

# STEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 220

## STEWARD, ILLINOIS

### Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 posted for participation.

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Minutes taken by Matt Hayes.

The school board meeting of February 18<sup>th</sup>, 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, Tom Brown, Bethany Drendel, Vicki Maertz, Matt Macklin, and Principal Michelle Esposito

**Board members late:**

**Board members absent:** Jennie O'Rorke

**Visitors:** Superintendent Steven Simpson

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1. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

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

2. Approval /Correction of Minutes from January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

**On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the minutes from January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026 were accepted as presented.**

3. Approval of Financial Reports and Bills

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

4. Good News Communication and Report from Principal Esposito.
  - a. See file.
5. Board Communication for the Good of Steward District 220.
  - a. Dodgeball night was a lot of fun.
  - b. IDEA grant (\$30,000) was accepted because of the hard work of Mrs. Esposito.
  - c. The Valentine's dance was very successful with 62 students, 9 adults, and the 4 DJs.
6. Recognition and Comments from Employees and the Public
  - a. The Girl Scouts dropped off the buddy bench they collected plastic caps for.

#### Old Business

7. Buildings and Grounds/ Building Usage –
  - a. Mr. Bullock would like to put some landscaping around the shed (summer job).
  - b. New stove to be installed in the kitchen by next week.
  - c. Mr. Bullock is installing a door closer to find out how long it will take to install it. In the summer, we are going to install one on most of the interior doors.

## New Business

8. Steward School District Calendar 2026-2027

- a. Two calendars were presented (see file), and a discussion was held.

**On a motion by Vicky Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved calendar C for 2026-2027. The start day will be August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

9. School Field Trip (for all)

- a. The trip will be on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, to the Egyptian Theatre for a musical.

**On a motion by Vicky Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll-call vote of all ayes, the Board approved the field trip to the Egyptian Theatre on April 24<sup>th</sup>, at a cost of \$5 per person, with the school covering the cost for students who can't afford it.**

10. Teacher Appreciation Week

- a. Mrs. Esposito would like to purchase gifts for the staff for Teacher Appreciation Week.

**On a motion by Vicky Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call of all ayes, the Board approved the purchase of staff gifts for Teacher Appreciation Week, up to \$600.**

11. Memorandum of Understanding from Lee County Sheriff

- a. A copy was shared (see file).

**On a motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved the memorandum of understanding from the Lee County Sheriff as presented.**

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

**On a motion by Vicky Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved to move into Executive Session at 6:47 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 7:14 pm.**

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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 hiring of Mary Todd as a full-time 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade teacher starting March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.**

**On a motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll-call of all ayes, the Board approved hiring an additional summer helper for one month during the summer.**

13. The next meeting will be held on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

**On a motion by Vicki Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board adjourned at 7:17 pm.**

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by the Board of Education:

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Vicki Maertz, Board Secretary  
Board of Education  
March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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Chele Wells, President  
Board of Education