COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #16
NEW BERLIN, ILLINOIS
September 18, 2025

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

President Neuman called the Board Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members Marr, Mann, Arndt, Bishoff, Griffith and Beard were present.

President Neuman called the Budget Meeting to order with roll call. CSBO, Lori Niemeier, delivered her presentation on the tentative budget. She indicated that the District has been utilizing conservative methods in budgeting to prepare for the potential funding issues in the next couple of years, as reported by ISBE. She reviewed the increase in expenditures, state funding decrease with a decreased student population. President Neuman opened the floor to public comment. At 6:19 p.m., Member Beard made a motion, seconded by Member Bishoff to adjourn the Budget Hearing. The motion passed on a roll call vote, 7-0.

Pretzel Shoutouts were shared with the Board.

President Neuman opened the floor to public comment, of which there was none.

President Neuman recognized Member Bishoff as delegate. She reminded the members that at the upcoming Abe Lincoln Division Meeting constitutional changes would be discussed with a Q&A and that if board members had any input on the changes to let Member Bishoff know so he can take that input to the delegate meeting.

President Neuman opened the floor for adjustments to the agenda. Member Griffith requested an item for discussion regarding social media in the student and athletic handbooks. President Neuman also added that an item for discussion be added regarding meeting with IASA search coordinator. Item 9G for discussion to amend the student and athletic handbook to address inappropriate use of social media. Item 9H was added to discuss the superintendent search and meeting with the search coordinator.

The Administrators shared their reports with the Board.

The Superintendent updated the Board on staffing issues with paraprofessional positions and attempts to keep the positions filled. She updated the Board on the results of the Co-Op meeting with Waverly and Franklin and that another meeting is scheduled in January. She also discussed transportation issues.

A motion was made by Member Mann and seconded by Member Beard to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed on a roll call vote, 7-0. President Neuman, Members Marr, Mann, Arndt, Bishoff, Griffith and Beard voted yea.

A motion was made by Member Marr and seconded by Member Mann to approve the FY 26 Budget. The motion passed on a roll call vote, 7-0. President Neuman, Members Marr, Mann, Arndt, Bishoff, Griffith and Beard voted yea.

A motion was made by Member Bishoff and seconded by Member Beard to approve the FFA attendance to the FFA National Convention Wednesday 10/29-11/1/2025, in Indianapolis, IN. The motion passed on a roll call vote, 7-0. President Neuman, Members Marr, Mann, Arndt, Bishoff, Griffith and Beard voted yea.

A motion was made by Member Bishoff and seconded by Member Marr to approve the Application for Establishing a Student Activity Account Class of 2029. The motion passed on a roll call vote, 7-0. President Neuman, Members Marr, Mann, Arndt, Bishoff, Griffith and Beard voted yea.

A motion was made by Member Beard and seconded by Member Mann to approve the Bus Mechanic & Full-Time Driver Job Description. The motion passed on a voice vote, 7-0. President Neuman, Members Marr, Mann, Arndt, Bishoff, Griffith and Beard voted yea.

A motion was made by Member Marr and seconded by Member Griffith to approve the Pretzel Athletics Sponsorship Tiers. The motion passed on a roll call vote, 7-0. President Neuman, Members Marr, Mann, Arndt, Bishoff, Griffith and Beard voted yea.

A motion was made by Member Marr and seconded by Member Mann to approve the Early Graduation Requests. The motion passed on a voice vote, 7-0. President Neuman, Members Marr, Mann, Arndt, Bishoff, Griffith and Beard voted yea.

There was discussion about social media posts in the student and athletic handbooks. Member Griffiths recommended there be reference to social media posts to align with the handbook code of conduct, as athletes need to be held to a higher standard. The Attorney for the District spoke about differences with the first amendment rights of students and that any changes will need to be specific and consistent. There were ideas discussed on how to address this issue in addition to the handbooks.

There was discussion on meeting with the IASB representative to review applicants in October.

A motion was made at 7:56 p.m. by Member Beard and seconded by Member Griffith to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of employee and litigation related matters. The motion passed on a roll call vote, 7-0. President Neuman, Members Marr, Mann, Arndt, Bishoff, Griffith and Beard voted yea.

A motion was made at 8:52 p.m. by Member Beard and seconded by Member Mann to return to open session. The motion passed on a roll call vote, 7-0. President Neuman, Members Marr, Mann, Arndt, Bishoff, Griffith and Beard voted yea.

A motion was made by Member Marr and seconded by Member Griffith to approve the Personnel Consent Agenda (Stephanie Small-PT Bus Monitor, Eva Ely-PT Bus Monitor, Patrick Lillie-PT Bus Driver, PT Cook, Kristen McGuire-SADD Sponsor). The motion passed on a roll call vote, 7-0. President Neuman, Members Marr, Mann, Arndt, Bishoff, Griffith and Beard voted yea.

A motion was made by Member Bishoff and seconded by Member Marr, to approve the contract (2025-2027) for Matthew Brown, Facilities Director. The motion passed on a roll call vote, 7-0. President Neuman, Members Marr, Mann, Arndt, Bishoff, Griffith and Beard voted yea.

A motion was made by Member Mann and seconded by Member Beard, to approve the contract (2025-2027) for Kevin Cummins, IT Director. The motion passed on a roll call vote, 7-0. President Neuman, Members Marr, Mann, Arndt, Bishoff, Griffith and Beard voted yea.

A motion was made by Member Bishoff and seconded by Member Griffith, to approve the contract (2025-2027) for Heather Pidcock, Food Service Director. The motion passed on a roll call vote, 7-0. President Neuman, Members Marr, Mann, Arndt, Bishoff, Griffith and Beard voted yea.

A motion was made by Member Beard and seconded by Member Marr, to approve the contract (2025-2027) for Seth Hill, Transportation Director. The motion passed on a roll call vote, 7-0. President Neuman, Members Marr, Mann, Arndt, Bishoff, Griffith and Beard voted yea.

President Neuman asked the Board to note the Leave of Absence report.

President Neuman asked the Board to note the resignations.

The Board participated in a Board Training Session with the Superintendent and Sam Bobor, Attorney for the District.

A motion was made at 9:43 p.m. by Member Mann and seconded by Member Bishoff to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed on a voice vote, 7-0. President Neuman, Members Marr, Mann, Arndt, Bishoff, Griffith and Beard voted yea.

The meeting ended at 9:43 p.m.

____________________________ Secretary

____________________________ President