, Odie Pahl, Becky Kotsinis, and Mark Pos (via telephone). Absent: Germain Castellanos and Mandi Florip.

The Board of Education came out of closed session at 6:16 p.m on a motion from Board Member Kotsinis and seconded by Board Member Pahl. Motion carried on a roll call vote. Roll Call: Ayes: Jim Blockinger, Cesar Garcia, Odie Pahl, Becky Kotsinis, and Mark Pos (via telephone). Absent: Germain Castellanos and Mandi Florip.

On a motion from Board Member Blockinger, with a second from Board President Pos, the Board voted to approve the personnel recommendations as presented by the Superintendent. Roll Call: Ayes: Jim Blockinger, Cesar Garcia, Odie Pahl, Becky Kotsinis, and Mark Pos (via telephone). Absent: Germain Castellanos and Mandi Florip.

On a motion from Board Member Castellanos with a second from Board Member Blockinger, the Board voted to approve closed session minutes for the meeting on May 27, 2026, as presented. Roll Call: Ayes: Cesar Garcia, Mark Pos, Jim Blockinger, Germain Castellanos, Mandi Florip, Odie Pahl, and Becky Kotsinis.

A motion was made by Board Member Kotsinis and seconded by Board Member Castellanos to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m. Motion carried on a roll call vote. Roll Call: Ayes: Jim Blockinger, Cesar Garcia, Odie Pahl, Becky Kotsinis, and Mark Pos (via telephone). Absent: Germain Castellanos and Mandi Florip.

Respectfully submitted:

Mark Pos, President

Odie Pahl, Secretary
Board of Education, District #56
Lake County, IL