STEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 220
STEWARD, ILLINOIS

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting

May 20th, 2026 posted for participation.

Minutes taken by Matt Hayes.

The school board meeting of May 20th, 2026 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, Vicki Maertz, Matt Macklin, Jennie O'Rorke, Tom Brown, and Principal Michelle Esposito

Board members late: Bethany Drendel (6:06pm)

Board members absent:

Visitors: Superintendent Steven Simpson, Mary Huels, Katie White, and Shawn Bullock

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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 following items were added to the agenda: Fund transfer under new business and moving public comments before financial reports.

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

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

On a motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Vicki Maertz, and with a unanimous voice vote, the minutes of April 15th, 2026 meeting were accepted as presented.

3. Recognition and Comments from Employees and the Public
    a. Katie White shared concerns she had with a teacher. She also shared a letter that would be read in executive session.
4. Approval of Financial Reports and Bills
    a. Matt Hayes shared a detailed summary of our current financial position through PowerPoint.

On a motion by Vicki Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll-call of all ayes, the bills (excluding a bill from Allegiant for $1,170) and financial reports were accepted as presented.

5. Good News Communication and Report from Principal Esposito.
    a. See file.
    b. The 8th-grade graduation went very well.
6. Board Communication for the Good of Steward District 220.
    b. The kids are excited about the last day of school tomorrow.

Old Business

7. Building and Grounds: Shawn Bullock to address fire panel, bus barn, and roofing.

a. The new fire panel is a new system monitoring old equipment and not communicating well.
b. We need four new modules ($16,000) to help with the communication problem. (A copy of the estimate was shared)
c. There was a leak in the sprinkler pipe in the basement recently that set off the alarms. This was our third leak in the past few years.
d. We will need to replace the piping in the entire sprinkler system. Ideally, it should be replaced with a nitrogen-generating system. We are currently looking for a bid for that.
e. A future need will be smoke sensors and heat sensors
f. The **bus barn** gutters, downspouts, and flashing need to be replaced. ($4,200 bid from Boss Roofing)
g. It was suggested to find more bids before moving forward.
h. The **1962 flat roof** is beyond patching repair. (10-year life safety estimate was $450,000)
i. If we wait too long we could be dealing with black mold.
j. The **1999 roof** needs flashing repair on the west side.
k. The gym roof is starting to show signs of leaking. Where the old roof meets the newer roof is the biggest problem.
l. Mr. Bullock will provide a detailed list of items that need to be replaced with prices and priority.

8. Salary: Teachers, Staff, and Bus Driver (hourly rate)
    a. To be discussed at the June meeting
9. Press Plus 121 (second reading and possible adoption)

On a motion by Vicki Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll-call vote of all ayes, the Board approved Press Plus 121 as presented.

New Business

10. Investment Options/ Fund Transfer
    a. Mr. Simpson suggested we transfer $10,000 from Fund 20 to Fund 80 to cover the negative balance (-$5,468.68).

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved to transfer $10,000 from Fund 20 to Fund 80.

    b. Mr. Hayes will talk to the auditors next month about investment options.

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16. 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 7:15 pm.

On a motion by Vicky Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved to move out of Executive Session at 8:55 pm.

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17. 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 Matt Hamon as the 2nd-grade Para.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll-call of all ayes, the Board approved the resignation of Mary Todd as the 3rd-grade teacher.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll-call of all ayes, the Board approved the hiring of Cayce Groves as the 3rd-grade Para for the 26-27 school year.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll-call of all ayes, the Board approved the hiring of Clayton Schuler as the 6th-8th Language Arts/Social Studies teacher for the 26-27 school year.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll-call of all ayes, the Board approved the hiring of Camryn Somerville as the 4th-grade teacher for the 26-27 school year.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll-call of all ayes, the Board approved the allowance of Braylon Wells to help Mr. Bullock for the summer.

18. The next meeting will be held on June 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 8:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Vicki Maertz, Board Secretary
Board of Education
June 17th, 2026

Approved by the Board of Education:

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Chele Wells, President
Board of Education