

Midwest Central Community Unit School District #191  
Unit Office, 1010 S Washington St, Manito, IL 61546  
Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, January 21, 2026 - 6:30 PM

Board Minutes

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Roll Call**

Melinda Beebe:	Present
Alyssa Bennett:	Absent
Jay Blair:	Present
Scott Dierker:	Present
Heather Friedrich:	Absent
Amber Schmidt:	Present
Tara Zaayenga:	Present

**III. Visitors Wishing to Address the Board**

**IV. Public Hearing - Public comment on the Board proposal to hold school or certain school-related activities on the following holidays**

- Dr. Martin Luther King. Jr. Day
- Lincoln's Birthday
- Casimir Pulaski's Birthday
- Columbus Day
- Veteran's Day

**V. Consent Agenda**

A. Minutes

1. Open Meetings - December 17, 2025
2. Destruction of Closed Meeting Verbatim Records - July 18, 2024

B. Treasurer's Report

C. Payment of Bills

**VI. Motion for Consent Agenda**

I move to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll call. This motion, made by Amber Schmidt and seconded by Melinda Beebe, Passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

Melinda Beebe:	Yea
Alyssa Bennett:	Absent
Jay Blair:	Yea
Scott Dierker:	Yea
Heather Friedrich:	Absent
Amber Schmidt:	Yea
Tara Zaayenga:	Yea

## **VII. Reports**

### **A. FOIA**

1. Owen Wang - Peoria Standard
2. Sheila Norman - IRTA

### **B. Transportation Report**

### **C. Principals**

- Ms. Timm reported: have had excellent attendance since returning from break; 5<sup>th</sup> grade learning about branches of government and proposed ideas to "President" Ms. Timm; Mrs. Parker received grant for a new book for all students 3-5 graders as well as Middle School students; PTO working on a self-made fundraiser, Andrea Dean spearheading
- Mr. Mooney: discipline report; reiterated routines after break and building is in a great rhythm
- Mrs. Jackson: PreK has 5 new enrollments with a total of 76 students; full-day PreK students led pledge on Friday as part of Kindergarten readiness; screener to be held March 11 for enrollment for after Spring Break and Fall; SpEd numbers staying consistent
- Mrs. Matthews: discipline report; Volleyball has started, 8<sup>th</sup> graders are 7 and 1; 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys basketball season ended Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> grade regionals start Saturday at MCMS; musical tryouts next week with over 70 students signed up to try out, Patty Noonan directing High School Musical; Scholastic Bowl has 12 students; February 13 first dance in cafeteria; Too Good for Drugs partnership coming up for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders; data day reviewed winter bench mark scores, great gains
- Mr. Norris: discipline report; HS girls basketball Senior Night on February 12, no seniors in boys basketball but will recognize cheer and band seniors on February 17; Homecoming game January 30; Wrestling Senior Night January 13, also recognized 8<sup>th</sup> grade Wrestlers, Regionals on January 31<sup>st</sup> at Dee-Mack; Scholastic Bowl started; baseball/softball have started open gyms
- Mr. Welch: busy with athletics; homecoming starts Monday; bass fishing moving forward, parent meeting next week, a lot of community support

### **D. Superintendent**

1. Sales Tax Update
2. Maintenance Grant Award 2026

## **VIII. Business Discussion/Action Items**

### **A. Budget 2026-27**

I move to authorize the Superintendent to prepare a tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and post it as required by law. This motion, made by Jay Blair and seconded by Melinda Beebe, Passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

### **B. High School Graduation Date - May 17, 2026 @ 2:00 PM**

I move to approve the high school graduation date as recommended. This motion, made by Melinda Beebe and seconded by Scott Dierker, Passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

### **C. Tentative School Calendar 2026-27**

I move to approve the tentative 2026-2027 school calendar as presented. This motion, made by Amber Schmidt and seconded by Jay Blair, Passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

### **D. Health and Dental Coverage Update**

#### **IX. Executive Session to Discuss**

I move to enter into executive session to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) and (21) at 7:12 PM. Roll call. This motion, made by Amber Schmidt and seconded by Scott Dierker, Passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

Melinda Beebe:	Yea
Alyssa Bennett:	Absent
Jay Blair:	Yea
Scott Dierker:	Yea
Heather Friedrich:	Absent
Amber Schmidt:	Yea
Tara Zaayenga:	Yea

A. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity; and

B. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, 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 120/2.06).

#### **X. Departing Executive Session**

I move to depart executive session at 7:58 PM. This motion, made by Amber Schmidt and seconded by Jay Blair, Passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

#### **XI. Personnel Discussion/Action Items**

##### **A. Hiring**

- Mikayla Yelton - Part-Time Primary School Custodian

I move to approve hiring Mikayla Yelton as Part-Time Primary School Custodian for the 2025-26 school year. This motion, made by Scott Dierker and seconded by Amber Schmidt, Passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

##### **B. Appointments**

- Susan Goetze - High School Softball Volunteer
- Alexis Davis - High School Softball Volunteer

I move to approve appointing Susan Goetze and Alexis Davis as High School Softball Volunteers for the 2025-26 school year. This motion, made by Jay Blair and seconded by Melinda Beebe, Passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

##### **C. Leave Requests**

1. Laura Williams - Dock Days
2. Tanya Neikirk - Dock Days

I move to approve the dock day request for Tanya Neikirk as presented. This motion, made by Melinda Beebe and seconded by Jay Blair, Passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

##### **D. Other Personnel Items**

#### **XII. Closed Session Minutes - December 17, 2025**

I move to approve the closed session minutes of December 17, 2025. This motion, made by Scott Dierker and seconded by Melinda Beebe, Passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

**XIII. Closed Meeting Semi-Annual Review**

I move to approve the resolution for the closed meeting semi-annual review as presented. This motion, made by Jay Blair and seconded by Amber Schmidt, Passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

**XIV. Adjourn**

I move to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:04 PM. This motion, made by Melinda Beebe and seconded by Jay Blair, Passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

**XV. The next meeting is February 18, 2026 at 6:30 PM at the Unit Office**

President: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_