

EFFINGHAM COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #40
EFFINGHAM, ILLINOIS

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025**

The Board of Education meeting will be held on Monday, March 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Unit #40 Board Office at 2803 S. Banker St., Effingham, IL. 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/C-rJADeCAyI?feature=share>

Live stream following closed session: <https://youtube.com/live/wYIFboz3qAY?feature=share>

1. Call to Order the Hearing for Lincoln's Birthday Attendance Waiver/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call
Vice President Thompson called the Lincoln's Birthday Attendance Waiver to order at 6:02 PM
Secretary Willenborg called the roll.
Members present: Andrew Altman, Steve Bone, Erica Boone, Chad Thompson, Desha Wear
Members absent: Jill Wendling and Jane Willenborg
Members in attendance remotely: none
Staff present: Andrew Johnson, Kelsey Baker, Michelle Morrissey
2. This hearing is to allow any public comment upon the proposed Lincoln's Birthday Attendance Waiver for the next five years
3. Adjourn Lincoln's Birthday Attendance Waiver Hearing
Bone made a motion, seconded by Altman to adjourn the professional development waiver hearing.
Roll call vote
AYES: Altman, Bone, Boone, Thompson, Wear, Willenborg
NAYS: none
ABSTAIN: none
Motion Carried
4. Call to Order Regular Meeting/Roll Call
Vice President Thompson called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:03 PM
Secretary Willenborg called the roll.
Members present: Andrew Altman, Steve Bone, Erica Boone, Chad Thompson, Desha Wear, and Jane Willenborg (in at 6:03)
Members absent: Jill Wendling
Members in attendance remotely: none
Staff present: Andrew Johnson, Kelsey Baker, Michelle Morrissey
5. Acknowledgements
A. EHS Wrestlers:
Trent Reardon, Kaiden Stewart, Luke McNeil, Brendan Stewart, Jeremiah Giles, Ben McDowell, Gabe Raddatz, Cole Dulumbuck, and Asst. Coaches David Stewart and Jeremy Patnaude
6. Recognition of Visitors:
Presentation from Alternative Education Students on their success at ASPIRE.

7. Financial Report

Baker reported a net fund balance of \$26,281,957 and; Operating funds net total of \$22,731,430.

Reimburse the imprest account in the amount of \$2,867.48 and approve the bills as listed:

Education Fund – \$603,237.84

Little Hearts Daycare - \$23,834.32

Operations, Building & Maintenance Fund – \$155,890.55

Bonds & Interest - \$5,094.88

Transportation Fund – \$59,563.53

Tort Fund – \$27,322.42

Total - \$874,943.54

Bone made a motion and seconded by Altman to approve the financial report and to reimburse the imprest account in the amount of \$2,867.48 and payment of bills in the amount of \$874,943.54.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

8. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes:

February 24, 2025, HR/Athletics Committee Meeting Minutes; February 24, 2025, Regular and Closed Session Minutes; March 10, 2025, Special Meeting and Closed Session Minutes; March 17, 2025, HR/Athletics Meeting Minutes; March 17, 2025, Facility/Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes.

B. Cafeteria Report – Enclosed

C. Student Teachers

Student	Type	Unit 40 Teacher	Grade/Subject	School	Date
Evyenia Pyle	Extended Field Experience: Externship	Emily Lotz	Speech Language Pathologist	Central	Fall 2025
Chelsea Coleman-Scott	Extended Field Experience: Internship	Chelsey Wilkins	Social Work	Multiple Bldgs.	Fall 2025 and Spring 2026
Garrett Wright	Extended Field Experience: Student Teaching	Trent Mason; Logan Andrews	Band/Music 3-12	Central; EJHS; EHS	Fall 2025
Nicholas (KJ) Sharp	Short-Term Field Experience: Practicum	Stephanie Tracy	English	EHS	Spring 2025

D. Fundraisers

Group	Event	Reason	Date
EJHS Track & Field	50/50 Drawing	Raise funds for the EJHS Track & Field Team	April 15, 2025
EJHS Track & Field	Concession Stand Food	Raise funds for the EJHS Track & Field Team	April 15, 2025

E. Field Trip

Group	Event	Date
EJHS Fundraiser Reward	Busch Stadium, St. Louis, MO	April 16, 2025

Boone made a motion, seconded by Bone to accept the Consent Agenda.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

9. Correspondence: Enclosed

10. Superintendent's Report

A. Foundation Report: Enclosed

B. Enrollment:

Total enrollment as of February 28, 2025, is 2,331 students. This is 3 more students than the previous month and 45 more students than the previous year.

C. Information: FOIA Enclosed

D. EHS Semester Exams:

Exams will be May 15 & 16, 2025

E. Unit 40 Staff End-of-Year Days to Work:

Staff will work a full day on May 19, 2025 – students will attend only in the A.M. half of the day.
Teachers Institute is May 20, 2025.

F. Online Registration Information

G. IASB Announcement

H. Set Date for the May 2025 Board Meeting – May 19, 2025

11. New Business

A. Presentation from Bond Company for Potential Methods to Pay for Potential Facility Projects Upgrades

B. Lincoln's Birthday Attendance Waiver

Bone made a motion, seconded by Altman to approve the Waiver of School Code 105 ILCS 5/24-2(b)

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

C. SEPCO Purchasing Cooperative Approval

Altman made a motion, seconded by Boone to approve Unit #40's participation in the SEPCO food co-op at a cost of \$100.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

D. Approval of the 2025-26 School Calendar

Boone made a motion, seconded by Bone to approve the 2025-26 school calendar as presented.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

E. 2025-26 Discipline/Handbook Changes for Presentation/Approval

Bone made a motion, seconded by Boone to approve the 2025-26 handbook changes as presented.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

F. IHSA Membership Renewal

Altman made a motion, seconded by Boone to approve the District's annual membership in IHSA for 2025-26.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

G. Student iPad and Laptop Manual for the 2025-26 School Year

Thompson made a motion, seconded by Bone to approve the 2025-2026 version of the Student iPad and Laptop Manual.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

H. Approval to Move Forward with the Purchase of a Cybersecurity Upgrade

Boone made a motion, seconded by Willenborg to approve the cybersecurity software upgrade proposal for \$11,000.00 annually.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

I. Amend the 2024-25 School Calendar Due to the Use of Two Emergency Days

Boone made a motion, seconded by Thompson to amend the 2024-25 school calendar to reflect the use of two emergency days on January 6th & 7th, 2025.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

12. Adjournment to Closed Session

Boone made a motion, seconded by Wear to adjourn to Closed Session at 7:13 PM.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

A. Student disciplinary cases.

B. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District.

C. 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.

13. Return to Open Session

Willenborg made a motion, seconded by Thompson to adjourn and return to open session at 8:10 PM.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

14. Approval of Strength & Conditioning Professional Position Job Description

Thompson made a motion, seconded by Willenborg to approve the Strength and Conditioning Professional position job description and to advertise the position to start July 1, 2025.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

15. Approval of the 21st Century Job Description for the Lead Instructors

Boone made a motion, seconded by Bone to approve the 21st Century job description for the Lead Instructors.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none
Motion Carried

16. Approval to Advertise for an MTSS/SEL Coordinator for the 2025-26 School Year
Boone made a motion, seconded by Bone to approve to advertise for a replacement MTSS/SEL Coordinator for the 2025-2026 school year.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

17. Personnel List

EMPLOYMENT:	
Adriana Monnet	3 Hr. Cook at EHS
Renee Smith	PFA Teacher at Little Hearts Early Childhood Center
Don Brown	Maintenance
Jason Root	Part-Time SSO
Briana Wernsing	General Ed Teacher for the 2025-26 School Year
Christy Mesnard	Assistant Director of Little Hearts Early Childhood Center
Jordan Andruch	21st Century Grant Co-Coordinator
Elizabeth Russell	21st Century Grant Site Supervisor - After School Program
Patti Chapman	21st Century Grant Site Supervisor - After School Program
Sara Mette	21st Century Grant Site Supervisor - After School Program
Michael Lambton	21st Century Grant Site Supervisor - After School Program
Abbey Armstrong	21st Century Grant Site Supervisor - After School Program
Becky Daugherty	21st Century Grant Lead Instructor - After School Program
Seth Hinson	21st Century Grant Lead Instructor - After School Program
Missy Donaldson	21st Century Grant Lead Instructor - After School Program
Alexandra Estes	21st Century Grant Lead Instructor - After School Program
Ashley Delks	21st Century Grant Lead Instructor - After School Program
Kenna Koester	21st Century Grant Facilitator - After School Program
April Hardiek	21st Century Grant Facilitator - After School Program
Abra Woomer	21st Century Grant Facilitator - After School Program
Leslie Koester	21st Century Grant Facilitator - After School Program
Ana Macias	21st Century Grant Facilitator - After School Program
Kali Ort	21st Century Grant Facilitator - After School Program
Gina Hewing	21st Century Grant Facilitator Assistant - After School Program
Averie Wolfe	21st Century Grant Facilitator Assistant - After School Program
Max Greenwood	21st Century Grant Facilitator Assistant - After School Program
TRANSFER:	
Denise Pitcher	Director of Little Hearts Early Childhood Center
Denise White	6 1/2 Hr. Cook at EHS
Heather King	5 1/2 Hr. Cook at EHS
Halle Byous	Math Interventionist @ Central for the 2025-26 School Year

RESIGNATION:	
Paige Sherrod	PFA Para at Little Hearts Early Childhood Center
Lisa Sigg	Head HS Basketball Cheer Coach
Kylie Koester	Co-Head HS Girls Tennis Coach
Bryan McMillan	HS Head Wrestling Coach
RETIREMENT:	
Sue Ahten	Cook at EHS
Kim Knierim	Bus Driver end of 2024-25 school year
Angela Moeller	Teacher end of the 2027-28 school year

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

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

18. Approval of Contracts with Partners for the 21st Century Grant After School Program from March 25, 2025, through May 15, 2025

Willenborg made a motion, seconded by Bone to approve contract agreements for the after-school program from 3.25.25-5.15.25 with Lake Land College for use of the Kluthe Center; Crossroots Church for the use of their facility, staff, and supplies; and with Rhine Consulting for Technology Instructional Services at the Kluthe Center. All paid for through the 21st Century Grant for the 2024-2025 school year

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

19. Approval to Hire 21st Century Co-Coordination for the After School/Summer Programs through August 1, 2025

Altman made a motion, seconded by Boone to approve hiring Jordan Andruch as Co-Coordinator for the 21st Century Grant after-school/summer programs to begin March 17, 2025, through August 1, 2025.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

20. Adjourn

Boone made a motion, seconded by Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM.

Roll call vote

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

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

Date of Minutes: **Monday, March 24, 2025**

Date of Approval: _____

President

Secretary

EFFINGHAM COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #40

Effingham, Illinois

Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting

Date: March 24, 2025

Time: 7:13 PM

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

"Yeas" - 6	"Nays" - 0
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Motion: Carried