

The Regular Meeting for the Board of Education of Illini Central School District #189 was called to order at the Mason City Public Library at 7:00 p.m. on January 16, 2025.

Vice President Karker called the meeting to order with the following answering present on roll call:

Ms. Laura Karker, Vice President
Ms. Angela McGinnis, Secretary
Ms. May Brooks
Mr. Scott Entwistle
Mr. Kent Renken

Board members absent:

Mr. Brian Hughes, President
Mr. Brock Boyd

Administrators present were:

Dr. Jennifer Durbin, Superintendent
Ms. Cassy Carey, GS Principal
Ms. Kyra Fancher, MS Principal
Ms. Lori Avart, Special Education Director

Visitors:

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Entwistle to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held on December 19, 2024.

The motion was put to a voice vote and the motion carried 5-0.

Financial Report

Dr. Durbin reviewed the Revenue and Expense Report with the board. She explained that the report reflects several unforeseen expenses with the addition to the maintenance staff, furniture expenses, and change orders. We will amend the budget at the end of the fiscal year.

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Entwistle to approve the bills from January 2025.

The motion was put to a roll call vote as follows: Karker – aye, McGinnis – aye, Brooks – aye, Entwistle – aye, Renken – aye Motion carried 5-0

Correspondence

Mr. Entwistle was approached about the end of the day congestion. The board discussed solutions. Ms. Karker was made aware that students leave the district without any experience with Microsoft products and the board discussed offering a tutorial to high school students.

There was no public comment.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Durbin discussed the district's professional development audit that was completed without errors. She shared that several state educational agencies have shared concern over future state funding for schools. The district will have to watch this closely as state payments may be delayed or not fulfilled. Dr. Durbin will host an informational night for school board candidates who would like to learn more about the role of a board member.

Grade School Principal Report

Ms. Carey discussed the excitement in the grade school over the new addition. Students have plenty of space for PE and indoor recess, and staff has met for meetings and lunch in the atrium. She reported on professional development on trauma presented by Ms. Henning and Ms. Tucker. She reported that the Pre K will maintain their “gold” status and she shared about the sports night the Pre K held in collaboration with high school athletes. Ms. Carey shared winter benchmark scores with the board that showed growth at several levels from one year to the next.

Middle School Principal Report

Ms. Fancher shared the students of the month in the middle school and discussed a team building activity before break. She shared that students are excited to have a new Family Consumer Science course offered in the middle school. She will share benchmark data in February.

Director of Building and Grounds Report

Dr. Durbin reviewed Mr. Gronewald’s report. He listed what the maintenance staff has been working on the last few months throughout the district.

A motion was made by Entwistle, seconded by Renken to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- 7.1 Action to direct superintendent to prepare tentative FY26 budget
- 7.2 Action to maintain closed session minutes from July 2024-December 2024 as closed
- 7.3 Action to approve replacement of hot water heater and mixing valve with Prairie State Plumbing & Heating, Inc. for \$15,271
- 7.4 Action to approve surplus property listing

The motion was put to a roll call vote as follows: McGinnis – aye, Brooks – aye, Entwistle – aye, Renken – aye, Karker – aye Motion carried 5-0

The Board heard an update on the building addition project. Dr. Durbin updated the board on the punch list items for the contractor and progress made in the APR. Architects drew up a rendering of the front high school entrance canopy and concrete renovation to alleviate the drainage problem with the gutters.

The Board discussed the district’s athletic co-ops for the 2025-2026 school year. Much of the discussion was regarding the high school cross country co-op with Delavan.

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Brooks to approve high school boys and girls basketball trip to Knightstown, Indiana on January 2, 2026 to play in the Hoosier Gym on January 3, 2026.

The motion was put to a roll call vote as follows: Brooks – aye, Entwistle – aye, Renken – aye, Karker – aye, McGinnis – aye Motion carried 5-0

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Entwistle to go into closed session at 8:15 p.m. pursuant to:

Personnel 5 ILSC 120/2 c. (1)

The motion was put to a roll call vote as follows: Entwistle – aye, Renken – aye, Karker – aye, McGinnis – aye, Brooks – aye Motion carried 5-0

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Entwistle to come out of closed session at 8:32 p.m.

The motion was put to a voice vote and the motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Entwistle to accept the resignation of activities staff Madalyn Cooper, high school softball assistant coach.

The motion was put to a voice vote and the motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Entwistle to approve the employment of non-certified staff Jeff Oney, transportation, pending licensure; Greg Deener, transportation sub, pending licensure; Lenore Garrison, paraprofessional; Amanda Johnson, bus monitor sub; and Breanna Lee, food services sub.

The motion was put to a roll call vote as follows: Renken – aye, Karker – aye, McGinnis – aye, Brooks – aye, Entwistle – aye
Motion carried 5-0

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Entwistle to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

The motion was put to a voice vote and the motion carried 5-0.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mason City Public Library.

Brian Hughes, President
Illini Central CUSD 189
Board of Education

Angela McGinnis, Secretary
Illini Central CUSD 189
Board of Education