

# STEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 220

## STEWARD, ILLINOIS

### Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting

October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 posted for participation.

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Minutes taken by Matt Hayes.

The school board meeting of October 15<sup>th</sup>, 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, Vicki Maertz, Jen Kraemer, Jennie O’Rorke, Tom Brown, Bethany Drendel, and Principal Michelle Esposito

**Board members late:**

**Board members absent:**

**Visitors:** Superintendent Steven Simpson and Bill Newkirk

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1. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

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

1. Approval /Correction of Minutes from September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**On a motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the minutes from September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 were accepted as presented.**

2. Approval of Financial Reports and Bills

**On a motion by Vicki Maertz, seconded by Tom Brown, 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. See file.
4. Board Communication for the Good of Steward District 220.
  - a. None.
5. Presentation of FY25 Audit
  - a. Bill Newkirk shared a copy of the audit with everyone and went over the highlights.

#### Old Business

6. Buildings and Grounds/ Building Usage –
  - a. The storage shed has been filled 2/3 full, freeing up space inside the school.
7. 10-Year Health/Life Safety
  - a. The AED has been updated with batteries and pads.
  - b. Emergency lights with battery backups have been installed by Mr. Bullock.
8. Board Member Vacancy
  - a. A letter of interest in the open board position was shared from Matthew Macklin.

**New Business**

- 9. Holiday gift ideas for staff

**On a motion by Vicki Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call of all ayes, the Board approved the purchase of 19 \$100 Amazon gift cards for staff, to be delivered on December 5<sup>th</sup>.**

- 10. Present Field Notice of Health Life/Safety Codes from ROE
  - a. A copy of the report was shared. (see file)
- 11. Approval for preparing the Annual Tax Levy

**On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved Mr. Simpson to prepare the annual tax levy.**

- 12. Approval for Stronghold 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to replace Taft and additional costs
  - a. The trip will be November 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> (see file)

**On a motion by Jen Kraemer, seconded by Vicki Maertz, and with a roll call of all ayes, the Board approved the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> trip to Stronghold on November 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, with the trip being paid for in full by the school.**

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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 6:46 pm.**

**On a motion by Vicki Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved to move out of Executive Session at 6:49 pm.**

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- 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 Stacy Leifheit as the 2nd-grade Paraprofessional.**

**On a motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call vote of all ayes, the Board approved the employment of Maribel Ortiz as the 2nd-grade Paraprofessional.**

- 14. The next meeting will be held on November 19<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 6:54 pm.**

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by the Board of Education:

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

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Chele Wells, President  
Board of Education