



## Administrative Offices

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### **Minutes of the SWCCCASE Board of Directors Meeting May 20, 2026**

#### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education was called to order at 8:03 a.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 2026.

On roll call, the following members were found to be present: Dr. Orzel, Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Roth, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting.

Also present, Dr. Gineen O'Neil, Executive Director, Dr. Lisa Byczek (Appointed Executive Director), Mr. Tage Shumway, Business Manager, and Ms. Lisa Promis, Assistant Director.

The following members were absent: Dr. Brunson and Dr. Julius, D160 Interim Superintendent

#### **RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC**

Union President Karyn Kempke was present, and the Board also recognized the attendance of Scott Deunser and Jennifer Decker of Wipfli, who attended the meeting from 8:03 a.m. to 8:12 a.m.

#### **FY25 AUDIT PRESENTATION**

Scott Duenser from Wipfli, LLP presented a draft of the FY25 Audit. The final audit will be presented during the June 17, 2026 Board of Directors meeting.

#### **PLACEMENT OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA (EXCLUDING AGENDA ITEM 11.5 FY25 AUDIT)**

A motion was made by Dr. Stawick and seconded by Dr. Scarsella, upon the recommendation of Dr. O'Neil, that the following items be considered under a consent agenda unless otherwise requested by the Board, with the exception of agenda item 11.5 - FY25 Audit: the minutes from the April 15, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting, Invoices and Payroll, Employment of Professional Personnel, Employment of Educational Support Personnel, Resignation of Professional Personnel, Resignation of Educational Support Personnel, Request for Leave of Absence, Intent to Retire - Certified Personnel, Intent to Retire - Non-certified Personnel, Board Policies - Second Reading, Agency Conversion Fees, Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), FY27 Food Service Management, and FY27 Classroom Rental Rate.

Upon roll call the following voted aye: Dr. Orzel, Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Roth, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting.

**CLOSED SESSION** A motion was made by Dr. Maxwell and seconded by Dr. Roth to enter into closed session at 8:13 a.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Cooperative or legal counsel for the Cooperative, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the Cooperative to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057, as well as the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the Cooperative, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).

Upon roll call the following voted aye: Dr. Orzel, Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Roth, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting.

A motion was made by Dr. Roth and seconded by Dr. Maxwell to return from closed session at 9:22 a.m.

Upon roll call the following voted aye: Dr. Orzel, Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Roth, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting.

## **REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MANAGER**

### **STATEMENT OF POSITION AND REVENUE**

Mr. Shumway presented the monthly Statement of Position and Revenue showing an ending fund balance of \$11,184,303.68 as of April 30, 2026.

### **9TH AVENUE BUILDING**

Mr. Shumway reported that the Board purchased the 94th Avenue building on October 2, 2025, and is currently being used for office space for various programs, itinerants, and storage space. On May 4, 2026 the high school districts met with their superintendents, CSBOs, and SPED directors to discuss long-term Transition enrollment projections. On May 6, 2026, the high school districts and SWCCCASE administration discussed alternative construction ideas and proposals for the 94th Avenue property.

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

### **COOPERATIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

Dr. O'Neil shared highlights from various Cooperative Programs.

**SWCCCASE  
PROGRAM  
WAITING LISTS**

Dr. O'Neil reported that as of May 15, 2026, there are two Early Childhood students on a waiting list for DESTINY. Those two students will start the program in ESY. Morton Gingerwood has two kindergarten students on a waiting list. Those two students will begin attending during ESY.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA**

**MEETING  
MINUTES**

The Board of Directors of the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education approved the open and closed session minutes from the April 15, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting.

**APRIL/MAY  
INVOICES AND  
PAYROLL**

The Board of Directors of the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education, upon the recommendation of the Business Manager, approved the April/May invoices in the amount of \$1,186,647.17. The April payroll in the amount of \$2,162,086.46, and the estimated amount of \$2,500,000 for the May payroll.

**EMPLOYMENT OF  
PROFESSIONAL  
PERSONNEL**

| <u>Name</u>        | <u>Position</u> | <u>Program</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> | <u>Step/Column or Days</u> | <u>Annual Salary</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Bowman, Kathryn    | Social Worker   | Braun          | 8/5/2026              | 7/MA                       | \$72,780.00          |
| Carls, Sean        | Teacher         | MGW            | 8/5/2026              | 10/BA                      | \$67,271.00          |
| Carlsen, Tiffani   | Teacher         | CD             | 8/5/2026              | 1/BA                       | \$56,239.00          |
| Catanzaro, Valerie | Teacher         | CD             | 8/5/2026              | 1/BA +15                   | \$57,676.00          |
| Deditz, Carly      | SLP             | CD             | 8/5/2026              | 3/MA                       | \$67,213.00          |
| Kreml, Christina   | Teacher         | Transition     | 8/5/2026              | 16/MA+30                   | \$85,125.00          |
| Melinauskas, Jane  | SLP             | MGW            | 8/5/2026              | 9/MA                       | \$75,614.00          |
| Nash, Chloe        | Social Worker   | CD             | 8/5/2026              | 1/MA                       | \$64,150.00          |
| Norris, Hannah     | SLP             | CD             | 8/5/2026              | 8/MA                       | \$74,194.00          |
| Ortiz, Elizabeth   | Teacher         | Braun          | 8/5/2026              | 20/MA                      | \$86,109.00          |

Minutes of the May 20, 2026  
Board of Directors Meeting

|                  |               |         |          |       |             |
|------------------|---------------|---------|----------|-------|-------------|
| Rowlett, Jillian | Teacher       | MGW     | 8/5/2026 | 1/BA  | \$56,239.00 |
| Simon, Marlo     | Social Worker | MGW     | 8/5/2026 | 19/MA | \$89,981.00 |
| Thomas, LaQuita  | Social Worker | DESTINY | 8/5/2026 | 1/MA  | \$64,150.00 |
| Ulanski, Anna    | SLP           | DHH     | 8/5/2026 | 2/MA  | \$65,732.00 |

EMPLOYMENT OF  
EDUCATIONAL  
SUPPORT  
PERSONNEL

| <u>Name</u>      | <u>Position</u> | <u>Program</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> | <u>Step/Column or Days</u> | <u>Annual Salary</u> |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Abuhweij, Dareen | Paraeducator    | DESTINY        | 8/5/2026              | 1/BA                       | \$32,215.00          |
| Awadallah, Reemi | Paraeducator    | Braun          | 8/5/2026              | 11/BA                      | \$37,256.00          |
| DeVries, Crystal | Paraeducator    | Transition     | 8/5/2026              | 15/License                 | \$34,400.00          |
| LaRocco, Meggan  | Itinerant       | O&M            | 8/5/2026              | n/a                        | \$75,958.00          |
| Lukes, Traci     | Secretary       | DESTINY        | 5/18/2026             | 20                         | \$48,857.00          |
| Perez, Crystal   | Paraeducator    | Transition     | 8/5/2026              | 2/+90 HRS                  | \$31,373.00          |

RESIGNATION OF  
PROFESSIONAL  
PERSONNEL

| <u>Name</u>     | <u>Position</u> | <u>Program</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Boyter, Drew    | Social Worker   | Braun          | 6/2/2026              |
| Jordan, John    | Teacher         | CD             | 6/2/2026              |
| Ragland, Cheryl | Teacher         | Braun          | 6/2/2026              |

RESIGNATION OF  
EDUCATIONAL  
SUPPORT  
PERSONNEL

| <u>Name</u>         | <u>Position</u> | <u>Program</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Anderson, Kara      | Interpreter     | DHH            | 5/20/2026             |
| Kulinski, Christina | Paraeducator    | MGW            | 6/2/2026              |
| Petry, Terrence     | Van Driver      | Transition     | 7/1/2026              |

REQUEST FOR  
LEAVE OF  
ABSENCE

| <u>Name</u>        | <u>Position</u> | <u>Program</u> | <u>Type of Leave</u> | <u>Effective Dates</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Bowman, Dianna     | Paraeducator    | Transition     | LOA                  | 5/11/2026-6/22/2026    |
| Meyer, Gina        | Teacher         | Itinerant      | FMLA                 | 8/17/2026-10/2/2026    |
| Northam, Tracy     | OT              | Itinerant      | Intermittent FMLA    | 8/5/2026-6/2/2027      |
| Olson, Chrissy     | Teacher         | DESTINY        | FMLA                 | 5/20/2026-6/3/2026     |
| Pehr, Janice       | Paraeducator    | Transition     | Intermittent FMLA    | 1/30/2026-6/2/2026     |
| Smithwick, Katie   | OT              | Itinerant      | FMLA                 | 8/26/2026-11/18/2026   |
| Stavrakis, Angella | Teacher         | Braun          | FMLA                 | 5/4/2026-5/11/2026     |

INTENT TO  
RETIRE  
CERTIFIED  
PERSONNEL

| <u>Name</u>          | <u>Position</u> | <u>Program</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Burger, Jacqueline   | Teacher         | Braun          | 6/1/2029              |
| Markusic, Dave       | Teacher         | Itinerant      | 6/1/2031              |
| Reade, Stephen Barry | Teacher         | Itinerant      | 12/22/2026            |

INTENT TO  
RETIRE  
NON-CERTIFIED  
PERSONNEL

| <u>Name</u>       | <u>Position</u> | <u>Program</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Cannon, Shiren    | Secretary       | Braun          | 6/30/2027             |
| Collins, Mary Ann | Secretary       | DRS            | 6/30/2027             |
| Farias, Susan     | Interpreter     | DHH            | 6/1/2030              |
| Goodrich, Janet   | Paraeducator    | Transition     | 6/2027                |
| Hampton, Mary     | Paraeducator    | Braun          | 6/1/2028              |

BOARD POLICIES  
- SECOND  
READING

The Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, approved the second reading of the following policies: 2:200 - Types of Board Meetings, 2:220 - Board Meeting Procedure, 2:250 - Access to Cooperative 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, 7:20 - Harassment of Students Prohibited, 7:50 - School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools, 7:100 - Health and Dental Examinations, Immunizations, and Exclusion of Students, 7:185 - Teen Dating Violence Prohibited, 7:230 - Misconduct by Students with Disabilities, 7:260 - Exemption from Physical Education, 7:280 - Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease, and 7:300 - Extracurricular Athletics.

**AGENCY  
CONVERSION  
FEES**

The Board of Directors of the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education authorized the Business Manager to pay the \$22,500 conversion fee to Soliant Health, LLC. and a \$12,900 conversion fee to AHS Staffing.

**COMMUNITY  
ELIGIBILITY  
PROVISION (CEP)**

The Board of Directors of the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education, upon the recommendation of the Business Manager, approved the application for another 4-year Community Eligibility Provision.

**FY27 FOOD  
SERVICE  
MANAGEMENT**

The Board of Directors of the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education upon the recommendation of the Business Manager, approved the FY27 contract renewal agreement with Sodexo America LLC.

**FY27  
CLASSROOM  
RENTAL RATE**

The Board of Directors of the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education, upon the recommendation of the Business Manager, approved the new lease language and the 2026-27 classroom lease rate of \$20.00 per square foot.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**REVISED FY27  
BOARD MEETING  
DATES**

A motion was made by Dr. Scarsella and seconded by Dr. Stawick to approve the revised FY27 Board Meeting Dates.

Upon roll call the following voted aye: Dr. Orzel, Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Roth, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting.

**APPROVAL OF  
FY27 NON-UNION  
SALARIES**

A motion was made by Dr. Sala and seconded by Dr. Sikora to approve the FY27 Non-union salaries. The salaries are as follows: Sayard Bass - \$102,700.00, Chris Ireland - \$98,700.00, Matt Aggen - \$67,200.00, Michael Brown - \$50,700.00, Kyle Heinze - \$51,500.00, Kelly Kmetty - \$88,000.00, Laurie Catanzaro - \$77,800.00, Gloria Powers - \$68,000.00, Crystal Luna - \$57,000.00, Edward Monstwilllo - \$33,500.00, Donald Lalky - \$31,000.00 and Gia Jemilo - \$450/day.

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Upon roll call the following voted aye: Dr. Orzel, Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Roth, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting.

APPROVAL OF  
CONSENT  
AGENDA

A motion was made by Dr. Maxwell and seconded by Dr. Roth to approve the consent agenda.

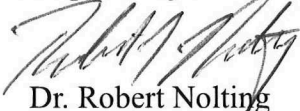
Upon roll call the following voted aye: Dr. Orzel, Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Roth, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Nolting and seconded by Dr. Stawick to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Upon roll call the following voted aye: Dr. Orzel, Dr. Droba, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Roth, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dr. Robert Nolting  
Board Secretary