CCSD 46

DISTRICT NEWS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are a wonderful opportunity to speak with your child's teachers one-on-one and hear all about how things are going this year. This is a chance for you to ask questions and strengthen the school-home partnership.

Conferences will be held on Thursday, October 8th and Friday, October 9th. Both days are half days, with K-4 dismissals at 10:50 am, Frederick, GMS, and Park Campus dismissals at 11:45 am, and Early Childhood dismissing at 10:30 am. On Thursday, the PM Early Childhood students attend, and on Friday, all Preschool for All and PreK Dual One-Way students with a PURPLE TAG will attend.

The conference schedule is as follows:
October 8th: 1:00 - 8:00 p.m.
October 9th: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

You should have already received a sign-up document from your teachers via Parent Square. Please use this document to choose your preferred time slot and whether you want the conference in person or virtually. Reach out directly to your classroom teacher if you have any trouble or did not receive the sign-up.

We look forward to seeing you at conferences!

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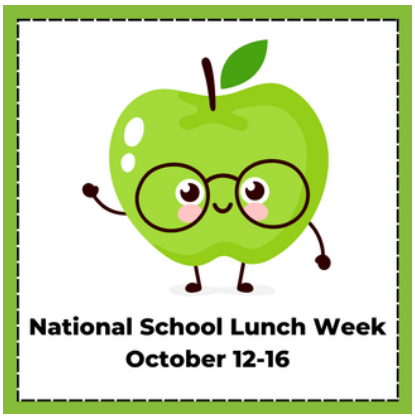
UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

02 - D127 Marching Band Night (GMS/PC) - Grayslake Central High School, 7:00 pm
06 - Erin's Law Parent Presentation - Virtual Zoom, 6:30-7:30 pm
07 - Board of Education General Meeting - Falcon Room, Frederick School, 6:00 pm
08 - Half Day Early Dismissal - PM ECC Attends
08 - Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:00-8:00 pm
09 - Half Day Early Dismissal - Preschool for All and PreK Dual One-Way students with a **PURPLE TAG** attend
09 - Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:00-4:00 pm
12 - Indigenous Peoples' Day - No School
13 - D127 Choral Festival (GMS/PC) - Grayslake North High School, 7:00 pm
14 - Half Day Early Dismissal - PM ECC Attends
16 - MPAC Event: Stronger Together - Prairieview School, 6-8:00 pm



CCSD 46 DISTRICT NEWS

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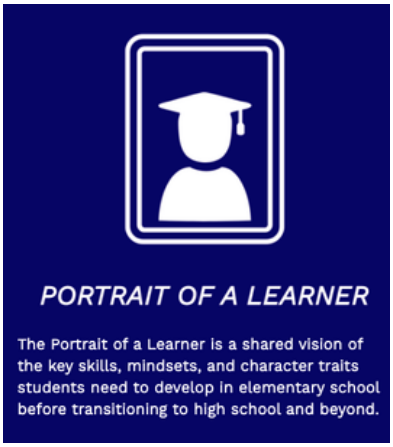
HELP SHAPE OUR PORTRAIT OF A LEARNER



As you know, CCSD 46 is developing a **Portrait of a Learner:** a shared vision of the skills and traits we want every student to carry with them when they graduate from our district. These qualities will help guide our work in classrooms and prepare our students for success in high school, their future careers, and life.

This work is built on your voice. After reviewing more than 2,000 survey responses from students, staff, families, and community members, and holding two working meetings with our Portrait of a Learner Committee, we are ready to share the first iteration of the terms the Committee has compiled. The Committee includes students, staff, families, and community stakeholders, and these terms reflect what they heard from you.

The list included in this survey is a draft, and we need your feedback before anything is final. The Committee's goal is to select 5 to 7 key terms for our final Portrait of a Learner. Your input will directly inform which terms move forward. The list contains the top ten traits identified by the CCSD 46 Portrait of a Learner Committee at its most recent meeting held on Tuesday, September 29. **Please take a few minutes to review them and select the five skills and traits you believe matter most for our students.**

This survey only takes a few minutes to complete as you select the five skills and traits you believe matter most for our students. The survey will remain open through Friday, October 9, 2026. Thank you for helping us define what success looks like for every CCSD 46 learner.

We need your input!

Which skills and traits do you believe are most important for students?

Take the survey now: English | Spanish

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STRATEGIC PLANNING

CCSD 46's Strategic Planning Team held its first meeting on September 17, bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders, including students, parents, staff, Board members, and community members. The team will meet six times throughout the fall semester to develop a new strategic plan to guide the district's priorities and direction for the next five years.

Because building relationships and trust among team members is an important part of a successful strategic planning process, considerable time was devoted to introductions and getting to know one another. Each team member had an opportunity to introduce themselves, share their connection to CCSD 46, and begin building relationships with others on the team. The group also reviewed the strategic planning process and discussed the work to be done over the six meetings.

Team members then reviewed high-level results from more than 2,000 survey responses received from school and community stakeholders. The survey data provided the team with an initial look at stakeholder perceptions of the district, including areas of strength, opportunities for growth, and priorities for the future. The team will continue to use stakeholder feedback throughout the planning process to help ensure the resulting strategic plan reflects the perspectives and aspirations of the broader CCSD 46 community.

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 students will need to be successful in college, the workforce, and life. The discussion emphasized the importance of skills such as communication, collaboration, adaptability, self-discovery, and a willingness to continue learning. Panelists also discussed the importance of experiencing setbacks, learning from failure, and developing the resilience to adapt and move forward. Team members reflected on the panel discussion and considered how these perspectives should influence the district's vision for its students and its future.

The team also began its initial work on the district's mission and vision statements. Team members reviewed the current statements and identified words and phrases that resonated most strongly with them. This activity provided an opportunity to reflect on what remains important in the district's current mission and vision and to begin considering how these statements might evolve to reflect the district's future aspirations.

Over the remaining five meetings, team members will build upon these initial conversations as they develop the mission, vision, goals, and priorities that will form CCSD 46's new strategic plan.

Share Your Thoughts!

Your feedback goes directly to our planning team.
We want to hear from parents, staff, and neighbors.
Visit the d46.org/strategic-plan-2026 webpage.

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ERIN'S LAW PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

Join us on **Tuesday, October 6th** for a virtual 45-60 minute informational livestream presentation on Erin's Law and an overview of the Be Seen and Heard© prevention-oriented sexual abuse curriculum. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation.

Tuesday, October 6, 2026 at 6:30 pm
Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83252296754
Meeting ID: 832 5229 6754
www.ChildhoodVictories.com

Erin's Law, House Bill 6193, was signed by Governor Pat Quinn in Illinois on January 24, 2013. This law requires schools to implement an age-appropriate sexual assault and abuse awareness and prevention curriculum for grades pre-K through 12. Erin's Law has now been passed in over 37 states.

In response to the state mandate to educate students about Erin's Law, CCSD 46 will host a curriculum from Childhood Victories, Inc. It's called Be Seen and Heard©, a prevention-oriented student sexual abuse program.

This curriculum is designed to create an age-appropriate, safe, and engaging environment where students will learn the difference between safe and unsafe touch, the difference between safe and unsafe secrets, and the importance of speaking up to trusted heroes and adults. Each year, the students will learn new concepts and strategies for keeping their bodies safe.

MPAC: Stronger Together Multicultural Celebration

Join us on **Friday, October 16th** from 6:00-8:00 pm for this fun-filled family event held at Prairieview School.

Hosted by the Multilingual Department of CCSD 46, MPAC: Stronger Together celebrates our community's rich diversity and strengthens the bonds between families and schools. This evening will include fun activities for students and valuable resources for parents.

Please be sure to visit the webpage to register for the event: https://bit.ly/MPAC-Together

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CONSOLIDATED ELECTION: April 6, 2027

Tuesday, August 25, 2026 is the first day to circulate nomination papers for those interested in running for the Board of Education in the 2027 Consolidated Election. The election will be held on April 6, 2027. Nominating petition forms and Statements of Candidacy are now available from the Lake County Clerk. Petitions may be circulated from August 25 - November 23, 2026. The filing period is November 16-23, 2026. All documents including political maps, petition packets, and more are available on the Lake County website.

Circulation period and filing information for the 2027 Elections are available in the 2027 Candidate's Guide and the 2027 Election Campaign and Finance Calendar published by the Illinois State Board of Elections. Other information, as well as suggested forms, is also available on the Illinois State Board of Elections website. The Illinois Association of School Boards also provides helpful information for people considering running for the Board of Education, including:

- 2027 Candidates Guide (downloadable PDF)
- How School Boards Work
- A School Board Member's Approach to the Job
- School Board Candidate Qualifications

LAKE COUNTY DIGITAL GROWTH INITIATIVE

Last year, Lake County launched the Digital Growth Initiative, a program that aims to close the digital divide among residents. The digital divide is the gap between residents with access and skills to use reliable high-speed internet and technology and those without. As you may know, many Lake County families struggle to access reliable internet and technology, which makes it difficult to access online assignments, remote work and respond to email updates from school staff and admin.

The DGI has many programs, including basic computer skills workshops and one-on-one digital support with trained Digital Navigators. Please visit the Digital Growth Initiative website for more information. Handy postcards with QR Codes and other contact information are shown below and are also available in school offices for those who would like to have a physical card.

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COMMUNICATIONS: ParentSquare Account Activation

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

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

WELCOME TO MEADOWVIEW: New Mascot Meadow the Mustang

Meadowview School introduced its newest family member at an all-school assembly on September 25th. Students thought they were just finding out the name of the mascot, but they were in for quite a surprise when the new Mustang peeked out from behind the curtain!

Students also learned that they chose Meadow over the other options: Ford, Millie, and Marty.

Welcome to the Meadowview family, MEADOW!

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: October 7 | October 21 | November 4
All meetings are held at Frederick School, 595 Frederick Road, Grayslake.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING: September 16, 2026

The CCSD 46 Public Budget Hearing meeting was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, in the Falcon Room in Frederick School. The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Mack at 6:00 pm. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and the approval of the Budget Hearing Agenda, Mr. Scott Wold, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, presented the 2026-2027 Budget.

Mr. Wold noted that the budget will be brought forward as an action item at the regular Board meeting following the Budget Hearing. The Board reviewed the budget timetable, including the public display of the Tentative Budget from August 13 through September 16, the adoption of the FY 2027 Final Budget on September 16, and the requirement to file the adopted budget by September 30. The presentation included a review of District fund balances, expected revenues, and anticipated expenditures. The Board reviewed the District's 2026–2027 Annual Budget, including cash reserves for all funds and operating funds, operating revenues, Evidence-Based Funding (EBF), and summaries of revenues and expenditures.

The Board discussed the impact of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) on District revenues. Lake County is subject to PTELL, which limits increases to the lesser of 5% or the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from the preceding year, plus an additional amount for new property. The presentation noted that the cap applies to the total amount of money received by the District and does not cap individual property tax bills or assessments. The District expects the CPI to be 2.7% for the current year.

The Board reviewed the Tentative Operating Budget Summary for FY 2026–2027. Total operating expenditures are projected at $77,236,976, with total operating revenues of $73,602,418, resulting in a projected operating fund deficit of $3,598,883.

The Administration also reviewed budgetary considerations, noting that expenditures are expected to continue to increase due to the current economic environment, contractual agreements, and inflation. The District will continue to review its long-term facilities plans and update the related timeline as needed.

The full presentation is included in the Board Packet. The Public Budget Hearing was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

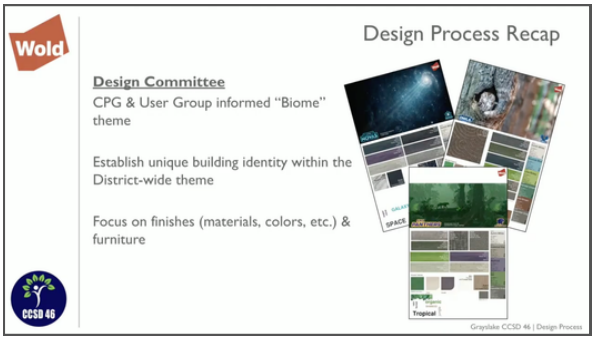
CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

GENERAL MEETING: September 16, 2026

The CCSD 46 Board of Education held a general meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, in the Falcon Room in Frederick School.

President Stephen Mack called the meeting to order at 6:15 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. No comments were made.

The meeting began with a presentation by Wold Architects and Engineers on the District's Media Center renovations. The presentation included a review of the Summer 2026 projects, feedback received from students, staff, and parents, lessons learned during construction, and a preview of the Summer 2027 Phase II projects.



The Board viewed images of the completed Summer 2026 Media Center renovations at Meadowview School, Prairieview School, Frederick School, and Park Campus. Feedback from students, staff, and parents was shared, with positive comments regarding the updated spaces, increased functionality, creative designs, lighting, flexible furniture, and areas designed to support student learning and collaboration. Lessons learned from the Summer 2026 projects included electrical distribution at the bottom of panels, NanaWall support conflicts, and challenges with furniture delivery and installation.

The design process for the Summer 2027 projects was reviewed. The Core Planning Group (CPG) established guiding principles and design criteria focused on adjacencies, functionality, student age, and consistency across the District. The User Group solicited input from staff and students to confirm details for each area and to provide staff with ownership in the design process. The Design Committee incorporated the District-wide "Biome" theme while establishing a unique identity for each building and focusing on finishes, materials, colors, and furniture.

Final building designs were presented for Avon Center School, Woodview School, and Grayslake Middle School. The proposed themes include "Space" at Avon Center School, "Woods" at Woodview School, and "Tropical" at Grayslake Middle School.

CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board reviewed the budget update for the Media Center renovations. The pre-design construction cost budget was $3,125,075, consisting of $2,279,800 for Media Center renovations and $845,275 for the Long-Range Facility Plan scope. The 100% Design Development estimate is $3,063,315 in estimated construction costs. Potential value engineering and alternates include reusing existing acoustic panels at Grayslake Middle School, reducing two tall “trees” at Woodview School, and omitting wall furring.

The anticipated schedule was also reviewed. Final design and owner review are scheduled for September 2026, followed by construction manager bid package development and the bidding period in October. Bid opening and Board award are anticipated in November 2026, with Phase II Media Center construction scheduled for Summer 2027.

The Board and Superintendent reports were then presented.

Mr. Jim Weidman shared some community updates. He reported that the Village of Round Lake is considering adjustments to its impact fees, which could potentially affect the District as additional residential subdivisions are developed. He also shared that the Grayslake Historical Society is hosting a presentation and display highlighting the history of the Grayslake Fire Department.

Mrs. Kristy Miller shared several reminders including that the next Dine & Share benefitting 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. Mrs. Miller recognized Leslie Armstrong, Communications Coordinator, for her assistance in creating shared organizational tools for the Community Engagement Committee and Foundation 46.

Mrs. Kristy Braden attended the first Portrait of a Learner meeting on Tuesday, September 8. She shared that it was a productive meeting and that she appreciated seeing the students actively involved in the process. She also enjoyed the opportunity to see the newly updated Media Center at Meadowview School.

Mrs. Hillary Halverson discussed an exciting project at Grayslake Middle School, the Local Author Initiative, designed to inspire lifelong readers and writers. Julie Wilkins, 7th-grade ELA Teacher, and Jennifer Everett, 7th-grade reading specialist and President of Foundation 46, lead the project. A Foundation 46 grant funded nine local authors to speak with 7th-grade students about their experiences as authors and the writing process. Mrs. Halverson, who is also a local author, generously volunteered her time and donated books to support the initiative. Mrs. Halverson did not receive any compensation for her participation.

Dr. Stephen Mack reminded the Board of Education about the Illinois Association of School Boards Lake Division Meeting on Wednesday, October 14.

Dr. Alfonso Carmona highlighted the strong start to the school year and shared that a key driver has been the District's intentional focus on standards alignment through professional development. He noted that this work provides a clear foundation for instructional planning and supports student growth.

Dr. Carmona shared that the District held its first Portrait of a Learner committee meeting on September 8, with the first Strategic Plan committee meeting scheduled for September 17. These committees bring together stakeholders from across the District, including parents, students, staff, community members, and administrators.

Dr. Carmona explained that the Portrait of a Learner process will help define what the District wants every CCSD 46 graduate to know and be able to do. He emphasized the importance of student voice, noting that students bring a perspective that adults cannot replicate and that their input will strengthen both the Portrait of a Learner and Strategic Planning processes.

Dr. Carmona looks forward to sharing additional information with the Board and community as this work progresses over the coming months. Additional information is available on the District's website.

Mrs. Amy Gluck, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, provided an update on the first professional learning half-day held on Wednesday, September 9. K–4 staff met to collaborate on grade-level standards, while grades 5–8 staff engaged in collaborative work focused on their respective content areas.

Mrs. Gluck also discussed the District's E-Learning Public Hearing held on September 17. One individual attended the public hearing. Mrs. Gluck explained the purpose of the District's E-Learning Plan and the circumstances under which it may be utilized. The State of Illinois provides guidance regarding the use of e-learning plans during emergency days, such as snow days, inclement weather, or power or water issues. The plan allows the District to use up to five e-learning days in lieu of making up emergency days at the end of the school year, at the Superintendent's discretion.

The following questions were asked during the public hearing:

- Does Illinois count the number of hours students are in school or the number of days? Mrs. Gluck explained that Illinois counts the number of days students are in session, and that the District must be in session for a required number of days.
- Is this plan a continuation of the District's existing E-Learning Plan? Mrs. Gluck confirmed that it is a continuation of the District's existing plan.

Mrs. Gluck reviewed the requirements the District must meet to use e-learning days as emergency days. These include holding a properly noticed public hearing, obtaining Board approval of an E-Learning Plan for a three-year term, and receiving verification from the Regional Office of Education.

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

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

- Motion to approve the 2026-2027 Budget as presented
  Approved 6-0

- Motion to approve the FY26 EIS Compensation Report
  Approved 6-0

- Motion to approve the FY26 IMRF Compensation Report
  Approved 6-0

- Motion to approve the E-Learning Plan for 2026-2029
  Approved 6-0

- Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for PSRP Regarding Bereavement Leave
  Approved 6-0

- Motion to approve Board Policies 122
  The Policy Committee recommended two changes to the existing Board Policies:
  - Policy 7:130 - Student Rights and Responsibilities: Recommended adding the words “For example” to the second paragraph.
  - Policy 8:100 - Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies: Recommended replacing the word “shall” with “may” in the first paragraph and adding “taxing bodies and nonprofit organizations.”

  The board agreed to these changes.
  Approved 6-0

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

- None

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

- None

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 7:02 p.m.

The next scheduled Board of Education general meeting on October 7, 2026, will be held at 6:00 p.m. and live-streamed online. Please visit d46.org/board-of-education for more information.

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