

**PEORIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD MEETING**

July 27, 2026

The Board convened in the PLC1 room at the Administration building at 5:00 p.m. The following members answered roll call: Diaz, Howard, McConnell, Rose, Ross, B. Wilson. G. Wilson.

CLOSED SESSION – Moved by Mrs. Ross and seconded by Mr. Diaz to adjourn to closed session to discuss 2C 1 (Personnel); 2C 2 (Negotiations), 2C 5 & 6 (Purchase or lease of real property); 2C 9 (Student Discipline), and 2C 11 (Litigation). Motion carried. The Board went into closed session at 5:00 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: The Board returned to open session at 6:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Wilson - Don't miss the Back-to-School Festival & Health Fair on Saturday, August 8th, from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. at New Beginnings Worship Center!

Enjoy FREE backpacks, school supplies, dental & physical exams, food, raffles, and even horseback riding. Start the school year off right with fun for the whole family!

Mrs. Wilson - Starting October 15th, all middle and high schools will follow the clear bag backpack policy. If you need a bag, clear book bags are available for just \$20 at any middle school or high school campus.

This is a friendly reminder! All middle and high school students should have their cell phones secured in a Yondr pouch during school hours to comply with our cell phone policy. Let's stay focused, connected, and ready to learn.

Dr. Bell - The summer countdown to a new school year has begun, and we're excited to be Anchored in Excellence as we welcome students back to Peoria Public Schools! Starting dates are as follows:

Welcome back, KCSS and Valeska Hinton!
• August 5th - All other Peoria Public Schools

We're excited to set sail on a new school year, build strong connections, and help every student reach their full potential! Enjoy the rest of your summer and we'll see you soon!

Mark your calendars—October 15th is approaching fast!

It's time to roll up those sleeves for required school vaccinations. Families of Kindergarten, 6th, 9th, and 12th grade students are encouraged to schedule an appointment with their preferred medical provider or visit the in-school clinic to ensure students are ready for the school year.

Mr. Diaz - The transportation department conducted dry runs of our routes on July 20th and 21st. They will be conducted again on July 31st and August 4th. Parents may receive notifications via the parent app. Please disregard any notifications you may receive on these dates.

Mrs. Rose - The harbor is stirring as summer draws near, Students and staff are ready this year. With dreams to follow and goals to pursue, A new school adventure is waiting for you. The sails are raised with purpose and pride, As learning and growth become our guide. Through calm waters and challenges ahead, We'll stay anchored in excellence as we are led. Each classroom is a vessel, each lesson a light, Helping students learn, grow, and shine bright. Together we'll explore,

discover, and achieve, Building confidence and learning to believe. Don't forget to read 30 minutes a day!

Mrs. Howard - Classroom Grant Applications from the PPS Foundation and Community Foundation of Central Illinois are open now thru September 1st. These grants help bring creativity, hands-on learning, and real-world experiences to students.

Peoria Public Schools teachers and staff can apply for three grant options:

- up to \$1,000 for classroom projects,
- \$1,500 for STEM (grades 5-12),
- and \$500 for field trips.

Apply online at ppsfoundation.org today!

Mrs. Ross - The Wraparound Center is a hub of support for anyone in need. Our mission is to surround all Peoria families with care, resources, and hope, no matter what challenges they may be facing.

Here are a couple of upcoming resource events at the Wraparound Center:

- The bi-weekly drive-up food pantry is held on Thursdays. The next dates are August 6th and August 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- There will also be a Diaper Giveaway for parents and caregivers on Wednesday, August 5th and August 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

The Wraparound Center is located on the Latrobe Street side of Trewyn School, at 1419 S. Folkers Avenue

President McConnell - Peoria Public Schools is proud to welcome several new leaders to District 150:

- Dr. Jerry Bell, Superintendent of Schools
- Dr. Renee Andrews, Deputy Superintendent
- Dr. Mike Curry, Chief Financial Officer
- Dr. Kathy Rodriguez, Director of Primary Schools
- Laura Rodgers, Director of Middle Schools
- Dr. Joyce L. Nelson – Director of Special Education
- Lindsay Bohm - Director of Curriculum
- Jakel Vinson - HR Recruiter
- Holly Hasty - Director of Human Resources
- Kena Brown - Director of Employee Services
- Annette Coleman - Executive Director of High Schools
- Ann Bond – Associate Superintendent of Students

We look forward to the leadership and dedication they will bring to our students, staff, families, and community. Welcome aboard!

AUDIENCE PRESENTATION

Iryna Jones, nurse for the district whose contract was not renewed, stated she has accepted another position but would like to have her old job back.

Scott Howard, Jr., organizer of Fill the Firetruck, thanked everyone for their support of the event. He also reminded everyone that the purpose of the school board is to help the children.

Charlie Thomas spoke on decorum of the board.

Leslie Danage, spoke on alleged violations of the safe school for Peoria Public Schools.

Antonio Lipscomb, Tom Blumer, Chris Russick, Lou Parkman, Brandy Reed, Chris Clemon, Devon Sydnor, Fred Forest, Scott Howard, Sr., Amonte Walker and Agbar Bryson all spoke in support of the ELITE program

Carl Cannon also spoke in support of the ELITE program and provided some history on the program and how it has helped many students in District 150.

Karrie Alms spoke on the Board being transparent and following OMA and FOIA rules.

Nicole Wagenschulz had concerns about the ELITE program being reactive and not proactive for students.

Marie Lindahl had questions as to where the money is distributed for the ELITE program and if there are certified teachers helping.

Dr. James E. Smylie III spoke on history in America and the lack of communication between differences.

Superintendent Response to Audience

Dr. Bell assured that all concerns were heard. He also recommended that the ELITE program be funded for at least one more year to give time to review data and plan for an internal safe school for 6-8 grade students.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Dr. Bell visited both KCC and Valeska Hinton schools which are back in session. All other schools will begin their school year next week.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Dr. Curry provided a brief update on the status of the finance department and budget.

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES OVER \$2500

Information is filed in the office of the Board Secretary.

REPORT OF REQUESTS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT AND STATUS OF SUCH REQUESTS

Since the last board meeting report on July 13, 2026, there have been five (5) new Freedom of Information Act requests. There was one (1) pending request noted on the July 13, 2026, board report. There are six (6) request currently open. The district has received fifty-two requests this calendar year at a cost of \$2,600.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Ross first pulled item #5 ,Approval of Elite Contract to Provide The Game Changer Behavior Program, because the revised agenda which added this item had not been physically posted for the required 48 hours prior to the meeting. Mrs. Rose requested to separate item #10, Election of Board Secretary and Assistant Board Secretary. into two separate action items for separate votes. Moved by Mrs. Rose and seconded by Mrs. Wilson to approve the consent agenda with the exception of #5 and 10.

On roll call, 7 ayes, the motion carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Description	Balance Sheet	Revenue	Expense	Total
Educational Fund	39,444.57	0.00	487,341.09	526,785.66
Operations, Bldg & Maint.	3,080.20	0.00	128,745.60	131,825.80
Debt Service Fund	0.00	7,541.80	0.00	7,541.80
Transportation	0.00	0.00	221,979.82	221,979.82
Capital Project	0.00	0.00	11,855.11	11,855.11
Capital Projects – CSFST	0.00	0.00	153,350.00	153,350.00
Life Safety	0.00	0.00	28,755.00	28,755.00
Medical Insurance Admin	0.00	0.00	90.00	
Fund Summary Totals	42,524.77	7,541.80	1,032,116.62	1,082,183.19

On roll call, 7 ayes, the motion carried

TRAVEL REQUESTS

Moved by Mrs. Rose and seconded by Mrs. Wilson to approve the travel requests as presented by the Administration. (Copies are on file in the Board Secretary's Office)

On roll call, 7 ayes, the motion carried

HUMAN RESOURCE REPORT

Moved by Mrs. Rose and seconded by Mrs. Wilson to approve appointment, employment, compensation, performance, resignation, retirement, or discharge of an employee.

I. <u>Certified Personnel</u>	Effective Date
<u>Appointment</u>	
*Burns, Simon – Charter Oak / Teacher Physical Education	08/03/26
*Eicher, Jason – Von Steuben / Teacher Math	08/03/26
Fayal, Natalie – Mark Bills / Teacher Technology	08/03/26
Makori, Patroba – Manual / Teacher Math	08/03/26
*McCarthy, Amanda – Dawson / Teacher Art	08/03/26
*Myers, Erin – Parochial / Counselor	07/28/26
Trader, Emily – Gordon / Teacher Dual Language	08/03/26
*Triplett, Abigail – Parochial / Tutor	07/28/26

Leave of Absence

Cohen, Daniel – Glen Oak / Teacher	10/30/26-12/18/26
Cohen, Daniel – Glen Oak / Teacher	01/04/27-01/21/27
Rhoades, Sara – Northmoor / Teacher	09/21/26-11/24/26

II. Non-Certified Personnel**Appointment**

Barajas, Michelle – Liberty / Clerical PT	08/03/26
Coates, Maurice – Peoria High / Teacher Aide	08/03/26
Dancey, Kristen – Whittier / Nurse	08/03/26
Dixon, Damarvis – CT Vivian / Teacher Aide	08/03/26
Fleming, Sydney – VHECEC / Teacher Aide	07/20/26
*Garcia, Adriana – Administration / Payroll	07/28/26
Henley-Ward, Arione – Lincoln / Cafeteria	07/28/26
*Hollaway, Heather – Northmoor / Parent Advocate	08/03/26
*Johnson, Camron – Charter Oak / Latchkey	08/03/26
Jones, Jada – Trewyn / Teacher Aide	08/03/26
Logan, James – Richwoods / Cafeteria	07/28/26
*McGee, Amy – Knoxville / Justice Advocate	07/28/26
*McKinney, Christian – Admin / Director of Communications	07/28/26
*Mendez, Lucia – Gordon / Teacher Aide	08/03/26
Netters Jr., Darryl – Kellar / Behavior Facilitator	08/03/26
*Rodriguez, Maribel – Administration / Clerical	07/28/26
Paul, Sobia – Dawson / Teacher Aide	08/03/26
*Smart, Adaliz – VHECEC / Teacher Aide	07/20/26
Swanson, Donald – Richwoods / Cafeteria	07/28/26
*Verser, Taniyza – Liberty / Teacher Aide	08/03/26

Leave of Absence

Prado Avalos, Isela – Allen / Custodian	07/20/26-08/03/26
Randle, Maxine – Transportation / Monitor	07/20/26-12/30/26
Scott, Cassie – Transportation / Driver	08/03/26-06/30/27

Resignation

Ailshie, Christina – Whittier / Nurse	07/16/26
Cobbins, Ebony – Franklin / Teacher Aide	07/23/26
Davis, Darlene – Transportation / Driver	05/27/26
Mann-Becker, Shaylin – Kellar / Clerical	07/14/26
Netters Jr., Darryl – Kellar / Behavioral Attendant	08/02/26
Randle, Jasmine – Transportation / Driver	05/27/26

Roberts, Jacob – Transportation / Driver	05/27/26
Seelye, Daniel – Kellar / Building Monitor	07/21/26
Wallace, Sherry – Security / Crossing Guard	07/15/26
Williams, Larica – Lincoln / Teacher Aide	07/17/26

Dismissal for Reasons Other than Reduction in Force

Douglas, Jania – Transportation / Monitor	07/21/26
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Retirement

Smith, Timothy – Stadium / Maintenance	10/01/26
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III. **Substitute Personnel**

Ailshie, Christina – Nurse	07/17/26
Decker, Jan – Teacher	07/28/26
Lee-Williams, Shamaiah – Teacher	07/20/26
Mondragon, Jack – Teacher	07/20/26
Smith, Rachel – Teacher	07/28/26

Resignation

Coates, Mauriece – Teacher Aide	07/31/26
Dancey, Kristen – Nurse	07/31/26

Dismissal for Reasons Other than Reduction in Force

Young, Donald – Custodian	07/14/26
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Attention Departments:

*Tasks will not be processed at this time until pending paperwork is completed.

On roll call, 7 ayes, the motion carried

OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP - PEORIA HIGH SCHOOL CHEER TEAM PROPOSED ACTION:
 Moved by Mrs. Rose and seconded by Mrs. Wilson to approve the overnight field trip for the Peoria High School cheerleading team to travel to Springfield, IL. The students' departure is 1 PM on Friday, January 15, 2027, and return on Saturday, January 16, 2027. Transportation, meals, and lodging will be paid by PHS Cheerleading fundraisers.

On roll call, 7 ayes, the motion carried

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE PEORIA COUNTY REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION - REGIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE CAREER EXPLORATION PROGRAM (RWECEP)

Moved by Mrs. Rose and seconded by Mrs. Wilson to approve the attached Inter-governmental Agreement with the Peoria County Regional Office of Education for the Safe School Program component funded by the Regional Work Experience Career Exploration Program (RWECEP) grant.

On roll call, 7 ayes, the motion carried

RENEWAL OF PANORAMA

Moved by Mrs. Rose and seconded by Mrs. Wilson to approve the one-year renewal of the Panorama Student Survey and Student Success Platform for all Pre-K–12 students, plus associated professional development, at a cost of \$107,016.00. Since 2017–2018, Peoria Public Schools has used Panorama to assess students' social-emotional learning competencies. The Student Success Platform integrates data from Skyward, AIMSweb, and other systems to document interventions and monitor academic performance, attendance, social-emotional needs, and interventions. Funding for the Panorama renewal will be provided through Title I and the Education Fund.

On roll call, 7 ayes, the motion carried

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO (LOCAL 3716) - TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES UNION

Moved by Mrs. Rose and seconded by Mrs. Wilson to approve the negotiated terms of a successor Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Transportation Department Employees Union (Local 3716). This 3-year Agreement takes effect July 1, 2026, and ends June 30, 2029.

On roll call, 7 ayes, the motion carried

ELECTION OF BOARD SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Rose requested to separate the appointments of Board Secretary and Assistant Board Secretary into two action items.

Moved by Mrs. Ross and seconded by Dr. Wilson to elect Cami Ross as Board Secretary for the 2026-2027 school year.

On roll call, the motion carried, (Nay: Diaz, Rose; Abstained: B. Wilson)

Moved by Mrs. Ross and seconded by Dr. Wilson to appoint Arlissa Holford as Assistant Board Secretary of the Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year.

On roll call, the motion carried, (Nay: Diaz, Rose; B. Wilson)

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT APPROVAL

Moved by Mrs. Rose and seconded by Mrs. Wilson to approve the attached employment contract for the following Administrator commencing on July 28, 2026 through June 30, 2027:

Christian McKinney Director of Communications and Community Engagement

On roll call, 7 ayes, the motion carried

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mrs. Wilson and seconded by Dr. Wilson to adjourned at 8:33 p.m.



Cami Ross
Administrative Assistant to
Board of Education

ATTEST:



Paris McConnell
Board President