

**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 October 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**

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

**PRESENT:** Kristie Fingerhut, President  
Ray Rose, President  
Eric Billittier, Secretary  
Georgina Aguirre  
Marcela Duran (arrived at 6:04 pm)  
Al Hitzke  
Emily Karl

**ABSENT:** None

**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 and Legal  
Tanya Fergus, Principal, Mechanics Grove  
Louise Bertuad, Assistant Principal, Mechanics Grove  
Peter Gill, Director of Public Relations

**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 October 21, 2025, regular board meeting.

All in favor by voice vote: 7-0

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Nicole Russo-Ponsaran, community member, expressed her view on the importance of offering after-school student clubs and summer 2026 programs at Washington School.

**BOE COMMENTS**

Board members reviewed statement number four 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**

**Mechanics Grove Update**

Tanya Fergus, principal, and Louise Bertuad, assistant principal, Mechanics Grove, shared how student leadership opportunities have grown for students. They also shared how the students take ownership and thrive in the leadership roles. Discussion was held on the topic.

**Estimated Aggregate Tentative Tax Levy Year 2025**

Cathy Johnson, assistant superintendent of finance and operations, provided an overview of the estimated 2025 aggregate tax levy. She also reviewed the recommendation to approve the

resolution authorizing the estimated 2025 aggregate tax levy and the resolution for the Notice of a Public Hearing for Levy Year 2025. Discussion was held on the topic.

Estimated Aggregate Supplemental Levy

Ms. Johnson reviewed the recommendation to approve a resolution for the estimated aggregate supplement levy. In 2011, district voters approved a funding limit (DSEB) that increases each year with inflation. When the district issued bonds in 2023, it planned for a 2% annual increase, to keep up with inflationary measures, the district must now approve a new levy in 2025 to collect \$14,658.63, which adds roughly 7 cents to the tax rate and needs separate board approval. Discussion was held on the topic.

Budget Calendar

Ms. Johnson reviewed the annual budget calendar. The calendar will guide the preparation of the budget, and other organizational and review processes that occur during budget development.

Door Hardware Bid

Ms. Johnson reviewed the recommendation of the invitation for bids (IFB) that was issued for the replacement of classroom door handle systems in multiple district buildings. She shared that five vendors submitted bids. Independent Hardware submitted the lowest responsible bid for \$39,585, which includes the base scope.

Approval of Recognition Criteria

Dr. Corey Tafoya, superintendent, shared a draft for a board recognition program. The program is intended to celebrate students and staff who demonstrate exceptional achievements in District 75. Discussion was held on the internal process and the criteria.

D75 Donation(s)

Dr. Tafoya thanked Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories and the local food vendors that attended Tiger Truck Fest for their donations to the schools.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Board Policy

Board members reviewed PRESS Policy sections twelve and thirteen. A recommendation was made to edit two policies.

Finance Advisory

No update

Shared Services

The next transition meeting will be held on December 2025.

Community Outreach

No update.

**REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES**

STEAM Foundation

Committee member Duran shared the STEAM foundation will be hosting Tacos and Trivia night on November 7, 2025.

SEDOL

Committee member Billittier shared the next SEDOL meeting will include various topics related to a proposed tuition model, tiers and an update on the superintendent search.

Village Liaison

Committee member Rose shared various events taking place in the Mundelein community.

Board president Fingerhut also shared an update on the Mundelein Joint Village meeting that was attended by various officials. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2026.

**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 October 21, 2025, which included:

- September 23, 2025, Regular Board Minutes
- Bill List
- Annual Renewal List
- FOIA Request(s)
- Financial Report
- Approval of Personnel Report
  - New Hire – Classified: Mary Baxter Reid, Lianna Olivia
  - Change in Assignment: Patricia Diaz, Laura Gallegos
  - Resignation: Jenna Peterson, Daniel Schuer
  - Leave of Absence: Lesley Chavez

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

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

NAY: None

**BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

Estimated Aggregate Tentative Tax Levy Year 2025

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 estimated aggregate tentative tax levy year 2025, as outlined, including authorizing a public hearing to be held concerning the proposed levy on November 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Mundelein School Districts 75 & 120 - District Office East located at 470 North Lake Street, Mundelein; and authorizes the Secretary to publish a notice of the public hearing.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

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

NAY: None

Budget Calendar

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Billittier, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 approve the budget calendar, as presented.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

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

NAY: None

Door Hardware Bid

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 bid proposal from Independent

Hardware for the purchase of replacement of classroom door handle systems in multiple district buildings in the amount of \$39,585, which includes the base scope.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

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

NAY: None

**Approval of Recognition Criteria**

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 recognition criteria, as presented.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

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

NAY: None

**D75 Donation(s)**

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 donation from Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories for \$100 and from the annual Tiger Truck Fest for \$1,223.12.

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

**OPEN SESSION**

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 8:30 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 October 21, 2025, regular board meeting.

All in favor by voice vote: 7-0

**ACTION**

**Confidential and Administrator Uniform Retirement Benefit Program**

It was moved by Board Member Fingerhut, seconded by Board Member Hitzke, that the Board of Education of Mundelein Elementary School District 75 utilize the confidential and administrator uniform retirement benefit program for 10-month building administrators, 12-month building

administrators, 12-month district administrators, and 12-month D75 shared-service administrators as presented.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

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

NAY: None

President's Prerogative

Discussion was held on the PRESS section review, Triple I sessions selection and the STEAM event.

**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 October 21, 2025, at 8:34 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, SECRETARY  
DISTRICT 75, BOARD OF EDUCATION