

# STEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 220

## STEWARD, ILLINOIS

### Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting

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

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Minutes taken by Matt Hayes.

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

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

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

**Board members late:**

**Board members absent:**

**Visitors:** Erin Odle, Michelle Esposito

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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 accepted as presented.**

1. Approval /Correction of Minutes from February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**On a motion by Bethany Drendel, a second by Jen Kraemer, and a unanimous voice vote, the minutes from February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 were accepted as presented.**

2. Approval of Financial Reports and Bills

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

3. Good News Communication and Report from Superintendent Simpson.
  - a. See file.
  - b. SIP day highlights:
    - i. AFLAC representatives came and shared policy information.
    - ii. Mrs. Odle shared Math Block strategies she learned at a conference.
    - iii. Culture & Climate was discussed with an emphasis on being professional.
    - iv. Mrs. Esposito shared calming techniques she learned in a seminar.
4. Board Communication for the Good of Steward District 220.
  - a. Praise for the time and effort the Speech team put into their speech season.
  - b. The family dodgeball night was a success.
  - c. Goodies with Grandparents went well.
5. Recognition and Comments from Employees and the public.
  - a. Geenex Open House had 6-10 people from the community attend.

## Old Business

6. Buildings and Grounds/ Building Usage
  - a. The open house for Geenex was held on March 13th.
  - b. Our Architect will do a walk-through Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.
7. 10-year Health/Life Safety (to be completed by Johnson & Associates of Rockford)
  - a. none.
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 calendar was shared.

**On a motion by Tom Brown, a second by Jen Kraemer and a roll call of all ayes, the Board approved the Steward School 2025-2026 calendar as presented.**

11. Review of Substitute Teacher Pay Survey for Northwest Region IASA Districts
  - a. Discussion was held.

**On a motion by Jennie O'Rorke, a second by Jenn Kraemer, and a roll call of all ayes, the Board approved to increase of the Substitute Teacher pay to \$130 per day effective immediately.**

12. Review Bid(s) for 2025 Mowing Season
  - a. A bid was shared from the same company that mowed last year with the same rate of \$225 per mowing.

**On a motion by Bethany Drendel, a second by Jen Kraemer, and a roll call of all ayes, the Board approved to accept the lawn bid from V&C Lawn Services for \$225 per mowing.**

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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 Jennie O'Rorke and a second by Jen Kraemer and a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved to move into Executive Session at 6:46pm.**

**On a motion by Tom Brown and a second by Jen Kraemer and a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved to move out of Executive Session at 8:15pm.**

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13. Action Resulting from Executive Session
  - a. .

**On a motion by Tom Brown, a second by Jenn Kraemer, and a roll call of all ayes, the Board approved the implementation of a probationary plan for an employee.**

14. The next meeting will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

**On a motion by Jenn Kraemer, a second by Tom Brown, and a unanimous voice vote, the Board adjourned at 8:29pm.**

Respectfully submitted:

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Vicki Maertz, Board Secretary  
Board of Education  
April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Approved by the Board of Education:

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Chele Wells, President  
Board of Education