

The Hearing 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 October 16, 2025.

President Hughes called the hearing 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. Chelsey Lemme
- 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
- Lori Avart, Director of Special Education

Visitors: Kristi Bruce

A hearing was held for the purpose of receiving testimony on the District's proposed application for waiver of state board rules and/or school code mandates. Dr. Durbin explained that by law, administrative costs are limited to no more than a 5% increase from the previous year. If the district exceeds the 5% increase in administrative costs, it must apply for a waiver and a hearing must be held. The district saw a 12% increase for FY26 due to salary and health insurance premium increases.

Public Comment: None

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Bradshaw to adjourn the hearing.

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

President Hughes adjourned the hearing at 6:32 p.m.

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 6:32 p.m. on October 16, 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. Chelsey Lemme
- Mr. Kent Renken
- Ms. Nancy Robertson

Administrators present were:

Dr. Jennifer Durbin, Superintendent
Ms. Cassy Carey, GS Principal
Ms. Kyra Fancher, MS Principal
Lori Avart, Director of Special Education

Visitors: Kristi Bruce

A motion was made by Robertson, seconded by Renken to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held on September 18, 2025.

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

Financial Report

Dr. Durbin reviewed the Revenue and Expense Report.

A motion was made by Robertson, seconded by Bradshaw to approve the bills from October 2025.

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

Correspondence

The board received correspondence from Tiara Zimmerman and Karen Miller, thanking the FFA for help with the fall festival parade line up and school groups for participating in the fall festival. The family of Ken Krause thanked the board for the arrangement sent to his service. IASB thanked the district for hosting the regional meeting. Laura Karker and Laura Lemme contacted the board regarding a high school track cooperative with Delavan.

There was no public comment.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Durbin reported that plans for a potential high school track athletic cooperative with Delavan are underway. The agreement would be very similar to the current cross country cooperative, but Illini Central would be the host school. She also shared that missing highway signs for students who have competed at the state level have been ordered, and will be hung on the baseball fence once they are received. She shared that preliminary tax levy work has begun, and the estimated EAV shows a \$10.3 million increase.

High School, Middle School, and Grade School Principal Report

Each principal reviewed goals from each building's School Improvement Plan.

Special Education Coordinator Report

Ms. Avart discussed challenges with scheduling and placement of students, and commended special education teachers and paraprofessionals who have adapted well to the changing needs of students. She shared that the high school life skills class will offer a coffee shop for staff.

Food Services Director Report

Dr. Durbin reviewed Ms. Harrison's report. The district has seen an increase in lunch and breakfast participation. Food costs are continuing to rise, so Ms. Harrison is finding new ways to bring in more revenue and be creative in ordering and menu planning.

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

- 9.1 Action to approve FY26 Seniority List for Certified Staff
- 9.2 Action to approve FY26 Seniority List for Non-Certified Staff
- 9.3 Action to approve Administrators/Teachers Salary and Benefit Report for FY25

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

The Board heard an update on the progress of the Strategic Plan. Dr. Durbin shared a yearly breakdown of goals and building level focus.

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Hull to approve waiver of state board rules and/or school code mandates regarding the limit of administrative costs.

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

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Bradshaw to approve Automated Clearing House Service Agreement with Mason City National Bank.

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

A motion was made by Bradshaw, seconded by Robertson to approve Illini Central Grade School's School Improvement Plan.

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

A motion was made by Hull, seconded by Renken to approve Illini Central Middle School's School Improvement Plan.

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

A motion was made by Boyd, seconded by Bradshaw to approve Illini Central High School's School Improvement Plan.

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

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Robertson to approve Memorandum of Understanding with Illini Central Education Association to limit substitute reimbursement coverage to two periods per day.

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

The board did not enter into Closed Session.

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Bradshaw to approve the employment of non-certified staff Rebecca Bierman, bus monitor.

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

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Bradshaw to approve the employment of activities staff Miles Allen, co-high school Scholastic Bowl sponsor; and Brock Nissen, co-high school Scholastic Bowl sponsor.

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

A motion was made by Renken, seconded by Bradshaw to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

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

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

Brian Hughes, President
Illini Central CUSD 189
Board of Education

Amilee Bradshaw, Secretary
Illini Central CUSD 189
Board of Education