



PCCS Board of Director's Meeting
Tuesday, January 27th, 2026, at 7:00PM
Vicky Ranney Library
1571 Jones Point Road Grayslake, IL 60030

Board Present

Rebekka Herrington Peyton Schrag
Ankur Bhatia Gabi White
Josh Pejsach

Staff Present

Geoff Deigan

Call to Order Vice President – Rebekka Herrington call the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

Public Comment – No Public Present

Discussion Agenda

- 1. Outreach Committee Update and Pillars** – Gabi White shared that there were some adjustments to the pillars, and the feedback from the prior Board meeting was incorporated (document in packet). Additionally, language was adjusted to be more of a statement and less of a description of actions taken. The bylaws will still need to be amended by the Governance Committee. Gabi also shared that there is a policy about committees and encouraged all Committee Chairs to look at policy #200.24 to verify that any changes would be amenable to all. Finally, the Outreach committee discussed a newsletter as a means of Board communicate with the public.

Rebekka Herrington asked what the approval request was today as it is not a policy. Gabi White clarified that the approval was more to make sure the Board is aligned with the direction the Outreach Committee is taking. Rebekka suggested that a vote is unnecessary because the pillar document is not necessarily an official document. It was decided that no action will be taken on 1A in the Action Agenda.

- 2. Governance Committee Update and Executive Director Review Form** – Rebekka Herrington shared that Governance Committee spent most of the meeting discussing the ED Review Form, changes including updating verbiage on the competencies and whether certain reports would be used for scoring. A column was added (F – Source of Measure), and a comments section was added as well. Lastly, the mechanics behind the form were reviewed to automate the form's completion with all the various inputs. Josh Pejsach shared his screen and walked through all the updates made to the Evaluation Form with Goals and Competencies (included in packet). Geoff Deigan shared that whatever ISBE receives, what they want to see is that a thorough evaluation has been done on the ED that is consistently executed year after year.

Rebekka also shared that Governance discussed Policy #200.24 that affects all committees, though it's not currently reflective of what the committees do at the present time. Rebekka reiterated that all Committee Chairs should review the policy on a committee level, make recommendations to Governance, and Governance will try to amalgamate and present the updates the Board for policy #200.24. As an example, there is no Election Committee noted in the founding documents. Rebekka led the discussion of whether the Election Committee should continue as it is or have its composition adjusted.

- 3. School Year 26-27 Proposed Calendar** – Geoff Deigan shared that the proposed 26-27 Calendar (attached) is similar to the 25-26 Calendar year, the proposed start date/first day of school is on August 17th, 2026, ending on June 4th, 2027, with one exception because 2026 is an election year.

When there is an election cycle, the school must be closed on Election Day. As a result this proposed Calendar has 184 school days instead of 185. The cadence of Spring Break, early releases, all aligning as closely as possible with surrounding districts.

- 4. 5 Essentials Rollout** – Geoff Deigan shared that the 5 Essentials Rollout (information in packet) will start on February 3rd and go through March 13th. Preliminary conversations with Union Officers have been held to stress the importance of those meetings and to take the survey. ISBE’s toolkit to get and keep parents engaged is included as well. Geoff shared that there is a large communication blast planned to emphasize the importance of the surveys.

Leah Stender asked if there was a way to track the completion percentage on a weekly basis, and Geoff confirmed that there is a way to track that information, but it must be actively pulled. Leah suggested that we get a weekly report during the period to track the percentages as they are completed to ensure that we are on target. Josh Pejsach clarified that the Action plan includes having allocated time for students to complete the surveys, and Geoff confirmed. Josh requested additional details, including the dates and makeup of those taking the surveys; Geoff clarified that it includes all students grades 4-8, and all certified teachers (close to 40). Discussion of additional details ensued, including the dates of the staff meetings when and where the 5 Essentials would be discussed. Gabi White inquired when results were available, Geoff clarified that it was in September.

Josh and Leah led a discussion of potential incentivizing early attainment of the goal. Geoff committed to having detailed reporting at the February Board Meeting, including a plan to redouble the efforts if the goal has not yet been attained. Percentages required – Student goal is 50% participation rate, Teacher is 50% participation, and parent 20% participation.

- 5. ISBE Annual Review Process** – Geoff Deigan led a brief discussion of the ISBE Annual Review Process, and fielded questions about how that process proceeds. Geoff shared that traditionally a deep dive of this process and evaluation is handled by the Academic Excellence Committee, while Gabi White shared that she was unclear if this had been discussed. Geoff committed to send out the last ISBE Annual Review that was completed to the entire Board.

Rebekka Herrington asked if it was possible to request a site visit, since Geoff had shared that ISBE did not conduct them annually (notably not conducting one in the 24/25 school year). Geoff agreed that we could request one if so desired. Josh added that if we received a result of ‘Exceeds Expectations’, it would it help PCCS achieve the first ever 10-year Charter from the State. Rebekka requested that at the next Board Meeting, previous ISBE Annual Reviews are included as a discussion item.

- 6. 2026 Board Retreat** – Rebekka Herrington shared that the goal of this discussion item is to clarify a date and also find a volunteer from the Board to help organize the Retreat. Rebekka suggested June; Geoff committed to putting together a doodle to identify what dates are most amenable to everyone’s schedule.

Rebekka then asked if anyone wanted to help coordinate. Gabi White shared that we should garner a few proposals for due diligence. Peyton Schrag offered to take the lead on identifying a facilitator, with Gabi White and Leah Stender offering to support the effort. Steve Heroux forwarded the previous facilitator proposals to Peyton as a starting point. Rebekka also shared that she would like to consider a larger Board Retreat allocation in the upcoming School Budget to include the possibility of additional work with the facilitator to work towards secession planning as well. Josh Pejsach also opined that greater value from the Retreat would be attainable if more time was spent clarifying the deliverables beforehand.

Consent Agenda

- 7. Financial Statements including 2nd Qtr. Deliverable to ISBE** – Geoff Deigan reiterated what was shared in the Financial Summary (attached), including that this is the part of the year where the statements start to true up. No major interruptions or barriers are visible on the horizon, financially speaking.

8. Motion to Approve Open Session Minutes of Previous Board and Committee Meetings as amended– Moved by Steve Heroux, 2nd by Gabi White; All votes aye.

9. Motion to Accept Reports on Consent Agenda – Moved by Gabi White, 2nd by Steve Heroux; All votes aye.

Closed Session – Motion to enter closed session by Steve Heroux, 2nd by Leah Stender; Roll Call, all votes aye. *Entered Closed Session at 8:30 PM.*

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

10. Review Closed Session Minutes from Previous Board Meetings

Discussion Related to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the 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.

11. Legal Bills

Discussion related to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) - 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.

12. New Hires and Resignations

13. Executive Director Goals

Exited Closed Session at 9:51 PM

Public Comment – No Public Present.

Action Agenda

1A – Approve Outreach Committee Pillars – Per Rebekka, no vote was taken as the Pillars are not an official document.

2A – Approve Executive Director Review Form – *Motion to Approve Executive Director Review Form adopting ISBE standards (in replace of competencies)* by Josh Pejsach, 2nd by Gabi White; All votes aye.

3A – Approve School Year 26-27 Calendar – Moved by Steve Heroux, 2nd by Josh Pejsach; All votes aye.

10A – Approve Closed Session Minutes from Previous Board Meetings – Moved by Josh Pejsach, 2nd by Steve Heroux; All votes aye.

11A – Approve Legal Bills in the amount of \$1595.50 – Moved by Gabi White, 2nd by Josh Pejsach; Roll call – all votes aye.

12A – Approve New Hire(s)/Accept Resignation – Moved by Steve Heroux, 2nd by Rebekka Herrington; Roll call Vote: Josh Pejsach – No , Gabi White – Yes , Leah Stender – Yes, Rebekka Herrington – Yes, Peyton Schrag – Yes, Steve Heroux – Yes - Votes 5 Yes, 1 No, Motion passes.

13A – Approve Executive Director Goals – *Motion to approve ED goals as amended during the closed session by the Board* by Leah Stender, 2nd by Josh Pejsach; Roll call, all votes aye.

New Business:

Gabi White requested a discussion of ISBE’s annual review process at an upcoming Board Meeting.

Motion to Adjourn by Steve Heroux, 2nd by Leah Stender, all votes aye.

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Steve Heroux, Secretary.