

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, September 23, 2025

6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2025/2026 BUDGET

The Public Hearing on the 2025/2026 Budget was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Nan Schilling.

Present: President Nan Schilling, Joe Haverly (via Google Meet), Vice President Judy Hutchinson, Mary Maxey, Sarah Meyer, Ed Mulholland, and Secretary Russell O'Donnell.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

(none)

Mrs. Hutchinson made a motion to close the Public Hearing on the 2025/2026 Budget, and Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously by roll call.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by President Nan Schilling.

Present: President Nan Schilling, Joe Haverly (via Google Meet), Vice President Judy Hutchinson, Mary Maxey, Sarah Meyer, Ed Mulholland, and Secretary Russell O'Donnell.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

(none)

TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCE UPDATE

Treasurer Randy Steen and Dr. Mullikin noted the following for August:

Key Investment Activity:

- Matured CDs: Two Certificates of Deposit (CDs) matured in August, totaling approximately \$500,000.
- New Investments: 11 new CDs were purchased for about \$2.6 M.

- Interest Rate Trends: Recent CD rates have dropped slightly (now approximately 3.85-.9% vs. a low 4% previously) after the Fed cut rates by 0.25%.
- US Treasury: One Treasury matured on August 31st and the proceeds will appear in next month's report.
- Premium Purchase Note: One CD was purchased on the secondary market at a premium (purchase price > par value); interest adjustments will make the investment whole in next month's reporting.
- Liquid vs. CDs: Liquid/MAX accounts currently pay 4.21%, higher than new CD rates (3.8%-3.9%). CDs guarantee rates for 12 months, but liquid rates may decrease with Federal Reserve cuts.

Sales Tax & Revenue:

- 1% County Sales Tax:
 - July funds (posted on August 1st) totaled approximately \$71,000.
 - August funds were approximately \$84,000.
 - Last month's reports had shown no posting; that is now caught up.
- Countywide Sales Facility Tax (CSFT): Runs on a 3-month lag. The latest payment reflects May sales and is almost 13% higher year-over-year, projecting > \$900,000 for FY26.

Account & Reporting Clean-Up:

- Account Reclassification: The Coca-Cola account moved from activities to operating, and the extracurricular fund moved to activities – better alignment of reporting.
- Liquidity Management: CDs scheduled to mature when payroll or payables require cash transfers from PMA (where approximately 95%+ of cash is held).
- Upcoming Maturities: About \$2M in CDs and approximately \$800,000 in Treasury will mature soon, and the Board should then decide whether to reinvest in CDs or keep in liquid/MAX.

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Tracking:

- Through July-August (17% of the fiscal year):
 - Revenue: 19% of the annual budget has been collected.
 - Expenditures: 17% - which is in line with the calendar.
- Fund 80 (Tort/Insurance): Running over budget; may need adjustments later.

Fees & Lunch Balances:

- Outstanding Fees: Tracking and follow-up will be formalized to improve collection.
- Lunch Debt:
 - Some families qualifying later for free/reduced lunch still owe earlier balances.
 - Limited collection options (collections yield approximately \$.10 on the dollar, which is not favored unless the Board directs).

Operational Updates:

- Tyler Technologies: The system transition is planned for January 1, 2026, to avoid mid-year payroll/W-4 complications.

- Audit: Sikich is planning a visit during the week of November 3rd. Sikich will file an extension, and the timeline remains on track.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Committee-- A meeting was held on September 2, 2025, during which Sections 4 and 5 of the Policy Manual were reviewed. Sections 6, 7, and 8 will be reviewed at the next meeting, scheduled for October 7, 2025.

Business Services Committee— A meeting was held on September 9, 2025. Topics discussed included Tyler Technologies, Budget review, copy paper purchasing, and transit van considerations. The next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2025.

Facility/Long-Range Planning Committee— A meeting was held on September 11, 2025. Topics discussed included the completed summer projects (roofing and siding of the outbuilding, painting of the upper elementary gym, LED lighting, high school dishwasher installation, and project tracking), and architectural planning (RFQ for architectural services). The next meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2025.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Committee- A meeting was held on September 17, 2025. The math (K-5), Science, and social studies curricula were discussed, along with student feedback on a survey regarding hands-on/trade-focused courses. The next meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2025.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Meyer motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, and Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.

- A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, August 19, 2025
- B. Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting, September 2, 2025
- C. Minutes of the Business Services Committee Meeting, September 9, 2025
- D. Minutes of the Facilities/Long Range Planning Committee Meeting on September 11, 2025
- E. Personnel
- F. Overnight Field Trip Request

Discussion:
(none)

The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Approval of 2025/2026 Budget

Mrs. Hutchinson made a motion to accept the 2025/2026 Budget as presented, and Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.

Discussion:

(none)

The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

B. October Town Hall Meeting Planning (October)

Mrs. Hutchinson made a motion to hold a Town Hall Meeting on October 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at a TBD location, and Mrs. Meyer seconded the motion.

Discussion:

The purpose of the Open Town Hall meeting is for community members to ask questions and engage with the Board. This meeting will be posted and follow all regulations of a regular board meeting; however, it is intended as a community forum rather than a standard business meeting.

The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of September 2025 Bills

Mr. O'Donnell motioned to approve the September 2025 Bills as presented, and Mrs. Hutchinson seconded the motion.

Discussion:

A request to explore local suppliers (e.g., instead of Amazon) to potentially reduce costs or secure discounts, and to look into ways to reduce operating costs while ensuring teachers still have the necessary supplies.

Ayes: Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Meyer, Mr. Mulholland, Mr. O'Donnell, Mrs. Schilling

Abstain: Mr. Haverly

The motion carried with 5 Ayes and one abstention.

B. Approval of Transit Van Purchase

The District currently uses a 2008 Dodge Caravan with over 106,000 miles that is severely rusted and needs urgent replacement. The original plan from the Business Services Committee meeting was to explore the use of a transit van; however, state and federal regulations prohibit the use of transit vans for door-to-door student transport. Minivans are compliant and can be used for transporting students outside district grounds.

Currently, there are no transportation shortages for sports/activities, and the buses and transit vans cover those needs.

Vehicle options included reviewing several used/new minivan listings with varying mileage and price points (many under \$45,000) and new vans (over \$45,000), which would require a formal RFP process, adding delays. Delaying a purchase for further committee review could compromise student safety and complicate bidding due to the rapidly changing vehicle inventory.

Mr. Mulholland made a motion to approve the purchase of a minivan not to exceed the cost of \$50,000 with fewer than 40,000 miles, and Mrs. Maxey seconded the motion.

Discussion:

A debate was had regarding whether to cap spending to give the administration clear limits while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Ayes: Mrs. Maxey, Mr. Mulholland, Mr. O'Donnell

Nays: Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Meyer, Mrs. Schilling

Abstain: Mr. Haverly

The motion failed with three ayes, three nays, and one abstention.

Mrs. Meyer then made a motion to approve the purchase of a minivan not to exceed \$40,000 with fewer than 40,000 miles, and Mrs. Hutchinson seconded the motion.

Discussion:

(none)

Ayes: Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Meyer, Mr. O'Donnell, Mrs. Schilling

Nays: Mr. Mulholland

Abstain: Mr. Haverly

The motion carried with five ayes, one nay, and one abstention.

C. Approval of Bus Repair and/or Bus Purchase

Two options were presented for Bus #83, which needs a transmission replacement.

1. Repair the transmission and keep the bus in the fleet (depreciating the repair cost over 3 years).
2. Do not repair and instead purchase a new or used bus.

Dr. Mullikin noted that Bus #83 was purchased on June 29, 2020, with 86,487 miles. The transmission repair quotes were \$10,563 and \$9,347 (both with 2-year warranties). The District currently has 26 buses (which includes 4 wheelchair buses and one special bus). Currently, some athletic trips are delayed by 15-20 minutes due to limited bus availability.

At the earlier Business Services Committee Meeting, the group advised against repair due to depreciation concerns; however, Dr. Mullikin obtained the depreciation schedule, and repairing will not disrupt the District's planned 5-year replacement cycle.

Mrs. Hutchinson made a motion to approve the repair of the transmission for Bus 83, and Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.

Discussion:
(none)

Ayes: Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Meyer, Mr. Mulholland, Mr. O'Donnell, Mrs. Schilling
Nays: Mr. Haverly

The motion carried with six ayes and one nay.

D. Approval of Bulk Paper Purchase

The Business Services Committee reviewed and discussed options for purchasing bulk paper for the District to buy on demand at the lowest reasonable quote, ensuring cost savings and flexibility.

Mrs. Hutchinson motioned to approve the purchase of bulk copy paper at the lowest quote, and Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.

Discussion:
Mrs. Hutchinson inquired whether cardstock and colored paper were included in the quote, and it was noted that these items would be discussed separately if needed in the future.

The motion carried unanimously by roll call.

E. Approve Kriha Boucek LLC as a law firm that is authorized to provide legal services to the Board of Education, consistent with Board Policy 2:160.

Mrs. Hutchinson motioned to authorize the Superintendent to sign an agreement for legal services with Kriha Boucek LLC to provide legal services to the Board of Education, and Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.

Discussion:
Need for Second Firm:

- The intent of a second Legal Firm was to have access to additional expertise in specialized areas of school law, especially special education and complex educational matters.
- Multiple districts use more than one firm, and there is no cost to simply having a firm authorized. Fees only occur if the firm is engaged.

Concerns Raised:

- Several members questioned why a second firm was needed without a documented gap analysis or administrative request.
- Some felt that the Board lacked a clear data-driven rationale or identified weaknesses with current counsel.
- Questions arose about how this firm was selected, whether alternatives were compared, and whether a transparent process had occurred.
- A few members expressed discomfort with approving legal counsel without prior committee review or defined selection criteria.

Clarifications:

- Mrs. Schilling stated that Policy 2:160 allows the Board itself to add legal firms without committee involvement or administrative recommendation.
- There is no cost to authorize a firm, and expenses arise only when their services are used.

Ayes: Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Meyer, Mr. O'Donnell, Mrs. Schilling

Nays: Mr. Haverly, Mrs. Maxey, Mr. Mulholland

The motion carried with four ayes and three nays.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cascio noted that Fall is the busiest extracurricular season, and he encouraged board members and the community to support student events. The Middle School Volleyball team is currently undefeated in the conference. The High School Football team was undefeated until last Friday's hard-fought loss to a strong opponent. The next game will be a Genoa this Friday. The JV Volleyball team currently holds a record of 10-5, with tournament wins at Harvard and Jefferson this season.

Regarding Board and Community Engagement, he stated that the Kishwaukee Division IASB Meeting is scheduled for October 23rd at 6:15 pm in St. Charles. He encouraged Board members to check availability for attending. The Belvidere Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner will be held on October 8th from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. with guest speaker Sean Considine. Please let Dr. Cascio know if you would like to attend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Litigation

At 7:48 p.m., Mrs. Maxey made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the following:

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. Hutchinson.

Ayes: Mr. Haverly, Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Meyer, Mr. O'Donnell, Mrs. Schilling
Nays: Mr. Mulholland

The motion carried with six ayes and one nay.

RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

At 8:01 p.m., Mrs. Maxey made a motion to return to Open Meeting, and Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion

The motion carried with a unanimous voice call.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Maxey made a motion to remove the redactions from the emails included in a FOIA request submitted by Mr. Tom Kinser for the Board members' review, and Mr. Mulholland seconded the motion.

Discussion:
(none)

Ayes: Mr. Haverly, Mrs. Maxey, Mr. Mulholland
Nays: Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Meyer, Mr. O'Donnell, Mrs. Schilling

The motion failed with three ayes and four nays.

*******Mr. Haverly left the meeting at 8:01 p.m.*******

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

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

Mr. Mulholland corrected a previous statement regarding Jan Noble's employment. He had stated that Jan Noble was a part of a task force. He is not part of a task force but rather associated with another alliance/organization. This clarification pertained to an earlier discussion regarding the School Resource Officer (SRO) office.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Meyer and seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson to adjourn at 8:04 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously by roll call.

PRESIDENT _____

SECRETARY _____

APPROVED: