

AGENDA ITEM 8A.

**REVIEW OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES
OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING
OF JUNE 26, 2025**

Submitted for: Review – Action to be taken in open session.

Summary: This report includes the minutes of the closed session for the Audit Committee meeting held on June 25, 2026.

Action requested: That the Audit Committee review the minutes of the June 25, 2026, closed session of the Audit Committee for the purpose of approving them and determining that they may be open to the public with action to be taken in the open session.

**MINUTES OF THE CLOSED SESSION OF THE
ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Illinois Student Assistance Commission
3rd Floor, Room 3030
1755 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, IL**

June 25, 2026

11:00 a.m.

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Darryl Arrington, Commissioner, Audit Chair, Audit Committee Member
Elizabeth Lopez, Commissioner, Board Vice Chair, Audit Committee Member
Thomas Dowling, Commissioner, Audit Committee Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Eric Zarnikow, Executive Director
Kishor Desai, Chief Internal Audit Officer
Lisa Murphy-Coveny, General Counsel

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Christine Torres, Account Partner, Crowe
Jose Roa, Office of Auditor General

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Ms. Wandall announced the Audit Committee meeting was in a closed session at 11:17 a.m.

Item 7A. Meeting with External Auditors, Crowe Horwath

External Auditors, Christine Torres with Crowe Horwath, and Jose Roa from Office of Auditor General provided the Committee with a presentation and overview of the upcoming audits to be performed at ISAC and the changes made to the audits at a state and commission level. As part of the overview, they outlined the expected timeline of the audit and resulting communication to the Commission.

Ms. Christine Torres and Jose Roa then exited the closed session meeting.

Item 7B. Review of the Closed Minutes of the April 16, 2026 Audit Committee Meeting

No discussion was held.

Item 7C. Report of Redetermination Regarding Confidentiality, Amendment and Opening of Closed Minutes.

Mr. Zarnikow addressed the amendments to the closed minutes, approving the amended minutes, and opening them to the public. Legal counsel addressed a question, and the committee agreed with discussion.

Item 7D. Report of Destruction of the Closed Meeting Verbatim Record of December 5, 2024.

No discussion was held

Item 7E. Status Update & Discussion of FY26 Audit Findings

Mr. Desai provided the Committee with an overview of the report provided in the closed session agenda book.

Mr. Desai then left the closed session meeting.

Item 7F. Review Internal Audit budget, resource plan and the Chief Internal Audit Officer's compensation for FY27 - Eric Zarnikow

Mr. Zarnikow discussed the Internal Audit budget, resource plan, and compensation request for the Chief Internal Audit Officer. Mr. Zarnikow commented on the work ISAC's Chief Internal Audit Officer manages, his abilities in his position and his strong performance. After some discussion, it was recommended that Mr. Desai receive a 3.5% compensation increase effective as of July 1, 2026 which is consistent with the cost-of-living adjustment other ISAC employees will receive and the State as a whole. Approval of the salary increase will take place in open session.

Chair Arrington, hearing no further questions, asked for a motion to return to open session. Committee Member Lopez **SO MOVED** and Committee Member Dowling seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by a vote of the Audit Committee.

The Committee returned to open session at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Wandall
Secretary to Commission

AGENDA ITEM 9A.

**APPROVAL OF THE CLOSED MINUTES OF THE
JUNE 25, 2026 MEETING & APPROVAL TO OPEN**

Submitted for: Action

Summary: This is a request for approval of the closed minutes reviewed in closed session for the Audit Committee meeting held on June 25, 2026.

Action requested: That the Audit Committee approve the closed minutes of the June 25, 2026, closed session of the Audit Committee and determine that they may be opened to the public.