

BOARD BRIEFS

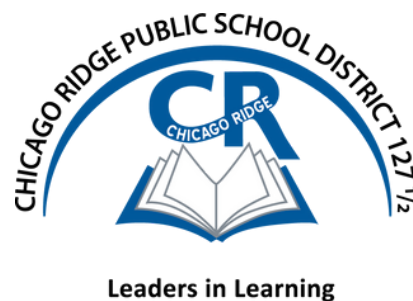
A report of items discussed and actions taken at the December 9, 2025 Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education.

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



Reports to the Board

- Students were recognized for their entries in the Lions Club Peace Poster contest. The 1st trimester academic achievement awards were also presented.
- Dr. Thorns shared the current enrollment, explained staffing needs, and informed the Board that the next PTA meeting is scheduled for December 10th at 4:00 PM at Ridge Lawn. He went on to discuss that the District will be on Winter Break from 12/22/25-1/2/26. He explained that there will be a Teacher Institute Day on 1/5/26 and that students would return to school on 1/6/26. Dr. Thorns next shared out the inclement weather/E-Learning Day policies. The Board then discussed the sessions they attended at the annual conference in Chicago and reviewed the equity policy evaluation. Dr. Thorns also shared the Freedom of Information Act requests received over the last month.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
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January

- Calendar Discussion
- Strategic Plan Update

February

- Summer Projects

Reports to the Board cont.

- Mrs. Nothnagel discussed the upcoming Teacher Institute Day on January 6. She shared that it would focus on the District’s Artificial Intelligence (AI) guidelines for students and staff as well as a presentation from Eric Santos where teachers will have an opportunity to explore AI tools. Mrs. Nothnagel then went on to discuss the District’s summer school program where the District is planning to transition from a traditional, academically focused summer school model to a redesigned summer exploration program. This program will offer students a broader range of engaging, hands-on learning experiences.
- Mrs. Picciolini presented a resolution to the Board authorizing participation in property tax proceedings. She also shared all of the documentation for the 2025 tax levy.

Personnel

The Board approved the hiring of:

- Beverly Glinsey, Contractual SLP, Ridge Lawn eff. October 30, 2025
- Fatima Alawi, paraprofessional at Ridge Lawn, eff. November 6, 2025
- Afnan Alzubi, paraprofessional at Ridge Lawn, eff. November 17, 2025
- Denisha Williams, paraprofessional at Ridge Central, eff. December 1, 2025
- Cathia Ramirez, paraprofessional at Ridge Lawn, eff. November 19, 2025
- Matthew Henneman, Custodian Supervisor/Maintenance Assistance, eff. November 17, 2025
- Maria Fryzc-Zoltek, EL teacher at Ridge Lawn, eff. December 1, 2025

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 13, 2026:
Regular Meeting of the Board of
Education at 6:30 PM at Finley Jr.
High.

Personnel cont.

The Board Approved the Resignations of:

- Ridge Central Principal, eff. June 30, 2026
- The Board approved a leave request for a staff member at Ridge Central

Board Action

- The Board approved numerous policies that were first presented in November.
- Approved the CRSD 127.5 Artificial Intelligence (AI) guidelines for staff and students.
- Adopted the 2025 tax levy.
- Approved a resolution for Petrarca, Gleason, Boyle & Izzo, LLC to participate in property tax proceedings.
- Approved the reviewed board policies regarding sexual abuse and investigation.
- Approved a contract renewal with PowerSchool for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Approved the 2026 summer school stipends.
- Approved the hiring of Leighanne Kaczmarek as the principal of Ridge Lawn School, eff. July 1, 2026.

DONATIONS

The Board approved future donations from the PTA for their winter and spring grants.

Board Action cont.

- The Board approved the position of a 1.0 FTE PreK Director / MTSS Coordinator for the 2026-2027 School Year.
- The Board approved a resolution releasing closed session minutes and the destruction of verbatim recordings 18 months and older.