



**Winfield School District 34  
Minutes of Regular Board of Education Meeting**

Thursday, November 21, 2024 7:00 PM  
Winfield School Central Cafeteria, 0S150 Park St, Winfield, IL 60190

I. **CALL TO ORDER** 7:00 pm

II. **ROLL CALL**

**Board of Education Members in attendance:** Heather Armstrong, Dave Hempe, Lynn Kammes, Dan Krasinski, Matt Tibble, Alisa Wolfe  
**Absent:** Manuel Figueroa

**Also, Present:** Matt Rich, Superintendent; Scott Meech, Principal; Dave Baum, Tech Support; Lisa Honaker, CSBO; Amy Watson, Board of Education Secretary

**Staff:** Jen Gendel, Delaney Doell, Kaitlin Freundt

**Visitor:** Day Family, Murphy Family, Amanda Melsa

III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA - ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

**Action(s):** I move to change XI. E make informational and XIV. Adjourn to Closed Session add reason #12. This motion, made by Matt Tibble and seconded by Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.

**Voting Detail:** Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**

Manuel Figueroa: Absent

V. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

VI. **PUBLIC PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION**

A. **Student Recognition** - Ella Day & Fianna Murphy

B. **American Education Week Proclamation**

*American Education Week highlights the vital role public education plays in shaping our democracy and equipping young people with the tools to uphold values like freedom, equality, and capability. It celebrates the dedication of education employees—teachers, substitutes, custodians, bus drivers, and librarians—who work tirelessly to serve students and communities. Public schools are recognized as the foundation of neighborhoods, uniting diverse groups for a shared purpose.*

*Reflecting on this, Winfield exemplifies these principles more than most, acting as a central pillar of the community. Through partnerships with organizations like the Chamber of Commerce, the Winfield Education Foundation, and local initiatives such as blood drives and community center activities, Winfield schools bring people together. From educators to volunteers, parents to community leaders, everyone contributes to making this a unique and special place. A heartfelt thanks goes to the teachers, families, and staff who embody the spirit of American Education Week and its mission to strengthen our communities through education.*

C. **IASB Resolutions - Delegate Assembly**

**Suggested Resolutions for Adoption at IASB Conference:**

1. **Dual Language and Biliteracy:**

*Allow students with a biliteracy certificate to opt out of the world language requirement, providing them more flexibility to explore other subjects.*

2. **Evidence-Based Funding for Charter Schools:**

*Apply the same evidence-based funding formula used for public schools to charter*

*schools associated with school districts.*

3. **Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts:**
  - o *Ensure fairness in the TIF approval process.*
  - o *Require detailed taxpayer disclosures regarding TIF costs.*
  - o *Provide annual transparency on TIF revenues and impacts on property taxes.*
4. **Healthcare Coverage Cooperative:**

*Create a public cooperative to help school districts opt into pooled healthcare insurance, especially benefiting southern and central districts.*
5. **Faith's Law Database:**

*Develop a statewide database for employment and certification history to streamline hiring and prevent redundancies when verifying past employment.*
6. **Polling Places and E-Learning:**
  - o *Allow schools that are polling places to hold e-learning days.*
  - o *Allow schools not serving as polling places to remain open.*

**Appeals Rejected by the Resolution Committee:**

1. **Cell Phone Usage in Schools:**

*Sought statewide legislation requiring school districts to limit student cell phone use during instructional time, restrict social media access on district networks, and enforce policies to reduce distractions and improve student well-being. The committee felt cell phone policies are best handled locally and that existing guidelines already provide flexibility for districts.*
2. **Office of Inspector General:**

*Proposed creating an oversight office to investigate waste, fraud, and mismanagement. The committee felt existing laws provide adequate oversight.*
3. **Faith's Law Revision:**

*Suggested requiring districts to conduct employment history reviews on both current and new employees, but concerns over legal and procedural challenges led to rejection.*
4. **Criminal Background Checks for School Board Candidates:**

*Proposed background checks for candidates, but concerns included setting different standards for school board members compared to other officials and potential financial/administrative barriers.*

**D. 2025-26 School Calendar - Draft**

*The School Calendar Committee has developed the first draft of the upcoming school year calendar, balancing learning opportunities, breaks, and essential preparation days.*

*Highlights include:*

- **Flexibility for Snow Days:**
  - o *A potential flexible professional development day (the 177th day) is included to account for inevitable snow days, ensuring minimal disruption to the schedule.*
- **Fall Events and Conferences:**
  - o *Fall festival and Halloween parties are planned for Thursday, October 30.*
  - o *Friday, October 31, will be a teacher workday to prepare for conferences.*
  - o *Conferences will start Monday, November 3, with a half-day for students followed by school improvement time and a four-hour conference session.*
- **End of Year:**
  - o *The last day of school (pre-emergency days) is set for Tuesday, June 2.*
  - o *Graduation is planned for Monday, June 1.*
  - o *Up to five emergency days are built in to avoid extending the year into the following week.*

*The schedule aims to provide balance, accommodate community events, and allow families flexibility while maximizing learning opportunities.*

**E. TIF 2**

- **Legal Challenges Against TIF 2:**

- **Failure to Meet Statutory Requirements:**
  - *The school districts argue that TIF 2 enacted by the Village of Winfield does not meet legal criteria, including the requirement to demonstrate blight and other mandated factors.*
- **Non-Contiguous Properties Issue:**
  - *The village improperly combined several disconnected properties to create the TIF.*
  - *A key issue involves a parking garage included in the TIF, which will remain on the tax rolls for only 20 years, shorter than the TIF's duration, leaving the school districts without long-term revenue benefits.*
- **Municipal vs. Economic Development Purpose:**
  - *The districts argue that TIF 2 is intended primarily for municipal development, with most funds directed towards a municipal center, which will not expand the tax base for other taxing bodies.*
- **Failure to Meet the "But-For" Test:**
  - *The districts assert that development is already occurring without TIF funds, primarily due to a \$65-70 million investment by Central DuPage Hospital, making the TIF unnecessary for further economic growth.*
- **Legal Proceedings:**
  - *Motions for summary judgment have been filed by the school districts and the village, with response briefs due imminently.*
  - *Reply briefs will follow within 14 days, and a ruling from the judge is expected around January.*
  - *The motions could expedite the process by eliminating the need for a trial or narrowing the issues.*
  - *If unresolved, a trial would begin in February, either as consecutive sessions or spread out over several months. This timeline may intersect with April board elections.*
- **Settlement Offer:**
  - *The school districts' prior settlement offer funded all proposed village projects except the new village hall.*
  - *This offer reflected the preferences of taxpayers, as evidenced by the November 5th non-binding referendum, which showed opposition to redirecting school funds for a village hall.*
  - *The village has not provided a meaningful response to the settlement since September or October.*
- **Community Considerations:**
  - *The school districts emphasize that funds redirected from schools should align with public priorities and avoid financing projects like the village hall without taxpayer input.*
  - *Transparency and accountability remain critical as this process continues.*

VII. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Action(s):** I move to approve the minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Matt Tibble, **Passed**.

**Voting Detail:** Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**

Manuel Figueroa: Absent

A. October 24, 2024, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2024, Regular Board of Education Closed Session Minutes

VIII. **CONSENT AGENDA (Routine matters that do not require discussion)**

**Action(s):** I move to approve the Consent Agenda action items A and B (read every listed item) as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Matt Tibble, **Passed**.

**Voting Detail:** Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**

Manuel Figueroa: Absent

#### A. **Approval of Finance Reports**

1. Bill List - Payable List and List of Other Payments
2. Treasurer/Fund Balance/Bank Reconciliation Report

#### B. **Other Approvals**

### IX. **COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD**

#### A. **Superintendent's Report**

##### 1. **Legislative Update**

*The Illinois State legislature had its veto session. There is significant pressure around Tier 2 pensions and the potential violation of safe harbor provisions related to Social Security. There are identical bills in the House and Senate filed to address some of these issues, but it is unclear whether action will occur now or potentially in the Spring. Linda McMahon appears to be the Federal nominee to lead the education department. I anticipate potential changes to education funding and Title IX rules. What those changes are and how rapidly they occur will be big questions.*

##### 2. **School Board Members' Day**

##### 3. **Facility Updates**

*This week we learned that we were approved for the FY 2025 Illinois State Maintenance Grant. This will provide \$50,000 of matching funds to help support our video camera replacement project at Winfield Primary and Central. In January we will begin working with vendors to prepare this project to move forward this summer. Later in the meeting we will be presenting bids for approval for the Winfield Primary Gym flooring and wall padding. The flooring represents a \$57,000 savings from bids we requested in March. A big thank you to Lisa Honaker and our architect Brian Ogle for making this possible.*

*We have not had any issues with the HVAC. We are monitoring the art room as we turn on the boilers. We will see if we have enough venting or need to line the ceiling.*

##### 4. **WEF Update**

- **Project Hope**

- **Giving Tuesday's Blood Drive:** December 3 between 3:45 and 6:30 pm.
- **Winter Gear Drive:** Donate winter gear. Bring all items on December 3rd, from 3:30–7 pm to the Winfield Central Cafeteria.
- **Holiday Gift-Giving Program:** Make sure to email [wef@winfield34.org](mailto:wef@winfield34.org) if you'd like to sponsor a child.

- **Trivia Night:** January 11th. There are more details to come.

- **Approved Grants:** Preschool Butterfly Garden, A Stop Motion and Green Screen Video Creation Kit, and Minecraft for Education

#### B. **Principal's Report**

*This month, we have remained focused on our guiding principles: Valuing Connections with Staff, Students, and Families, building an Inclusive Community, and driving Student Growth. Through these pillars, we continue to create meaningful experiences and opportunities for our students and staff.*

##### **November Highlights:**

- Our **Veterans Day Assembly** was a memorable event that honored our community's service members and engaged students meaningfully.
- The **boys' basketball and cheer teams** celebrated successes, showcasing student growth in extracurricular activities. Thanks to all coaches for their extra work with our students!
- **Parent-teacher conferences** facilitated strong communication between families and staff, reinforcing our commitment to building trust and collaboration.

• Thank you to our teams and Sue Conrad for our weekly **Tiger Prints** updates keeping families informed and engaged.

**Looking Ahead:**

• We are excited to have Kevin Honeycutt coming in to talk about **Building Relationships Assemblies** on December 2.

• As winter approaches, we are addressing challenges like tardiness and weather adjustments while continuing to build momentum. Together, we remain committed to fostering a school environment where learning is personal, connections are valued, and students thrive.

**C. Finance Report from Director of Business Services**

**Tax Levy**

The recap outlines the levy planning process for the year, starting with last year's tax receipts of \$5,457,304.78 and incorporating a 3.4% December 2023 CPI to estimate this year's levy. Using the CPI and prior taxes received, the estimated ask for the levy is \$5.6 million at minimum, to ensure full capitalization. With input from the assessor, an EAV increase of 9.49% and a new construction estimate of \$1.5 million (adjusted for buffer) resulted in about \$42,000 from new property.

Historical levy data shows an increase of \$265,688 from the previous year. This year's total levy request is \$5,710,100, factoring in unknown variables to ensure a conservative estimate. Notably, last year's funds included transportation levies, but this year the focus shifted to Education, O&M, and Special Education funds due to fund balance considerations.

The fund balance disclosure compared high (October 31st) and low (May 31st) cash flows. A new legislative requirement (Public Act 103.0394) mandates an annual board presentation of operational fund balances over the past three years. If reserve balances exceed 2.5 times expenditures, a reduction plan must be submitted. However, the current balances are below the threshold, confirming stable finances without excess funds. This process will continue annually using AFR data.

**Fy2024 Audit**

The audit found no inefficiencies or material weaknesses in internal controls, nor any instances of non-compliance under government auditing standards—overall, very positive results. The 2013 general obligation bonds have been retired, leaving only the 2021 bonds outstanding. Additionally, the audit highlights summaries of the Education and Transportation funds, as well as property tax rates and revenues, with key details noted on specific pages.

1. [2024 Tax Levy Presentation](#)
2. Review FY2024 Audit

**X. OLD BUSINESS**

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Accept the FY2024 Audit of Winfield School District 34**

**Action(s):** I move to Accept the FY2024 Audit of Winfield School District 34 as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Matt Tibble and seconded by Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.

**Voting Detail:** Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**  
Manuel Figueroa: Absent

**B. Approve the 2024 Tax Levy to be Placed on Public Display**

**Action(s):** I move to approve the Placement of the 2024 Tax Levy on Public Display as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Matt Tibble and seconded by Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.

**Voting Detail:** Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan

Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**

Manuel Figueroa: Absent

C. **Approve Primary Gym Floor and Wall Bid**

**Action(s):** I move to approve the contract with Douglas Floor Covering for \$133,000 to replace the Primary Gym floor and \$32,000 to replace the wall pads in the primary gymnasium. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Matt Tibble and seconded by Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.

**Voting Detail:** Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**

Manuel Figueroa: Absent

D. **First Reading of Policies**

**Action(s):** I move to approve the first reading of Board Policies (Read all names of policies). A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Lynn Kammes and seconded by Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.

**Voting Detail:** Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**

Manuel Figueroa: Absent

1. **Draft Update:**

2:105 Ethics and Gift Ban

2:120 Board Member Development

4:30 Revenue and Investments

4:60 Purchases and Contracts

4:170 Safety

5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment

5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited

5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

5:125 Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct

5:230 Maintaining Student Discipline

6:60 Curriculum Content

6:135 Accelerated Placement Program

6:270 Guidance and Counseling Program

7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities

7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students

7:180 Preventing Bullying and Other Aggressive Behaviors

7:200 Out-of-School Suspension Procedures

8:10 Connection with the Community

E. **Personnel**

1. **Change of Employment - Amy Watson - District Secretary**

*For information only, no Board approval needed.*

2. **Approve Employment of Amanda Melsa - 0.5 FTE District Secretary**

**Action(s):** I move to approve Amanda Melsa as 0.5 FTE District Secretary at an annual salary of \$25,000 prorated based on days worked as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Matt Tibble, **Passed**.

**Voting Detail:** Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**

Manuel Figueroa: Absent

F. **Board Procedures and Exhibit Updates**

*For information only, no Board approval needed.*

G. **Freedom of Information Act Requests**

1. Science of Reading Illinois - Katharine Casey

2. David J. Freeman - Robbins-Schwartz

3. Bry Ember

XII. **Items for Future Agendas**

A. Lunch program update

- XIII. **ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION – Reason 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. 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 [the Open Meetings Act]. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).* **Reason 12.** *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).*

**Action(s):** I move to adjourn to closed session. A roll call vote was taken at 8:37 pm. This motion, made by Lynn Kammes and seconded by Matt Tibble, **Passed**.

**Voting Detail:** Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**  
Manuel Figueroa: Absent

XIV. **ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION TO REGULAR SESSION**

**Action(s):** I move to adjourn from closed session to open session. A voice vote was taken at 10:13 pm. This motion, made by Dave Hempe and seconded by Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.

**Voting Detail:** Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**  
Manuel Figueroa: Absent

XV. **ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION**

A. None

XVI. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Action(s):** I move that the Board of Education meeting be adjourned. A voice vote was taken at 10:14 pm. This motion, made by Dave Hempe and seconded by Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.

**Voting Detail:** Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**  
Manuel Figueroa: Absent

Regular Board of Education Meetings:

**\*Unless otherwise noted, all Board of Education Meetings are on Thursdays and begin at 7:00 PM. They are located in the Winfield Central School Cafeteria.**

Regular Thursday, November 21, 2024

**Approved:**

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Dan Krasinski, President  
Board of Education

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Lynn Kammes, Secretary  
Board of Education