Midwest Central Community Unit School District #191
Unit Office, 1010 S Washington St, Manito, IL 61546
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 21, 2026 - 6:30 PM

Board Minutes

I. **Call to Order**

II. **Roll Call**

Heather Askins:	Present
Melinda Beebe:	Present
Alyssa Bennett:	Present
Jay Blair:	Present
Scott Dierker:	Present
Amber Schmidt:	Absent
Tara Zaayenga:	Present

III. **Visitors Wishing to Address the Board**

IV. **Consent Agenda**

A. Minutes
   1. Open Meetings - September 16, 2026 and October 6, 2026
   2. Destruction of Closed Meeting Verbatim Records - March 20, 2025 and April 17, 2025

B. Treasurer's Report

C. Payment of Bills

V. **Motion for Consent Agenda**

I move to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll call. This motion, made by Melinda Beebe and seconded by Heather Askins, Passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Heather Askins:	Yea
Melinda Beebe:	Yea
Alyssa Bennett:	Yea
Jay Blair:	Yea
Scott Dierker:	Yea
Amber Schmidt:	Absent
Tara Zaayenga:	Yea

VI. **Reports**

A. FOIA
   1. Lilly - research@illinoispolicy.org
   2. Monica Freaner - Illinois Education Association
   3. Sheri Reid - SmartProcure
   4. Catarina Mascarenhas - Prairie State Wire
   5. Mailee Smith - Illinois Policy Institute

B. Transportation Report

C. Principals

D. Superintendent
1. ISBE Monitoring Letter
2. Doral Renewables Solar Project
3. Principal Appreciation Week
4. Sales Tax Report
5. Construction Update
6. 2026 Governor's Blue Ribbon Schools Awardee

VII. **Business Discussion/Action Items**

A. Personnel Compensation Report

I move to approve the FY26 Personnel Compensation Report as presented. This motion, made by Jay Blair and seconded by Alyssa Bennett, Passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

B. 2026-27 LEA Determination

C. Amended Public School Calendar

I move to approve the amended public school calendar as presented. This motion, made by Heather Askins and seconded by Melinda Beebe, Passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

D. Concussion Management Plan and Oversight Team

I move to approve the concussion management plan and oversight team for 2026-27 as presented. This motion, made by Alyssa Bennett and seconded by Jay Blair, Passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

E. Volley for the Cure Donation

I move to approve a donation to Illinois Cancer Care of $1 from each ticket sold at the October 15, 2026 volleyball game. This motion, made by Jay Blair and seconded by Scott Dierker, Passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

F. School Board Convention Delegate

I move to approve nominating Alyssa Bennett as the Midwest Central delegate for the 2026 school board convention. This motion, made by Heather Askins and seconded by Melinda Beebe, Passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

G. Surplus Property

I move to approve the surplus property list as presented and authorize the superintendent to donate the property as requested. This motion, made by Alyssa Bennett and seconded by Heather Askins, Passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

VIII. **Executive Session to Discuss**

I move to enter into executive session to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1), (2), and (21) at 7:20 PM. Roll call. This motion, made by Heather Askins and seconded by Alyssa Bennett, Passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Heather Askins:	Yea
Melinda Beebe:	Yea
Alyssa Bennett:	Yea
Jay Blair:	Yea
Scott Dierker:	Yea
Amber Schmidt:	Absent
Tara Zaayenga:	Yea

A. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an

employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity; and

B. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2) Collective negotiation matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; and

C. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06 (5 ILCS 120/2.06).

IX. **Departing Executive Session**

I move to depart executive session at 7:29 PM. This motion, made by Jay Blair and seconded by Alyssa Bennett, Passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

X. **Personnel Discussion/Action Items**

A. Hiring

- Brittany Neill - Food Service

I move to approve hiring Brittany Neill as a Food Service worker for the 2026-27 school year. This motion, made by Melinda Beebe and seconded by Jay Blair, Passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

B. Appointments

- Peyton Bernshausen - Middle School Girls Basketball Volunteer (Student)
- Matt Molitor - Bass Fishing Volunteer
- James Geary - Bass Fishing Volunteer
- Rodney Norris - High School Girls Track Coach

I move to approve appointing Peyton Bernshausen as a middle school girls basketball volunteer, Rodney Norris as the high school girls track coach, and Matt Molitor and James Geary as bass fishing volunteers for the 2026-27 school year. This motion, made by Scott Dierker and seconded by Heather Askins, Passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

C. Leave Requests

1. Cheyenne Byrd - Leave of Absence

I move to approve the unpaid leave of absence for Cheyenne Byrd as presented. This motion, made by Heather Askins and seconded by Alyssa Bennett, Passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

D. Informational Items - Resignations, Employee Transfers

1. Tim Thompson - Resignation - High School Boys Track Coach and Boys/Girls Cross Country Coach

E. Other Personnel Items

XI. **Closed Session Minutes - September 16, 2026 and October 6, 2026**

I move to approve the closed session minutes of September 16, 2026 and October 6, 2026. This motion, made by Jay Blair and seconded by Alyssa Bennett, Passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XII. **Adjourn**

I move to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:32 PM. This motion, made by Heather Askins and seconded by Melinda Beebe, Passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XIII. **The next meeting is November 8, 2026 at 6:30 PM at the High School**

President: _____ Secretary: _____