



**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**J.B Pritzker**  
Governor

**Robert D. Vickery**  
Acting Director

**Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice School District #428  
Board of Education Meeting Minutes  
Minutes -May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

- CALL TO ORDER**                    1.0    The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Tresa D. Dunbar on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:38 a.m. at the IDJJ Chicago Office.
- ROLL CALL**                        1.1    The following Board Members were present: President, Robert Vickery, Board Member Lamont Holifield, Board Member Briana Morales, and Board Member David Green.
- Others present: Tresa D. Dunbar, Superintendent of Schools, Melissa Cory, Director of Special Education and Noah Boudreau, CTE Director.
- CONSENT AGENDA**            2.0    As follows.
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA**            2.1    Quorum was confirmed. Board Member David Green motioned for approval of both, March and May agendas. Board Member Lamont Holifield second the motion. Motioned passed.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 2025 MEETING**            2.2    Quorum was confirmed. Board Member Lamont Holifield motioned for approval of both, March and May minutes. Board Member David Green second the motion. Motioned passed.
- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**            3.0    Maya Angelou Educators, Annette Miner-Hudson and Elaine Wu, presented on the School District #428's afterschool Program. Their specific class highlighted different cultural foods. Students learned diverse skills and etiquette. Fun, food and fellowship.
- Dr. Tiffany Gholson, Assistant Superintendent of Programming.
- PRESIDENT'S REPORT**            4.0    The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice continues its efforts to meet compliance standards outlined in the consent decree, particularly regarding full-day education and other components of the remedial plan. Notably, **IYC Chicago** and **IYC Warrenville** have shown improvement in daily school attendance rates, which now consistently range between **80–90%**.

In addition, School District Classrooms have been operating inside Department of Correction facilities, with services provided to individuals from **Illinois River, Shawnee, and Lincoln Correctional Center**. The current **daily student count exceeds fifty**; several young adults who are still working toward earning their high school diplomas. **One student has successfully graduated** to date.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

**5.0** As follows.

**SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #428**

*Professional Development-  
Teacher Independent Work  
Streams and Professional  
Development- June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
and July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

**5.1** Educators across the district have been provided with **dedicated teacher-independent work days**, offering uninterrupted time for instructional planning. No formal agenda will be provided, allowing educators the flexibility to focus on refining **effective teaching strategies** tailored to their students' needs. These planning sessions aim to strengthen **student support systems** and foster meaningful impact, ensuring that classroom experiences remain purposeful, responsive, and aligned with core educational goals.

**DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR**

**SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #428**

*AD Hoc Committee-Afterschool  
Program and Annual SD#428  
Retreat*

**5.2** An **Ad Hoc Committee** will be established to assist in organizing both the upcoming **retreat** and **afterschool programming** initiatives. The committee will be responsible for key logistical elements, including:

- Designing and finalizing the **overall agenda**

Their work will support streamlined planning and ensure that both experiences are engaging, purposeful, and aligned with organizational goals.

**DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR**

**SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #428**

*Human Resources Update*

**5.3** Due to budget constraints, **hiring will be limited to select positions** at this time. Further updates regarding staffing adjustments and leadership transitions will be shared as plans develop.

**DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR**

Over the next **6–8 weeks**, the district is expected to onboard a new **Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum**, a critical role focused on advancing instructional excellence and aligning academic initiatives district-wide.

ASST. SUPERINTENDENT 6.0  
UPDATE

*Summary April/May 2025  
Curriculum Update*

DR. BAMBI  
BETHEL-LEITSCHUH

The **2025–2026 School Calendar** has been shared. Per Illinois State Board of Education requirements, **187 student attendance days** are mandated. **School District #428 exceeds this with 189 attendance days.**

There have been **no changes to the total number of calendar days**, and **summer school is not held**. Instead, instructional staff are encouraged to shift toward an **enrichment-based, project-focused teaching style**, aligning with principles of **blended learning** to maximize student engagement and creativity during the regular school year.

The **2025–2026 school calendar** has officially been approved. A motion to approve the calendar was made by **Board Member Green** and seconded by **Board Member Holifield**. The motion passed unanimously.

This year's calendar features a **color-coded format** for enhanced readability and organization. Updates will be made to incorporate **state-mandated trainings for the northern region**, which will require calendar adjustments to meet compliance and scheduling needs.

Further communication will follow once revisions are finalized.

DIRECTOR OF  
SPECIAL  
EDUCATION

*IDEA Grant Status  
Promethean Smart Boards  
Review Current Special  
Education Statistics*

MRS. MELISSA CORY

6.2 Approximately **50–60% of the student population** in School District #428 is comprised of **Special Education students**, underscoring the importance of continued support and resources for individualized instruction.

Currently, there is **no update on the IDEA grant status**. We will continue monitoring for any developments regarding funding and implementation.

Looking ahead, it is expected that **Promethean Boards will be installed in all schools' district-wide by next year**, enhancing access to interactive learning and digital instruction.

Plans are underway to onboard an additional **Special Education Director** to support operations within the Department of Corrections. This decision is driven by the growing number of individuals currently served who have **Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)**.

The increased leadership capacity will help ensure compliance with educational standards, improve service delivery, and support continuity across facilities.

CTE/ VOCATIONAL  
EDUCATION DIRECTOR

*CTE/ Vocational  
Education Summary  
May 2025*

MR. NOAH BOUDREAU

7.0 The Career and Technical Education Department has been actively engaged in supporting student success.

Recently, **four students graduated from the Greater West Town training program in Shipping and Receiving**. Each graduate has been given the

opportunity to apply for positions at **nearby locations**, offering convenient access to employment and further career development.

These milestones reflect the department's commitment to practical learning and workforce readiness.

EDDR, a culinary program where students can complete sanservi certificate. It is industry certified. Twenty plus students will be beginning program.

D&D Solar has developed a specialized **U.S. Vocational Program** tailored for the **Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ)**. The inaugural cohort launched with **four students**, each receiving hands-on training in solar installation and technical systems.

Graduates of the program will earn an **internationally recognized certificate**, opening doors to employment opportunities both locally and globally. In addition to installation skills, students will be trained in **operating heavy machinery**, further enhancing their skillset and employment potential in the renewable energy and construction sectors.

**ECC, Elgin Community College 101** finalized their program successfully.

The NOVA Program is actively moving forward with implementation plans. Currently, **one teacher is undergoing background checks** to support program delivery and meet compliance standards.

Further staffing and onboarding efforts are expected as the program continues to expand.

#### **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**8.0** None at this time.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**9.0** A motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Lamont Holifield. Board Member David Green then followed with a second motion. The motion passed. No Objections. President Vickery concluded the meeting at 10:29 a.m.