



**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 -July 17th, 2026**

Robert D. Vickery
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, July 17th at 9:32 a.m. via Webex.

ROLL CALL

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

Others present: Dr. Kimberly Kimbrough, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Melissa Cory, Director of Special Education, Noah Boudreau, CTE, Ms. LaQuinya Williams, Literacy Interventionist Administrator.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 2.0 As follows.

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

- 2.1 Board Member David Green motioned for approval. Board Member Jennifer Vidis second the motion. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES OF
MAY 2026
MEETING**

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

**PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION**

- 3.0 Ms. Concha de la Cruz joined, she is Community Support Specialist with the Illinois Institute for Rehabilitation and Employment Research (IIRER) out of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

**PRESIDENT'S
REPORT**

- 4.0 President Vickery highlighted the continued educational achievements within the Department of Corrections. The High School Diploma program is currently operating in eight DOC facilities, with an enrollment of 200 students—more than the number enrolled in IDJJ classrooms. To date, there have been 18 graduates.

Unfortunately, the candidate selected for the Assistant Superintendent position declined at the last minute. President Vickery expressed appreciation to Mrs. Melissa Cory, Special Education Director, for stepping in to support the department.

The Federal Court Monitor visited both Thurgood Marshall (IYC Chicago) and Maya Angelou (IYC Warrenville). Both sites received high remarks with noticeable improvements observed during each annual visit.

The new Maya Angelou Alternative High School principal, Lisa Tavitas, was recognized. She has over 20 years of experience in education and comes from Dixon Correctional Center, bringing valuable corrections experience to her role.

The Warrenville Campus experienced a fire in July 2024. With support from the Capital Development Board, repairs are now substantially complete. The return to the facility remains on schedule and is planned for after Labor Day weekend.

The housing units will accommodate up to six youth, creating a more compact and manageable environment.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

5.0 As follows.

**SCHOOL
DISTRICT #428**

5.1 School District #428's 2026-2027 school calendar should have been distributed. A modified version of the calendar will be distributed when the training dates have been added.

*2026-2027 School Year-
August 2026*

DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR

**SCHOOL
DISTRICT #428**

5.2 A vacancy on the school board remains, and the district continues to work toward identifying the most suitable candidate.

*School Board Liaison
School Visits*

DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR

**ASST. SUPERINTENDENT 6.0
UPDATE**

- *Monarch's First Graduation*
- *Building a Scope and Sequence*
- *Intro of the 26-27 Curriculum Council*
- *Literacy Walkthrough Initiative*
- *Literacy Strategy of the Quarter*

Monarch Youth Center celebrated their first graduation.

The District plans to outline a scope and sequence to ensure the district is with state standards and creates consistency to guide instructional focus.

The 2026-2027 Curriculum Council has been identified; a first meeting has been held and a possible curriculum discussed.

Literacy walkthroughs are currently underway, with 16 completed so far in the northern region. The data gathered will support a more intentional focus on Tier 1 literacy strategies.

**DR. KIMBERLY
KIMBROUGH**

Quarterly literacy strategies will highlight different areas of focus throughout the year.

Board Member Vidis inquired about the mobility and continuity of instruction when a youth transfer takes place.

Youth transfers happen upon youth request due to family and programming opportunities. Relationship continuity is part of the transformation plan for the agency.

Connexus student accounts are online, which makes transferring them straightforward.

**ASST. SUPERINTENDENT 6.1
UPDATE**

*Extended Educational Services
Program Annual Report 2026*

Included in the President's Report

**DIRECTOR OF
SPECIAL
EDUCATION**

6.2

*Review of Special Education Data
SPED & HSDP
SPED & PLC's
SPED & Fall Conferences*

The High School Diploma program's special education data has been included in the report. The Special Education process mirrors that of the IDJJ schools. While emotional disabilities have traditionally been more common, there was a decrease in this category in June, along with an increase in specific learning disabilities and intellectual disabilities. Our goal is to ensure all students receive the appropriate support they need.

MRS. MELISSA CORY

Although there has been an increase in new student enrollment, the district continues to provide the necessary support. For the 2025–2026 school year, a total of 13 students with IEPs have graduated. Board members are encouraged to attend graduation ceremonies.

The High School Diploma program serves students ages 18–22. As they are legally adults and act as their own guardians, it is essential to be mindful of individual rights and decisional capacity.

Special Education conferences are available for staff to attend, providing opportunities to expand their knowledge and stay current with best practices in the field.

Special Education is close to being fully staffed across all schools, which will strengthen the support available to students and enhance their overall learning experience.

DIRECTOR OF CTE
*CTE/Vocational Education
Program Updates July 2026*

- 7.0** The CTE department continues to develop new Career and Technical Education courses. Marketing 101 will align with the Entrepreneurship class to provide students with a more cohesive learning experience.

The first cohort of the T-shirt Making Program will begin with four students, all of whom are very excited. This program will also be the first to transition to the new Warrenville facility, offering students access to improved space and resources. The program will begin marketing their shirts across the schools and following with other departments.

Allocations for the CTE grants have been released, and the department is preparing for the upcoming Illinois State Board of Education CTE audit. The IDJJ CTE team is considering voluntary participation as a model site for grant review. Doing so will support stronger, cleaner data practices and ensure continued efficiency across the program.

**BOARD DISCUSSION
ITEMS**

- 8.0**
None

ADJOURNMENT

- 9.0** A motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Lamon Holifield. Board Member David Green then followed with a second motion. The motion passed. No Objections. President Vickery concluded the meeting at 10:31a.m.

