

North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Board of Education

District Office

6248 North Boone School Road, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Nan Schilling.

Present: President Nan Schilling, Joe Haverly, Vice President Judy Hutchinson, Mary Maxey, Sarah Meyer, and Ed Mulholland.

Absent: Secretary Russell O'Donnell

Mrs. Sarah Meyer was appointed Secretary Pro-Tem.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Hutchinson made a motion to approve the agenda with an amendment made to include Litigation in the Executive Session, and Mrs. Meyer seconded this motion.

Discussion:

Concerns regarding amending the agenda included whether adding this item without prior posting would violate the Open Meetings Act. Counsel advised that the additional items may be added to the closed session, provided no action is taken. If action were required, it would need to be voted on in open session. A concern was raised as to why it was not included earlier.

The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Mrs. Jessica Borchardt spoke on behalf of several parents and taxpayers regarding the updating of the social media to showcase summer improvements and for maintaining school grounds despite weather challenges. She also suggested the continuation of consistent communication efforts and possibly starting a student-run community newsletter to help promote town hall meetings. She raised a concern regarding the staffing process between May registrations and August enrollment.

Mr. Tom Kinser spoke regarding the lack of inclusion and transparency in the teacher contract negotiation process, which represents the District's largest expense. The key issues he indicated included that three elected board members, representing 1,800 voters, were excluded from the process, one board member was not allowed to access closed session recordings, despite past

emphasis on the importance of recordings, and the inconsistency with promises of transparency made during recent campaigns. All of the decisions on this scale require openness, fairness, and full participation of all elected representatives. The teachers deserve fair contracts, taxpayers deserve accountability, and voters deserve proper representation. He urged the Board to recommit to inclusion and transparency to maintain trust with the community.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCE UPDATE

Treasurer Randy Steen noted the following:

- The total investment balance of \$26,619,620.78 is a decrease of just over \$2 million from June.
- Activity in July included seven investments that matured (approximately \$3.8 million).
- \$2.45 million was transferred from PMA into the District's checking account.
- Clarifications from PMA:
 - Items bought on the secondary market may be labeled inconsistently; in the future, they will be listed as "Treasury bill/note."
 - 7 investments cost more than their face value because they were purchased on the secondary market. While more was paid upfront, higher interest payments ensured a positive net return for the District.
 - A new column was added to the report to clearly show final values, so that there would be no misinterpretation of investments as losses.
- Regarding the 1% sales Tax, June's payment was received and accounted for.
- The interest rate on the District's money market account increased from 2.02% to 3.85% after the Board President discussed with Solutions Bank. July's report shows an average of 2.78% due to the increase occurring mid-month. Going forward, the full 3.85% rate should apply.
- Mr. Steen is working with the new business manager to clarify which accounts are operating vs. activity accounts.
- Fund balances remain blank for now until reconciled with the business manager's numbers, which are expected to be updated next month.

Discussion:

Mr. Mulholland raised a concern about whether it was appropriate for an individual board member (rather than the administration) to negotiate rates without prior board approval or documentation. Mr. Steen stated that the action was in the District's financial interest, but agreed record-keeping could be improved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Committee- The Policy Committee met on August 5, 2025, and reviewed Sections 1-3 of District Policies based on PRESS. The next meeting will be held on September 2, 2025, and sections 4-5 will be reviewed. There will then be one more meeting to review the remaining sections, followed by a meeting with the IASB PRESS representative.

Business Services Committee—The Business Committee met on August 11, 2025, and discussed the tentative budget (which will be reviewed at tonight's Board Meeting), cost savings for copy

paper, dishwasher purchase (on tonight's agenda), update on the Tyler Tech system, and a brief discussion on the Executive Director of Business position. The next meeting will be held on September 9, 2025.

Facility/Long-Range Planning Committee—The August meeting was canceled. The next meeting will be on September 11, 2025.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Committee—The next meeting is September 17, 2025, at 4:45 p.m..

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Hutchinson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, and Mrs. Meyer seconded the motion.

- A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, July 22, 2025
- B. Minutes of the Business Committee Meeting, July 6, 2025
- C. Minutes of the Facilities/Long Range Planning Committee Meeting, July 10, 2025
- D. Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting, August 5, 2025
- E. Minutes of the Business Committee Meeting, August 11, 2025
- F. Personnel
- G. Professional Service Agreement Proposal between ROE4 and North Boone CUSD 200
- H. NWEA Sales order for MAP Growth K-12 and Annual License
- I. Overnight Field Trip Request

Discussion:
(none)

The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. School Resource Officer (SRO) Intergovernmental Agreement

Mrs. Meyer made a motion to accept the SRO Intergovernmental Agreement as presented, and Mrs. Hutchinson seconded the motion.

Discussion:
Mr. Mulholland noted that the SRO's approval had already been obtained. It was clarified that, although the position had been previously approved, the formal agreement had not yet been finalized.

The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS - Action

A. August 2025 Bills

Mrs. Meyer motioned to approve the August 2025 Bills as presented, and Mrs. Hutchinson seconded the motion.

Discussion:

It was noted that the wrestling mats invoice was \$100 higher than the previously approved amount, and this discrepancy had been rectified.

Ayes: Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Meyer, Mr. Mulholland, Mrs. Schilling

Nays: Mr. Haverly

The motion carried with 5 Ayes and 1 Nay.

B. Approval of Tentative Budget for FY26

The FY26 tentative budget was presented at the August Business Services Committee Meeting by Dr. Susan Harkin. Dr. Harkin was available for questions this evening.

Mrs. Hutchinson motioned to approve the tentative budget for FY26 as presented, and Mrs. Schilling seconded the motion.

Discussion:

The timeline for approving the budget is as follows:

- The information for the public hearing on the budget in September will be published in the newspaper within the week.
- It is required that the 30-day public display period begin immediately.
- The final approval is scheduled for the September Board Meeting.

The FY25 Year-End results:

- Preliminary (unaudited) results show \$31.4M in revenue vs. \$31M in expenditures, leaving a \$400,000 surplus.
- The previous year's surplus was approximately \$600,000.
- There were no significant discrepancies found in the review, with the final reconciliation pending with the new business manager.

Financial Standing:

- Dr. Harkin commended the Board for strong fiscal stewardship and maintaining a healthy fund balance.
- The District is considered to be in excellent financial shape compared to many others per Dr. Harkin.
- An emphasis was placed on continuing sound decision-making to sustain this position.

The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

C. Approval to Purchase Dishwasher for the High School

It is recommended that the Board approve the purchase of a dishwasher from Central Restaurant Products for \$36,300 for the High School. Three bids were received for the same model dishwasher. Central's bid came in the lowest with no delivery fee, no liftgate fee, no additional surcharges, and delivery within 12-25 days of acceptance. The District has used Central in the past, and their customer service is impeccable.

Mrs. Hutchinson made a motion to approve the purchase of a dishwasher for the High School from Central Restaurant Products as presented, and Mrs. Meyer seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Clarification was needed on the timing of the purchase (after the school year began). The dishwasher had failed in May; the purchase process was delayed until details were finalized.

The motion carried unanimously by roll call.

NEW BUSINESS – Discussion

A. Townhall Meeting Planning (October)

The Board discussed hosting a community Town Hall meeting to improve communication and provide an open forum for dialogue between the Board and residents. The meeting would be modeled after Belvidere's annual Town Hall. This is intended as a conversational format rather than formal podium comments with time limits. The meeting would be posted and conducted as a Special Board Meeting, as a quorum would be present.

The tentative plan would be to hold the first Town Hall at the High School. A concern was noted that weekends are hectic in the Fall, with further discussion needed to confirm a date with an October target.

Key points of discussion:

- Presentation vs. Open Forum:
 - It was suggested to include a short presentation, such as updates on the strategic plan, budget, or accomplishments, to provide context and focus the discussion
 - There was a concern that the forum could become a "free-for-all", with residents raising a wide range of issues and expecting immediate answers.
 - The general agreement was that the Board should be prepared to listen, acknowledge input, and follow up later rather than provide answers on the spot.
- Goals:
 - To build stronger community engagement.
 - Hear both positive and critical feedback directly from residents.
 - Use input to help guide future goal-setting and planning.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cascio stated that the school year began smoothly with high energy. The staff returned with enthusiasm during the Institute Day. He visited every school in the District during the first days and stated that the students showed excitement and quickly adapted to routines.

The District consolidated all six individual school Facebook pages into one District-wide Facebook page, intending to improve communication and make information accessible to both families and community members without students in the schools. The high school yearbook students will contribute stories and updates to the page. He noted that school-specific updates will still be sent directly via email, but district-level news will be centralized.

Regarding upcoming events, he reminded all that Green and White Night is scheduled for Friday, August 22, 2025, in the stadium. The festivities include unveiling the new scoreboard and sound system, team introductions, and student scrimmages against Harvard High School.

Dr. Cascio announced that Andrea Sowers (Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Recording Secretary) is leaving the District and has agreed to help with the transition. She was commended for her valuable contributions.

Dr. Joseph Mullikin was introduced as the new Executive Director of Business Services.

At 7:20 p.m., Mrs. Hutchinson made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the following:

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 of 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 this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and,

The litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of a 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),
and was seconded by Mrs. Meyer.

The motion carried with a unanimous roll call.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Personnel
- B. Litigation

RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

At 8:42 p.m., Mrs. Hutchinson made a motion to return to Open Meeting, and Mrs. Meyer seconded it.

The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Meyer made a motion to approve the hiring and contract of Dr. Joseph Mullikin as the Executive Director of Business, as presented, and Mrs. Hutchinson seconded the motion.

Discussion:
(none)

The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mrs. Meyer made a motion to approve the contract for Meaghan Meyer as presented, and Mrs. Hutchinson seconded the motion.

Discussion:
Mr. Haverly expressed concern that the action might conflict with existing contracts and set a bad precedent.

Ayes: Mrs. Meyer, Mrs. Schilling
Nays: Mrs. Hutchinson
Abstain: Mr. Haverly, Mrs. Maxey, Mr. Mulholland

The motion carried with two ayes, one nay, and three abstentions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

- A. FOIA Log
- B. Student Activity Fund Reports

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Hutchinson and seconded by Mrs. Meyer to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice call.

PRESIDENT _____

SECRETARY _____

APPROVED: