STEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 220

STEWARD, ILLINOIS

Minutes of the Regular BOE Meeting

September 23rd, 2026, posted for participation.

Minutes taken by Vicki Maertz

The school board meeting of September 23rd, 2026, was called to order by President Chele Wells.

On roll call at 6:03pm, the following members were present:

Board members present: Chele Wells, Jen Kraemer, Vicki Maertz, Matt Macklin, Jennie O'Rourke, Bethany Drendel, and Principal Michelle Esposito

Board Members late:

Board Members absent:

Visitors: Kirsten Garrigan, Shawn Bullock, Sarah Malcolm, Meg Davis, Katie White, and William Heimbigner

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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 of all ayes, the agenda was accepted

2. Approval/Correction of Minutes of the August 19th, 2026, Regular Board Meeting

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote of all ayes, the minutes of August 19th, 2026 meeting were accepted as presented.

3. Recognition and Comments from Employees and the Public
   a. Sarah Malcolm thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with them and the school.
   b. Meg Davis introduced herself and talked about her background for an open position available.
4. Approval of Financial Reports and Bills
   The Financial Reports were presented and approved individually.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, with a unanimous roll call vote of all ayes, the Expenditure Report was accepted.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, with a unanimous roll call vote, of all ayes, the Bills were accepted.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, with a unanimous roll call vote of all ayes, the Treasurers Report was accepted.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, with a unanimous roll call vote of all ayes, the Revenue Report was accepted.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, with a unanimous roll call vote of all ayes, the Financial Report was accepted.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, with a unanimous roll call vote of all ayes, the three Salary Reports were accepted.

5. Good News Communication and Report from Principal Esposito.
    a. See File
6. Board Communication for the Good of Steward District 220

Old Business

7. Building and Grounds: Shawn Bullock to address air conditioning condenser in the library, re-piping the primary sump pump, caulking, Downspout/gutter remove and restore, and roof bidding process.
    a. The air conditioner is to be readdressed on February 27's agenda.
    b. The re-piping of the sump pump can possibly be done in house. Shawn is looking into if a plumber would be needed.
    c. Caulking with removal and restoration of the downspout/gutter was presented for a total of $33,460.09 ($30,759 for the Caulking and Restoration from H.E.S.S. and $2,701.09 for the Gutter removal and reinstall from BOSS Roofing).

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, with a unanimous roll call vote of all ayes, the H.E.S.S. caulking bid was approved.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, with a unanimous roll call vote of all ayes, the BOSS Roofing gutter bid was approved.

    d. The new roof will have to go through a bidding process. Mrs. Esposito will reach out to Scott Johnson with some questions and put this on the October Agenda
    e. Board Member Vacancy: Katie White expressed interest in joining the school board.

New Business

8. Press Plus subscription update to allow the program to automatically update all the policies in the Policy Manual was presented with a one-time fee of $8,050.00.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, with a unanimous roll call vote of all ayes, the Press Plus Pricing was approved.

9. The health department visited the school on 9/15/2026. They only found one minor violation and said everything looked good.
10. Two estimates were presented for the older bus repairs. The school will explore some options for the bus and discuss it at a later date.
11. The Parent and Family engagement policy was shared for adoption.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, with a unanimous voice vote of all ayes, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy was accepted.

12. The FY26-28 Steward Policy update for Absenteeism and Truancy was presented for approval.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, with a unanimous voice vote of all ayes, the Absenteeism and Truancy Policy was accepted with a few corrections.

13. The FY26-27 Steward Bullying Prevention Policy was presented for approval.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, with a unanimous voice vote of all ayes, the Bullying Prevention Policy was accepted with a few amendments.

14. The FY26-27 Steward School Budget was presented for approval

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, with a unanimous roll call vote of all ayes, the Budget was accepted.

15. An Appointment of Authorized IMRF Agent was presented for Erin Whitehead as treasurer.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, with a unanimous roll call vote of all ayes, the approval of appointing Erin Whitehead was accepted.

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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, with a unanimous voice vote of all ayes, the Board approved to move into Executive Session at 8:11 pm.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, with a unanimous voice vote of all ayes, the Board approved to move out of Executive Session at 9:20 pm.

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17. Action resulting from Executive Session

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, with a unanimous roll call vote of all ayes, the Board approved to pay Dr. James Hammack for an additional 5 days.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, with a unanimous roll call vote of all ayes, the Board approved to share the cost of Insurance for Ethan Dexter between Steward ESD #220 and Eswood ESD #269.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, with a unanimous roll call vote of all ayes, the Board approved Erin Whitehead as the public official bond applicant for Steward CUSD.

18. The next meeting will be held on October 21st, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, with a unanimous voice vote of all ayes, the Board adjourned at 9:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Jennie O'Rorke, Board Member
Board of Education
September 16th, 2026

Approved by the Board of Education:

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Chele Wells, President
Board of Education