

**North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200**  
Minutes of the Joint Business Services Committee and the Facilities-Long Range  
Planning Committee Meeting  
**North Boone District Office**  
6248 North Boone School Road  
Poplar Grove, IL 61065  
Wednesday, February 4, 2026  
6:30 p.m.

**I. Call to Order**

The Joint Business Services Committee and Facilities-Long Range Planning Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Judy Hutchinson at 6:30 P.M.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll call was conducted by Secretary.

**Members Present:** Judy Hutchinson, Nan Schilling, Dr. Cascio, Joe Mullikin, Elaine Ahrens, Marc Eckmann, Heather Walsh, Brad Crull, William Randall, Sarah Meyer, Jim Nolen, Nick Augustine

**Members Absent:** Russell O'Donnell, Randy Steen, Holly Houk, Cindy Kastning, Rob Wessel, Chris McKibben, Jasen Chamberlain, Chad Cunningham, Robert Dreyer, Donnie Livdahl

**Also in attendance:** Sharon Uslan from Opterra

**III. Audience to Visitors**

None

**IV. Financial Update**

- Financial report was briefer than usual due to shortened turnaround since start of month.
- Revenues and expenditures reviewed with what the FY26 approved budget was, current revenue and expenditures, and prior years revenue and expenditures along with projected FY26 revenue and expenditures.
- Projections show some variances: Education, O&M, transportation expected to catch up; TORT fund at 39% of current revenue until tax extension and tax payments arrive.
- Keeping an eye on debt service, capital projects and fire/life safety funds projected to be on track.
- Expenditures currently at 60.1% of projected amount.
- Primary changes from December to January
  - MCAT & Grant Funding: We received \$325,318.35 in State MCAT payments and \$1,409,821.35 in total MCAT and grant funding
  - CSFT- No CSFT payment cleared in January- a \$100,435.95 payment was deposited on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and we anticipate another payment in February

- Audit update- Continuing work with Sikich. Our initial audit draft was shared with us, but they are finalizing everything and plan to attend the March Board of Education Meeting.
- Utilities Update- With the severe weather nationwide, we've been notified that we will likely see increases of 2-3 times what we would anticipate for rates for the months of January and February.

#### **A. Amended Budget**

- Once we get the tax extensions in from Boone & Winnebago Counties, best practice is to get Board of Education approval to officially begin working on amending the FY26 budget.

#### **B. FY27 Budget**

- Will obtain Board of Education approval to begin developing the FY27 budget.

#### **C. Bus RFP Update**

- We have sent out the RFP for both lease and purchase of up to 5 buses. This is in the Boone County Journal, our website, and was sent directly to 7 different companies.

#### **D. Tax Extensions & Abatement**

- We have \$200,000 budgeted for abatement from CSFT and are still committed to abating. We still believe that it is in our best interest to ensure we have the final extensions to make the most informed decision.

#### **V. Grant Expenditure Review**

- State Grants- Similar to MCAT's, we have a payment schedule for these and receive the money through the year. We submit expenditure reports along the way.
- Carryover for State Grants-
  - Ag Grant- No carryover allowed
  - Preschool for all – No carryover allowed
  - Teacher Vacancy- 10% carryover is allowable, but the grant ends this fiscal year
- Federal Grants – We are reimbursed for expenditures that are submitted through expenditure reports.
- Carryover for Federal Grants
  - Title I - We can carryover up to 15% of the total allocation to the upcoming fiscal year.
  - Title II, III, IV – We can carryover 100% of any unused monies into the next fiscal year.
  - IDEA- We can carryover 100% of the unused monies, but there is a “27-month rule.” Simply put, we are expected to expend the unused monies within 27 months if they are rolled over, but there is not rule on this.
- Preschool for All
  - We are meeting in two weeks to dive more deeply into this and are making payroll adjustments to ensure we are expending everything that has been allocated there, first and then using district funds.

- This we have had to pay back a portion of for a number of years. That will not happen this year.
- Grant Tracking and Expenditure Reports
  - We have a shared spreadsheet that keeps track of all expenditures, as related to each grant, and those expenditure reports are submitted in timely fashions.
  - Once those are submitted, Dr. Mullikin reviews them and approves them to be sent to the state.

## **VI. Student Fees 26-27**

- Registration fees presented are the same as last year.
- Paid transportation fees were also presented, but being set aside for now.
- Discussion around raising the fees took place.
- It was agreed to separate the registration fees and the paid transportation fees.
- Recommendation was presented for registration fees to be remitted to the Board of Education as presented. Motion passed by consent (12 ayes and 1 nay).

## **VII. Large Donations**

- Solutions Bank increased donation from \$15,000 initial offer to cover full cost (approximately \$15,485) for softball scoreboard manufacturing and delivery; requires board resolution to accept due to amount exceeding \$10,000.
- Local Family-A local farming family who leased property offered a donation exceeding \$11,000 (equivalent to lease payments for land behind high school), with stipulation that FFA/AG department will plant and harvest crops; equipment and seed donations also received.
- Board resolutions will be prepared for acceptance of donations.

## **VIII. Architect Meeting Scheduled for 2/18/2026**

- A. 10-year Life/Safety Audit – Timeline and costs to be established
- B. Master Facilities Study – Timeline to be established

## **IX. Opterra**

- Introduced Opterra as a performance contractor specializing in energy efficiency and facility modernization for small/rural districts. No-cost opportunity assessment offered, with potential future resolution for engagement.
- Brainstorming Sessions 1/22 & 2/6- Initial brainstorming and site visits began January 22; additional visits scheduled February 6.
- Site Visits 1/22 & 2/6 – Initial site visit was on 1/22 and an additional visit is scheduled for 2/6/2026

## **X. Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 7:18 pm by unanimous consent.

Submitted by:

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Judy Hutchinson, Business Committee Chair

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Russell O'Donnell, Facilities-Long Range Planning Committee Chair