# STEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 220
# STEWARD, ILLINOIS

## Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting

August 19th, 2026 posted for participation.

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Minutes taken by Matt Hayes.

The school board meeting of August 19th, 2026 was called to order by President Chele Wells.

On roll call at 6:00 pm, the following members were present:

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| **Board members present:** | Jen Kraemer, Bethany Drendel, Matt Macklin, Jennie O'Rorke, and Principal Michelle Esposito |
| **Board members late:** | |
| **Board members absent:** | Tom Brown, Vicki Maertz |
| **Visitors:** | Superintendent Steven Simpson, Dr. Kirsten Garrigan, Sarah Loeffelholz, Erin Odle and Brittany Schaneberg |

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1. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

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

2. Approval /Correction of Minutes of the July 15th, 2026 meeting

**On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the minutes of the July 15th, 2026 meeting were accepted as presented.**

3. Approval of Financial Reports and Bills

**On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call of all ayes, the bills and financial reports were accepted as presented.**

4. Good News Communication and Report from Principal Esposito.
    a. See file.
5. Board Communication for the Good of Steward District 220.
    a. The presentation at the Meet the Parents night went very well and was very informative.
6. Recognition and Comments from Employees and the Public
    a. Mrs. Loeffelholz really enjoys how the kids are well-behaved and excited to learn.
    b. Mrs. Schaneberg is excited to be teaching preschool this year.
    c. Mrs. Odle is very impressed with our new teachers (Mr. Watson and Ms. Somerville) desire to jump in and help where they are needed.
    d. Thankful for Jen Kraemer for sharing the 3M grant opportunity that has been providing a lot of items for our school.
    e. Kirsten Garrigan shared a proposal/resume for providing Superintendent mentorship and Leadership Coaching to Michelle Esposito for the next three years since the requirements for Mrs. Esposito to transition to Superintendent have changed.

f. Jim Hammock proposal provided for taking the Superintendent position here at Steward, allowing Steven Simpson to retire.

**Old Business**

7. Building and Grounds: air conditioning, caulking, sprinkler inspection (model to fix the sprinkler system was faulty, but all costs were covered by the company that installed it.)
   a. The air conditioner above the tech room has been repaired.
   b. A proposal from Nate Ramsey for caulking the building was shared.
   c. The Ramsey proposal doesn't include removing and replacing the gutters.
   d. The sprinkler inspection revealed a faulty valve that will be replaced at no cost to us.
8. Press Issue 122 (second reading and possible adoption)
   a. A discussion was held and it was adopted.

**On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the board approved Press Issue 122.**

**New Business**

9. Optional: Candidate Interview(s) for Open Board Member Seat (s)/ Post Election Needs
   a. None
10. Stronghold Field Trip (total $1,862)
   a. The Booster Club covered the entire cost of the field trip.
11. Steward ESD #220 Tentative Budget
   a. The tentative budget is last year's budget until we adopt an official budget.
12. Letter of Understanding (Newkirk & Associates, Inc.)
   a. A copy was shared.

**On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call of all ayes, the board approved to continue having Newkirk & Associates do our audit and accept their letter of understanding.**

13. District Technology Review (Secure Halo)
   a. Would like to move towards having all teaching staff use Chromebooks so they can be monitored more easily by our IT professional. Looking at potential grants.

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

**On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved to move into Executive Session at 6:51pm.**

**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 9:10 pm.**

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15. 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 hiring of Michael Watson.**

**On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call of all ayes, the Board accepted the resignation of Tom Brown from the Board. Motion carried.**

**On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, the Board approved the convening of a Special Board Meeting on August, 21st at 3:30pm to discuss disciplinary action in executive session.**

16. The next public meeting will be held on September 16th at 6:00 pm.

**On a motion by Bethany Drendal, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board adjourned at 9:20 pm.**

Respectfully submitted:

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Vicki Maertz, Board Secretary
Board of Education
September 16th, 2026

Approved by the Board of Education:

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Chele Wells, President
Board of Education