

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MUNDELEIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 75**

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 held on the twenty-first day of April 2026, at 6:01 p.m.**

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 75:**

**PRESENT:** Kristie Fingerhut, President  
Ray Rose, Vice-President  
Eric Billittier, Secretary  
Georgina Aguirre  
Marcela Duran  
Al Hitzke  
Emily Karl

**ABSENT:** None

**D75 ADMINISTRATORS:**

Dr. Corey Tafoya, Superintendent  
Dr. Sarah Cacciatore, Deputy Superintendent  
Jamie DiCarlo, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services  
Dr. Cathy Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations  
Shane McCreery, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Legal  
Peter Gill, Director of Public Relations  
Dr. Gabrielle Devlin, Director of Teaching and Learning  
Fred Kliora, Head of Security and Events

**GUEST:** Jessica Flores, President, Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 board members: Aguirre, Billittier, Duran, Fingerhut, Hitzke, Karl and Rose were present for the April 21, 2026, regular board meeting.

All in favor by voice vote: 7-0

**RECOGNITION**

Dr. Tafoya thanked Dr. Balaji Singmsetti and Sharon Bogetz, Meadows Family Dentistry, for their generous donation of \$5000 to the STEAM foundation. Dr. Jorge Cantu, STEAM foundation director, expressed the foundation's appreciation for the generous donation, which will allow more students to participate in the summer STEAM Camp.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

No citizen comments.

**BOE COMMENTS**

Board members reviewed statement number nine and ten of the standard and principles from school board policy #2:280-E Exhibit, board member code of conduct.

Board president Fingerhut shared the ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on April 28, 2026 for the grand opening of the new stage addition.

**DISTRICT 75 REPORT**

FY26 Audit Services

Cathy Johnson, assistant superintendent of finance and operations, reviewed the recommendation to engage audit services with Baker Tilly US, LLP. District 120 has been notified that its long-time auditing firm, Miller Cooper, is transitioning away from governmental audits. Following an abbreviated RFP, three responses were reviewed. While Baker Tilly's price was not the lowest of the three, the experience with shared services provided a competitive edge.

FY27 Tentative Budget

Ms. Johnson reviewed the 2026-27 tentative budget. The tentative budget will be on public display as mandated by the State. She also reviewed the areas that will require monitoring for any changes. Board members held on the topic.

1% Sales Tax

The Board discussed the 1 percent sales tax being considered by school districts across Lake County for placement on the November 2026 ballot. The tax would be used to fund eligible school facility needs, including capital improvements, technology infrastructure, durable equipment, and possibly school resource officers and mental health professionals. The Board will consider voting on whether to put the question to voters. To be placed on the ballot, school boards representing a majority of students in Lake County must vote to support the ballot placement. Voters across Lake County would then decide if the sales tax should be implemented. Discussion was held on the topic.

Lincoln Fire Alarm Bid

Ms. Johnson reviewed the recommendation to approve the bid from USA Fire Protection of Lake Forest to provide a fire alarm system for Lincoln Early Learning Center. She shared that although USA Fire Protection of Lake Forest was the second lowest bid of four bidders that the district received, the lowest-cost bidder did not fully meet the bid specifications required by the district.

E-Rate Proposal FY2026

Ms. Johnson reviewed the recommendation to approve E-Rate proposal for a secondary internet connection for District 75. She shared the 10GB internet connection is a bundled on-site firewall, with an on-site security system that will be utilized to actively protect the networks for both school district 75 and 120. Still, each district will maintain their own separate service lines, however because they are connected each can support one another if needed. A review of the implementation costs was reviewed.

Technology Equipment Purchase

Ms. Johnson reviewed the recommendation to approve the purchase of 200 Apple iPads for Washington School. The iPads will be used for daily instruction, assessments, and digital coursework.

Expenditure Report over \$25,000

Ms. Johnson reviewed the recommendation to approve a three-year agreement with Cisco Collaboration Flex Plan through CDW Direct LLC. The agreement will support the district's phone and communication systems.

Multilingual/Dual Language Program Review

Dr. Gabrielle Devlin, director of teaching and learning and Jessica Flores, president, Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC), provided a program update on the Multilingual department. They shared the steps taken to address both the student achievement strategic and partnership

goals. Current and prior year English proficiency data for EL students was shared. They also shared the data that demonstrated an increase in proficiency within several grade levels.

Annual Review of Safety Drills

Shane McCreery, assistant superintendent of human resources and legal, reviewed that each school year, school districts are required to review their safety and drill plans. The district is required to hold fire drills, a bus evacuation drill, a law enforcement drill, severe weather, an active shooter drill and shelter-in place drill. Carl Sandburg Middle School, Mechanics Grove Elementary School, Washington Early Learning Center and Lincoln Early Childhood Center have completed all the required safety and drill plans.

Co-curricular Staffing Update

Mr. McCreery presented on the co-curricular staffing for the 2026-27 school year. He shared the recommendation for the eighty stipend positions and shared that no changes would be made. However, the final cost to the district will be determined by the outcome of contract negotiations with the Mundelein Elementary Education Association.

"I Love U Guys" Program Update

Jamie DiCarlo, assistant superintendent of student services and Fred Kliora, director of security and events, provided an update on the first year of training with the "I Love U Guys" Foundation which provides crisis response and crisis reunification training to schools. The also shared the vast majority of Lake County school districts are adopting this model. The administrators called it a simple and straight-forward crisis management program.

Establishment of Dates, Place and Time of Regular Meetings

Dr. Tafoya shared the Board of Education must approve and set the dates and location(s) for its regular meetings. Regular meetings of the Board of Education are held at a regularly scheduled time of every month, unless otherwise specified. Discussion was held on moving the start time from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm, they agreed to establish the start time to 6:30 p.m.

2026 IASB Joint Annual Conference

Board members discussed who would be interested in attending the 2026 Illinois Association of School Board's (IASB) Joint Annual Conference that is held annually in Chicago.

Dr. Tafoya shared his experiences from the Mechanics Grove school, Leader In Me event.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Board Policy

The first reading of PRESS Policy #121 was reviewed. A recommendation was made to review and update school board policies that listed the deputy superintendent.

Committee member Aguirre reviewed the PRESS Policy section. A recommendation was made to review school board policy #8:20 with the finance committee.

Finance Advisory

Committee member Rose shared topics from the finance committee meeting.

Shared Services

Dr. Tafoya shared the next shared service meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2026.

Community Outreach  
No updates.

**REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES**

STEAM Foundation  
No update.

SEDOL

Dr. Tafoya shared that he has joined the SEDOL Executive Board.

Village Liaison

Committee member Rose reported on the various services, events and activities happening in Lake County and the Village of Mundelein.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Hitzke, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 approve the revised consent agenda of April 21, 2026, which included:

- March 16, 2026, Regular Board Minutes
- Bill List
- Financial Report
- FOIA Request(s)
- Annual Renewal List
- Approval of Personnel Report
  - New Hire – Administration: Ana Estrada Segura, Arthur Vallicelli, Richard Dal Porto
  - New Hire – Certified: Rachel Johnson, Elizabeth Macy
  - New Hire – Classified: Kyle Ziegler
  - Retirement: Anne Craig (end of 2025-2026 school year), Lisa Shirley (end of 2025-2026 school year), Louise Bertaud (end of 2029-2030 school year)
  - Resignation: Lesley Chavez, Lindsay Wheaton, Heather Condron, Rachael McOmber, Harper Yaffe, Micheal Novak
  - Leave of Absence: Tim Mantano

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Aguirre, Billittier, Duran, Fingerhut, Hitzke, Karl and Rose

NAY: None

Dr. Tafoya introduced the new Chief Information Officer, Ana Estrada, who will be joining the school district on July 1, 2026.

**BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

FY26 Audit Services

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Rose, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 to approve and accept the engagement of audit services with Baker Tilly US, LLP., in the amount of \$45,200.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Aguirre, Billittier, Duran, Fingerhut, Hitzke, Karl and Rose

NAY: None

Lincoln Fire Alarm Bid

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Karl, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 to approve the bid from USA Fire Protection to provide a fire alarm system for Lincoln Elementary School in the amount of \$154,452.

With respect to change orders that necessitate an increase in the cost of contracts by 10% or more, or which will change the time of completion by a total of 30 days or more, the Board authorizes its Superintendent or designee to make the written determinations required by 720 ILCS 5/33E-9, that: (1) The circumstances said to necessitate the change in performance were not reasonably foreseeable at the time the contract was signed, or (2) the change is germane to the original contract as signed, or (3) the change order is in the best interest of the District and is authorized by law.

In accordance with District policy, the recommended bidders have submitted and signed the required Conflict of Interest Disclosure form confirming there is no conflict of interest.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Aguirre, Billittier, Duran, Fingerhut, Hitzke, Karl and Rose

NAY: None

E-Rate Proposal FY2026

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Rose, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 to approve the FY2026 E-Rate proposal for a secondary internet connection. The total first-year cost is \$337,103.91.

FY26 - One-time implementation fee: \$25,931.07 (Included in the first-year cost)

Monthly service fee: \$25,931.07 (Included in the first-year cost)

Potential Monthly service fee: \$10,372.43 (replaces \$25,931.07)  
(After the approved 60% E-rate reimbursement)

After reimbursement a first-year net cost: \$134,841.59 (replaces \$337,103.91)

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Aguirre, Billittier, Duran, Fingerhut, Hitzke, Karl and Rose

NAY: None

Technology Equipment Purchase

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Karl, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 to approve the purchase of 200 Apple iPad for the total amount of \$77,590.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Aguirre, Billittier, Duran, Fingerhut, Hitzke, Karl and Rose

NAY: None

Expenditure Report Over \$25,000

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Duran, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 to approve a three-year Cisco

Collaboration Flex Plan agreement, with CDW Direct LLC, in the amount of \$79,693.20 paid over three years, which equals \$26,564.40 annually.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Aguirre, Billittier, Duran, Fingerhut, Hitzke, Karl and Rose

NAY: None

Annual Review of Safety Drills

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Aguirre, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 to approve Carl Sandburg Middle School, Mechanics Grove Elementary School, Washington Early Learning Center and Lincoln Early Childhood Center, required safety and drill plans, as presented.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Aguirre, Billittier, Duran, Fingerhut, Hitzke, Karl and Rose

NAY: None

Establishment of Dates, Place and Time of Regular Meetings

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Hitzke, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 to adopt the establishment of regular meetings of the Board of Education begin at 6:30 p.m., as presented

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Aguirre, Billittier, Duran, Fingerhut, Hitzke, Karl and Rose

NAY: None

2026 IASB Joint Annual Conference

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Karl, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 to approve board members attend the 2026 Illinois Association of School Boards Joint Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois, at a cost not to exceed \$8,000.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Aguirre, Billittier, Duran, Fingerhut, Hitzke, Karl and Rose

NAY: None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Billittier, that the Board adjourn for 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, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

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. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(2).

The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(10).

Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, 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)

**OPEN SESSION**

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 9:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 board members: Aguirre, Billittier, Duran, Fingerhut, Hitzke, Karl and Rose were present for the April 21, 2026, regular board meeting.

All in favor by voice vote: 7-0

**ACTION**

**Executive Session Minutes**

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Karl, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 approve the March 16, 2026, executive session minutes.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Aguirre, Billittier, Duran, Fingerhut, Hitzke, Karl and Rose

NAY: None

**Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Notice of Remedial Warning**

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Rose, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 approve that the Board of Education issue a Notice of Remedial Warning to certified employee, Rosamaria Meza, for acts of misconduct and insubordination and that the Board of Education direct Ms. Meza to remedy the misconduct as specified in the Notice of Remedial Warning by providing evidence to the District on or before June 1, 2026, confirming completion of all necessary coursework and eligibility to submit an application for a Bilingual Education endorsement to take effect on or before July 1, 2026.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Aguirre, Billittier, Duran, Fingerhut, Hitzke, Karl and Rose

NAY: None

**President's Prerogative**

Board president Fingerhut shared a reminder to submit the statement of economic interest forms before the due date. She also shared that board member Duran, and her spouse were honored by the Northeast Illinois council for Scouting America with the Scouting Vale La Pena Service Award. Board member Hitzke was recognized by Illinois Association of School Board (IASB) and presented with a Leadership pin.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Hitzke, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 board members: Aguirre, Billittier, Duran, Fingerhut, Hitzke, Karl and Rose adjourned the meeting of April 21, 2026, at 9:07 p.m.

Motion approved by voice vote: 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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KRISTIE FINGERHUT, PRESIDENT  
DISTRICT 75, BOARD OF EDUCATION

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ERIC BILLITTIER  
DISTRICT 75, BOARD OF EDUCATION

approved