

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MUNDELEIN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 120**

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION of Mundelein High School District 120 held on the thirteenth day of January 2026, at 5:07 p.m.**

**Members of the Board of Education Mundelein High School District 120 present:**

**PRESENT:** Peter Rastrelli, President  
Mark Ponce, Vice President  
Aaron Wellington, Secretary  
Jennifer Hill  
Sean Hogan  
Laura Mellon  
Sophia Schneckloth

**ABSENT:** None

**D120 & D75 ADMINISTRATORS:**

Dr. Corey Tafoya, Superintendent  
Dr. Sarah Cacciatore, Deputy Superintendent  
Cathy Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations  
Jamie DiCarlo, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services  
Shane McCreery, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources & Legal  
Kevin Quinn, Director of Maintenance and Facilities  
Peter Gill, Director of Public Relations  
Stacey Gorman, Director of Teaching and Learning  
Jill Unger, Director of Teaching and Learning

**Members of the Board of Education Mundelein Elementary School District 75 present:**

**PRESENT:** Kristie Fingerhut, President  
Ray Rose, Vice President  
Eric Billittier, Secretary  
Georgina Aguirre  
Marcela Duran  
Al Hitzke  
Emily Karl

**ABSENT:** None

**GUEST:** Robert O'Donnely, Attorney  
John Epperson, CPA, Principal, Miller Cooper & Co.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board of Education of Mundelein High School District 120 board members: Hill, Hogan, Mellon, Ponce, Rastrelli, Schneckloth and Wellington were present for the January 13, 2026, regular board meeting.

All in favor by voice vote: 7-0

**RECOGNITION**

There were no announcements.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

The open meeting was convened for the purpose of calling the meeting to order and stating the agenda. The meeting immediately entered into a closed session meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved by Board Member Mellon, seconded by Board Member Wellington, that the Board adjourn for litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting minutes. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Board Member Wellington, seconded by Board Member Hogan, that the Board of Education of Mundelein High School District 120 board members: Hill, Hogan, Mellon, Ponce, Rastrelli, Schneckloth and Wellington moved all in favor that the Board adjourn from regular board meeting on January 13, 2026, at 5:57 p.m.

Motion approved by voice vote: 7-0.

**OPEN SESSION**

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 6:07 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER OF THE JOINT BOARD MEETING**

Board of Education of Mundelein High School District 120 board members: Hill, Hogan, Mellon, Ponce, Rastrelli, Schneckloth and Wellington were present for the January 13, 2026, joint board meeting.

All in favor by voice vote: 7-0

**SHARED SERVICES REPORT**

**FY25 Audit**

John Epperson, Miller Cooper, reviewed various areas of the Annual Financial Report (AFR) standardized audit report. He stated that the district was issued a clean opinion of the audit.

**Budget Assumptions**

Cathy Johnson, assistant superintendent of finance and operations, reviewed the 2026-2027 fiscal year preliminary budget assumptions.

**County 1% Sales Tax**

District 120 Board members discussed the possibility of a Lake County 1 percent sales tax to fund school facility's needs. School Boards across the county are considering placing the question on the November 2026 ballot. The tax would be on non-essential items, not including food and medicine. If the sales tax is placed on the ballot and approved by voters, it would generate an estimated \$2.14 million annually to Mundelein High School. Board members expressed some reservations about adding another tax after the community passed a \$149.5 million referendum in November 2024. But they may be willing to support placing it on the ballot if it was to be used for taxpayer relief by paying down the current property tax. The Board is expected to consider at the next scheduled Board meeting.

Digital Board Platform

Dr. Tafoya, superintendent, inquired if the board would consider exploring software platforms that would support the school board meetings.

Shared Services Communication Plan

Dr. Tafoya proposed developing a year-long communication plan to provide stakeholders with an understanding of the benefits of the Shared Services model. The timeline and the approach will be reviewed by the shared services committee.

Strategic Planning

Dr. Tafoya and board members discussed the school board's strategic plan to determine whether any changes are needed to better reflect the goals of the board and the district. Discussion was held on various aspects of the strategic plan.

Review of Committee and Board Meeting Structures

Dr. Tafoya discussed the board meeting structure and how they complement the work of the board in their monthly meetings.

Job Description

Dr. Tafoya and Shane McCreery, assistant superintendent of human resources & legal, reviewed the recommendation for the Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools job description. The position would provide additional support to the principal. Discussion was held on various topics related to the job responsibilities and salary.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved by Board Member Wellington, seconded by Board Member Mellon, that the Board adjourn for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by .A. 93-0057

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Board Member Wellington, seconded by Board Member Ponce, that the Board of Education of Mundelein High School District 120 board members: Hill, Hogan, Mellon, Ponce, Rastrelli, Schneckloth and Wellington moved all in favor that the Board adjourn from joint board meeting on January 13, 2026, at 7:21 p.m.

Motion approved by voice vote: 7-0.

D75 Board of Education members exited and moved to the Mundelein Room.

D120 Board of Education members remained in the DMR (District Meeting Room).

**OPEN SESSION**

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 8:28 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board of Education of Mundelein High School District 120 board members: Hill, Hogan, Mellon, Ponce, Rastrelli, Schneckloth and Wellington were present for the January 13, 2026, regular board meeting.

All in favor by voice vote: 7-0

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

No citizen comments

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by Board Member Mellon, seconded by Board Member Wellington that the Board of Education of Mundelein High School District 120 approve the consent agenda of January 13, 2026, which included:

- December 9, 2025, Regular Board Minutes  
December 9, 2025, Special Board Minutes
- Bill List
- Financial Report
- FOIA Request(s)
- Approval of Personnel Report
  - Employment - Coaches: Jane Haller
  - Intermittent FMLA: Samantha Cutinello
  - MEA Intent to Retire: Michelle Bonadies, Thomas Kuhn (*end of 2029-2030 SY*)

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Hill, Hogan, Mellon, Ponce, Rastrelli, Schneckloth and Wellington

NAY: None

### **DISTRICT 120 REPORT**

#### Rental Fee Agreement Update

Ms. Johnson provided a brief overview and shared that the topic would be reviewed with additional updates from the committee members at the next scheduled board meeting.

#### D120 Fieldhouse Addition Phase 2, Bid Group #5

Ms. Johnson reviewed the recommended bids for contractors that will provide the renovation at the high school building property for the Mundelein High School Master Facility phase 2, bid group #5, fieldhouse.

#### 2026-2027 School Calendar Progress Report

Dr. Alex Taylor, principal, and Jonathan Pru, certified staff member, provided an overview of the third quarter update adjustments being made to prepare for the 2026-27 school year calendar. They shared the resolved items, ongoing planning, timelines and continued stakeholder engagement for implementation success. Discussion was held on the matter.

#### Impact Fee Update

Dr. Tafoya reviewed that Fremont 79 and the district began discussions with the Village of Round Lake regarding impact fees for the proposed Redwood Housing Development. Discussion was held on the matter.

#### Summary of the Objection to Walnut Ridge Development

Dr. Tafoya provided an overview of the district's formal objection to the Walnut Ridge housing development impact fees submitted to the Village of Mundelein. The district will await the Village's decision. Discussion was held on the matter.

#### Amended Intergovernmental Agreement with Mundelein Elementary SD 75

Dr. Tafoya reviewed the intergovernmental agreement that was amended to include additional terms, notices and conditions.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### Facilities

Committee member Wellington provided an update on the financials and project progress, reporting that 42% of the village green phase has been bid, resulting in a \$1.5 million surplus. Members emphasized cautious planning due to early project stages and potential cost changes. The committee will recommend a precast concrete bid requiring specialized certification, citing budget alignment and sound financial oversight. Additional updates included completed winter break projects, ongoing work in the lower A wing, upcoming Planning and Zoning permit requests, clarification on stormwater compliance, focus on longer lead items, and workforce development initiatives involving students and recent graduates.

### Finance

Committee members Hill and Ponce agreed with the presentation on the audit related to the district's financial status.

### PRESS Policy

Board member Hogan provided an overview of PRESS Policy #120 and School Board Policies 1:20, 5:192, 6:250. He reviewed the recommendations.

### Shared Services

Dr. Tafoya inquired if two board members would be interested in participating in several projects, that included a communication plan, SuperEval and salary review committee. Discussion was held on the matter.

## **REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES**

### SEDOL

Committee member Mellon reported that the audit is complete, financial conditions have improved, and the district is actively searching for a new Chief Financial Officer.

### Community Outreach

Board members shared activities and meetings that were held in the community.

### Legislative Update

No update.

## **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

### Approval of FY25 Audit

It was moved by Board Member Wellington, seconded by Board Member Hogan, that the Board of Education of Mundelein High School District 120 approve the FY25 Audit, as presented.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Hill, Hogan, Mellon, Ponce, Rastrelli, Schneckloth and Wellington

NAY: None

### Approval of Budget Assumptions

It was moved by Board Member Hill, seconded by Board Member Rastrelli, that the Board of Education of Mundelein High School District 120 approve the Budget Assumptions, as presented.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Hill, Hogan, Mellon, Ponce, Rastrelli, Schneckloth and Wellington

NAY: None

Approval of Job Description

It was moved by Board Member Hill, seconded by Board Member Schneckloth, that the Board of Education of Mundelein High School District 120 approve the following job description, as presented.

- Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools - NEW

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Hill, Hogan, Mellon, Ponce, Rastrelli, Schneckloth and Wellington

NAY: None

D120 Fieldhouse Addition Phase 2, Bid Group #5

It was moved by Board Member Wellington, seconded by Board Member Ponce, that the Board of Education of Mundelein High School District 120 approve the proposals for \$8,905,436 for the Mundelein High School Phase 2, Bid Group #5 fieldhouse addition work at 1350 West Hawley Street.

The Board hereby authorizes its Superintendent or designee to approve and execute contracts on behalf of the Board for services related to the project and to approve and execute change orders. With respect to change orders that necessitate an increase in the cost of contracts by 10% or more or which will change the time of completion by a total of 30 days or more, the Board hereby authorizes its Superintendent or designee to make the written determinations required by 720 ILCS 5/33E-9, that: (1) the circumstances said to necessitate the change in performance were not reasonably foreseeable at the time the contract was signed, or (2) the change is germane to the original contract as signed, or (3) the change order is in the best interest of the District and is authorized by law.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Hill, Hogan, Mellon, Ponce, Rastrelli, Schneckloth and Wellington

NAY: None

Amended Intergovernmental Agreement with Mundelein Elementary School D75

It was moved by Board Member Mellon, seconded by Board Member Rastrelli, that the Board of Education of Mundelein High School District 120 approve the amended Intergovernmental Agreement by and between Mundelein High School District #120 and Mundelein Elementary School District #75, as presented.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Hill, , Mellon, Ponce, Rastrelli, Schneckloth and Wellington

NAY: None

ABS: Hogan

PRESS Plus #120, Second and Final Reading

It was moved by Board Member Wellington, seconded by Board Member Hogan, that the Board of Education of Mundelein High School District 120 approve PRESS Policy #120, second and final reading, and School Board Policies 1:20, 5:192, 6:250, as presented.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Hill, Hogan, Mellon, Ponce, Rastrelli, Schneckloth and Wellington

NAY: None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved by Board Member Wellington, seconded by Board Member Mellon, that the Board adjourn for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(5).

The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(6).

Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21)

### **OPEN SESSION**

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 9:29 p.m.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Board of Education of Mundelein High School District 120 board members: Hill, Hogan, Mellon, Ponce, Rastrelli, Schneckloth and Wellington were present for the January 13, 2026, regular board meeting.

All in favor by voice vote: 7-0

### **ACTION**

#### **Executive Session Minutes**

It was moved by Board Member Schneckloth, seconded by Board Member Hill, that the Board of Education of Mundelein High School District 120 approve the December 9, 2025, executive session minutes.

Upon roll call, the following members voted:

AYE: Board members: Hill, Hogan, Mellon, Ponce, Rastrelli, and Schneckloth

NAY: None

ABS: Wellington

#### **President's Prerogative**

Board president expressed appreciation to the board members for their continued work and efforts.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Board Member Hill, seconded by Board Member Mellon, that the Board of Education of Mundelein High School District 120 board members: Hill, Hogan, Mellon, Ponce, Rastrelli, Schneckloth and Wellington moved all in favor that the Board adjourn from regular board meeting on January 13, 2026, at 9:29 p.m.

Motion approved by voice vote: 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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PETER RASTRELLI, PRESIDENT  
DISTRICT 120, BOARD OF EDUCATION

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AARON WELLINGTON, SECRETARY  
DISTRICT 120, BOARD OF EDUCATION

APPROVED