

STEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 220

STEWARD, ILLINOIS

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting

August 20th, 2025 posted for participation.

Minutes taken by Matt Hayes.

The school board meeting of August 20th, 2025 was called to order by Vice President Jen Kraemer.

On roll call at 6:04 pm, the following members were present:

Board members present: Chele Wells, Vicki Maertz, Jen Kraemer, Jennie O’Rorke, Tom Brown, Bethany Drendel, 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 Vicki Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the agenda was accepted as presented.

1. Approval /Correction of Minutes from July 16th, 2025

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the minutes from July 16th, 2025 were accepted as presented.

2. Approval of Financial Reports and Bills

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

3. Good News Communication and Report from Principal Esposito.
 - a. See file.
4. Board Communication for the Good of Steward District 220.
 - a. The Girl Scouts donated cookies to the Board for all their hard work.
 - b. The School Open House went well.
 - c. Thank you to the Friends of Steward for supplying school supplies again this year.
 - d. Thank you to Americold for donating school supplies.

Old Business

5. Buildings and Grounds/ Building Usage –
 - a. Teacher’s bathroom: replaced toilet
 - b. A storage shed needs to be purchased to store risers, chairs, and other clutter in the school.
6. 10-Year Health/Life Safety
 - a. The architect will be here next month to share his plan

New Business

7. Approval of a Shed for School Property

On a motion by Vicki Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call of all ayes, a storage shed will be purchased from Countryside Barns, with concrete work to be done by Turner Concrete, and will be placed on the West side of the school by the baseball diamond.

8. PRESS Issue 119 Second Reading

- a. A discussion was held.

On a motion by Vicki Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the board approved Press Issue 119.

9. Update on Unfilled Certified and Noncertified Positions

- a. Music Teacher: Matt Hamon was interviewed and accepted the position.
- b. Paraprofessional: Brittney Talbott was interviewed and accepted the 3rd-grade paraprofessional position.
- c. Interim Superintendent: Steven Simpson will be the acting Interim Superintendent

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

On a motion by Vicki Maertz, seconded by Jennifer Kraemer and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved to move into Executive Session at 6:44 pm.

On a motion by Vicki Maertz, seconded by Jennifer Kraemer and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved to move out of Executive Session at 6:49 pm.

13. Action Resulting from Executive Session

On a motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Jennifer Kraemer, and with a roll call of all ayes, the Board approved to designate Mr. Steven Simpson as the Interim Superintendent.

On a motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Jennifer Kraemer, and with a roll call of all ayes, the Board approved to employ Mr. Matthew Hamon as a permanent substitute for Music.

On a motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Jennifer Kraemer, and with a roll call of all ayes, the Board approved to employ Brittney Talbott as the 3rd grade Paraprofessional.

14. The next meeting will be held on September 17th at 6:00 pm.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by the Board of Education:

Vicki Maertz, Board Secretary
Board of Education
September 17th, 2025

Chele Wells, President
Board of Education