

**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 sixteenth day of March 2026, at 6:01 p.m.**

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

**PRESENT:** Kristie Fingerhut, President  
Georgina Aguirre  
Marcela Duran  
Emily Karl, Secretary (Pro Tem)

**ABSENT:** Ray Rose, Vice-President  
Eric Billittier, Secretary  
Al Hitzke

**D75 ADMINISTRATORS:**

Dr. Corey Tafoya, Superintendent  
Dr. Cathy Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations  
Jamie DiCarlo, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services  
Shane McCreery, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Legal  
Peter Gill, Director of Public Relations  
Jill Unger, Director of Teaching & Learning  
Cindy Sementa, Student Services Coordinator/School Psychologist  
Laura Ehas, Student Services Coordinator/School Psychologist  
Idalia Katzarov, Instruction and Assessment Coordinator

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 board members: Aguirre, Duran, Fingerhut, and Karl were present for the March 16, 2026, regular board meeting.

All in favor by voice vote: 4-0

**RECOGNITION**

Dr. Tafoya recognized Tyler Nelson, Carl Sandburg seventh grader, on his accomplishments in wrestling at the state tournament. Tyler finished fourth at the state tournament.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

MEEA co-presidents, Tina Sheedy and Sarah Duncan, read a statement on behalf of their members. They expressed their opinion on class sizes, as well as the previously presented FTE information.

**BOE COMMENTS**

No board comments.

**DISTRICT 75 REPORT**

**2026-27 Encumbrance and Expenditure Authorization**

Cathy Johnson, assistant superintendent of finance and operations, reviewed the recommendation to authorize up to 75 percent of the 2026-27 preliminary control budgets, which are being developed within the encumbrance and expenditure budget guidelines. Discussion was held on the topic.

**March 16, 2026**Washington Roof Repair

Ms. Johnson reviewed the roof repair cost recommendation for Washington Elementary school. The repairs would be completed by Garland/DBS, though OMNIA.

State of Illinois Rock Salt Joint Agreement

Ms. Johnson reviewed the recommendation to participate in the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) CY2026-027 Joint Purchase Master Contract for rock salt. The agreement would be for a one-year term with no renewal options.

Classified Staffing Update

Shane McCreery, assistant superintendent of human resources and legal, reviewed the anticipated classified staffing allocation for the 2026-2027 school year. He also provided an overview of the staffing recommendations. Discussion was held on the topic.

Approval of Resolutions

Mr. McCreery reviewed the resolution regarding the honorable dismissal of staff due to a reduction in force (RIF) for the 2026-2027 school year. Discussion was held on the topic.

Academic Update

Jill Unger, director of Teaching & Learning, Student Services department, Cindy Sementa and Laura Ehas, student services coordinator/school psychologists and Idalia Katzarov, instruction and assessment coordinator, provided an academic update on the STAR360 student growth data and the progress being made to meet the end of year academic growth goals for the 25-26 school year. Discussion was held on the topic.

Communication Plan

Dr. Corey Tafoya, superintendent, reviewed the communication plan to address the short- and long-term goals for the district. He also shared the next steps and the priorities that would be addressed in the 2026 communication cycle. Discussion was held on the topic.

Rescind Resolution Notice of Withdrawal from Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL)

Dr. Tafoya and Jamie DiCarlo, assistant superintendent of student services, reviewed the recommendation to rescind the petition for withdrawal from the Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL). They also shared the changes that SEDOL has made to improve communication with the district. Discussion was held topic.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**Board Policy

Committee member Aguirre reviewed the PRESS Policy section.

Finance Advisory

No updates.

Shared Services

Dr. Tafoya reported that he has contacted Dawn Bridges, IASB Director of Professional Learning, to invite her to the July 2026 board meeting. Additionally, a shared service meeting is scheduled for April 2026.

Community Outreach

Committee member Duran summarized the Mundelein Village Joint Official Quarterly Meeting held on February 27, 2026. The next meeting will be held at Fremont D79.

### **REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES**

#### STEAM Foundation

Committee member Duran shared the Pizza Throwdown was very successful. She also shared the funding support for summer camp, and a possible Taco Throwdown event was being discussed.

#### SEDOL

An update was provided in the district summary report.

#### Village Liaison

No update.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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 consent agenda of March 16, 2026, which included:

- February 24, 2026, Regular Board Minutes
- Bill List
- Financial Report
- FOIA Request(s)
- Annual Renewal List
- Approval of Personnel Report
  - New Hire – Certified: Addison Salski, Justin Pottinger, Sylvia Kendera, Michelle Gatyas
  - Change In Assignment: Kelly Lesniak
  - New Hire – Classified: Ritika Maltare, Jennifer Hernandez
  - Certified Staff – Granting of Tenure: Mallary Burke, Oralia Campos Martinez, Sheena Canoy, Mercedes Cruz, Jordan Doss, Amanda Garcia, Samantha Liszka, Michelle Olechno, Andrea Rodriguez, Candace Sniffen, Heather Williams,
  - Resignation: Jael Arreola, Sarah Cacciatore
  - End of Assignment: Sarah Andra

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Aguirre, Duran, Fingerhut and Karl

NAY: None

### **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

#### 26-27 Encumbrance Expenditures Authorization

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Karl, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 to authorize the administration to encumber and expend up to 75 percent of the 2026-27 preliminary budgets, which are being developed within budget guidelines established by the Board of Education, and to pay salaries and benefits within Board-approved rates and schedules before official budget approval.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Aguirre, Duran, Fingerhut and Karl

NAY: None

#### Washington Roof Repair

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 roofing materials and services proposal, as presented.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Aguirre, Duran, Fingerhut and Karl

NAY: None

Approval of 26-27 Joint Purchase Master Contract

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 2026-2027 Joint Purchase Master contract for a period of one-year with no renewal options with the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS).

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Aguirre, Duran, Fingerhut and Karl

NAY: None

Resolution Regarding Non-Renewal and Honorable Dismissal of PEL-Licensed Employee

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Duran, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 approve the Resolution Regarding Non-Renewal and Honorable Dismissal of PEL-Licensed Employee, Diana Alday.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Aguirre, Duran, Fingerhut and Karl

NAY: None

Resolution Authorizing Non-Reemployment of Full-Time, Non-Tenured Teacher Not in Last Year of Probationary Service

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 Resolution Authorizing Non-Reemployment of Full-Time, Non-Tenured Teacher Not in Last Year of Probationary Service, Carol Basel.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Aguirre, Duran, Fingerhut and Karl

NAY: None

Resolution Rescinding Petition for Withdrawal from the Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL)

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Aguirre, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 to rescind the resolution notice of withdrawal from Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL), as presented.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Aguirre, Duran, Fingerhut and Karl

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).

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 8:02 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 board members: Aguirre, Duran, Fingerhut, and Karl were present for the March 16, 2026, regular board meeting.

All in favor by voice vote: 4-0

**ACTION**

**Executive Session Minutes**

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Duran, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 approve the February 24, 2026, executive session minutes.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Aguirre, Duran, Fingerhut and Karl

NAY: None

**President's Prerogative**

Board president Fingerhut shared information about the SuperEval program. A reminder was shared about CSMS promotion day.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Karl, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 board members: Aguirre, Duran, Fingerhut, and Karl adjourned the meeting of March 16, 2026, at 8:07 p.m.

Motion approved by voice vote: 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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KRISTIE FINGERHUT, PRESIDENT  
DISTRICT 75, BOARD OF EDUCATION

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EMILY KARL SECRETARY (PRO TEM)  
DISTRICT 75, BOARD OF EDUCATION