

North Boone Community Unit School District #200
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Board of Education
District Office
6248 North Boone School Road, Poplar Grove, IL 61065
Tuesday, October 21, 2025
6:30 PM

I. Call to Order by the President

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Vice President Judy Hutchinson at 6:30 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Secretary.

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

Members Absent: President Nan Schilling, Mary Maxey

III. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mrs. Meyer and seconded by Mr. O'Donnell to approve the agenda as presented.

Discussion: (None)

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Abstention: None

Motion carried.

IV. Audience to Visitors

Mr. Randall addressed the Board of Education on Tax Levy and Abatement.

Wendy Spence addressed the Board of Education on events happening in the library and updated them on her Read Aloud Tab on the website.

V. Treasurer's Report and Financial Update

The Treasurer reported total district funds increased by just over \$1 million from the previous month, reaching \$30,012,538.47 as of the end of August, primarily due to Boone County tax payment deposits. Significant investment activity occurred with nine investments maturing and 26 new ones purchased, bringing the district's total to 83 investments (75 CDs). Joe Mullikin stated overall revenues are at 29% of the annual budget and expenditures at 24%, keeping the district on track financially. Higher costs were noted for transportation (due to bus purchases and fuel) and workers' compensation insurance premium. Sales tax revenue is

up 18% from last year. The district continues to monitor expenses closely, manage investments strategically amid expected rate changes, and are proceeding with the Tyler Technologies financial software with a later transition date.

VI. Committee Reports

- **Policy Committee** - Meeting held on October 7, 2025. The next meeting will be held on November 4, 2025, at 6:30 PM. Nick will be at the November 4, 2025 meeting to assist with finishing the edits as we transition to Press.
- **Business Services Committee** - Meeting held on October 14, 2025. The next meeting will be held on November 11, 2025, at 6:30 PM. At October 14, 2025 meeting discussion was held on levy, the minivan purchase, putting together a vehicle inventory, and update on the architect RFQ's.
- **Facility/Long Range Planning Committee** - Meeting held on October 9, 2025. The next meeting will be held on November 13, 2025, at 6:30 PM. October 9, 2025 meeting discussion was over sports facilities, drinking fountains being installed, and the asset audit.
- **CIA Committee** - The next meeting will be held on November 5, 2025, at 4:45 PM.

VII. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mrs. Meyer and seconded by Mr. O'Donnell to approve the Consent agenda as presented.

Approved Items:

- A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, September 23, 2025**
- B. Minutes of the C.I.A. Committee Meeting, September 17, 2025**
- C. Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting, October 7, 2025**
- D. Minutes of the Business Committee Meeting, October 14, 2025**
- E. Personnel**

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Abstention: None

Motion carried.

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Townhall Meeting Update

The event was considered well attended and informative, with appreciation expressed for the participation of all board members and Dr. Cascio. Feedback indicated that future town halls could be improved by providing a clear agenda and including relevant administrators who

can directly address community questions, helping to maintain proper communication through the chain of command. Some board members noted concerns that the open format led to discussions of individual or personnel-related issues, which are not appropriate for board-level forums. It was agreed that future meetings should balance structured discussion with open feedback opportunities while ensuring proper protocol is followed.

B. New Minivan Purchase Update

Following prior board approval of a not-to-exceed limit of \$40,000 and 40,000 miles, the district purchased a 2025 Chrysler Pacifica with 96 miles for \$39,612 from Wheels by RT. The vehicle was titled as used because it had previously been a demo model. The new van is already in service and includes a 3-year/36,000-mile bumper-to-bumper warranty and a 5-year/60,000-mile drivetrain warranty.

IX. New Business

A. October 2025 Bills

A motion was made by Mr. O'Donnell and seconded by Mrs. Meyer to approve the October 2025 Bills, as presented.

Discussion: A question was raised regarding a \$10 CPR charge, with a request to ensure CPR training opportunities are available to all staff. Administration clarified that such charges typically cover renewal fees for certification cards. It was also noted that challenges with the Arbiter payment system had caused past delays in paying officials; proactive measures have since been taken to ensure sufficient funds are available and prevent future issues.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Abstention: Mr. Haverly

Motion carried.

B. Tentative Tax Levy

A motion was made and amended by Mr. O'Donnell and seconded by Mrs. Meyer to approve Proposal A as the tentative 2025 tax levy, with the commitment to continue discussions regarding abatement in November.

Discussion: The tentative 2025 tax levy was presented following review and feedback from the Business Services Committee. The presentation outlined how the levy allows the district to collect local property tax revenue within the limits of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL). Discussion among board members also included the importance of addressing potential abatement options in the near future.

Two following options were provided:

“Projected” Tax Extension: This extension is based on the factors and assumptions in alignment with CPI, new property, and estimated EAV provided by the County Treasurers from Boone and Winnebago Counties.

CPI: 2.9%

New Property: \$1,752,268

Estimated increase in EAV: 8.33%

PTELL Limiting Rate: 4.47244%

Max Capped Extension Based on Assumptions: \$12,101,894

Proposed Tax Extension A: This extension is created to allow us to capture all potential dollars while remaining below the threshold which would trigger a Truth in Taxation notice and hearing. It is important that the District levies to the fullest extent permitted under the PTELL to ensure we are not foregoing available revenue for future operations.

Projected Tax Rate: Post abatement, the tax rate for the prior year was 5.182%. The projected tax rate based on all information provided is 5.0743%, prior to any abatement.

Proposal A was recommended by administration due to ongoing uncertainty in state and federal education funding and upcoming facility and safety needs.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Abstention: None

Motion carried.

C. IASB - Board member representative for Delegate Assembly - Saturday, November 22, at 10:30AM

Mrs. Hutchinson will be the Board Representative at the Delegate Assembly.

X. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cascio noted the first quarter of the school year has concluded, and report cards have been mailed home for students in grades 5–12. The district recently held the first of two parent-teacher conference evenings, with the second session scheduled for Thursday; both have been well received. On October 8th, four board members and the superintendent attended the Belvidere Chamber's annual dinner, a well-attended community event featuring keynote speaker Shan Considine, who shared an inspiring message encouraging community involvement.

Late last month, the district initiated a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to select a new architectural partner, as required by the state. A district-wide walkthrough for interested

firms was held on October 13th, 2025, led by Jim Nolen and the Superintendent, with 12 participants from 10 firms. The tour emphasized key district priorities, including completion of a life safety audit by December 2026, a comprehensive master facilities plan, and potential upgrades to athletic fields. Firms must submit qualifications by October 31st, 2025, after which the facilities committee will narrow the list to three firms in November, conduct interviews in December, and bring a recommendation to the board by the end of the year for approval in January.

In athletics, the middle school football team finished 3–5, and the co-ed soccer team ended 1–5 in conference play. The seventh- and eighth-grade volleyball teams both went undefeated and won their season tournaments. The middle school cross country team also competed successfully, hosting two home meets. At the high school level, the varsity cross country team participated in the conference meet, though no runners placed in the top 20. The varsity volleyball team holds a 9–9 record, JV stands at 14–11 with two tournament wins, and the freshman team is 8–13. The varsity boys' soccer team finished 8–9 overall and 4–4 in conference play and is competing in a regional semifinal at Byron. The varsity football team earned a 26–0 victory at Stillman Valley, improving to 5–3 and positioning themselves for a possible playoff berth. Their final regular season home game is this Friday against Byron.

Finally, board members were reminded to monitor emails from Rhonda and Dr. Cascio regarding upcoming no-cost events at next month's school board conference, as attendance requests may need to be submitted collectively.

XI. Executive Session (not needed)

XII. Recommendations from Executive Session (None)

XIII. Announcements and Other Information

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

Discussion focused on Strategic Plan Updates, NBESS Bargaining Process, and Goal Review. Mr. Mulholland inquired whether the board would resume regular discussions about progress toward the district's strategic plan. Other board members acknowledged the importance of revisiting the strategic plan regularly and incorporating it into meeting agendas to maintain transparency and direction in community work. The board also discussed a recent communication from Dr. Cascio indicating that NBESS has requested to begin bargaining. Mr. Mulholland questioned if there would be opportunities for the entire board to review projections on the financial and community impact before agreements are made. It was also noted that, according to the board calendar, a midpoint check of the district's goals should occur in October. The board acknowledged that this review had not yet taken

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place and that preparations should begin to assess progress toward current goals and begin drafting new ones. There was also reference to ongoing work on the softball fields, which prompted a reminder that such projects should align with the board's established goals. The strategic plan review and goal assessment would be explored to be added for the next meeting agenda.

XIV. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. O'Donnell and seconded by Mrs. Meyer to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. The motion carried with all in favor.

PRESIDENT _____

SECRETARY _____

APPROVED: