

# CCSD 46 DISTRICT NEWS

SEPTEMBER 9, 2026



## CCSD 46 Begins Strategic Planning

The Portrait of a Learner is the first phase of the strategic planning process that CCSD 46 is embarking on this year. The Portrait of a Learner (POL) team held its first meeting Tuesday, September 8th. The committee is comprised of 32 members: 7 parents, 6 certified staff, 2 PSRPs (support staff), 2 Board of Education members, 2 community members, 2 school leaders, and 11 students. The team will meet a total of three times over the next several months to develop a shared vision of the skills and attributes students need to be successful in school, the workforce, and life.

The meeting began with an overview of the purpose of the Portrait of a Learner process and activities designed to help participants get to know one another and begin thinking about the future of education. Participants discussed how much has changed, particularly with the emergence of artificial intelligence, since the last strategic planning process five years ago.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS



#### SEPTEMBER

- 10 - Back to School Night - Avon, Meadowview, Prairieview, Woodview
- 11 - Early Childhood Center Family Engagement: Meet & Greet 1:00 pm
- 16 - Board of Education General Meeting - Falcon Room, Frederick School 6:00 pm
- 18 - Preschool Screening
- 21 - No School

### Join us! for Back-to-School Night!



back-to-school  
**NIGHT**

All Grades  
**Thursday, September 10**  
6:00-6:30 PM or 6:40-7:10 PM



back-to-school  
**NIGHT**

**Thursday, September 10**  
MILE, Third & Fourth: 6:00 - 6:30 PM  
K, First, Second Grade: 6:45 - 7:15 PM



back-to-school  
**NIGHT**

All Grades  
**Thursday, September 10**  
6:00-6:30 PM or 6:40-7:10 PM



back-to-school  
**NIGHT**

All Grades  
**Thursday, September 10**  
6:00-7:30 PM



## STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PORTRAIT OF A LEARNER

Team members also reviewed a high-level overview of preliminary survey results. Specifically, they looked at the top 5 skills that each stakeholder group, including both school and community respondents, identified as most important for students. This was intended as a snapshot to frame discussion rather than a review of the full survey findings, which will be shared with the team at a later date.

A highlight of the evening was a panel discussion featuring representatives from higher education and a variety of workforce fields. Panelists shared their perspectives on the skills and qualities they seek in future employees and emphasized the importance of communication, working well with others, curiosity, self-discovery, and a willingness to continue learning. Following the panel, team members reflected on the themes that resonated most with them and discussed how those ideas might inform the Portrait of a Learner.

The team will use the survey results, panel insights, and stakeholder discussions as it continues its work over the next two meetings, ultimately developing a Portrait of a Learner that reflects the aspirations and priorities of the school community. The team will hold its second meeting later this month.



As we step through 5 strategic planning phases, we will provide data, presentations, and information through a dashboard on our website, which will help us monitor our progress toward our goals as well as the development of what a Portrait of a Learner looks like in CCSD 46. These measurements may be revised over time to reflect the work completed, include new opportunities, and showcase innovative ways to track our advancement towards our goals.

Follow along as the Strategic Plan and Portrait of a Learner Committee Teams embark on this very important process. If you have questions or feedback, we've included a handy survey, which will be shared with our teams.

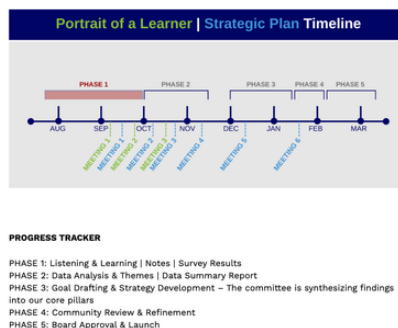
[d46.org/strategic-plan-2026/](https://d46.org/strategic-plan-2026/)



**SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS**

Your feedback goes directly to our planning team. We want to hear from parents, staff, and neighbors.

Complete the Feedback Form: [ENGLISH](#) [ESPAÑOL](#)



### SUMMER PROJECTS UPDATE

A summer project update was presented at the September 2nd Board of Education meeting. Dr. Amanda Pelsor, Director of Innovation spoke on the technology updates, and Mr. Jose Zires, Director of Operations, Maintenance, and Safety spoke about updates to our school facilities. The technology department added 14 network switches, new outdoor wireless access points, and replaced end-of-life battery backup units. In addition to the infrastructure upgrades, the tech department, along with contracted service providers, worked to update district communication and security systems, including installation of a new two-way intercom system at all schools, additional security cameras, and updates to many interior and exterior doors across the district.

Mr. Jose Zires shared that the O&M department has been busy all summer long with projects that included patching concrete and filling cracks in walkways at all schools, specific masonry and concrete repairs at several schools, equipment inspections, and annual maintenance projects. The O&M department also coordinated and assisted in the replacement of three rooftop units (RTUs) at Prairieview School. Mr. Zires also shared the great news that the renovations to the Media Center areas at Prairieview, Meadowview, Frederick, and Park Campus are complete!

***Watch for information about Open House/Ribbon Cutting ceremonies for our newly renovated Media Centers - they are gorgeous!***



### MULTILINGUAL SERVICES UPDATE



The Multilingual Department has undergone significant changes in programming this year and we are thrilled to share that our Multilingual Scholars are the beneficiaries! All students eligible for language support services may benefit from the Collaborative Instructional Model (commonly known as co-teaching) or Dual Language Immersion.

The Collaborative Instructional Model is a two-teacher model in which a content specialist (homeroom teacher) and a language specialist (English Language Development teacher) co-plan, co-teach, co-

assess, and reflect together to ensure all students have access to content and language. Co-teaching partnerships are found in all schools throughout the District and will be teaching Literacy, Math, or Science depending on need and grade level. This transition from Sheltered Literacy to Co-teaching is the result of the District's decision to move our Multilingual Scholars to the least restrictive environment while still providing the linguistic scaffolds they need.

Our Dual Language programming continues to grow in CCSD 46. This year marks the first cohort of Two-Way Dual Language programming with 71 kindergarteners enrolled and eager to achieve bilingualism, biliteracy, and biculturalism. Our One-Way Dual Language program, which proudly serves 318 scholars, is undergoing a reset on the District's Content and Language Allocation Plan. This plan ensures that all scholars are given the optimal environment of explicit instruction in English and Spanish while meeting the demands of grade-level standards and achievement.



**Avon Center School**

1617 IL Route 83, Round Lake Beach, IL 60073



**Prairieview School**

103 E. Belvidere Road, Hainesville, IL 60030



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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CCSD 46 will conduct a public hearing regarding a Resolution to Adopt an eLearning Program in lieu of the District's scheduled Emergency Days, which will be held on September 16, 2026, at 3:30 pm. The public hearing will be held at Frederick School, 595 Frederick Road, in Grayslake.

The eLearning Program plan resolution will be an Action Item at the September 16, 2026, Board of Education general meeting.

### COMMUNICATIONS: ParentSquare Account Activation

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CCSD 46 utilizes ParentSquare as our primary means of school to home communication. This unified communications platform is designed to keep parents and guardians informed and encourage greater engagement and connection with our teachers, schools, and the district.

While all families will receive our messages in their email, families who sign up for a ParentSquare account on either their mobile device or desktop computer will have additional options for receiving messages, including language selection and frequency. If you do not have a ParentSquare account, you can scan the QR code to register your account. You can also download the ParentSquare App to receive messages directly in the App. ParentSquare is available for both iOS and Android devices.

More information on activating ParentSquare and the CCSD 46 Communications program is available on the District website: <https://d46.org/departments/communications/>

*Register Your Account*



*Then Download the App*



# CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

## GENERAL MEETING REVIEW

CCSD 46 Board of Education Meeting Review is a brief summary of events and topics of discussion that occur at general board meetings.

We welcome you to join us at our meetings or watch our live video stream on the CCSD 46 website. We have two opportunities for public comments at our meetings. Board meeting schedules, agendas, video links, and minutes are available on the [BOE webpage](#).

### Upcoming Meetings: September 16 | October 7 | October 21

All meetings are held at Frederick School, 595 Frederick Road, Grayslake.

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### GENERAL MEETING: September 2, 2026

The CCSD 46 Board of Education held a general meeting on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, in the Falcon Room of Frederick School.

President Stephen Mack called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and the approval of the agenda, visitors to the meeting were invited to address the board for the first of two public comment opportunities. A community member commented on the District's use of technology and expressed concern about potential overreliance on technology in the classroom.

The Board and Superintendent reports were then presented.

Mrs. Maureen Heun shared that the College of Lake County will be hosting a Community Resource Fair on September 16 from 3:00-6:00 pm. The event will provide information about available community services and volunteer opportunities.

Mrs. Kristy Miller shared that the Community Engagement Committee and Foundation 46 have merged and recently held a joint meeting. She noted that the PTOs and PTFs are actively planning upcoming activities. Woodview School was selected to participate in the annual Grayslake in Bloom Community Garden Walk in 2027. She also shared that the next Dine & Share benefiting the District will be held on September 23 from 5:00-8:00 pm at Texas Bebe's Quesobirria in Grayslake. Mrs. Miller also encouraged everyone to save the date for Barnfest 2027, which will be held on May 1, 2027.

Dr. Stephen Mack shared that the Illinois Association of School Boards will host the Lake Division meeting on Wednesday, October 14.



# CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Alfonso Carmona shared that the opening of the school year was a success and presented a video highlighting students during the first few days of school, created by Leslie Armstrong, Communications Coordinator. Dr. Carmona also discussed the guidance provided to families regarding high temperatures and emphasized that the health, safety, and well-being of students remain the District's top priorities. He then provided an update on the Strategic Planning process, noting that committees are being formed and that surveys will remain open through September 6.

Ms. Amber Bowgren, Director of the Multilingual Department, shared that the WIDA ACCESS assessment is ISBE's annual measure of English language growth for multilingual learners. CCSD 46 administered ACCESS 2.0 or Alternative ACCESS to 653 multilingual learners, with 94 students (14.3%) reclassifying as English Proficient, an increase from 11.1% the previous year. The District's goal is for multilingual learners to reclassify within five academic years. Students who reclassify are monitored for an additional two years in accordance with ISBE requirements.

Mrs. Amy Gluck, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, shared that benchmark assessments will begin September 8 and be administered throughout the school year. NWEA/MAP assessments will be administered to students in Grades K–8 for math and Grades 4–8 for reading. In response to the Illinois early literacy screening mandate, the District will use the Star Literacy Assessment for students in Grades K–3. The computer-adaptive assessment is expected to take approximately 10 minutes for the average kindergartener and 20 minutes for students in Grades 2–3. Assessment reports will be shared with families upon completion.

President Mack then requested a motion for the approval of the Consent Agenda, which includes Minutes from previous meetings, the Personnel Report, Exception Report, Accounts Payable Report, and Treasurer's Report. The motion carried.

**Action Items** voted on by the Board for this meeting included:

- None

**Unfinished Business**, which includes unresolved issues that were previously brought before the Board to be discussed further, included:

- **Summer Facility Projects**

The Board received a presentation regarding Technology, Operations, Maintenance, and Safety summer projects completed throughout the District. The presentation highlighted projects aligned with District Strategic Plan Goals #4, Facilities, and #5, Technology, which focus on maintaining equitable, quality learning environments and technology-rich learning environments.

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# CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Summer projects included renovations to the media centers at Prairieview, Meadowview, Frederick, and Park Campus, with staff participating in weekly Owner-Architect-Contractor meetings to monitor progress and address issues.

The District also completed the installation of new intercom systems throughout all school buildings, including speakers in classrooms and offices and two-way communication between classrooms and offices. Additional safety and security improvements included the installation of 137 security cameras at the K-4 schools, implementation of internal access controls for instructional spaces and offices, installation of automatic door closers, and replacement of 26 doors.

Technology infrastructure improvements included the installation of 14 network switches to support safety and security enhancements, outdoor wireless access points at each building, and replacement of 20 battery backups in network closets.

Operations and Maintenance projects included concrete patching and crack repairs throughout the District, replacement of classroom and hallway lighting with LED bulbs at Grayslake Middle School, replacement of parking lot lights across the District, and replacement of three rooftop units at Prairieview School as part of the Long-Range Facilities Plan.

The District also received grant funds from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), which were used for masonry and concrete repairs.

The presentation concluded with an overview of annual Operations and Technology responsibilities, including building automation and HVAC inspections, door and hardware inspections, kitchen equipment maintenance, fire suppression and alarm systems, plumbing maintenance, painting, vehicle maintenance, technology asset inventory, student Chromebook preparation, online registration and scheduling support, State Reporting, system updates, and integration of new online resources. The presentation is in the Board Packet.

**New Business**, which includes new issues for the Board to discuss, included the following:

- Board Policies 122

The Board of Education reviewed and discussed the proposed PRESS Plus policy updates. The policies will be presented for approval at the September 16 Board meeting. Mrs. Kristy Miller will reach out to neighboring school districts to gather information regarding their policy committee meeting processes.



# CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

As the meeting drew to a close, topics for future agenda items were discussed, and the public once again had an opportunity to address the Board of Education. No comments were made.

The Board adjourned the general meeting at 6:33 p.m.

The next scheduled Board of Education general meeting on September 16, 2026, will be held at 6:00 p.m. and live-streamed online.

Please visit [d46.org/board-of-education](https://d46.org/board-of-education) for more information.



## MAINTAINING EXCELLENCE

### **Stephen Mack, EdD, President**

Term: 2025-2029

Member Since: 2016

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### **Kristy Braden, Vice President**

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Member Since: 2018

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### **Tamika Nash, Secretary**

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Member Since: 2019

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### **Hillary Halverson, Member**

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Member Since: 2025

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### **Maureen Heun, Member**

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Member Since: 2025

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### **Kristy Miller, Member**

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Member Since: 2019

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### **Jim Weidman, Member**

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