

STEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 220

STEWARD, ILLINOIS

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting

November 20th, 2024 posted for participation.

Minutes taken by Matt Hayes.

The school board meeting of November 20th, 2024 was called to order by President Chele Wells.

On roll call at 6:01 pm, the following members were present:

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

Board members late:

Board members absent: Tom Brown

Visitors: Michelle Esposito and Erin Odle

1. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

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

2. Approval /Correction of Minutes from October 23rd, 2024

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, a second by Jen Kraemer, and a unanimous voice vote, the minutes from October 23rd, 2024 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. Presentation of Annual Financial Report (Newkirk & Associates, Inc)
 - a. A copy of the audit was shared with everyone.
 - b. Mr. Newkirk provided an overview of the audit.

On a motion by Vicki Maertz, a second by Jen Kraemer, and a roll call of all ayes, the audit was accepted as presented by Newkirk & Associates.

5. Good News Communication and Report from Superintendent Simpson.
 - a. See file.
6. Board Communication for the Good of Steward District 220.
 - a. It was recommended that a copy of the bank statements and reconciling reports be presented to the board each month.
 - b. There was excitement shared about the Booster Club's Little Caesar's fundraiser they will be doing over the next few weeks.
7. Recognition and Comments from Employees and the public.
 - a. Mrs. Odle shared how Math Block and Algebra are set up.

Old Business

8. Buildings and Grounds/ Building Usage
 - a. More work will be done on the backup pump.
 - b. An estimate was given to level the sidewalk back by the baseball diamond.
 - c. An estimate was given by Rockford Glass on the broken window in the music room.
9. 10-year Health/Life Safety (to be completed by Johnson & Associates of Rockford)
 - a. none.
10. Board Member Vacancy (Resignation from June)
 - a. none.

New Business

11. Optional: Candidate Interview(s) for Open Board Member Seat
 - a. none.
12. Presentation of Annual Tax Levy (to be approved; may be amended in December) Legal deadline to file is Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024.
 - a. A copy of a finished Lee County tax levy was shared and explained by Mr. Simpson.
 - b. The actual Certificate of Tax Levy was shared with the total tax levy at \$1,003,905.

On a motion by Vicki Maertz, a second by Jen Kraemer, and a roll call of all ayes, the Board approved the Certificate of Tax Levy presented by Mr. Simpson.

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

On a motion by Vicki Maertz, a second by Jen Kraemer, and a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved to move into Executive Session at 7:25pm.

On a motion by Vicki Maertz, a second by Jenn Kraemer, and a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved to move out of Executive Session at 8:16pm.

13. Action Resulting from Executive Session

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, a second by Jenn Kraemer, and a roll call of all ayes, the Board approved to accept the resignation of LeeAnn Schimetz, the 1st Grade Paraprofessional.

On a motion by Vicki Maertz, a second by Jenn Kraemer, and a roll call of all ayes, the Board approved to hire Taylor Gaston as a part-time 1st Grade Paraprofessional.

14. The next meeting will be held on December 18th at 6:00pm.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, a second by Jenn Kraemer, and a unanimous voice vote, the Board adjourned at 8:19pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by the Board of Education:

Vicki Maertz, Board Secretary
Board of Education
December 18th, 2024

Chele Wells, President
Board of Education