



**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 -May 15th, 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, May 15th 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.

Others present: Tresa D. Dunbar, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kimberly Kimbrough, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Melissa Cory, Director of Special Education, Noah Boudreau, CTE

CONSENT AGENDA

- 2.0 As follows.

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

- 2.1 Board Member Kristian May Stewart motioned for approval. David Green second the motion. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES OF
MARCH 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 No public participation

**PRESIDENT'S
REPORT**

- 4.0 President Vickery praised the high quality of the Professional Development Retreat held in May, noting the high level of engagement from all educators in attendance. He acknowledged the presenters as well as everyone who contributed to organizing the retreat. He expressed that the staff in our school district truly exemplify leadership as a team—living out our mission and values and serving as a positive force for the young people. It is remarkable to see an entire division of our agency, despite the complexities and challenges we face, remain so deeply committed to the students.

Monarch Youth Center will be renaming its school to Nelson Mandela Alternative High School.

President Vickery has been officially confirmed in his role and is no longer serving as interim director. Congratulations.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT	5.0	As follows.
SCHOOL DISTRICT #428	5.1	School District #428 will move forward with onboarding a Behavioral Interventionist Administrator.
<i>Human Resources Updates</i>		Literacy Interventionists have already been hired for both the Northern and Southern Regions.
DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR		Hiring efforts will continue for positions at Booker T. Washington and Maya Angelou.
SCHOOL DISTRICT #428	5.2	The Superintendent of Schools acknowledged everyone who attended the retreat. Overall retreat was well executed by the Ad Hoc committee.
<i>2026 Professional Development Annual Retreat</i>		
DR. TRESA D. DUNBAR		
SCHOOL DISTRICT #428	5.3	The current Strategic Plan expires this year. While it will align with the Illinois Juvenile Justice mission, values, and overall plan, the education component will follow the guidance of the Illinois State Board of Education. The School Board will be asked to review a designated section and provide feedback.
<i>Strategic Plan 2026-2029</i>		
SCHOOL DISTRICT #428	5.4	Board Member Briana Morales will be stepping into the role of founding principal for a new high school in St. Louis that will support students recovering from substance abuse. As a result, she will be resigning from the board. On behalf of School District #428, we extend our sincere appreciation to Board Member Morales for her service and the positive contributions she has made during her tenure.
<i>Board of Education Liaisons Board of Education Open Position</i>		The board will be seeking to replace her position.

**ASST. SUPERINTENDENT 6.0
UPDATE**

***IDJJ SD#428 Spotlight Newsletter
Closing the Gap: Addressing
Literacy Deficits in Secondary
Students***

**DR. KIMBERLY
KIMBROUGH**

Literacy Interventionist LaQuinya Williams presented *Addressing Literacy Deficits in Secondary Students*, offering an overview of the session shared during the retreat. Teachers and staff were placed in scenarios that allowed them to experience materials from the perspective of a struggling reader. A variety of activities were used to encourage staff to think critically and view reading through the lens of a student facing literacy challenges.

A student survey was administered across the District, focusing on students' experiences related to school. The results will be used to inform practice and will be shared with teachers and principals. Feedback directly from the youth receiving instruction is both meaningful and accurate. A total of 97 responses were collected, and the data will be presented at the next board meeting.

The IDJJ School District #428 Newsletter update was shared with the board, highlighting individual school progress and Teacher Appreciation Week.

The T-Shirt Making program room has been fully set up, and the next step is to begin training the youth.

A district timeline for success was shared, outlining our development from curriculum adoption to teachers identifying priority standards, which will guide the development of curriculum maps.

As students engage with the professional learning community content, literacy work will be incorporated. Literacy Administrators will identify literacy strategies to strengthen reading skills and improve writing skills.

**ASST. SUPERINTENDENT 6.1
UPDATE**

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

IDJJ School District #428 is pursuing an individual to take the position of the Assistant Superintendent of the High School Diploma Program. Hiring updates will be shared in the next board meeting.

Currently the program is serving 204 students. It is 50% more students than we have in the DJJ schools. The program will soon have two graduates.

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION <i>Special Education Monthly Data Summary/ Narrative</i> MRS. MELISSA CORY	6.2 Over 62% of the School District #428 student population receives Special Education services, including those identified as Other Health Impaired (OHI). Nearly 75% of our students have emotional or developmental disabilities that they are born with, which impact both their cognitive learning and their behavior. Because of this, we must remain consistently mindful and responsive to their needs. u
DIRECTOR OF CTE <i>CTE/Vocational Education Program Updates May 2026</i>	7.0 Strengthening the School District’s collaboration with the agency is essential to identifying the college, career, and technical education opportunities available to all of our students, including both current high school students and graduates. The CTE department has continued to expand its course offerings. Our counselor at Thurgood Marshall holds an endorsement in information technology, and as a result, the CTE team has been working closely with ISBE to design an introductory course that will cover foundational skills and career pathways in the IT field. Additionally, Ms. Anna Walton has joined us as the new CTE teacher. She is trained in cosmetology, and we hope her expertise will create meaningful opportunities for our female student population. The board was asked to share any connections they have with community-based programs that could provide potential opportunities for our students.
BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS	8.0
ADJOURNMENT	9.0 A motion to adjourn was made by Board Member David Green. President Vickery then followed with a second motion. The motion passed. No Objections. President Vickery concluded the meeting at 10:31a.m.

