

BOARD BRIEFS

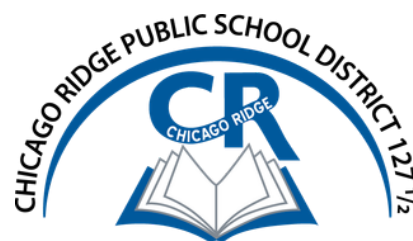
A report of items discussed and actions taken at the October 13, 2026
Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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



Leaders in Learning

Reports to the Board

- Dr. Thorns discussed the District's first Above-and-Beyond Award winner, Ridge Central PreK teacher Megan Hernon. Mrs. Hernon was nominated and then selected by the committee. The Board also recognized Ridge Central Reading Interventionist, Ms. Kari Fickes, for her life-saving actions to help a student in need during lunch. Dr. Thorns then shared that the PTA would be having their Fall Fest Trunk-or-Treat on Wednesday, October 21, from 5PM-6PM at Ridge Central. He went on to explain that enrollment this year was 1,535 students, a decrease of 30 students from this time last year. The Board discussed vacant positions for this school year. Dr. Thorns went on to discuss the IL Superintendent's Conference he attended in Springfield as well as the IASA/IASB/IASBO Conference held in Chicago in November. The Board then had a discussion on the Resolutions that would be voted on at the November Conference. Finally, Dr. Thorns shared the five FOIAs received since the last meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
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NOVEMBER

- Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) Designations

Reports to the Board cont.

- Mrs. Nothnagel next reported on the District Literacy and Math Leadership teams. For both groups, she shared that the focus this year is on strengthening Tier 1 instruction and building teacher leadership across the District.
- Mrs Picciolini’s summations were focused on the sale of working cash bonds in an amount not to exceed four million dollars to offset some of the costs of renovations to a potential property purchase.

Personnel

The Board approved the hiring of:

- Rashika Abdelhay, Paraprofessional at Ridge Lawn, eff. Sept. 21, 2026
- Kionna Neals, Contractual Paraprofessional at Finley Jr. High, eff. Sept. 16, 2026
- Jack Garner, Contractual Special Education Teacher at Finley Jr. High eff. Sept. 25, 2026
- Mai Suleiman, Contractual Speech-Language Pathologist at Ridge Lawn, eff. Oct. 16, 2026
- Ammerah Abdullah, Paraprofessional at Ridge Central, eff. Oct. 13, 2026
- Julie Ornelas, Paraprofessional Substitute at Ridge Lawn, eff. September 29, 2026
- The Substitute Teacher List containing the names: Priscill Pacheco, Beverly Williams, Julie White, Melissa Swift.
- The Board approved the resignations of a Library Clerk at Ridge Lawn, eff. Sept. 18, 2026, a 2nd grade teacher at Ridge Central, eff. October 9, and a Lunchroom/Recess Supervisor at Ridge Lawn, eff. immediately.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

Tuesday, November 10, 2026:
Regular Board Meeting at 6:30
PM in the Boardroom.

Board Action

- The Board approved a resolution declaring the intention to issue not to exceed four million dollars working cash fund bonds for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District, and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law.
- The Board approved a resolution calling a public hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education of the District to sell not to exceed four million dollars working cash bonds for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District.
- The Board discussed and then took action to solicit proposals for legal services.
- The Board named JoAnna Grove as the alternative delegate for the 2026 IASB/IASA/IASBO Conference.
- The Board took action to adjust the job title and salary of the District Receptionist to the Student Enrollment Coordinator/District Receptionist .
- The Board approved the release of closed session minutes and the destruction of verbatim recordings 18 months and older.