

EFFINGHAM COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #40
EFFINGHAM, ILLINOIS

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025**

The Board of Education meeting will be held at the Unit #40 Board Office at 2803 S. Banker St., Effingham, IL at 6:00 p.m. The Unit #40 board meeting will be streamed live on YouTube. Please use the following links to access the meeting:

Live stream starting at 6:00 p.m.: <https://youtube.com/live/bIQFUZpCU1k?feature=share>

Live stream following closed session: <https://youtube.com/live/z4BSX1daVp8?feature=share>

1. Call to Order Regular Meeting/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call
President Wendling called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:02 PM
Secretary Willenborg called the roll.
Members present: Andrew Altman, Erica Boone, Brandon Duncan, Chad Thompson, Desha Wear, Jill Wendling and Jane Willenborg
Members absent: none
Members in attendance remotely: none
Staff present: Andrew Johnson, Kelsey Baker, Michelle Morrissey
2. Acknowledgements
A. HS Soccer Team: Kael Allison, Alberto Zaragoza, Will Hagerstrom, Maicol Sefton, Ina Mapes, Connor Delong, Alan Barojas, Rodolfo Garcia, Sebastian Simoni, Brady Wilson, Luis Gonzalez, Bryson Marler, Gregory Hernandez, Dani Angel, Rece Kinney, Jacob Warner, Jake Niebrugge, Brady Patnaude, Coach Logan Arney, and JV Coach Kaleb Blake
3. Recognition of Visitors: None
4. Financial Report
Baker reported a net fund balance of \$27,924,845.94 and Operating funds net total of \$23,150,606.06. Reimburse the imprest account in the amount of \$2,346.99 and approve the bills as listed:
Education Fund – \$435,470.97
Little Hearts Daycare - \$10,336.30
Operations, Building & Maintenance Fund – \$84,849.25
Bonds & Interest - \$323,494.88
Transportation Fund – \$31,499.79
Tort Fund – \$6,940.55
Capital Improvements - \$25,949.56
Total - \$918,541.30
Altman made a motion and seconded by Duncan to approve the financial report and to reimburse the imprest account in the amount of \$2,346.99 and payment of bills in the amount of \$918,541.30.
Roll call vote
AYES: Altman, Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling, Willenborg
NAYS: none
ABSTAIN: none
Motion Carried

5. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes: October 20, 2025, Special Meeting and Closed Session Minutes; October 20, 2025, Regular Meeting and Closed Session Minutes.
- B. Cafeteria Report: Enclosed
- C. Student Teachers:

Student	Type	Unit 40 Teacher	Grade/Subject	School	Date
Isabel Carter	Extended Field Experience: Student Teaching	Jennie Metcalf	Grade 5	Central	Spring 2026
Hannah Shelley	Short Term Field Experience: Practicum	Chelsey Pontious	Daycare/PreK	LHECC	November
Emma Ross	Short Term Field Experience: Observation	Charlie Huber; Mikayla McWhorter	Art Grades 3-12	Central; EJHS; EHS	Fall 2025

D. Fundraisers:

Group	Event	Reason	Date
EHS FFA	Scented Candles 12 oz.	Raise funds for contest, chapter banquet, and group activities	November 19, 2025, through December 2, 2025
EHS Dance Team	Advertise and sell team sponsorship packages	Raise funds to offset costs for supplies and apparel	November 24, 2025, through December 1, 2025
EHS Dance Team	Dance instruction for a performance (12-22-25) and t-shirt per child	Raise funds to offset costs for supplies and apparel	December 20, 2025 - practice
EHS NHS	Large Chocolate Lovers Bars	Raise money for scholarships	January 7-21, 2026

E. Disposal of Equipment (Maintenance): Enclosed

Thompson made a motion, seconded by Boone to accept the Consent Agenda.

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling, Willenborg

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

6. Correspondence: Thank you from the family of Richard Stremming for the flowers in his memory.

7. Superintendent's Report

- A. FOIA: Enclosed
- B. Enrollment: As of 10.31.25, the total enrollment is 2,308 (23 fewer students than last month and 3 fewer than the previous year)
- C. Information: Enclosed

8. New Business

A. FY25 Audit

Altman made a motion, seconded by Boone to accept the FY25 Audit as presented.

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling, Willenborg

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

B. Approval of Agreement with ERCF/CORE

Thompson made a motion, seconded by Boone to approve the Agreement with CORE/ERCF to become the Fiscal/Administrative Agent for the ERCF/CORE Academy.

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling, Willenborg

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

C. Set Effingham High School Graduation Date for the 2025-2026 School Year

Boone made a motion, seconded by Duncan to set the 2026 EHS Graduation Date as May 17, 2026, at 2:00 pm.

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling, Willenborg

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

D. 2025 Report Card Data Presentation and Official Summative Designations

Altman made a motion, seconded by Wear to accept the 2025 Illinois Report Card Data as presented.

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling, Willenborg

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

E. Approval for Bus Lease with Midland States Bank

Boone made a motion, seconded by Wear to authorize Effingham CUSD #40 to borrow \$1,394,109.00 from Midland States Bank for 9 new buses and Andrew D. Johnson to sign the loan documents on behalf of the District as Treasurer.

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling, Willenborg

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

F. First Reading of Press Policies: 2:120, 2:150, 2:270, 3:10, 3:50, 3:60, 4:10, 4:30, 4:80, 4:110, 4:140, 4:150, 4:160, 4:170, 4:190, 5:10, 5:20, 5:90, 5:100, 5:120, 5:185, 5:190, 5:200, 5:220, 5:280, 5:300, 6:20, 6:40, 6:60, 6:130, 6:135, 6:140, 6:160, 6:210, 6:220, 6:235, 6:240, 6:260, 6:270, 6:280, 6:300, 6:310, 6:315, 6:320, 7:10, 7:70, 7:130, 7:140, 7:150, 7:180, 7:190, 7:250,

7:290, 7:310, 7:315, 7:340, 8:30, 8:100.

G. Approval to Purchase a New Mower

Duncan made a motion, seconded by Wear to purchase a 2026 Kubota Zero Turn mower from Bahrs Equipment for \$19,479.26.

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling, Willenborg

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

H. Approval of Recommended Courses Adoption to begin 2026–2027

Boone made a motion, seconded by Duncan to support the adoption of courses Environmental Science, Public Service and Safety Careers, Music in American History, and Early Childhood Care and Education, to begin with the 2026-2027 school year.

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling, Willenborg

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

9. Adjournment to Closed Session

Altman made a motion, seconded by Thompson to adjourn to Closed Session at 7:29 PM.

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling, Willenborg

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

A. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

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

C. Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9)

D. Litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)

10. Return to Open Session

Altman made a motion, seconded by Thompson to adjourn and return to open session at 8:27 PM.

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling, Willenborg

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

11. Personnel List

EMPLOYMENT:	
Natalie Ritchey	Paraprofessional at EHS
Brooke Henn	Paraprofessional at EHS
Ashlee Conder	3 Hr. Cashier at EHS
Stacey Winterstein	3 Hr. Cook @ EJHS
Kelli Robertson	21st Century Program Bus Aide
RETIREMENT:	
Angela Probst	Paraprofessional
RESIGNATION:	
Rebekah Dial	Head Cook at EHS
Stacey Huston	21st Century Program Facilitator
Celeste Stombaugh	21st Century Program Facilitator

Thompson made a motion, seconded by Boone to approve the personnel list as presented.

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling, Willenborg

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

12. Adjourn

Altman made a motion, seconded by Wear to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 PM.

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling, Willenborg

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

Date of Minutes: Monday, November 10, 2025

Date of Approval: _____

President

Secretary

EFFINGHAM COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #40

Effingham, Illinois

Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting

Date: November 10, 2025

Time: 7:28 PM

A motion was made by Altman, and seconded by Thompson, to adjourn to closed meeting to discuss:

- ☐ **The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors, or specific volunteers of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor, or a volunteer of the District or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).**
- ☐ **Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).**
- ☐ The selection of a person to fill a public office, including a vacancy in a public office, when the District is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the District is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3).
- ☐ Evidence or testimony presented in open hearing, or in closed hearing where authorized by law, to a quasi-adjudicative body, as defined in the Open Meetings Act, provided that the body prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision with its determinative reasoning. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4).
- ☐ Evidence or testimony presented to the Board regarding denial of admission to school events or property pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/24-24, provided that the Board prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision setting forth its determinative reasoning. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4.5), added by P.A. 103-311.
- ☐ The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).
- ☐ The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6).
- ☐ The sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7).
- ☐ Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8).
- ☐ **Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).**
- ☐ The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).
- ☐ **Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).**
- ☐ The establishment of reserves or settlement of claims as provided in the Local Government and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act, if otherwise the disposition of a claim or potential claim might be prejudiced, or the review or discussion of claims, loss or risk management information, records, data, advice or communications from or with respect to any insurer of the District or any intergovernmental risk management association or self-insurance pool of which the District is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(12).
- ☐ Self-evaluation, practices and procedures, or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the District is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16).
- ☐ Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed, 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(c)(21).
- ☐ Meetings between internal or external auditors and governmental audit committees, finance committees, and their equivalents, when the discussion involves internal control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards of the United States of America. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(28).

Closed Meeting Roll Call:

"Yeas" - 7	"Nays" - 0
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Motion: Carried