



PCCS Board of Director's Meeting
AGENDA
April 28, 2026 at 7:00PM
Vicky Ranney Library
1571 Jones Point Road Grayslake, IL 60030

Board Present

Rebekka Herrington Steve Heroux Ankur Bhatia
Josh Pejsach Gabi White
Peyton Schrag Meghan Dawson

Staff Present

Geoff Deigan
Bernadette Lundeen

Call to Order – Rebekka Herrington called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

Motion to approve Agenda – 1st by Meghan Dawson, 2nd by Gabi White; all votes aye.

Public Comment – No public comment.

Recognitions

Those Who Excel Awards - ISBE Board Meeting - Earth Week

Rebekka Herrington shared that there were several people nominated for these awards, and listed them:

- **Rebecca Geoghan**, *Outstanding teachers at all levels and subject-areas in an Illinois public or nonpublic school with 5 or more years of experience.*
- **Tammy Steinbeck**, *Outstanding Early Career Educator award: Teachers with 1-4 years of experience at the end of the current school year.*
- **Ellie Jensen**, *Student Support Personnel.*

In addition to those nominated above, there were two winners:

- **Bernadette Lundeen**, *Educational Service Personnel.*
- **Matt Earl**, *Community Volunteer.*

The Board recognized all the nominees, and especially Ms. Lundeen (who was present) with a round of applause, and thanks for going above and beyond in representing PCCS.

Geoff Deigan shared some additional details about the awards banquet in Bloomington, IL, and about how ISBE made the requirements much more stringent to receive these awards, calling out a testament to the hard work and dedication. Ms Lundeen shared some additional words of appreciation as well, thanking the students and staff and sharing how much she appreciates the mission of PCCS.

Geoff Deigan also shared that last week he gave testimony in front of ISBE about the upcoming legislation, and Julie Parker gave testimony as well. Geoff shared that Ms Parker gave an incredibly impactful testimony as both parent and teacher and should be lauded as well.

Finally, Geoff shared that Earth Week 2026 was a very successful Earth Week, and that he will forward out a slide show of all the activities and educational outings that took place, including partnering with the Prairie Crossing community members. Geoff also lauded Ms Naomi for ensuring all the classes had the requisite resources and lauded the 8th grade student **Eden** for an exceptional shirt design.

Discussion Agenda

1. Board Retreat Update – Peyton Schrag shared that they spoke with the facilitator and discussed the agenda for the day. The primary objectives include determining Board priorities and goals, and to set the ED goals that day as well, and to provide some overall vision and clarity for the team on how to approach the committees and Board governance. Peyton outlined the working agenda for the day, including flow and goals. The date is Monday, June 15th. Josh Pejsach asked about reviewing the extant ED goals before the meeting, and Rebekka Herrington shared some details surrounding the



upcoming 1st reading of ED goals (Policy 200.8), recommending that the ED evaluation take place at the next May Board meeting. There was additional discussion surrounding potential pre-work, including a gallup assessment and/or a Board survey.

2. Committee Updates –

- Outreach – Gabi White shared that the Outreach Committee has continued their work on the Board Newsletter, keeping it to 2 pages. The Newsletter will include factual details from the previous Board meeting, and an educational component (for example, “what is a committee”). The 3rd section would be Board recognition, highlighting the achievements of the Staff, Students, and School. Gabi shared that they would be looking to publish the Newsletter the Wednesday following the Board Meeting. Steve Heroux raised concerns about sending out a document based on Draft meeting minutes that have not yet been Board-approved. After discussion, it was decided that to alleviate that there would be a disclaimer added to the Newsletter citing that they are not official minutes, with a link to the website where the minutes are officially posted once approved.
- Governance – Rebekka Herrington shared that Governance worked on the procedural component of the Executive Director evaluation, looking to have a first reading at the May Board meeting. There was also discussion of the policy for standing committees (200.24), and Rebekka tasked each committee to review the descriptions of their committees and draft any potential updates for the Board to review.
- Elections – Steve Heroux shared that with Heather Bendorovich stepping down both as committee member and Election Buddy specialist, Melanie Champ Heroux has volunteered to step into that role moving forward. Melanie attended the 4.13.26 meeting as public and will officially be on the committee as of the May meeting. Geoff Deigan shared that currently we are only at 18% voting, while 30% is required to be an official election; Geoff wanted to know if it would be okay to send students home with reminders and flyers to get their parents to vote, and after discussion it was determined Meghan Dawson also shared that she personally pushed on social media to vote, and that that was an effective method to drive engagement as well.
- Executive – Rebekka Herrington shared that the Executive Committee discussed upcoming legislation (included in packet) and potential actions to be taken.
- Finance – Ankur Bhatia shared that the Finance Committee reviewed the Q4 financials and approved them in the meetings. There was some discussion surrounding timing issues, and some suggestions were made and will be incorporated in the summaries moving forward. The Finance Committee also discussed the Fine Arts Building expected/projection (included in packet).

3. 1st Reading *200.8 Executive Director Evaluation Procedure & Resolution* – Included in packet. Rebekka Herrington shared that she will be looking for a rescinding motion with the second reading based on the removal of the subcommittee/personnel committee as it is outdated. There was some additional discussion surrounding policy 200.8, and the timing/cadence.
4. Review Recommendation of Solar Panel Proposals for Fine Arts Building – Geoff Deigan shared details about the proposal included in the Board packet, adding some additional details about achieving the ‘Net Zero’ certification for the Fine Arts Building, and why that requires the Solar Panels. The request is to complete the project by accepting the proposal included. Geoff shared that multiple proposals



were requested, and the included proposal is Geoff's recommendation. The request tonight is to approve the proposal and allow Geoff to execute the contract included. After lengthy discussion, it was determined that Geoff will seek out some additional answers to questions from the Board, and table the proposal for now, with anticipation that the Board will vote on it at the May Board meeting.

Consent Agenda

5. Business Manager Report 3rd Quarter Financial Statements/ISBE Deliverable – Discussed in Finance Committee Update.
6. Motion to Approve Open Session Minutes of Previous Board and Committee Meetings – Moved by Gabi White, 2nd by Steve Heroux; All votes aye.
7. Motion to Accept Reports on Consent Agenda – Moved by Gabi White, 2nd by Meghan Dawson; All votes aye.

Motion to enter Closed Session by Steve Heroux, 2nd by Gabi White; Roll call all votes aye.
Entered Closed Session at 9:06 PM

Closed Session:

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.

8. Review Closed Session Minutes from Previous Board Meetings

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.

9. New Hires, Resignations and Retirements

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.

10. Legal Bills

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. Charter Authority

Exited Closed Session at 9:48 PM.



Public Comment – No public comment.

Action Agenda

- 4A – Approve Contractor for Solar Panels for Fine Arts Building – No action taken.
- 5A – Approve Closed Session Minutes from Previous Board Meetings – No minutes, no actions taken.
- 9A – Approve New Hires/ Accept Resignations – Moved by Steve Heroux, 2nd by Peyton Schrag; roll call, all votes aye.
- 10A – Approve Legal Bills in the amount of \$287.50 – Moved by Steve Heroux, 2nd by Josh Pejsach; roll call all votes aye.

New Business – Gabi White requested that the pending legislation remain a discussion item on the upcoming Board meeting in May.

Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by Steve Heroux, 2nd by Josh Pejsach; all votes aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Steve Heroux, Secretary.

Thank you for attending the meeting of the PCCS Board of Education. Individual board members do not respond to public comment. For questions or comments, please e-mail the Board at board@pccarterschool.org. The PCCS Board of Directors consists of:

President: Matt Earl
Secretary: Steve Heroux
Pevton Schrag

Vice President: Rebekka Herrington
Meghan Dawson
Leah Stender

Treasurer: Ankur Bhatia
Josh Pejsach
Gabi White