10-02-2026
For immediate release

CONTACT:
Michelle Esposito (779-212-8923)
mesposito@stewardschool220.org
Chele Wells (815-739-9352)
cwells@stewardschool220.org

District Begins Policy Manual Project

Steward, Ill. — Steward ESD #220 has begun the development/updating of a policy manual with the assistance of the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB).

"The policy manual contains our district's written board policies, which communicate our district goals, how the board and superintendent work together, and how the district will monitor district progress toward our goals," said Chele Wells, Steward ESD #220 board president. "It is important that we update the policy manual regularly to ensure that we are in compliance with changes in the law and to modify or eliminate pieces that may be outdated."

The board of education and the superintendent will meet with an IASB policy director to develop a new draft manual and to edit that manual prior to board adoption.

While policy manuals are designed around the Association's "sample" policies, each district has its own unique needs, the board president said. "The IASB policy director will help us determine what our needs are and incorporate them into our manual."

Five to ten work sessions on the draft policies will be scheduled over the next several months, after which the manual will be presented for adoption. Mrs. Wells

expects the board will approve the new manual by the end of the 2026-27 school year. The new policy manual also acts as the basis for an updated handbook that students and parents will be able to easily identify the rules that specifically affect them, including school climate, parental involvement and curriculum, as well as discipline issues.

Cost of the project is estimated to be $6,000.

Sincerely,

Michelle Esposito

Dr. James Hammack

Chele Wells