

STEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 220

STEWARD, ILLINOIS

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting

April 15th, 2026 posted for participation.

Minutes taken by Matt Hayes.

The school board meeting of April 15th, 2026 was called to order by President Chele Wells.

On roll call at 6:00 pm, the following members were present:

Board members present: Chele Wells, Jen Kraemer, Bethany Drendel, Vicki Maertz, Matt Macklin, Jennie O'Rorke, Tom Brown, and Principal Michelle Esposito

Board members late:

Board members absent:

Visitors: Superintendent Steven Simpson

1. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

On a motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the agenda was accepted as presented.

2. Approval /Correction of Minutes from the April 9th, 2026 special meeting

On a motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Vicki Maertz, and with a unanimous voice vote, the minutes from April 9th, 2026 special meeting were accepted as presented.

3. Approval /Correction of Minutes from the March 18th, 2026 meeting

On a motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the minutes from March 18th, 2026 were accepted as presented.

4. Approval of Financial Reports and Bills

On a motion by Vicki Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll-call of all eyes, the bills and financial reports were accepted as presented.

5. Good News Communication and Report from Principal Esposito.
 - a. See file.
6. Board Communication for the Good of Steward District 220.
 - a. None.
7. Recognition and Comments from Employees and the Public
 - b. None.

Old Business

8. Building and Grounds: still looking for a high school or college student to help this summer.
 - a. Bethany Odle will be helping again, looking for one additional person
 - b. Hours are flexible

9. Teacher Appreciation Week
 - c. Breakfast provided on Monday, April 27th
 - d. Lunch provided on Wednesday, April 29th

New Business

10. Buildings and Grounds/ Building Usage – Leaks throughout the building and administrative office.
 - a. Blowing rain causes the most leaks
 - b. There are many leaks throughout the building with the flat roof
 - c. Mrs. Esposito will have a professional come and look at the building
11. Teacher Salary
 - a. Last year's salary schedule was shared
 - b. Mr. Hayes will create new salary sheets with the following changes:
 - i. 3% and 4% increase in base salary
 - ii. Increase the education step to \$750
 - c. The changes will be discussed at the May meeting
12. Salary/Wages/Hours: Food Service Director, Bus Driver, Head of Maintenance
 - a. Our bus driver is currently paid \$5 an hour during the wait time of bus trips.
 - b. Mrs. Esposito will check with surrounding schools to see what they are paying.
 - c. Our cook would like to change her hours from 9:15-1:30 to 8:30-2:30 to accommodate extra work requirements. This will be discussed at the May meeting.
 - d. Mr. Simpson shared that breakfasts would only qualify for state reimbursement if our poverty rate were higher than it currently is.
13. Press Plus 121 (first reading)
 - a. To be discussed at the May meeting
14. School Board Handbook
 - a. A copy of the board handbook was shared with each board member
15. Board Meeting change for May 2027
 - a. The 5/19/27 board meeting was changed to 5/12/27.

-
16. Executive Session: To consider the appointment, employment, and compensation. Discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or individual student matters.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved to move into Executive Session at 7:05 pm.

On a motion by Vicky Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved to move out of Executive Session at 8:30 pm.

17. Action Resulting from Executive Session

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll-call of all ayes, the Board approved the hiring of Camryn Somerville as the 4th-grade teacher for the 26-27 school year.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll-call of all ayes, the Board approved the hiring of Ethan Dexter as a half-time music teacher for the 26-27 school year.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll-call of all ayes, the Board approved the dismissal of Ashley Miller.

18. The next meeting will be held on May 20th at 6:00 pm.

On a motion by Vicki Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by the Board of Education:

Vicki Maertz, Board Secretary
Board of Education
May 20th, 2026

Chele Wells, President
Board of Education