

STEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 220

STEWARD, ILLINOIS

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting

November 19th, 2025 posted for participation.

Minutes taken by Matt Hayes.

The school board meeting of November 19th, 2025 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, Jennie O’Rorke, Tom Brown, Bethany Drendel, and Principal Michelle Esposito

Board members late:

Board members absent: Vicki Maertz

Visitors: Superintendent Steven Simpson and Matt Macklin

1. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

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

1. Approval /Correction of Minutes from October 15th, 2025

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the minutes from October 15th, 2025 were accepted as presented.

2. Approval of Financial Reports and Bills

On a motion by Tom Brown, 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. Thank you to the Kedzie family and the Davis family for donating Clorox wipes for the classroom.
 - b. See file for other items.
4. Board Communication for the Good of Steward District 220.
 - a. Mrs. Esposito is doing an excellent job in the office with her energy and strong initiative.
5. Comments public.
 - a. none

Old Business

6. Buildings and Grounds/ Building Usage –
 - a. The stage stairs have been repaired.
 - b. Fire Alarm pull switch to be bid by door 4.
 - c. Emergency lights have been installed.
7. 10-Year Health/Life Safety

- a. Pictures of the crack in the floor will be taken and sent to the architect to turn in to the state.
- 8. Board Member Vacancy
 - a. Matthew Macklin was interviewed for the open board position.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Tom Brown, and with a roll call vote of all ayes, the Board approved the appointment of Matthew Macklin to fill the open board member position.

New Business

- 9. Press Plus 120 first reading
 - a. A printed copy was shared with everyone.
 - b. A digital copy will be sent out after the meeting.
- 10. Annual Tax Levy
 - a. Mr. Simpson shared a copy of the Tax Levy that he prepared.

On a motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call vote of all ayes, the Board approved the annual tax levy as presented.

- 11. Date Presentation, Goal Setting, CBM's
 - a. Copies of the presentation were shared (see file).
 - b. A goal sheet was shared that Mrs. Esposito would like to implement (see file).
 - c. Information about Easy CBM was shared (see file). The cost was \$7.50 per student.

On a motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call vote of all ayes, the Board approved the purchase of the CBM data service as presented.

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- 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 Tom Brown, seconded by Jen Kraemer and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved to move into Executive Session at 7:06 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 8:07 pm.

- 13. 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 Maribel Ortiz as the 2nd-grade Paraprofessional.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call vote of all ayes, the Board approved the resignation of Matt Hamen as the part-time music teacher and approved his full-time employment as the 2nd-grade Paraprofessional.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call vote of all ayes, the Board approved the hiring of Casey Groves as the music teacher.

- 14. The next meeting will be held on December 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 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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

Approved by the Board of Education:

Chele Wells, President
Board of Education