BOARD BRIEFS

A report of items discussed and actions taken at the November 10, 2026 Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Effie "Chrissi" Petropulos, President
Joy Labudzik, Vice President
JoAnna Grove, Secretary
Tierza Lammel, Member
Antonio Medina, Member
Laura Schroeder, Member
Stacy Berkin, Member

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Adam Thorns, Superintendent
Mrs. Megan Nothnagel, Curriculum Director
Mrs. Kathy Picciolini, CSBO
Ms. Victoria Reed, Director of Student Services
Mrs. Karoline Burcheri, Multilingual Director
Mrs. Emily Geyer, PreK Director/MTSS Coordinator
Leighanne Kaczmarek, Principal
Mrs. Molly Moulis , Asst. Principal
Mr. Geoff Youngberg, Principal
Mrs. Julie Bazian, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Sarah Abdelhadi, Principal
Mrs. Nicole McGinnis, Asst. Principal

CHICAGO RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 127 ½

Leaders in Learning

Reports to the Board

- Joe Lightcamp and Olivia Legan, Accountants from Baker Tilly, presented the FY25 Draft of Audited Financial Statements and gave a positive report of the District.
- Dr. Thorns discussed the District's Above-and-Beyond Award winner, Ridge Central Teacher April Gemini. Dr. Thorns then shared that the PTA would be having a Dine-and-Donate at Culvers in Oak Lawn on Nov. 11 from 5:00-8:00 PM and that they would be hosting book fairs in November. He went on to explain that enrollment is 1,544 students, a decrease of 12 students from this time last year. The Board discussed vacant positions for this school year. Dr. Thorns discussed Parent-Teacher Conferences being held Thursday, Nov. 19 and Monday Nov. 23 as well as the annual IASA/IASB/IASBO Conference. Dr. Thorns informed the Board that the District had closed on the old Candlelight Banquet property which will be converted into the District Office/Birth-to-3 Program Building.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

DECEMBER

- IASA/IASB/IASBO Conference review and Tax Levy Hearing

Board Action

Reports to the Board cont.

- Dr. Thorns ended his summation by sharing the summative designations from the IL Assessment of Readiness. Schools received the following rankings: Lawn - Exemplary; Central - Approaching Examplary; Finley - Developing.
- Mrs. Nothnagel shared specific data from the IL Assessment of Readiness and the IL Science Assessment as well as NWEA Reading and Math data. She ended her discussion by talking about the One District, One Book program that will be starting in December.
- Mrs Picciolini shared the tentative 2026 property tax levy, the FY 27 School Maintenance Project Grant, and the Ridge Lawn Parking lot expansion that will look at adding an additional 11 parking spaces.

Personnel

The Board approved the hiring of:

- Grace Pearce, 2nd Grade Teacher at Ridge Central, eff. October 22, 2026
- Kristy Grove, Multilingual Department Aide, eff. October 22, 2026
- The Board approved the resignations of a Food Service Float eff. October 27, 2026.
- The Board approved the following additions to the Substitute Teaching List: Emily Styrczula; Tasneem Abuissa; Dareen Al Rafati; Katarzyna Naegele.
- The Board terminated a Custodian.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, December 8, 2026: Regular Board Meeting at 6:30 PM at Ridge Central

Tuesday, January 12, 2026: Regular Board Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Boardroom.

Board Action

- The Board held hearings on the intent of the Board to sell not to exceed $4,000,000 in Working Cash Fund Bonds and on the permanent transfer from Education Fund to Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund.
- The Board approved an underwriter for the District's Series 2027 Bonds.
- The Board approved the tentative 2026 property tax levy.
- The Board took action to approve and authorize and direct administration to prepare and submit a timely application to the IL State Board of Education for the School Project Management Grant for the fiscal year 2027.
- The Board approved Studio GC to prepare design specifications and solicit bids for additional parking spaces at Ridge Lawn.
- The Board approved Studio GC to Prepare Design Specifications and Solicit Bids for District Office/Birth-to-Age 3 Building.
- The Board approved payment to Studio GC in the amount of $487,500 for architectural services rendered for the District Office/Birth-to-Age 3 Building to be paid incrementally.
- The Board approved the authorization and direction to administration to solicit bids for regular and special education transportation beginning in FY28.

REMINDER

Parent Teacher Conferences:

Thursday, November 19
4:30 PM–7:30 PM

Monday, November 23
12:30 PM – 3:30 PM &
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Board Action continued

- The Board approved payment to Powerschool in the amount of $36,450.27 for renewal of student enrollment and student management software.
- The Board approved the posting and first reading of 26 policies.
- The Board approved the release of closed session minutes 18 months and older.