

Board OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held at 7 p.m.
September 17, 2026
Jefferson School - Hendee Rooms
8200 Greendale Ave, Niles, IL 60714

President Doubleday called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other Board members in attendance were Cline, Rankin, Kuempel and Milligan. Members Georgakis and Loise were absent. Also attending were: Superintendent Dr. Ben Collins, Assistant Superintendent of Business Operations/CSBO, Brian Harlan, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Dr. Joel Martin, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning, Samantha Alaimo, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Alicia Schmeisser, Director of Business Services, Phoebe Wood, Director of Communications, Chris Lilly, Principal Jefferson Early Learning Center, Michele Barkley and Christine Bednarek, Assistant to the Superintendent. There were 5 members of the Jefferson Early Learning Center and no public present.

Board of Education meetings are videotaped and may be viewed in their full length from the district's website at <http://www.d64.org>. The agenda for this meeting is also available on the website or through the District's Office at 8182 W Greendale Ave, Niles, IL 60714.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Doubleday led the board in the pledge of allegiance.

OPENING REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

President Doubleday said he didn't have any opening remarks but that we did need to get to the budget.

BOARD ADJOURNS FROM REGULAR MEETING & CONVENES TO A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2026-27 BUDGET

Mr. Harlan said before adjourning for the hearing he wanted to review what had changed since the preliminary budget presentation in August. And we are in a better position than we were then.

- Revenue projections increased due to:
 - \$2 million in unexpected Cook County revenue from FY2025, of which \$1.5 million was conservatively included in the FY2027 budget.
 - A \$362,000 increase in Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT) revenue.
 - An additional \$854,000 in unexpected FY2024 county revenue received after the budget was prepared; this is expected to further improve the district's financial position.
- Expenditures increased due to updated staffing, salaries, benefits, and more accurate projections for final capital-project and referendum expenditures.
- Planned transfers include:
 - \$787,000 bond transfer
 - \$4 million capital-projects/facilities transfer
 - \$4.6 million excess referendum funds transferred from the Education Fund
 - \$1.1 million Working Cash transfer
- The district expects to use approximately \$5.4 million in cash reserves for capital-project costs. The administration characterized the budget as balanced despite the planned use of reserves.
- Projected FY2027 ending fund balance is approximately \$35 million, equivalent to approximately 137 days of cash on hand, based on projected daily operating expenditures.

- Administration stated that the planned use of reserves is a one-time transfer and does not exceed one-third of the fund balance; therefore, a state deficit-reduction plan is not required.

Upcoming Budget-Related Work

- Staff retirement letters are due October 1.
- Preliminary enrollment and staffing planning will occur through October.
- Financial projections and the initial levy presentation are planned for November.
- The levy is expected to be adopted in December.
- Tentative staffing recommendations are planned for January.
- The contractual deadline for a potential reduction in force is March.
- The facilities presentation was moved to October to allow additional time for project-completion assessments.

At 7:05 Mr. Brian Harlan asked for a motion to convene to a public hearing on the budget. Board President Doubleday made the motion and Member Cline seconded. The motion was approved by all present. Mr. Harlan summarized the steps necessary to get to tonight's budget approval and cited the cash balances by fund as of June 30, 2026. He then asked for comments from the administration; none were received. Mr. Harlan then asked for comments from the board; none were received. He then asked for comments from the public; none were received.

BOARD ADJOURNS FROM PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2026-27 BUDGET & RESUMES REGULAR MEETING

At 7:07 p.m. Mr. Harlan requested a motion to adjourn the public hearing and resume the regular meeting. Board President Doubleday made the motion, Member Cline seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice votes.

JEFFERSON RECOGNITION

Ms. Michele Barkley told the board that Jefferson School was recognized by the Illinois Department of Early Childhood with a Gold Circle of Quality through ExceleRate Illinois for its Preschool for All program.

The recognition reflects program quality in areas including:

- Instruction and learning environment
- Family partnerships
- Staff qualifications and professional development
- Systems in place that ensure we provide a high quality learning environment

ExceleRate Illinois is the state's quality recognition and improvement system for early learning and development programs. It provides a common set of standards for early childhood programs across Illinois and gives families information about the quality of programs available in their community. One component of the monitoring process is the early childhood environmental rating scale (ECERS). ECERS is a comprehensive tool used to evaluate the quality of the classroom environment and the experiences children have every day. The second major component is the preschool for all compliance checklist. This looks at the program from a broader perspective and examines whether we are meeting the requirements established by the state. This portion of the process requires our team to provide evidence that the systems we have in place are established and implemented consistently.

Ms. Barkley stated she was incredibly proud of this accomplishment and recognized the preschool teachers, teaching assistants, related-service providers, social worker, psychologist, office staff, families, district leadership, and Board for their contributions.

IASB 2026 SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE RECOGNITION

Dr. Collins recognized the Board as a recipient of the Illinois Association of School Boards' School Board Governance Award. The award will be presented at the North Cook dinner October 7 at Glenbrook High School. The work the Board has done in the past to achieve that recognition has been really concerted on improving the support for the administrative team which trickles down to the students. We are very thankful we have such supportive board members that are very thoughtful and caring in everything you do. We're very excited that you get to be recognized on the state level. So now we've got to National.

President Doubleday thanked Dr. Collins and said it all works because you guys all work awfully hard, too. So teamwork really makes it all work.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Dr. Collins said that at the September board meeting, we usually have a presentation on the student achievement or at least a portion of the student achievement from last school year. We thought that it would be a better move to create basically a community guide that walks us through all of our student achievement that we would make publicly accessible on the website and then send out to all of our families. We talked about this at the Ed Committee meeting and it's going to be shared out with parents here very soon. We're looking forward to continuously making this report better and better every year. I also want to say a huge thanks to our communications team Chris and Nicole for the work that they did to bring this to fruition. He then invited up Dr. Alaimo to share the highlights from the report.

Dr. Alaimo also thanked the Communications Department who really put this together and made it look good. So huge shout out to them.

Key highlights included:

- Snapshot of growth and achievement within the District
- Strategic plan alignment and next steps
- District goal: 80% of students in grades 2–8 meeting or exceeding grade-level standards
- Previous growth goal: 60% of students meeting growth targets.
- FY2027 growth targets: 70% of elementary students and 65% of middle-school students meeting growth targets
- Preschool students were reported to be exceeding the district's 80% proficiency expectation
- Kindergarten and first-grade literacy performance was identified as an area for continued improvement, while mathematics performance was approximately 83–84%
- Approximately 68% of district students met MAP growth targets with room for improvement at the middle school
- More than 80% of students across grade levels were reported as at or above grade level on MAP achievement measures
- Illinois Assessment of Readiness and Illinois Science Assessment results showed generally strong proficiency levels, with some grade-level and school-level areas identified for additional attention

In our strategic plan, we will continue to improve our structures under the MTSS umbrella specifically for academics to support that goal of 70 or 65% of our students meeting growth targets. Because we want everyone in District 64 to grow and that's the ultimate goal as we move through our strategic plan.

The report will be shared with families and made publicly accessible.

Dr. Collins gave the board a paper copy that had the district calendar on one side and on the other side a district events calendar including the Parent U events. He wanted to highlight that we have our first Parent U event coming up October

8th and that's on our CHAMPS behavior system. October also kicks off our Student Services coffee chats in all of our buildings which we started doing last year for all of our families who have students with IEPs just to help engage them in all of their students' learning processes and answer any questions they might have. Those were really successful. So, I'm looking forward to having all of that stuff going on in the buildings.

PRESENTATION & APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT GOALS

Dr. Collins stated now that we've got a robust strategic plan, my first goal is quite large, but it's pretty simple. Run the plan successfully. So I'm going to just very briefly talk through each district pillar and the things that are happening this year right now in the moment knowing that a lot of this information will be coming back to you through the year especially we just finished an IASB training on setting up our Committee of the Whole structure for the year. So, in January, March, and June, we'll be back together talking openly about all these things that you'll see with a lot of data around them. And sharing hopefully the celebrations and the work that we're doing.

The Superintendent reviewed implementation priorities for the district's strategic plan, including:

- Improving student academic growth and progress monitoring
- Supporting specialized programs and developing measures of success
- Developing a Portrait of a Learner and related instructional/environmental frameworks
- Establishing consistent student behavior systems and additional supports for students with higher-level behavioral needs
- Developing an educator-excellence framework aligned with district instructional priorities
- Developing long-term resource allocation and staffing plans
- Conducting a facilities assessment and developing a long-range facilities plan
- Improving community and staff engagement and communication processes

My job is to make sure all of that's working well and maybe find the times where it's not and either pivot or decide we need to pump something up or maybe downrod something.

The second goal, which is fairly simple, but we're back at the bargaining table now with Park Ridge Teacher Assistants Association (PRTAA), that's our union for the ESP group, we'll start that soon, but we want to have a successful, meaningful, and collaborative discussion with them so we can make sure we're providing the best workspace possible for them. So, more updates as we get into that, but, that's just something that is on the top top of our mind. I would say about one in every six staff members belongs to that employee group. So, it's quite a large group of staff and many of them work directly with students the entire day. It's important to understand their needs and make sure that we're trying to provide a great place for them to come to work.

ACTION ITEM 26-09-1

It was moved by member Cline and seconded by member Milligan that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent Goals as presented tonight and agreed upon.

The votes were cast as follows:

Moved by _____ Cline _____ Seconded by _____ Milligan _____

AYES: Cline, Rankin, Doubleday, Kuempel, Milligan

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT: Georgakis, Loise

The motion carried.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Member Milligan shared that the Education Committee met on September 10th. The meeting primarily focused on the academic performance and growth presentation that Dr. Alaimo spoke to earlier. Member Milligan expressed appreciation for the work of the academic and communications teams in creating a clear, public-facing report of student achievement, progress toward goals, successes, and areas for improvement. She said it shows a continued dedication to bringing more transparency to the work that we are doing, the progress that we are making towards goals, both successes and areas of opportunity. We're really interested to see how it lands with our community and what we can do to continually improve it in years to come.

ADOPTION OF DISTRICT BUDGET FOR 2026-27

The Board adopted the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

ACTION ITEM 26-09-2

It was moved by member Cline and seconded by member Milligan that the Board adopt the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

The votes were cast as follows:

Moved by _____ Cline _____ Seconded by _____ Milligan _____

AYES: Milligan, Doubleday, Cline, Rankin, Kuempel

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT: Georgakis, Loise

The motion carried.

OPENING ENROLLMENT & STAFFING REPORT

Dr. Martin said the current enrollment was 4,433 students, compared with 4,491 the prior year, a decrease of 58 students.

Key observations:

- Most grade levels were down or essentially unchanged
- Kindergarten increased by approximately 48 students, which was unexpected and will be monitored to determine whether it represents a longer-term trend
- Seventh grade increased by approximately 23 students
- Franklin School experienced an enrollment decline and was down approximately 68 students over three years
- Jefferson's enrollment is expected to increase as additional students are identified during the year
- Administration anticipates continued enrollment-related staffing adjustments and will refine projections during October

Overall district staffing decreased by approximately 3.47 FTE compared with the prior year.

Changes included:

- Five additional certified FTE positions for specialized programs and related support

- Three additional non-certified positions, including student-success, occupational therapy, and communications roles
- One additional administrative position
- A reduction of approximately nine ESP positions as student services structures were reorganized for efficiency
- Retirement and resignation vacancies helped offset new positions

Preliminary enrollment and staffing recommendations for the following school year are expected around January.

CONSENT AGENDA

Bills

Fund	Fund Total
10 - Education Fund	\$1,091,733.03
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$764,579.67
30 - Debt Services Fund	\$22,978.14
40 - Transportation Fund	\$30,972.98
60 - Capital Projects Fund	\$11,955,851.02
Total	\$13,866,114.84

Payroll & Benefits (June)

10 - Education Fund	\$506,042.61
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$268,578.50
40 - Transportation Fund	\$2,199.72
50 - IMRF/FICA Fund	\$39,484.43
51 - SS/Medicare	\$37,930.28
Total:	\$854,235.54

The Accounts Payable detailed list can be viewed on the District 64 website's business services page at www.d64.org.

- Bills, Payroll and Benefits
- Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending July 31, 2025
- Approval of Recommended Personnel Report
- Approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement between Niles Township District for Special Education 807 (NTDSE) and Park Ridge Niles Community Consolidated School District 64 for the Provision of Certain Special Education Services and the Provision of Certain Staff
- Approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement between Niles Police Department and Park Ridge Niles Community Consolidated School District 64 for Reciprocal Reporting
- Approval of Semi-Annual Review of Closed Minutes
- Approval of the Destruction of Closed Audio Recordings
- 2nd Reading and Approval of Policies from PRESS Issue 122
- Approval of Minutes August 13, 2026 Regular Meeting, August 13, 2026 Closed Meeting and August 24, 2026 Special Meeting

ACTION ITEM 26-09-3

It was moved by member Cline and seconded by member Milligan that the board approve the Consent Agenda for September 17th, 2026 as presented.

The votes were cast as follows:

Moved by _____ Cline _____ Seconded by _____ Milligan _____

AYES: Kurmpel, Cline, Doubleday, Rankin, Milligan

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT: Georgakis, Loise

The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

BOARD RECESSES & ADJOURNS TO A CLOSED MEETING

At 7:43 p.m. it was moved by Member Cline and seconded by Member Milligan to recess from the regular meeting and adjourn to a closed meeting to discuss the following:

- Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).
- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with [the Open Meetings Act]. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), amended by P.A. 99-646.
- Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)

The votes were cast as follows:

Moved by _____ Cline _____ Seconded by _____ Milligan _____

AYES: Cline, Kurmpel, Doubleday, Rankin, Milligan

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT: Georgakis, Loise

The motion carried.

BOARD ADJOURNS CLOSED MEETING AND RESUMES REGULAR MEETING

At 8:34 p.m. the board resumed the regular meeting.

OVERTURN/UPHOLD STUDENT DISCIPLINARY DECISION/ACTION – STUDENT 2026-03

ACTION ITEM 26-09-4

It was moved by member Milligan and seconded by member Cline that the board uphold the school administration's disciplinary action of student 2026-03.

The votes were cast as follows:

Moved by _____ Milligan _____ Seconded by _____ Cline _____

AYES: Milligan, Cline, Rankin, Kuempel, Doubleday

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT: Georgakis, Loise

The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:36 p.m. Member Cline motioned to adjourn the regular meeting, Member Milligan seconded and the board approved by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried.

Signed Date: October 15, 2026

President

Secretary