

JULY 17, 2025 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

CALLED TO ORDER

Mr. Gildea: Called Board of Education meeting to order at 6:34.

OPENING CEREMONIES

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Mr. Gildea: Karla Malerba, Kim Tovar, Jim Gildea; Melissa Mongillo; Dan Foley.

Ken Marcucio, absent, Ivey Speight, absent, Erica Nuzzo, absent; Rebecca O’Hara, absent.

We have a quorum. We can conduct business.

Also Present:

Dr. Matthew Conway, Superintendent of Schools.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Motion that the Board of Education that we add the election of a replacement secretary to the agenda. Passed with a motion made by Mr. Jim Gildea and a second by Ms. Karla Malerba.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Karla Malerba	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent
Erica Nuzzo	Absent
Rebecca O’Hara	Absent

Mr. Gildea: Motion add the election of replacement secretary.

Ms. Malerba: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries.

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 5:34 pm, Aug 14, 2025

PUBLIC PORTION

Mr. Gildea: Anyone wish to speak before the Derby Board of Education this evening? Anyone, twice? Anyone wish to speak before the Derby Board of Education, going three times.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Gildea: I'd like to suggest we withhold the Executive Session. There's seven hirers and a number of them are internal transfers. Without objection, we could skip the Executive Session and move into item number four, appointment of new hires.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW HIRES

I'd like to make a recommendation that the Board of Education approve the appointment list of new hires as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Karla Malerba.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Karla Malerba	Yes
Kimberly Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent
Erica Nuzzo	Absent
Rebecca O'Hara	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Make a motion.

Ms. Malerba: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries. Congratulations.

Ms. Moffat: Welcoming and introducing Coach Francisco Salazar as the Boys Head Soccer Coach. Also welcoming and introducing Coach Max Salazar as the Assistant Girls Soccer Coach.

Dr. Conway: Welcoming and introduction Bill Serrano, just retired as a Sargent from the Shelton Police Department this past June Applied for our SSO position that opened up. Assigned to the High School.

Mr. Serrano: Very excited to be here.

Mr. Gildea: Excited to have you. Thank you.

Dr. Conway: Ask Nicole to introduce Madison.

Ms. Giardini: Introducing and welcoming Madison Patkoske back to Bradley School and she will be teaching the first-grade position.

Dr. Conway: Nicole will now introduce Micaela Scelza.

Ms. Giardini: Introducing and welcoming Micaela Scelza as our Multilingual Language Academic tutor at Bradley School.

Mr. Gildea: Madison and Micaela, on behalf of the Board of Education, we welcome you. And thank you so much.

ELECTION OF REPLACEMENT SECRETARY

Motion the Board of Education to nominate Kim Tovar for replacement secretary to serve until the end of the term. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Karla Malerba and a second by Ms. Melissa Mongillo.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Karla Malerba	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent
Erica Nuzzo	Absent
Rebecca O'Hara	Absent

Mr. Gildea: Any other nominations? Any other nominations? Any other nominations?

Ms. Malerba: Making motion for Kim Tovar to be secretary.

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Ms. Mongillo: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Nominations be closed.

Ms. Malerba: Move to close.

Ms. Mongillo; Second.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Conway: We met yesterday to review 2025 surplus. And basically, just tracking when we initially reported the 408,000. Now the end of year spenddown with invoices still coming in. We have a balance of 187,000. Depending upon what other invoices come in, that's actually up yesterday by 20 grand. They're about 167,000 yesterday. But invoices that previously been encumbered, either cancelled or we know that those items that invoice is no longer outstanding. Again, invoices come in, we'll pay it down.

NEGOTIATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Ms. Mongillo: We have had several meetings to negotiate the DEA contract. We have several more coming up. We have our schedule set through the beginning of September for those meetings. And we start our negotiations for the nurse's contract next week. That is it.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND POLICY

Ms. Malerba: I'm on that Committee but I don't have any information.

Mr. Gildea: I don't think we've met. Try to get that going. Okay.

Ms. Malerba: Uniforms are good.

ACADEMIC AND CURRICULUM

Mr. Gildea: We haven't had a meeting.

PLANTS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Mr. Foley: Jim, can you speak up. I can't hear you?

Mr. Gildea: Sorry, you're up, sir. Plants and Facilities Committee report.

Mr. Foley: Thank you. We met tonight. First of all, about the playground. We had some problems with the construction company. There was some difficulty with family and therefore, they could not donate their time. So, we moved to have the Board of Education

to share half the cost with the City for implementation of the playground equipment and everything seems to be going well on that.

Secondly, Jim Hoffman brought up the information about the software. And it would be to our benefit to use the new software to implement any problems with the facility. And we made that motion to collaborate with the Board. And basically, that's it for tonight.

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Ms. Tovar: We did not meet this month. We plan to meet at some point next month.

STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mr. Gildea: We have a number of expulsion hearings scheduled for August.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS REPORT

Dr. Conway: You have my report. Had my normal meetings took place this past month both in District and outside of District with CAPPs. We are doing a special project with the leadership reading implementation council. The current K3 Science and Reading Program we are looking to extend that. That'll be over the summer months. We have several dates, a small number on that Committee that are putting that money through that. So, it's kind of exciting to be a part of that. Any questions.

Mr. Gildea: No. Thank you.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

FACILITIES REPORT

Mr. Hoffman: Introducing and welcoming Pedro Querales Perez. Very strong work ethics and we're glad to have him on board.

Mr. Gildea: Welcome, congratulations.

Mr. Hoffman: Project at Bradley is the Playground. Playground boss was awarded the contract. Equipment is on order. Looking at next Thursday we'll be on site. As of right now, we're 8/11 to 8/15 install.

Irving solar update. Converter number six wasn't communicating. Vanguard came out with JCI. Replaced the bill board. It's now back online communicating with the system.

The air conditioning at the Nurses Office at Irving School we have to replace it. It's got a mini split. It was not part of the upgrade in 2019. A York one and a half ton cooling heat pump is ordered to replace it. It's going to cost us about \$3,200 for us to install in-house. The quote we got was saving us five grand if we install it in-house.

DMS, chiller update. Blizzard Mechanical awarded the repairs of the chilled water piping. Work is scheduled to begin 7/28. It's saying three to six days to complete it. This is step one in replacing the chiller. After these repairs, we will be able to hook up a temporary rented chiller to verify the piping and the flow works.

Ms. Tovar: Do we know about how long you should know in the interim before we determine like yes. This is exactly what it is.

Mr. Hoffman: I would say, yes. We would know within 24 hours if it's going to work. Because we would be going cycling on head pressure and flow issues.

Mr. Gildea: When are you going to have the valve work done again.

Mr. Hoffman: The 28th it's schedule.

Mr. Gildea: So, it will still be warm enough to.

Mr. Hoffman: Yes. Blizzard does recommend at least two months' rental before we put in a huge commitment on a chiller.

Mr. Hoffman: DHS, units installed, 101, 116, 119, 120, 121, 122 done. We're ordering a second batch and those are going to go in G08, G7, G9, G10 and G11. So, it's going to regulate a lot of the temperatures.

District-wide, we have the life safety inspections going on for fire system, sprinkler systems, extinguishers.

Mr. Gildea: For the units installed, where did we get the money for that?

Mr. Hoffman: Out of general budget.

Mr. Gildea: And how much is one of those?

Mr. Hoffman: The wall sleeves, just with equipment, \$880.00. We've been doing them in-house.

Mr. Gildea: Thank you.

Mr. Hoffman: They're coming out nice. They look good. They're functioning, which is good.

The five-year radon testing is scheduled for the end of this month and the first week in August.

And then the summer ongoing live projects, you guys can check that to see the status ongoing. Any questions.

Mr. Gildea: All right. Thank you.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Dr. Rafferty: I went through these four with Dr. Conway this morning but I added a fifth. We had our end of the year Alliance monitoring meeting. They give us driving questions to go through. But just a couple of things to highlight for you. You know, we made changes of the way we looked at student progress and student growth. We're seeing initial growth in ELA. We looked more closely at the middle school because we are a commissioner's network school. But we're seeing positive inroads there. We are making changes into math to try to unify supports growth and professional development. So, we're looking forward to that.

The other highlight that we noticed initially, is our attendance. Our attendance is improving. And they've noticed those two things. And I put this up there as a way to remind you the scores have not been publicly released and we will do a deep dive every fall. We'll do an achievement update for us in ELA and math like we've done the last few years. So, I just wanted to put that up there to tell you that's coming.

The second thing I want to highlight for you, a lot of the core things are done in terms of curriculum. And I've been trying to work on the electives. Jen Olson and I are trying to develop the curriculum maps for the electives. So, I put in there a sample for you to look at. We did a draft of the psychology curriculum, which is actually an elective. It's a semester long course in the social studies department or as the State would call it a humanities course. So, I just give you an inroads into that. The process we've used has changed a little bit that we do a draft first. I spent a lot of time cross-referencing and organizing resources, making sure the standards all line up. And then we bring it to teachers and then they make edits and changes. And they weigh in. So, Jen and I are working on that to fill all those things in.

The third thing on the bottom left there is, I have been working studiously to become a power school expert, which by the way, my role, I never use. But I've spent time learning how to code and then how to develop a new report card. I have a meeting next week where we're going to run our first test. If I started it in the middle of the year, it would have created havoc for parents as I started playing around with report cards. So, now that no ones, using it or entering grades, it's a perfect time to do that. So, I hope to have it done by the August meeting. Most of it is in place, probably about 75 percent of it done. It's going to be great. It's going to be so much better. It's just going to be for elementary first. Because elementary reports cards are much easier to convert. Because we really want to get parents, we work with teachers and parents and focus groups. They just look at, how is my kid a reader, a writer, a mathematician.

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When we talk to parents about it we just say, in a way, you can think about it in like high school or college. You get a GPA. When we work with focus groups and parents, you know, it's not my report card. Guys, do you want an honor roll in elementary school. Most, yes we do. Well, that's easy enough to accomplish. What it will do is, the report card will stay the same grade after grade. So, it will tell you how is my child doing on foundational skills and reading. That will be the same every year. The mistake, most school districts put in the past, they put all standards, which is great for teachers, not great for parents. Parents don't always understand what they mean. Like using algebraic reasoning in quantities that are, you know, deconstructible but parents don't know what that is.

But we came to know what that is. So, we changed it to add, subtract and multiply. So, teachers, when I work with them, it is not for you. It is for the parents. I know we have much better focus groups are clear on that. We can even change them back to letters. I just think at least with the parents, when we work through it, the numbers are less important than what we say the number is. So, there's descriptors where we're hoping that as parents pay attention to the descriptor and not the number. The middle school and high school are much more -- the high school is almost impossible to change because you need a GPA that allows you to apply for high school.

We started the conversation at middle school, didn't go great because it's very hard for people to conceive that. But our plan is, after the elementary rolls out, push it into the middle school, and see what would, especially from the parents, would they like to see it rolled up into middle school as the way they saw it in elementary. Because as you might imagine, people will split. They are comfortable, A's, B's and C's. That makes sense to them. The reason we changed it in the elementary is we want it less to be about getting grades and more to focus on what you're doing as a reader, writer, mathematician. So, for all intents and purposes, focus on the basics as opposed to, I got a B. And so, we want to change that conversation. It's hard to have that conversation with middle school teachers because they think they can't go to high school unless you could say they're a B student. So, more to come on that.

We did some work in the spring working with some high school students and the guidance department and we've made a new map for advisory with a four-year goal setting process with a gentleman who has done this in other schools and districts. So, the initial ask from the high school was, you know, we'd like to have something clearer spelled out in advisory. So, I have drafts that I've created for 9th, 10th and 11th grades. Because we want students thinking about is, we don't want them to be waking up as juniors and seniors, and say, you know, I'd like to be a nurse or they haven't thought about before that. Because we want them to think like, well you should take more of these math and science classes in high

school. And we should try to set you up with community partners who could help you realize not only how to get that goal, but whether you actually want to do that.

And the last one is that we have been working on in the background, we've created a link off the website that has a family connection. As you might imagine, especially with AI and other things, there's lots of things to worry about with AI. But Khan Academy (phonetic) has AI tutoring. If you have to help a kid with algebra, you really shouldn't worry because they have tutors online that don't give kids give them the answers. They give them teaching points to allow them to do it themselves. So, I was saying to Dr. Conway, I don't know if this is happening but having just a static web page is becoming more and more difficult. One, to get people to go to it and two, to have them interact with it.

So, I told them and once Robbie approves the makeup budget, that I'll make a couple of videos to talk people through that. Here's why we want Khan Academy, it has every subject. You want SAT prep, here it is. It's free. It's available all the time. There's built-in tutoring inside it. But we've been kind. We've been curating resources that one, align curriculum resources that we use in district so that they don't go off and do something different. And contradictory to what they've been learning in class. And two, that they're free and easy for parents to sign on. So, Khan Academy, you know, a lot of people have mixed feelings about it because you know it was kind of boring when it first came out. But they have come a long way. I'd encourage you to, if you want, if your kids get bored just say good, I have something for you.

So, he started the website as a way he made videos for his nephew to get better at math. And they've grown and so, it's really, really easy to use. So, if you have the agenda, I built a link in the Derby family connection. So, if you follow, it starts at kindergarten all the way up. And there's kind of fun activities for parents to do with their kids at home. I put it on the landing page of the district website. So, parents when they land there, of course there's information on summer school if you're looking for the bus route. Right underneath it is, here's a link to resources we believe would be helpful. Anyone can use it, almost all of the links. I built them in elementary and secondary resources. Some resources I put in there because here are the ones on the bottom I'm building. But if you hit the elementary resources Dr. Conway, same would be true for secondary. So, we use illustrative math. There's a whole family support hub. So, during the school year we want parents to take advantage of that same thing for the reading program although that's still in development. So, it's not as robust.

If you scroll down a little bit, there's the whole Khan Academy. You just follow that link, it's very easy to sign up. All they ask for I think is an email and your name. They have built-in tutors. I mean, they are AI tutors, but they're pretty impressive. So, I'm going to try to help

update this throughout the summer. I put the first two because they align with our math and our literacy inside there. And Unite for Literacy is all free books. You can have them read to you in English or Spanish.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Make a motion that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the July 1st, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Karla Malerba.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Karla Malerba	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent
Erica Nuzzo	Absent
Rebecca O’Hara	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Ms. Malerba: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Motion that the Board of Education approve the financial report for the period, June 30th, 2025 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Karla Malerba.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Karla Malerba	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes

Dan Foley	Yes
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent
Erica Nuzzo	Absent
Rebecca O'Hara	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Ms. Malerba: Second.

Mr. Trainor: Updating the Board. So, today, we're going to have a surplus, 181,000. We did meet yesterday with the Finance Committee. We are closing out incumbrances, paying final bills. That number is growing. Some are under budget. Some are over budget. So, we're liquidating that now. So, some of the last big purchase orders came in the last month were from ACES, some Magnet schools. We had facility supplies and equipment. And some invoices from All Star, which dropped that number from the 409,000 to the 181,000 you see in front of you.

Another thing next year there is going to be a new grant program called Seed. That was approved in the most recent legislature. We're still waiting on more details and the logistics of it. But Derby's allocation is going to be about 176,000, which will be used for Special Education costs. So, as more information becomes available, we will look at what costs can be paid for out of this.

We did not anticipate having priority school districts grant next year. It's attached to our Alliance grant. When I went in to start the application for the Alliance grant and noticed that PST had an amount in there. So, we called the State, the head of the State, Kevin Chambers, he said nope, it's good, you're getting that. So, that is huge for us. We are in the process now of shifting costs and moving some of these financial puzzle pieces around to allocate that. This past year, we had 815,000. In November or December we had gotten us a call and they had mistakenly given us the full 815,000. And we were only getting 536,000, which we had already encumbered most of it.

Mr. Gildea: 413,854 was not anticipated. You said we entered zero. So, we made our budget adjustments. We were not factoring this in there. So, we have the 413,854 plus the 176,138 we weren't counting that. Plus the 159,000 in year two. Plus the 141,000 in the special education.

Dr. Conway: Remember we did budget two extra out placements. We have reached that. As of today we have 24.

Ms. Mongillo: Jim, I can't hear you now.

Mr. Gildea: I was clarifying the 408,000 that we thought we had set aside is now 181,000. But we did get the 176,138 in special ed. And we did get the priority district grant at 413,854.

Dr. Conway: I still have to get information from Department of Social Services to apply for temporary family assistance grant funds. In addition to that reached out to Team and go to Team for assistance with that.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries.

BRADLEY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

Motion that the Board of Education approve the additional funding for the Bradley School Playground as recommended by the Finance and Plants and Facilities Committee. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Karla Malerba	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent
Erica Nuzzo	Absent
Rebecca O'Hara	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Mr. Foley: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Quick overview.

Mr. Trainor: So, the total cost of the playground is 158,000 and change. With the Lazowski fundraising efforts yielded 28,000 and change. So, the total between the Board of Ed and the City was \$129,789. We split that out evenly \$64,894.67 per entity. The City has transferred us those funds. We have those funds ready to go. And then the Board of Ed

paying that through various different accounts that we will journal entry funds to and from. So, what I propose is taking money from each of these accounts and funding this playground. So, we would just be moving money from repairs and maintenance at the high school, repairs and maintenance at the middle school, repairs and maintenance at Irving. And contracted at all schools in Central Office to account for these funds for this playground.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries. August 11th very exciting day. Thank you for doing the money research. That's good stuff.

FACILITY MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

Motion that the Board of Education make a recommendation approve the Facilities Management Software System as recommended by the Plants and Facilities Committee. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Karla Malerba.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Karla Malerba	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent
Erica Nuzzo	Absent
Rebecca O'Hara	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Ms. Malerba: Second.

Mr. Gildea: It's in our Board packet. Did you guys recommend it.

Mr. Foley: Yes, we did.

Mr. Gildea: Yes, I'm very familiar with it. Data entry put all our equipment into there.

Mr. Hoffman: Correct. They input it.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries.

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ADJOURN

Motion the Board of Education adjourn its meeting at 7:31. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Karla Malerba.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Karla Malerba	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent
Erica Nuzzo	Absent
Rebecca O'Hara	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Adjourn at 7:31.

Ms. Malerba: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries.

Marianne Samokar

Recording Secretary