

DU PAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 13
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bloomington, Illinois
Regular Meeting June 22, 2026

FOR ACTION

Subject: Approval of Resolution to Join Purchasing Cooperative

Last year, Franczek, the District's attorneys, mentioned in a review of contractual documents whether the Administration had formal agreements with the purchasing cooperatives used. It was their advice to formalize this relationship through the passage of resolutions to keep on file in the event the District was ever questioned about this part of the process. In the May 28th *Thursday Letter*, I mentioned that the Bespoke Community Cooperatives was going to be brought forth for formal approval this evening.

The rationale in belonging to purchasing cooperatives is to have access to the materials and resources needed while maintaining good stewardship of taxpayer's dollars. Bespoke Community Cooperatives runs a program called "Illinois Together" which is a statewide purchasing cooperative developed by the Illinois Association of School Business Officials (IASBO) that lets Illinois school districts team up on purchasing. When one district goes through the time and effort to legally bid out a contract (like for paper or copiers), Bespoke opens that contract up so other school districts across the state in the cooperative can use it as well. The advantages to joining Bespoke Community Cooperatives are:

- Efficiency: top-tier, volume-discount pricing.
- Peace of Mind: It's designed by Illinois ASBO, so it perfectly fits Illinois legal requirements.
- No Commitment: It costs nothing to sign the agreement. It simply gives us another tool in our toolkit to save money when the right opportunity comes up.

The Administration is recommending approval of the resolution to join the Bespoke Community Cooperative as presented.

Ms. Varhalla and I are available to answer any questions you may have about the resolution this evening.

Recommendation: The Board approve the Resolution to Join the Bespoke Community Cooperative, as presented.