

SCOPE Council Meeting

May 4, 2026

Rescheduled April Meeting

ZOOM

1:00 PM

Jen Figurelli, Executive Director

Agenda

- Call to Order- SCOPE Co-Chair
 - Executive Director's Report
 - Session Update
 - Organization Update
 - FY27 Proposed Dues
 - FY27 Proposed Budget
 - FY27 Proposed Council Meeting Dates
 - Executive Board Slate
 - Member Concerns
 - Adjourn

Executive Director's Report

SB2914 Notice to Remedy

- Met with Representative Moeller on Monday 4/27
- We met with multiple House members and they understand our concerns.
- We will be sending out a Call to Action to file Witness Slips in **OPPOSITION** of SB2914
 - Bill will be heard in the Elementary & Secondary Education: Administration, Licensing & Charter Schools committee on **Wednesday 5/6 at 2:00PM**

SB2914 Notice to Remedy

WHAT SB2914 DOES & WHY IT'S PROBLEMATIC

SB 2914 inserts binding arbitration at Step 2 — before any dismissal has been sought. Here is what that means in practice:

- **No defined standard.** The arbitrator's standard of review is undefined — the bill does not say what the arbitrator is deciding, what remedy they can order, or what happens to the underlying performance concern.
- **Redundant process.** It duplicates protections that already exist adding cost and delay before the process has even reached the disciplinary stage.
- **Unaccountable decision-making.** An outside arbitrator with no accountability to the local community makes a binding decision; displacing the elected school board.
- **Real costs to districts.** Each proceeding requires legal fees, arbitration costs, and months of administrative time, before any dismissal has occurred.
- **Operational paralysis.** During arbitration, it is unclear whether the district can continue monitoring or acting on the performance concern.

SB2914

Notice to Remedy

Introduced Bill	Senate Amendment 1	Differences
<p>Grievance Allows teachers to grieve the issuance of a notice of remedial warning, “pursuant to the CBA,” to determine just cause for the warning.</p>	<p>Arbitration If the teacher disagrees with the final action of the board, they may take the warning to binding arbitration.</p> <p>The arbitrator shall have the power to render a decision on the written warning, which shall be final and binding on both parties.</p>	<p>Grievance was never an appropriate path. A written warning for misconduct is not a management violation of the CBA.</p> <p><u>Arbitration language was included in the amendment without negotiating with school management</u> and does not address any opportunity to mediate; a common step before arbitration in other scenarios.</p>

SB2914

Notice to Remedy

Introduced Bill	Senate Amendment 1	Differences
	<p>Due Process Before BOE Teachers may request and be granted opportunity to respond to findings in warning, either in person or in writing, prior to the board's formal vote to approve the warning.</p>	<p>Providing a teacher the opportunity to address the BOE prior to the formal vote was a suggestion from school management, in lieu of 3rd party involvement.</p>
<p>Warning Details The written warning must narrowly specify the nature of alleged misconduct to be remedied.</p>	<p>Warning Details The written warning must specify the nature of alleged misconduct to be remedied.</p>	<p>“Narrowly” was removed from how the warnings need to be written.</p> <p>School management compromised on requiring notices to be specific.</p>

SB2914

Notice to Remedy

Introduced Bill	Senate Amendment 1	Differences
<p>Pattern of Behavior Nothing prevents a board from alleging the conduct is part of an alleged pattern of behavior.</p>	<p>Pattern of Behavior Nothing prevents a board from alleging the conduct is part of an alleged pattern of behavior.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Subsequent Actions Original warning or subsequent actions must be reasonably related to the specific alleged conduct.</p>	<p>Subsequent Actions Subsequent actions must be reasonably related to the specific alleged conduct.</p>	<p>Referencing “original warning” related to the specific conduct was removed, but it is unclear why it was referenced initially. An “original warning” would certainly be related to specific behavior, unless IEA is referencing previous progressive warnings that lead up to a Notice of Remedial Warning. “Nothing in this Section precludes a board from asserting that the specific conduct alleged in the original warning is part of an alleged pattern of behavior, but the original warning...must be reasonably related to the specific conduct alleged.”</p>

SB2914

Notice to Remedy

Introduced Bill	Senate Amendment 1	Differences
<p>Warning Removal from File Warnings may not be effective for longer than 4 years from the date of issuance. School district must remove the warning from the teacher's file after 4 years or sooner if agreed in CBA</p> <p>*Warning Removal Exemption Warnings as a result of a violation of Faith's Law (22-85.5 School Code) are not required to be removed after 4 years.</p>	<p>Warning Removal from File & Exemptions Removed</p>	<p>School management offered language to codify a process for removal of warnings, with the exception of violations of Faith's Law, but that language was not accepted by the IEA.</p> <p>Instead, the 4-year removal language was deleted in the amendment, along with any protections that would have existed for maintaining Faith's Law violations in a teacher's personnel file.</p> <p>Allowing an arbitrator to negate and erase any warning the teacher disagrees with accomplishes the same goal; removing damaging information from a personnel file that could illustrate a teacher's pattern of misconduct and erasing any history of misconduct harmful to students.</p>

SB2914 Notice to Remedy

Issues with Arbitration

- 1.If an arbitrator determines that a board-approved warning is invalid, the warning and any records related to this behavior may be ordered to be deleted from a teacher's personnel record, **putting future students at risk**. Without this accountability, misconduct behaviors are allowed to continue or escalate, including grooming behavior, boundary violations, physical abuse, educational malfeasance, educational negligence, violations of IEPs, 504 Plans, or violation of other State and Federal laws.
- 2.As opposed to ISBE-trained hearing officers for dismissal challenges, arbitrators have no such training, and are not allowed to exempt witnesses under age 18 to avoid re-traumatization.

SB2914 provides no exceptions for challenging alleged sexual misconduct as a violation of Faith's Law.

The bill would allow an arbitrator's decision to invalidate the vote of a duly elected board of education, Title IX investigations, or any other investigations into the misconduct regardless of the alleged behavior.

There is no special or separate dismissal process for alleged sexual misconduct.

Faith's Law only states that violations of professional codes of conduct "**may subject an employee to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from employment.**" Dismissal is not automatic, nor is it guaranteed to be upheld by a hearing officer if challenged.

World Language Update

At the request of the Leader, Jen is meeting with her and ISBE next week to discuss next steps.

SB3503 (Sen Porfirio) Food Service Contracts

- Organic Life is back, well sort of.....
- Senator Porfirio has reignited this issue in the Senate by assigning it to the Senate Executive Committee.
- We have highlighted this for Senate Leadership and a number of school districts have reached out to Porfirio already.
- ***Status: Has not been assigned to a committee***

SB3669 (Sen Johnson) Multi Tier System Report

- According to the Proponents the intent of the legislation is to move the MTSS in statute from the Special Education section of code to the regular education section of school code.
- That is not how we read the legislation:
 - Requires the districts to create an MTSS plan
 - Codifies into statute that districts will have to provide MTSS for both academic and emotional supports
 - We are unclear how this will impact every student in your districts
- ***Status: The sponsor has agreed to continue to work with us and committed to hold on 2nd until agreement is reached***

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Mandate Reduction Council

SCOPE approved the appointment of Jen Figurelli to the council. Jen sits on the Assessment Health and Safety Subcommittee.

- We have had two meetings. ISBE has identified hundreds of mandates for review.
- Feedback needed to help inform necessity of the following mandates:
 - Grade Point Average Minimum to qualify to play sports
 - PE testing:
 - Do you or your staff ever review the data collected by the tests captured in grades 5, 7, and 9?
 - Safety Drills:
 - Do we need a total of 3 fire drills per year?
 - 1 bus drill
 - 1 severe weather drill
 - 1 active shooter drill
 - Unpaid balances
 - There is discussion about recommending that guardrails be put in place so districts can recover lost fees from families with the means to pay.

Senate Education Committee

Senate Education Committee Agreed Bill List

All Placed on Calendar order of 2nd Reading

HB4239: High School Course Credit (Sen Ellman)

Authorizes school boards with grades 9–12 to allow eligible 7th- and 8th-grade students to enroll in required high school courses, as long as the course is offered by the high school they will attend and is taught by a properly licensed and endorsed teacher.

HB4859: Unused Food Sharing (Sen Ellman)

Allows a school district to comply with provisions concerning school unused food sharing plans by implementing a share table. Provides that the school district may develop and follow a policy on standard operating procedures for share tables. Effective August 1, 2027.

Senate Education Committee Agreed Bill List

All Placed on Calendar order of 2nd Reading

HB4375: Interfund Transfers (Sen Belt)

Extends the time period during which a school district other than the Chicago school district may transfer money from specified funds for any purpose from June 30, 2026 to June 30, 2029. Effective immediately.

HB3860: Deactivate School Contract (Sen Arellano)

The length of a contract between a deactivating school district that is seeking to send its students to more than one district and the receiving district shall be for 4 (rather than 2) school years, but the districts may renew the contract for a length of time that is mutually agreed upon by the districts (rather than for additional one-year or 2-year periods).

Bills Heard in Senate Education Committee

House Bills on Second Reading

HB3743: Railroad safety (Sen Glowiak Hilton)

All K–12 schools to include railroad safety information in their parent-student handbooks. This is not a curriculum mandate, and no instructional changes are required.

HB4536: Sup Institute Trauma (Sen Feigenholtz)

Makes updates to the definitions of “trauma” and “trauma-responsive learning environments” and clarifies that required trauma-informed training before the first student attendance day must include an understanding that trauma can be ongoing, relational, and expressed developmentally over time. Effective immediately.

HB4137: Homeless Child Prevention (Sen Villa)

Allows school districts to cover extended motel stays for students experiencing homelessness, ensuring they can remain in their school communities. While districts can currently assist with rent or mortgage payments, they are not permitted to pay for motel rooms; this change aligns state law with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Senate Appropriations

Subject Matter Hearing

Senate Appropriations- Education

ISBE presented its FY27 budget request, highlighting overall increases in education funding despite technical shifts from the Early Childhood Block Grant transition.

Key Funding Items:

- \$350M increase to Evidence-Based Funding (EBF), including \$300M Tier funding and up to \$50M for Property Tax Relief Grants.
- Transportation costs continue to outpace funding, with statewide costs doubling since FY22 and an estimated \$625M+ gap to fully fund all transportation lines.
- CTE funding increased 10%, supporting programs serving nearly half of Illinois high school students.

Operational Issues Raised:

- Districts continue to face delays in EBF Tier designation, with data not finalized until August.
- After-school GRF funds from FY25 were never released due to lack of legislative direction; FY26 funds must be spent by Aug 31 per statute.
- Legislators raised concerns about shortages in school psychologists, rising special education costs, and long-term transportation sustainability.

Other:

- No current appropriations for school construction grants, though maintenance funds remain active.

FY27 Organizational Updates

- FY27 Proposed Dues
- FY27 Proposed Budget
- FY27 Proposed Council Meeting Dates
- Executive Board Slate

FY27 Proposed Dues (Held Flat)

District	Dues
ISC 4	\$500.00
SPEED	\$500.00
Eisenhower Cooperative	\$500.00
AERO	\$500.00
SWCCASE	\$500.00
ECHO	\$500.00
Patton 133	\$2,000.00
Ford Heights 169	\$2,000.00
Sandridge 172	\$2,000.00
Lincoln 156	\$2,000.00
West Harvey-Dixmoor 147	\$2,000.00
Community Consolidated 168	\$2,000.00
Harvey 152	\$2,000.00
Park Forest 163	\$2,000.00
Dolton West 148	\$2,000.00
Chicago Heights 170	\$2,000.00
Burnham 154.5	\$2,500.00
Willow Springs 108	\$2,500.00
Hoover Schrum 157	\$2,500.00
Calumet City Dist. 155	\$2,500.00
Worth 127	\$2,500.00
Sunnybrook 171	\$2,500.00
Brookwood 167	\$2,500.00
Arbor 145	\$2,500.00
South Holland 151	\$2,500.00
Chicago Ridge 127.5	\$2,500.00
Forest Ridge 142	\$2,500.00
Midlothian 143	\$2,500.00
Homewood 153	\$2,500.00
Matteson 162	\$2,500.00
Flossmoor 161	\$2,500.00
Indian Springs 109	\$2,500.00
Lansing 158	\$2,500.00

Thornton H.S. 205	\$3,000.00
Central Stickney 110	\$3,000.00
Palos Heights 128	\$3,000.00
Evergreen Park CHSD 231	\$3,000.00
Lemont H.S, 210	\$3,000.00
Steger 194	\$3,000.00
Alsip/Hazelgreen/Oak Lawn 126	\$3,000.00
Elementary 159	\$3,000.00
Evergreen Park 124	\$3,000.00
Argo Community H. S. 217	\$3,000.00
Oak Lawn H. S. Dist 229	\$3,000.00
Reavis H. S. 220	\$3,000.00
Palos 118	\$3,000.00
Ridgeland 122	\$3,000.00
CCSD 146	\$3,000.00
Blue Island/Crestwood 130	\$2,500.00

Hazelcrest 152.5	\$2,500.00
Prairie Hills 144	\$2,500.00
Calumet SD 132	\$2,500.00
Lemont-Bromberek 113a	\$3,000.00
Homewood Flossmoor	\$3,000.00
Bloom H. S. 206	\$3,000.00
North Palos 117	\$3,000.00
Thornton Fractional 215	\$3,000.00
Oak Lawn/Hometown 123	\$3,000.00
Minooka CCSD 201	\$2,500.00
Bremen H. S. 228	\$3,000.00
Orland Park 135	\$3,000.00
Community Consolidated H. S. 218	\$3,000.00
Lincoln Way CHSD 210	\$3,000.00
Consolidated H. S. 230	\$3,000.00

FY27 Proposed Budget

Line Item	Estimated	Proposed	Proposed
	1.31.26	2026	2027
INCOME			
Dues		\$153,000.00	\$153,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$153,000.00	\$153,000.00	\$153,000.00
EXPENSES			
Contract with Ethechos	\$77,370.00	\$116,055.00	\$122,644.96
Meetings/Host			
Website, Constant Contact, SOS		\$5,565.20	2200
		\$3,365.60	
FY26 Back Pay to Ethechos for FY26 Raise at 2.9 CPI			
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$77,370.00	\$124,985.80	\$124,844.96
Ending Balance 6/30/26	\$11,611.11	\$11,611.11	\$39,624.62
REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$75,630.00	\$28,014.20	\$28,155.04
Proposed Ending 6/30/2027	\$87,241.11	\$39,625.31	\$67,779.66

FY27 Proposed Meeting Dates



Proposed Meeting Dates 2026-2027

All meetings are held the 4th Monday at 1:00 PM, unless otherwise determined

September 28, 2026 (In person)

October 26, 2026

January 25, 2027

February 22, 2027

March 22, 2027

April 26, 2027

May TBD (In person)

FY27 Executive Board Slate

	PROPOSED SCOPE EXECUTIVE BOARD SLATE	
<i>TERM ENDING IN 2028</i>		
Joe Zotto	Superintendent	Executive Board Member
Pamela Paris	Board Member	Executive Board Member
Brad Sikora	Superintendent	Executive Board Member
<i>TERM ENDING IN 2027</i>		
Linda Peckham Dodge	Board Member	Executive Board Member
Dr. Donna Leak	Superintendent	Executive Board Member
Angela Zajac	Executive Director	SPED/ Ex-Officio
Erica Millhouse	Superintendent	Executive Board Member

Questions

Contact Us

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