



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

J.B Pritzker
Governor

**Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice School District #428
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Minutes -March 20th, 2026**

Robert D. Vickery
Acting Director

CALL TO ORDER

- 1.0 The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Acting Director, Robert Vickery on Friday, March 20th at 9:33 a.m. via Webex.

ROLL CALL

- 1.1 The following Board Members were present: President, Robert Vickery, Board Member Kristian May Stewart and Board Member David Green Board Member Shawn Jackson and Board Member Lamont Holifield.

Others present: Tresa D. Dunbar, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kimberly Kimbrough, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Dr. Bambi Bethel-Leitschuh, Assistant Superintendent of Extended Educational Services, Melissa Cory, Director of Special Education, Noah Boudreau, CTE

CONSENT AGENDA

- 2.0 As follows.

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

- 2.1

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES OF
JANUARY 2026
MEETING**

- 2.2 Quorum was confirmed. Board Member David Green motioned for approval. Board Member Kristian May Stewart second the motion. Motion passed.

**PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION**

- 3.0

**PRESIDENT'S
REPORT**

- 4.0 President Vickery highlighted the continued success of the Extended Services High School Diploma Program within the Department of Corrections. More than 180 students were served across all eight sites, surpassing the total number of students ever served at the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice school.
- He also noted that Monarch Youth Center launched its school program in January and is currently serving 11 students. President Vickery commended Principal Knisley for her effective leadership, particularly in managing the multidisciplinary challenges related to student behavior during an after-school debrief.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT	5.0	As follows.
SCHOOL DISTRICT #428 <i>HR Updates-DOC, Maya Angelou, Glenclyffe Academy</i> DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR	5.1	School District #428 introduced several new staff members. Ms. Amy Jackson has joined as the Literacy Interventionist Administrator for the Southern Region, and Ms. LaQuinya Williams is serving as the Literacy Interventionist for the Northern Region. Seth Cockrum, who has held multiple roles within IDJJ since 2019, is now the district's Education Technology Coordinator. The district continues to build capacity as newly created positions are filled. The Extended Services High School Diploma Program will soon have principals assigned to both the Northern and Southern regions. Candidates for the Assistant Superintendent position recently toured district facilities as part of the selection process. Maya Angelou School at IYC Warrenville will soon have a principal in place, and the new Special Education Coordinator is scheduled to begin in May. Looking ahead to Fiscal Years 2026–2027, the district plans to prioritize Career and Technical Education (CTE) positions to strengthen and expand programming. At Thurgood Marshall School, IYC Chicago, staffing is nearly complete; all positions are filled except for a Physical Education teacher. The district...
SCHOOL DISTRICT #428 <i>School Partnerships- Truman College, Chicago State, IL State, Loyola. Student Teachers</i> DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR	5.2	The district will soon begin offering dual-credit opportunities and is working to establish new school partnerships. The goal is to ensure students have the skills and capacity they need upon release. The Superintendent also expressed interest in expanding opportunities for student-teachers, recognizing that a stronger pipeline will support future staffing needs.
SCHOOL DISTRICT #428 <i>Afterschool Program- Operation Support to the Finish Line</i>		The graduation requirement for an IDJJ high school diploma is 16.75 credits, which is lower than traditional district requirements. The <i>Operation Support to the Finish Line</i> initiative is designed to help students who are within four credits of graduating complete their remaining coursework and earn a diploma. At this time, only two students have successfully reached the finish line.

SCHOOL DISTRICT #428

***2026 Professional Development
Annual Retreat***

The invitation for the School District Professional Development Retreat was shared. Staff from the High School Diploma Program will be in attendance.

SCHOOL DISTRICT #428

***2026-2027 School District
Calendar***

The initial 2026–2027 School Calendar was presented to the board for approval. Not In Attendance (NIA) and Not In Attendance Remote (NIAR) days remain included to accommodate the needs of 24-hour direct-care facilities.

Board Member David Green moved to approve the calendar. Board Member Kristian Stewart seconded the motion. The motion carried with no objections.

**ASST. SUPERINTENDENT 6.0
UPDATE**

***IDJJ SD#428 Spotlight Newsletter
Language Live Updates***

**DR. KIMBERLY
KIMBROUGH**

The 2025–2026 IDJJ School District *Spotlight Newsletter* was presented to the Board. This publication is shared districtwide to help keep staff informed and connected. It features celebrations, key dates, and updates on activities taking place across the schools. The feature will now include Literacy Strategies. Black History Month was celebrated at each school.

Maya Angelou staff attended the DuPage County Institute Day.

A Literacy Workshop is scheduled for April. The session will highlight the importance of literacy at the high school level, noting that many incarcerated youths enter significantly below grade level.

**ASST. SUPERINTENDENT 6.1
UPDATE**

***Extended Educational Services
Program Annual Report 2026***

**DR. BAMBI BETHEL-
LEITSCHUH**

The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) School District #428 Extended Services High School Program is now fully operational across all eight locations and is nearing full staffing. Lawrence and Menard, the district's maximum-security facilities, serve smaller student populations. With the foundational work completed, the district will now focus on establishing consistent policies and procedures across all sites with the new Assistant Superintendent.

Student desktops have been replaced with Chromebooks, and Google Classroom has been fully implemented. The program currently reports 13 graduates, 493 completed courses, and an active enrollment of 180 students.

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION <i>Review of Special Education Data</i> MRS. MELISSA CORY	6.2	The Special Education population has increased compared to last year, with a continued rise in students identified with specific learning disabilities. Data from Monarch Youth Center is now included in the report. There has also been a slight increase in students with intellectual disabilities. Despite these shifts, the district continues to maintain high compliance. IEPs within the Department of Corrections take slightly longer to update due to procedural requirements. Although staffing gaps remain, other team members have stepped in to provide support where needed.
DIRECTOR OF CTE <i>CTE/Vocational Education Program Updates January 2026</i>	7.0	Several new Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses have been added. Career Exploration and Business Communication will continue to be offered. An Entrepreneurship course is also being introduced, giving students the opportunity to operate a small T-shirt production business. Financial literacy remains part of the curriculum. A Human and Social Services course will be offered to support students in developing skills for service-oriented careers. A real-world parenting course will be available to help teen parents grow and thrive. Career Day is scheduled for April 6th, providing students the chance to meet with employers and workforce partners. Graduates from the PEACE program will have the opportunity to participate as well. A new bid is in process for the Barber Programming. More information will be shared at the next board meeting.
BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS	8.0	Board Members agree on the time change 9:30am-11am moving forward.
ADJOURNMENT	9.0	A motion to adjourn was made by Board Member David Green. Board Member Lamont Holifield then followed with a second motion. The motion passed. No Objections. President Vickery concluded the meeting at 10:38a.m.