

BOARD BRIEFS

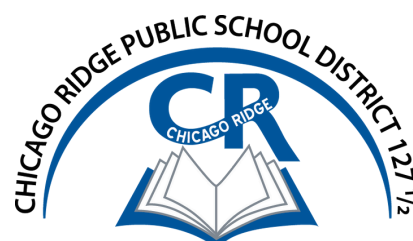
A report of items discussed and actions taken at the January 13, 2026
Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education.

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
Mr. Cary Hillegonds, Director of
Student Services
Mrs. Karoline Burcheri, Director of
Bilingual/EL
Mrs. Fran Setaro, Principal
Mrs. Leighanne Kaczmarek, Asst.
Principal
Mr. Geoff Youngberg, Principal
Mrs. Julie Bazian, Asst. Principal
Dr. Katy King, Principal
Mrs. Emily Geyer, Asst. Principal



Leaders in Learning

Reports to the Board

- The 6th/7th grade girls basketball team from Finley Junior High was recognized for their perfect 13-0 season and for winning their conference.
- Dr. Thorns shared the current enrollment, explained staffing needs, and informed the Board that the next PTA meeting for grants is scheduled for January 22nd at 4:00 PM at Ridge Central. He went on to discuss the calendar and that he just received District 218's draft and is currently working on two drafts for the 2026-2027 school year. He reminded the Board of Education to watch their emails for the annual statement of Economic Interest. He then turned it over to the administration to present their yearly update on the Strategic Plan. Dr. Thorns also shared the Freedom of Information Act requests received over the last month.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
.....**February**

- Calendar Discussion
- Summer Projects

DONATIONS

The Board approved a donation from Creative Werks in the amount of \$1,000 in gift cards for the Ridge Central Giving Tree.

Reports to the Board cont.

- Mrs. Nothnagel discussed the Fall to Winter District Student Growth Reports in reading and math for NWEA MAP. She also recapped the January Institute Day where the District presented Artificial Intelligence guidelines and Eric Santos from the Learning Technology Center presented.
- Mrs. Picciolini presented the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund rate for 2026, discussed the second quarter interest and township costs, and shared the updated IRS business standard mileage rate of 72.5 cents.

Personnel

The Board approved the hiring of:

- Michelle Ryan, Paraprofessional, Ridge Central eff. January 6, 2026
- Joseph Konzen, Custodian, Ridge Lawn eff. December 29, 2026
- Tashara McCoy, Contractual Paraprofessional, Finley Jr. High, eff. January 6, 2026
- Keshia Carter, Contractual Paraprofessional, Finley Jr. High, eff. January 6, 2026
- Kendera Griffin, Paraprofessional, Finley Jr. High, eff. January 6, 2026

The Board approved the following additions to the substitute teacher list:

- Lakesha Newman
- Laila Almassri
- James Parquette
- Fatima Alawi

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 27, 2026:
Study Session at 6:30 PM in the
Boardroom.

Personnel cont.

The Board Approved the Resignations of:

- Paraprofessional at Ridge Lawn, eff. December 19, 2025
- Paraprofessional at Ridge Lawn, eff. January 12, 2025
- The Board approved the retirement request for a Special Education teacher at Ridge Central effective at the conclusion fo the 2029-2030 school year.
- The Board approved a leave of absence request for a paraprofessional at Ridge Central

Board Action

- The Board approved total expenses for the IASA/IASB/IASBO 2025 Conference.
- The Board approved six policies for a first reading.
- The Board approve a resolution with Kriha Boucek and Fagen, Friedman, & Fulfrost, LLC
- The Board approved Soy Bilingual as a new vendor for speech evaluations
- The Board approved a change in mileage reimbursement to 72.5 cents per the updated IRS guidelines for 2026
- The Board approved a resolution releasing closed session minutes and the destruction of verbatim recordings 18 months and older.