

EFFINGHAM COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #40
EFFINGHAM, ILLINOIS

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

The Board of Education meeting will be held at the Unit #40 Board Office at 2803 S. Bunker 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/ZVmfh81dGKw?feature=share>

Live stream following closed session: <https://youtube.com/live/EAhIWiQKDbc?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
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: Kelsey Baker, Michelle Morrissey

2. Acknowledgements
 - A. EJHS Boys Cross Country: James Rewers, Madduz Wyckoff, Kaleb Duncan, Hudson White, Eli Gordon, Caydon Jolly, Christopher Repking, Avery Arnold, Nicolas Young, Carson Mihlbachler, Jared Klingler, Trenton Partlow, Cole Althoff, Myles Ervin, Elliot Mette, Colin Wendling, Dawson Wyckoff, Logan Zerrusen, Carson Devall, Harvey Rosen, Brenden Zumbahlen, Sebastian Glover, Khye Kellams, Graham Wendling, and Nicolas Young
 - B. EHS Illinois State Scholars: Landon Beck, Hannah Buckman, Max Buzzard, Samuel Collins, Sydney Cunningham, Derek Doedtman, Abby Feldhake, Maximus Greenwood, Caleb Holmes, Maggie Jenkins, Isabella Jones, Keegan McCoy, Emma Newlin, Christina Nguyen, Berkley Pullen, Collin Rodewald, Hollann Thoele, Hayden Wendling, Reese Wendling, and Averie Wolfe

3. Recognition of Visitors: None

4. Financial Report

Baker reported a net fund balance of \$31,855,199.05 and an Operating funds net total of \$26,904,753.65. Reimburse the imprest account in the amount of \$2,894.75 and approve the bills as listed:

Education Fund – \$102,320.81
Little Hearts Daycare - \$9,106.35
Operations, Building & Maintenance Fund – \$90,925.30
Bonds & Interest - \$5,170.73
Transportation Fund – \$35,904.26
Tort Fund – \$4,192.54
Capital Improvements - \$3,779.39
Total - \$251,399.38

Altman made a motion, seconded by Boone to approve the financial report and to reimburse the imprest account in the amount of \$2,894.75 and payment of bills in the amount of \$251,399.38.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

5. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes: December 15, 2025, Regular and Closed Session Minutes

B. Cafeteria Report: Enclosed

C. Approval of Arrow Pest Control Contract: Enclosed

Thompson made a motion, seconded by Duncan 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 Deb Blankenship for the Christmas ham.

7. Superintendent's Report

A. Enrollment: Total enrollment is 2,297 (6 fewer students than last month and 1 student more than the previous year).

B. Presentation on Central Grade School Successes

8. New Business

A. Presentation and Potential Approval of AI Plan

Thompson made a motion, seconded by Boone, to approve the AI Plan to be implemented for the start of 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

Boone made a motion, seconded by Duncan, to adjourn to Closed Session at 7:02 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.

B. Student disciplinary cases.

C. 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.

Brandon Duncan left at 7:39 PM

10. Return to Open Session

Boone made a motion, seconded by Altman, to adjourn and return to open session at 7:49 PM.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

11. Review of Closed Session Minutes

Altman made a motion, seconded by Thompson, to keep the closed session minutes closed and destroy the electronic recordings prior to July 2024.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

12. Personnel List

EMPLOYMENT:	
Julie Woltman	Parapro at EJHS
Kortney Conner	Parapro at Central
TRANSFER:	
Regina King	6 Hr. Cook at EHS
VOLUNTEER:	
Ashley Clough	JH Cheer Coach
Jackson Lee	HS JV Baseball Coach
Brett Ward	HS Assistant Wrestling Coach
RESIGNATION:	
Jeff McGee	Bus Driver
Victoria Wilson	Swing Shift Custodian
RETIREMENT:	
Paula Bullard	Cook at EHS

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

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

13. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding to Add an Extracurricular Activity at EJHS for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 School Years

Altman made a motion, seconded by Boone, to add EJHS Bass Fishing for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years. The expense of this addition will be shared with the Sportsbackers for two years.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none
Motion Carried

14. Adjourn

Boone made a motion, seconded by Altman to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

Date of Minutes: **Monday, January 12, 2026**

Date of Approval: _____

President

Secretary

EFFINGHAM COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #40
Effingham, Illinois

Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting

Date: January 12, 2026

Time: 7:02 PM

A motion was made by Boone, and seconded by Duncan, 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:

“Yea” - 7	“Nays” - 0
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Motion: Carried