

# STEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 220

## STEWARD, ILLINOIS

### Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting

February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 posted for participation.

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Minutes taken by Matt Hayes.

The school board meeting of February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 was called to order by President Chele Wells.

On roll call at 6:03 pm, the following members were present:

**Board members present:** Chele Wells, Jennie O’Rorke, Bethany Drendel, Vicki Maertz, Jen Kraemer, and Superintendent Steven Simpson

**Board members late:**

**Board members absent:** Tom Brown

**Visitors:** Erin Odle, Adam Czamanske (Geenex), Karen Bonnell (6:30pm)

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1. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

**On a motion by Vicki Maertz, a second by Jen Kraemer, and a unanimous voice vote, the agenda was changed to move Adam Czamanske to the beginning of the meeting.**

1. Recognition and Comments from Employees and the public.
  - a. Adam Czamanske shared information on the Geenex solar project to the West. See file for more information.
  - b. Geenex will host an Open House March 13<sup>th</sup> here at the school.
  - c. 2028 earliest possible start time for the project.
  - d. They are giving \$5,000 per quarter in local grant opportunities.
  - e. Sun initiative: \$50 per month for five years for any member of the Steward community that reaches out to them.
2. Approval /Correction of Minutes from January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**On a motion by Bethany Drendel, a second by Jen Kraemer, and a unanimous voice vote, the minutes from January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 were accepted as presented.**

3. Approval of Financial Reports and Bills

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

4. Good News Communication and Report from Superintendent Simpson.
  - a. See file.
5. Board Communication for the Good of Steward District 220.
  - a. Donuts with Moms was very nice and was well attended.

#### Old Business

6. Buildings and Grounds/ Building Usage

- a. Use of the gym for Geenex was approved for their Open House on March 13<sup>th</sup>.
- 7. 10-year Health/Life Safety (to be completed by Johnson & Associates of Rockford)
  - a. Scott Johnson, our architect, will do a walk-through on Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> of Spring Break.
- 8. Board Member Vacancy (Resignation from June)
  - a. none.

**New Business**

- 9. Optional: Candidate Interview(s) for Open Board Member Seat
  - a. none.
- 10. Calendar for 2025-26 School Year
  - a. The final draft of the FY26 RTHS calendar was shared along with a draft of the FY26 Steward school calendar.
  - b. The FY26 Steward calendar will be voted on at the March meeting.
- 11. Review of Substitute Teacher Pay Survey for Northwest Region IASA Districts
  - a. The final substitute pay results were shared and Steward School stands in last place.
  - b. Next month a decision will be made whether to adjust the substitute pay rate.

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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 and a second by Jen Kraemer and a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved to move into Executive Session at 7:09pm.**

**On a motion by Vicki Maertz and a second by Jen Kraemer and a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved to move out of Executive Session at 7:33pm.**

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- 13. Action Resulting from Executive Session
  - a. Mrs. Esposito's contract

**On a motion by Bethany Drendel, a second by Jenn Kraemer, and a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved for our attorney to prepare a contract for Mrs. Esposito for four years starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.**

- 14. The next meeting will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

**On a motion by Vicki Maertz, a second by Jenn Kraemer, and a unanimous voice vote, the Board adjourned at 7:34pm.**

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by the Board of Education:

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Vicki Maertz, Board Secretary  
Board of Education  
March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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Chele Wells, President  
Board of Education