

**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 thirteenth day of January 2026, at 6:06 p.m.

Members of the Board of Education Mundelein Elementary School District 75 present:

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

ABSENT: None

D120 & D75 ADMINISTRATORS:

Dr. Corey Tafoya, Superintendent
Dr. Sarah Cacciatore, Deputy Superintendent
Cathy Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations
Jamie DiCarlo, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Shane McCreery, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources & Legal
Kevin Quinn, Director of Maintenance and Facilities
Peter Gill, Director of Public Relations
Stacey Gorman, Director of Teaching and Learning
Jill Unger, Director of Teaching and Learning

Members of the Board of Education Mundelein High School District 120 present:

PRESENT: Peter Rastrelli, President
Mark Ponce, Vice President
Aaron Wellington, Secretary
Jennifer Hill
Sean Hogan
Laura Mellon
Sophia Schneckloth

ABSENT: None

GUEST: John Epperson, CPA, Principal, Miller Cooper & Co.

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 regular board meeting on January 13, 2026.

All in favor by voice vote: 7-0

RECOGNITION

There were no announcements.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

The open meeting was convened for the purpose of calling the meeting to order and stating the agenda. The meeting immediately entered into a closed session meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Rose, that the Board adjourn for litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting minutes. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Rose, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary District 75 board members: Aguirre, Billittier, Duran, Fingerhut, Hitzke, Karl and Rose moved all in favor that the Board adjourn from regular board meeting on January 13, 2026, at 7:10 p.m.

Motion approved by voice vote: 7-0.

OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 8:28 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER OF THE JOINT BOARD MEETING

Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary District 75 board members: Aguirre, Billittier, Duran, Fingerhut, Hitzke, Karl and Rose were present for the January 13, 2026, joint board meeting.

All in favor by voice vote: 7-0

SHARED SERVICES REPORT

FY25 Audit

John Epperson, Miller Cooper, reviewed various areas of the Annual Financial Report (AFR) standardized audit report. He stated that the district successfully completed an audit with no findings.

Budget Assumptions

Cathy Johnson, assistant superintendent of finance and operations, reviewed the 2026-2027 fiscal year preliminary budget assumptions.

County 1% Sales Tax

District 75 Board members discussed the possibility of a Lake County 1 percent sales tax to fund school facility's needs. School Boards across the county are considering placing the question on the November 2026 ballot. The tax would be on non-essential items, not including food and medicine. If the sales tax is placed on the ballot and approved by voters, it would generate an estimated \$1.47 million annually to Mundelein Elementary School. Board members expressed some reservations about the matter. The Board is expected to consider at the next scheduled Board meeting.

Digital Board Platform

Dr. Tafoya, superintendent, inquired if the board would consider exploring software platforms that would support the school board meetings.

Shared Services Communication Plan

Dr. Tafoya proposed developing a year-long communication plan to provide stakeholders with an understanding of the benefits of the Shared Services model. The timeline and the approach will be reviewed by the shared services committee.

Strategic Planning

Dr. Tafoya and board members discussed the school board's strategic plan to determine whether any changes are needed to better reflect the goals of the board and the district. Discussion was held on various aspects of the strategic plan.

Review of Committee and Board Meeting Structures

Dr. Tafoya discussed the board meeting structure and how they complement the work of the board in their monthly meetings.

Job Description

Dr. Tafoya and Shane McCreery, assistant superintendent of human resources & legal, reviewed the recommendation for the Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools job description. The position would provide additional support to the principals. Discussion was held on various topics related to the job responsibilities and salary.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Rose, 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. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by .A. 93-0057

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Rose, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 board members: Aguirre, Billittier, Duran, Fingerhut, Hitzke, Karl and Rose moved all in favor that the Board adjourn from joint board meeting on January 13, 2026, at 7:21 p.m.

Motion approved by voice vote: 7-0.

D75 Board of Education members exited and moved to the Mundelein Room.

D120 Board of Education members remained in the DMR (District Meeting Room).

OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 8:28 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 January 13, 2026, regular board meeting.

All in favor by voice vote: 7-0

BOE COMMENTS

Board members reviewed statement number six of the standard and principles from school board policy #2:280-E Exhibit, board member code of conduct. Discussion was held on the topic.

DISTRICT 75 REPORT

2026-2027 Student Fees

Dr. Cacciatore, deputy superintendent, reviewed the recommendation that student fees remain unchanged for the 2026-2027 school year. However, the transportation fee will reflect an 8% increase to align with the agreed-upon contract amount for the upcoming school year.

Expenditure Report over \$5,000

Dr. Cacciatore reviewed that under school board policy #4:60, Board approval is required for certain purchases. She presented the HVAC commissioning services and a PowerSchool contract to resolve system issues and provide staff training.

Job Description

Jill Unger, director of teaching and learning, reviewed the recommendation for the Middle School Choral Director and general music teacher job description.

Board Member Policy Awareness Process

Dr. Cacciatore and board members discussed, the process the board will use to review all board policies on a 24 month rotating schedule.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Board Policy

Dr. Cacciatore and committee member Fingerhut reviewed the second and final reading of PRESS #120 and the additional school board policies #4:60, #5:290 and #5:330. Discussion was held on the policy recommendations and whether to increase the threshold for school board policy #4:60, from \$5K to \$25K.

Finance Advisory

No Update.

Shared Services

Dr. Cacciatore inquired if two board members would be interested in participating the salary review committee. Discussion was held on the matter and committee members Karl and Billittier agreed to participate.

Community Outreach

No Update.

REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES

STEAM Foundation

Committee member Duran provided an update on the status on the current fund balance. She also shared information on the March 5, 2026, Pizza throwdown event and STEAM camp.

SEDOL

Committee member Billittier stated that the 2023 audit results had been shared at the previous meeting.

Village Liaison

No Update.

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 consent agenda of January 13, 2026, which included:

- December 16, 2025, Regular Board Minutes
- Bill List
- Financial Report
- Annual Renewal List
- Approval of Personnel Report
 - New Hire – Classified: Melissa Mendiola, Christina Bowman, Christopher Smith
 - Resignation: Marilou Overton
 - Leave of Absence: Rachel McCauley, Justine Krebs

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

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

NAY: None

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Approval of FY25 Audit

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Rose, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 approve the FY25 Audit, as presented.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

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

NAY: None

Approval of Budget Assumptions

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 Budget Assumptions, as presented.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

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

NAY: None

2026-2027 Student Fees

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Aguirre, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 approve the 2026-2027 Student Fees, as presented.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

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

NAY: None

Expenditure Report Over \$5,000

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Rose, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 approve the expenditure report over \$5000, as presented.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

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

NAY: None

Approval of Job Description

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 following job description, as presented.

- Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools - NEW

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

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

NAY: None

Approval of Job Description

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 following job description, as presented.

- Middle School Choral Director and General Music Teacher - New

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

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

NAY: None

PRESS Plus #120, Second and Final Reading

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Rose, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 approve PRESS Policy #120, second and final reading, and School Board Policies #4:60, #5:290, and #5:330, as presented.

Which includes an increase from \$5,000K to \$25,000K in expenditure reports and requests in school board policy #4:60.

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 Karl, 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).

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 9:34 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 January 13, 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 Hitzke, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 approve the December 16, 2025, executive session minutes.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

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

NAY: None

President's Prerogative

No discussion occurred.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Board Member Hitzke, seconded by Board Member Karl, 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 January 13, 2026, at 9:36 p.m.

Motion approved by voice vote: 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTIE FINGERHUT, PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 75, BOARD OF EDUCATION

ERIC BILLITTIER, SECRETARY
DISTRICT 75, BOARD OF EDUCATION