

The Regular Meeting for the Board of Education of Illini Central School District #189 was called to order in the ICGS Professional Development Room in Mason City at 6:30 p.m. on August 21, 2025.

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

Mr. Brock Boyd, Vice President  
Ms. Amilee Bradshaw, Secretary  
Mr. Brian Hughes, President  
Mr. Dennis Hull  
Ms. Laura Karker  
Mr. Kent Renken  
Ms. Nancy Robertson

Board members absent:

Administrators present were:

Dr. Jennifer Durbin, Superintendent  
Ms. Cassy Carey, GS Principal  
Ms. Kyra Fancher, MS Principal  
Ms. Annie Baugher, HS Principal

Visitor: Kristi Bruce

A motion was made by Robertson, seconded by Boyd to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held on July 17, 2025.

The motion was put to a voice vote and the motion carried 7-0.

#### Financial Report

Dr. Durbin reviewed the Treasurer's Report and Investment Report.

A motion was made by Hull, seconded by Robertson to approve the bills from August 2025.

The motion was put to a roll call vote as follows: Boyd – aye, Bradshaw – aye, Hughes – aye, Hull – aye, Karker – aye, Renken – aye, Robertson – aye      Motion carried 7-0

There was no Correspondence or Public Comment.

#### Superintendent Report

Dr. Durbin reported on a change in Illinois's proficiency benchmarks for standardized testing. ISBE adopted new assessment levels to give students and educators better data on academic achievement and college readiness. Prior performance levels mislabeled many students in elementary and high school, often indicating that students were less academically successful and prepared for college than they actually were. She also shared that the district's new financial auditors were here last week, and we received good feedback from them.

#### High School Principal Report

Ms. Baugher reviewed past and current enrollment. She shared that during advisory, students are participating in skills sessions on note taking, organization, and goal setting. The high school held the annual club and sports sign up. She reported that there are nine students enrolled in a new math lab that offers extra support. The high school is also offering Transitional Technical Math that is a trades based math class, with a more hands on

approach. Staff has been working on report card data, and it shows that 95% of freshmen are on track for graduation. The high school had 68% participation at Open House.

#### Middle School Principal Report

Ms. Fancher also reviewed enrollment and reported 68% participation for Open House. Teachers participated in curriculum trainings and PBIS planning over the summer. The middle school will host another family night in September to help families access resources like Skyward and Rooms.

#### Grade School Principal Report

Ms. Carey reported an increase in K-5 enrollment. She thanked Alliance Bank for their school supplies donation, and Vestis for a projector and screen donation to the P.T.O. The P.T.O. hosted a grade school movie night, and are also working to bring back the spring carnival. She shared that Mrs. Nissen and Mrs. Golden will be presenting at the Pump Up Primary conference in the spring. She discussed the scheduling change of recess before lunch and has received positive feedback from staff.

#### Director Building and Grounds Report

Dr. Durbin reviewed Mr. Gronewald's report. He updated the board on various projects and work from the summer. Gym floors were refinished, new sidewalks, basketball court, sun shades, and equipment were installed at play grounds, cameras and doors at the pre-k were installed, the fitness room and two classrooms were renovated, and the new canopy outside the high school is nearing completion.

A motion was made by Bradshaw seconded by Boyd to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- 7.1 Action to approve the FY26 Intergovernmental School Resource Officer Agreement with the Mason City Police Department
- 7.2 Action to approve the August 2025 Surplus Property list
- 7.3 Action to approve the FFA overnight trip to Indianapolis for the FFA National Convention

The motion was put to a voice vote and the motion carried 5-2.

The Board discussed board protocols, specifically Consent Agenda procedures. Mr. Renken stated that he would like to see the Consent Agenda items read out loud before a vote. The board decided to address the issue again at the September meeting.

A motion was made by Hull seconded by Bradshaw to approve the updated engagement letter for KEB for the district auditor.

The motion was put to a roll call vote as follows: Bradshaw – aye, Hughes – aye, Hull – aye, Karker – aye, Renken – aye, Robertson – aye, Boyd – aye                      Motion carried 7-0

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Bradshaw to approve the first reading of the Illini Central CUSD #189 FY2026 budget and set 6:30 pm on September 18, 2025, in the Illini Central Professional Development Room as the time, date, and place for the budget hearing.

The motion was put to a voice vote and the motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Boyd to approve health insurance renewal with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois.

The motion was put to a roll call vote as follows: Hughes – aye, Hull – aye, Karker – aye, Renken – aye, Robertson – aye, Boyd – aye, Bradshaw – aye                      Motion carried 7-0

A motion was made by Hull, seconded by Boyd to approve Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois as vision insurance provider.

The motion was put to a roll call vote as follows: Hull – aye, Karker – aye, Renken – aye, Robertson – aye, Boyd – aye, Bradshaw – aye, Hughes – aye                      Motion carried 7-0

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Boyd to approve Guardian Dental Insurance as dental insurance provider.

The motion was put to a roll call vote as follows: Karker – aye, Renken – aye, Robertson – aye, Boyd – aye, Bradshaw – aye, Hughes – aye, Hull – aye                      Motion carried 7-0

A motion was made by Renen, seconded by Boyd to go into closed session at 7:20 p.m. pursuant to:

Personnel 5 ILSC 120/2 c. (1)

Pending Litigations 5 ILSC 120/2 c. (11)

The motion was put to a roll call vote as follows: Renken – aye, Robertson – aye, Boyd – aye, Bradshaw – aye, Hughes – aye, Hull – aye, Karker – aye                      Motion carried 7-0

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Robertson to come out of closed session at 7:28p.m.

The motion was put to a voice vote and the motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Bradshaw to accept the resignation of activities staff Darcy Toland, high school cross country coach; and certified staff Brian Shawgo, middle and high school industrial arts teacher.

The motion was put to a voice vote and the motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Bradshaw to accept the retirement of certified staff Sue Brummell, grade school teacher, at the conclusion of 2028-2029 school year.

The motion was put to a voice vote and the motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Bradshaw to approve the leave request of certified staff Jenna Realmo from February 2, 2026 through the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year.

The motion was put to a voice vote and the motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Bradshaw to approve the employment of activities staff Christian Skaggs, high school cross country coach; Darcy Toland, middle school cross country coach; Vicki Bradshaw, 6th grade girls basketball coach; Madison Skelton, 6th grade volleyball coach; and Kyndel Arthalony, volunteer high school girls basketball coach.

The motion was put to a roll call vote as follows: Robertson – aye, Boyd – aye, Bradshaw – aye, Hughes – aye, Hull – aye, Karker – aye, Renken – aye                      Motion carried 7-0

A motion was made by Bradshaw, seconded by Robertson to approve the employment of certified staff Holly

Snyder, middle and high school special education teacher; and Hayley Cline, part-time speech language pathologist.

The motion was put to a roll call vote as follows: Boyd – aye, Bradshaw – aye, Hughes – aye, Hull – aye, Karker – aye, Renken – aye, Robertson – aye      Motion carried 7-0

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Bradshaw to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The motion was put to a voice vote and the motion carried 7-0.

**The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the ICGS Professional Development Room in Mason City, IL.**

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Brian Hughes, President  
Illini Central CUSD 189  
Board of Education

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Amilee Bradshaw, Secretary  
Illini Central CUSD 189  
Board of Education