



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
SCHOOL DISTRICT 25, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

May 11, 2026

Call to Order

Board President Rogers called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. on May 11, 2026, at the Benjamin School District Administrative Center, located at 28W250 St. Charles Road, West Chicago, IL 60185.

Roll Call

Board Recorder Solly Garcia took a roll call vote of the members present: Andrew Drinnin, Bridgette Pedersen, Dennis Peterson, Don Sutenbach, Eric Rogers and Gina Vlantis.

Board Members Absent: Vince Engstrom,

Other attendees included Dr. Patrick McGill, Superintendent; Dr. Joel Filas, CSBO; Dr. Michael Fitzgerald, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching/Principal; Dr. Julie Salamone, Director of Student Services; Mrs. Sarah Smith, Evergreen Principal.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Rogers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented. This motion, made by Dennis Peterson and seconded by Andrew Drinnin, Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach

Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis

Absent: Vince Engstrom,

Nays: None

Approval of Draft Minutes (Roll Call Vote)

Approval of Draft Minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting of April 13, 2026.

Motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting of April 13, 2026. This motion, made by Don Sutenbach and seconded by Dennis Peterson, passed.

Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed

Approval of Draft Minutes from the Executive Session Meeting of April 13, 2026.

Motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the Executive Session Meeting of April 13, 2026. This motion, made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Bridgette Pedersen, passed.

Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed

Approval of the Draft Minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting of April 9, 2026.

Motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting of April 9, 2026. This motion, made by Andrew Drinnin and seconded by Bridgette Pedersen, Passed

Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed



Reports

Teaching and Learning

Dr. Fitzgerald reported that students completed state and district assessments during April, including the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) and CogAT testing.

He shared that staff participated in articulation activities focused on student transitions, vertical alignment, and collaboration across grade levels and special area departments.

Dr. Fitzgerald also provided an update on discussions with West Chicago High School regarding world language programming and opportunities for Benjamin students to earn high school credit for Spanish coursework completed at Benjamin Middle School.

He informed the Board that the administrative team is finalizing the 2026–2027 committee structure to support implementation of the District's Strategic Plan. He also reported that classroom learning walks have continued throughout the district.

Lastly, Dr. Fitzgerald provided information regarding the Benjamin Middle School graduation ceremony scheduled for June 2, 2026.

Operations Report

Dr. Filas provided an update on the FY27 budget development process, including employee benefit renewals and workers' compensation costs. He reported on state grant funding received by the District and shared legislative updates related to school funding and ongoing advocacy efforts. Dr. Filas also reviewed facility maintenance projects and recommended Denler, Inc. for the District's sealcoating project. In addition, he provided an update on food service planning for the upcoming school year, including the recommendation to transition to Quest Food Management Services as the District's food service provider. He concluded by reviewing upcoming items for Board consideration in June, including the FY26 Budget Amendment, designation of interest income transfers, and authorization to pay July bills.

Superintendent Report

Dr. McGill provided an update on the District's plans to implement its Strategic Plan during the 2026-2027 school year, including the development of a committee structure and professional development framework designed to support district goals and staff collaboration. He highlighted several student and community engagement activities, including the fourth-grade visit to Benjamin Middle School, which provided incoming fifth-grade students and their families an opportunity to become familiar with the school and learn more about the middle school experience, as well as the Benjamin Talent Show, Bengals Night, the Fiesta celebration, and Evergreen Elementary's tree planting project. Dr. McGill also provided an update on developments within the SASSED cooperative, including facility planning efforts and proposed governance changes that will be presented to the Board for consideration in June. Dr. McGill concluded his report by thanking



staff for all they do for students and acknowledging the efforts of the school buildings, District Office, and PTA during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Board Committee Reports

PTA

Member Sutenbach provided highlights, including the finalized 2026–2027 school calendar, recognition of the outstanding efforts by the Benjamin District 25 PTA during Teacher Appreciation Week, and updates on upcoming student events

LEND

Member Peterson shared an update from a recent LEND meeting, highlighting proposed legislation to allow teachers to pursue arbitration as part of the remediation process, and another to continue monitoring unemployment benefit eligibility for non-certified staff.

Finance Committee

Member Peterson reiterated previously discussed items, including the approved food service management contract and the seal coating contract, noting that both had also been reviewed during committee meetings prior to the district's final decision.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

Consent Agenda (Roll Call)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. This motion, made by Dennis Peterson and seconded by Don Sutenbach, passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis
Absent: Vince Engstrom,
Nays: None

Action Items (Roll Call Vote)

Approval of the Sealcoating Contract

Motion to approve the Sealcoating and Striping Contract awarded to Denler Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$28,770, as presented. This motion, made by Don Sutenbach and seconded by Gina Vlantis, Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis
Absent: Vince Engstrom,
Nays: None

Approval of the Food Service Management Contract

Motion to approve the Food Service Management Contract awarded to Quest Food Management Services, as presented. This motion, made by Andrew Drinnin and seconded by Gina Vlantis, Passed.



Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis
Absent: Vince Engstrom,
Nays: None

Approval for Authorization to Purchase Server Hardware

Motion to approve the authorization to Purchase Server Hardware, as presented. This motion, made by Don Sutenbach and seconded by Andrew Drinnin, Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis
Absent: Vince Engstrom,
Nays: None

Approval of the Extra Duty Stipend Proposal Recommendation

Motion to approve the Extra Duty Stipend Proposal Recommendation, as presented. This motion, made by Dennis Peterson and seconded by Gina Vlantis, Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis
Absent: Vince Engstrom,
Nays: None

Approval of the 2026-2027 Regular Board of Education Meeting Dates

Motion to approve the 2026-2027 Regular Board of Education Meeting Dates, as presented. This motion, made by Gina Vlantis and seconded by Don Sutenbach, Passed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Andrew Drinnin, Bridgette Pedersen, Don Sutenbach
Dennis Peterson, Eric Rogers, and Gina Vlantis
Absent: Vince Engstrom,
Nays: None

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

None

Discussion Items

Communication To and From the Board: As a reminder, per Board of Education Policy 2:140, during the Board's regular meetings, the Superintendent will report for the Board's consideration all questions or communications submitted through the active electronic link, along with the status of the District's response.

First Reading of PRESS Plus Issue 121 and Policy 2:150

Dr. McGill reviewed the first reading of several policy changes to align written policies with existing district practices and support recruitment efforts.



Joint Annual Conference - November 20-22, 2026

Dr. McGill shared information regarding the upcoming Triple I conference scheduled for November 20–22. Registration will open in June, and Board members were asked to notify the district if they plan to attend.

Adjournment (Voice Vote)

Motion to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting at 8:04 p.m. This motion, made by Don Sutenbach and seconded by Gina Vlantis, passed.

Voice Vote: Unanimously Passed

Respectfully submitted by:
Solly Garcia, Board Recorder

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

Recorded: May 11, 2026

Approved: June 8, 2026