

STEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 220

STEWARD, ILLINOIS

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting

December 17th, 2025 posted for participation.

Minutes taken by Matt Hayes.

The school board meeting of December 17th, 2025 was called to order by President Chele Wells.

On roll call at 6:02 pm, the following members were present:

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

Board members late:

Board members absent:

Visitors:

1. Swearing in of New Board Member
 - a. Matthew Macklin read the Oath of Office and was appointed to the open board position.
2. 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.

3. Approval /Correction of Minutes from November 19th, 2025

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the minutes from November 19th, 2025 were accepted as presented.

4. Approval of Financial Reports and Bills

On a motion by Tom Brown, 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 for other items.
6. Board Communication for the Good of Steward District 220.
 - b. Christmas Program was adorable.
7. Recognition and Comments from Employees and the Public
 - c. Thank you to Matt Hamon for helping prepare the kids from Aug.-Nov. for the Christmas program.

Old Business

8. Buildings and Grounds/ Building Usage –
 - d. Fire Panel died and needed replacement.
 - e. Matt Hayes shared a document about the savings from going to wireless services. (see file)

- f. Metal shelves have been purchased for the basement to replace plastic shelves to store school files.

New Business

- 9. Press Plus 120-second reading and adoption
 - g. Discussion was held

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll-call vote of all ayes, the Board approved Press Plus 120 as presented.

- 10. Annual Tax Levy (review)

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll-call vote of all ayes, the Board approved submitting the tax levy to Lee & Dekalb county.

- 11. Steward School District Calendar 2026-2027 (first reading)
 - h. A copy was shared (see file).

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- 12. 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 6:38 pm.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved to move out of Executive Session at 7:13 pm.

- 12. 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 resignation of Kara Johnson as the 6th-8th Social Studies/ Language Arts teacher.

On a motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved restructuring the Honor Rolls by removing the Highest Honors.

- 13. The next meeting will be held on January 21st at 6:00 pm.

On a motion by Vicki Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board adjourned at 7:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by the Board of Education:

Vicki Maertz, Board Secretary
Board of Education
January 21st, 2025

Chele Wells, President
Board of Education