

EFFINGHAM COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #40
EFFINGHAM, ILLINOIS

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 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 number of the general public permitted to attend the Unit #40 Board of Education meeting may be limited. 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/FvTkT5BROTs?feature=share>

Live stream following closed session: <https://youtube.com/live/J6xmCSg96Ak?feature=share>

1. Call to Order Regular Meeting/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call
President Wendling called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 PM
Michelle Morrissey called the roll.
Members present: Andrew Altman, Steve Bone, Erica Boone, Chad Thompson, Desha Wear, and Jill Wendling
Members absent: Jane Willenborg
Members in attendance remotely: none
Staff present: Andrew Johnson, Kelsey Baker, Michelle Morrissey
2. Acknowledgements
A. JH Boys Cross Country Team – Brody Brown, Tristan Devall, Joel Flack, Xzaviour Layne, Mason Overbeck, Will Percival, Kaden Rhor, Tristen Smith, Jared Klingler, and Maddux Wyckoff.
3. Recognition of Visitors
4. Financial Report
Baker reported a net fund balance of \$28,811,722.00; Operating funds net total of \$24,980,040.00. Reimburse the imprest account in the amount of \$3,150.22 and approve the bills as listed:
Education Fund – \$1,235,469.49
Little Hearts Daycare - \$17,066.76
Operations, Building & Maintenance Fund – \$120,136.33
Bonds & Interest - \$5,094.88
Transportation Fund – \$217,583.20
Tort Fund – \$51,113.01
Capital Improvements - \$768.00
Total - \$1,647,231.67
Altman made a motion and seconded by Bone to approve the financial report and to reimburse the imprest account in the amount of \$3,150.22 and payment of bills in the amount of \$1,647,231.67.

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Bone, Boone, Thompson, Wear, Wendling

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

5. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes: January 27, 2025, regular and closed session meeting minutes, and February 13, 2025, special meeting minutes

B. Cafeteria Report: Enclosed

C. Student Teachers:

Student	Type	Unit 40 Teacher	Grade/Subject	School	Date
Stormy Durkin	Short Term Field Experience: Practicum	Shanna Lewis	Grade 3	Central	Spring 2025
Aubree Moberly	Short Term Field Experience: Practicum	Yvonne West	Grade 5	Central	Spring 2025
Payton Kaiser	Short Term Field Experience: Practicum	Elizabeth Russell	Grade 2	South Side	Spring 2025 (3.24-4.25 am only)
Ashley Swartzlander	Short Term Field Experience: Practicum	Valerie Broeringmeyer	Grade 1	South Side	Spring 2025 (3.24-4.25 am only)
Grace Renfrow	Short Term Field Experience: Practicum	Amanda Roberts	Grade 2	South Side	Spring 2025 (3.24-4.25 am only)
Gracie Gresens	Short Term Field Experience: Practicum	Jennie Metcalf	Grade 5	Central	Spring 2025 (3.24-4.25 am only)
Ella Ruffner	Short Term Field Experience: Practicum	Kristyn Bowman	Grade 5	Central	Spring 2025 (3.24-4.25 am only)
Lanie Tedrick	Short Term Field Experience: Practicum	Cathy Hayes	Grade 3	Central	Spring 2025 (3.24-4.25 am only)
Emily Hall	Short Term Field Experience: Practicum	Josh Morton	Grade 4	Central	Spring 2025 (3.24-4.25 am only)

D. Fundraisers:

Group	Event	Reason	Date
EJHS Student Council & Mustang Outreach	Sale of Fruit Gummy Smiles	Raise money for a staff member who is battling cancer	March 3-14, 2025
EHS Boys Track	Raffle Tickets	Raise money for extra equipment and team building activities	February 25-March 31, 2025

E. Field Trip:

Group	Event	Date
South Side and Central 2nd Graders	Children's Museum & Deming Park - Terre Haute, IN	March 27 & 28, 2025

F. Donation to Central Grade School to Purchase Playground Equipment: Enclosed

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

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Bone, Boone, Thompson, Wear, Wendling

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

6. Correspondence: Enclosed

7. Superintendent's Report

A. Unit #40 Foundation Report: Enclosed

B. Enrollment: As of 1.31.25 the total enrollment is 2,328 (32 students more than the previous month and 39 more students than the previous year.

C. FOIA Request: Enclosed

D. MTSS/SEL Report/Presentation - Lauren Pals

8. New Business

A. Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Lake Land College and Effingham Unit #40 Schools to Establish Laker Connect Membership

Thompson made a motion, seconded by Altman to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Lake Land College and Effingham Unit #40 School District to establish Laker Connect Membership. It is a 2-year pilot.

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Bone, Boone, Thompson, Wear, Wendling

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

- B. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with ROE #3 for Alternative Education, Etc.
Boone made a motion, seconded by Bone to approve the 2025-26 Intergovernmental Agreements with the ROE#3 for alternative education programs.

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Bone, Boone, Thompson, Wear, Wendling

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

- C. Tabled - Approval of Intergovernmental Facility Use Agreement with the City of Effingham in the Event of an Emergency.

- D. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement for Tuition Reimbursement

Boone made a motion, seconded by Bone to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for tuition reimbursement for Karla Greenwood for LBS1 certification.

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Bone, Boone, Thompson, Wear, Wendling

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

- E. Approval of a Resolution Expressing Official Intent Regarding Certain Capital Expenditures to be Reimbursed from Proceeds of an Obligation to be Issued by the District

Thompson made a motion, seconded by Boone to approve the resolution expressing official intent regarding certain capital expenditures to be reimbursed from proceeds of an obligation to be issued by the district.

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Bone, Boone, Thompson, Wear, Wendling

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

9. Adjournment to Closed Session

Altman made a motion, seconded by Bone to adjourn to Closed Session at 6:55 PM.

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Bone, Boone, Thompson, Wear, Wendling

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

- A. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District.

- B. Student disciplinary cases.

- C. 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.

10. Return to Open Session

Altman made a motion, seconded by Bone to adjourn and return to open session at 10:39 PM.

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Bone, Boone, Thompson, Wear, Wendling

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

11. Student Discipline

Bone made a motion, seconded by Altman to expel Student A from Effingham Unit #40 Schools beginning February 25, 2025, for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year and the entire 2025-26 school year.

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Bone, Boone, Thompson, Wear, Wendling

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

12. Personnel List

EMPLOYMENT:	
Tracie Beard	Kindergarten Teacher for the 2025-26 School Year
Kenna Koester	General Education Teacher for the 2025-26 School Year
Leslie Koester	Paraprofessional at SS
Alex Webb	PA Announcer
TRANSFER:	
Lauren Pals	Assistant Principal at Central School for the 2025-26 School Year
VOLUNTEER:	
Jered Pals	JH Assistant Track Coach
Mason Hull	HS Assistant Baseball Coach
Todd Venters	HS Assistant Baseball Coach
RESIGNATION:	
Donna Shields	Paraprofessional
Stan Depoister	7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach
Melissa Armstrong	HS Girls Co-Tennis Head Coach
Kathleen Phillips	Cook
Jennifer Hall	PFA Teacher end of 24-25 School Year
TERMINATION:	
Sara Schnepfer	Nurse Paraprofessional

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

Roll call vote

AYES: Altman, Bone, Boone, Thompson, Wear, Wendling

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

13. Approval of Central Grade School Assistant Principal Contract
Thompson made a motion, seconded by Boone to approve the hiring of Lauren Pals as Central Grade School Assistant Principal to begin on July 1, 2025. The contract is for three years, ending on June 30, 2028.
Roll call vote
AYES: Altman, Bone, Boone, Thompson, Wear, Wendling
NAYS: none
ABSTAIN: none
Motion Carried
14. Discussion and Potential Action on New Positions to be Advertised and Job Descriptions Approved
Boone made a motion, seconded by Thompson to approve the 21st Century Program Coordinator job description, to advertise for two co-coordinators to start immediately, to finalize a job description for an EHS Strength and Conditioning Director, and bring it back to the next board meeting for approval, then the district will advertise the position, advertise for another Math Interventionist and an additional Psychologist.
Roll call vote
AYES: Altman, Bone, Boone, Thompson, Wear, Wendling
NAYS: none
ABSTAIN: none
Motion Carried
15. Approval to Hire/Host a Psychologist Intern
Bone made a motion, seconded by Altman to approve the district to host/hire a paid psychologist intern from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville for the 2025-2026 school year. The salary is (\$25,000).
Roll call vote
AYES: Altman, Bone, Boone, Thompson, Wear, Wendling
NAYS: none
ABSTAIN: none
Motion Carried
16. Adjourn
Altman made a motion, seconded by Boone to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 PM.
Roll call vote
AYES: Altman, Bone, Boone, Thompson, Wear, Wendling
NAYS: none
ABSTAIN: none
Motion Carried

Date of Minutes: Monday, February 24, 2025

Date of Approval: _____

President

Secretary

EFFINGHAM COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #40

Effingham, Illinois

Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting

Date: February 24, 2025

Time: 6:55 PM

A motion was made by Altman, and seconded by Bone, 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" - 6	"Nays" - 0
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Motion: Carried