

Midwest Central Community Unit School District #191  
High School Library, 910 S Washington St, Manito, IL 61546  
Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, April 15, 2026 - 6:30 PM

Board Minutes

**Call to Order**

**Roll Call**

Heather Askins: Present  
Melinda Beebe: Present  
Alyssa Bennett: Present  
Jay Blair: Present  
Scott Dierker: Present  
Amber Schmidt: Present  
Tara Zaayenga: Present

**Visitors Wishing to Address the Board**

**Recognition of the 8th Grade Girls' Volleyball Team**

**Consent Agenda**

Minutes

Open Meetings - March 18, 2026

Destruction of Closed Meeting Verbatim Records - September 19, 2024

Treasurer's Report

Payment of Bills

**Motion for Consent Agenda**

I move to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll call. This motion, made by Melinda Beebe and seconded by Amber Schmidt, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Heather Askins: Yea  
Melinda Beebe: Yea  
Alyssa Bennett: Yea  
Jay Blair: Yea  
Scott Dierker: Yea  
Amber Schmidt: Yea  
Tara Zaayenga: Yea

**Reports**

FOIA

Jules Goonewardena - Peoria Standard

Transportation Report

Principals

- Ms. Timm reported: finished IAR; fundraiser netted over \$22,000 and one reward was a trip to Arlee Theater

- Mr. Mooney reported: discipline report
- Mrs. Matthews reported: discipline report; finished IAR testing; Band going to Peoria Symphony Orchestra; Student Council going to convention; 5th graders coming May 1 for orientation; Musical May 1; Band Concert May 5; Bookfair happening now; May 20 wax museum
- Mrs. Jackson reported: Preschool screened 15 students for fall with 60+ projected to start, will host another screening Aug 5; Preschool transitioning to kindergarten will participate in the screening April 21; Kindergarten celebration night at end of May; Special Education holding transition meetings during annual reviews to reduce number of meetings has worked well; Sarah Gough, Nora Phillips, Danielle Willis, and Abbie Schenider have really made meetings student centered
- Mr. Norris reported: discipline report; Softball currently 7 and 9, Senior Night is May 5; Baseball currently 5 and 4, Senior Night is May 18; Track has a lot of new PRs being set, Senior Night is April 23; Bass Fishing took 2nd place trophy and big bass award at Spring Lake in Macomb, headed to Goose Ranch this weekend
- Mr. Welch reported: FFA student involvement picking back up with competitions; Freshman Orientation is April 14; ACT April 15; Prom April 18

Superintendent

Sales Tax Update

### **Business Discussion/Action Items**

#### **IHSA Membership**

I move to approve the renewal of our membership in the Illinois High School Association for the 2026-27 school year. This motion, made by Jay Blair and seconded by Alyssa Bennett, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

#### **IESA Membership**

I move to approve the membership renewal and registration with the IESA for the 2026-27 school year. This motion, made by Melinda Beebe and seconded by Scott Dierker, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

#### **First Reading - Handbook Edits**

I move to approve the first reading of handbooks edits as presented. This motion, made by Heather Askins and seconded by Amber Schmidt, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

#### **First Reading - Middle School Activities Handbook Edits**

I move to approve the first reading of activities code edits as presented. This motion, made by Heather Askins and seconded by Alyssa Bennett, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

#### **First Reading - High School Activities Handbook Edits**

I move to approve the first reading of the High School Activities Handbook edits as presented. This motion, made by Jay Blair and seconded by Heather Askins, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

#### **First Reading - High School Curriculum Guide**

I move to approve the first reading of the High School Curriculum Guide as presented. This motion, made by Alyssa Bennett and seconded by Scott Dierker, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

#### **Overnight Trips**

I move to approve the overnight trips as presented. This motion, made by Scott Dierker and seconded by Melinda Beebe, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Amdall Family Donation - CTE Program, \$10,000

I move to approve the acceptance of the donation from the Amdall family of \$10,000.00 to improve our CTE program. This motion, made by Amber Schmidt and seconded by Alyssa Bennett, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Manito Community Bank Teacher Flower Fund Account

I move that Traci Sondag be removed as the signatory for the Manito Community Bank Teacher Flower Fund account (last 4 account numbers 0177) and appoint Brad Welch as the new signatory. This motion, made by Heather Askins and seconded by Jay Blair, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Tax Extension and Tax Rate

**Executive Session to Discuss**

I move to enter into executive session to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1), (2), and (21) at 7:47 PM. Roll call. This motion, made by Heather Askins and seconded by Amber Schmidt, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

- Heather Askins: Yea
- Melinda Beebe: Yea
- Alyssa Bennett: Yea
- Jay Blair: Yea
- Scott Dierker: Yea
- Amber Schmidt: Yea
- Tara Zaayenga: Yea

5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity; and

5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2) Collective negotiation matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; and

5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06 (5 ILCS 120/2.06).

**Departing Executive Session**

I move to depart executive session at 8:40 PM. This motion, made by Heather Askins and seconded by Alyssa Bennett, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**Personnel Discussion/Action Items**

Appointments

- Todd Beebe - Bass Fishing Volunteer
- Jeff Thompson - High School Boys Basketball Volunteer

I move to approve appointing Todd Beebe as a Bass fishing volunteer for the 2025-26 school year and Jeff Thompson as a High School Boys Basketball Volunteer for the 2026-27 school year. This motion, made by Heather Askins and seconded by Jay Blair, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Retirements

Rodney Norris - High School Assistant Principal / Athletic Director

I move to approve the retirement request for Rodney Norris as presented. This motion, made by Jay Blair and seconded by Amber Schmidt, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Leave Requests

Sarah Haley - Dock

I move to approve Sarah Haleys dock day request as presented. This motion, made by Alyssa Bennett and seconded by Amber Schmidt, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Informational Items - Resignations, Employee Transfers

Gilbert Robison - Resignation - High School Social Studies Teacher

Jeff Thompson - Resignation - 8th Grade Boys Basketball Coach

Christopher Herndon - Resignation - Bus Driver

Other Personnel Items

**Closed Session Minutes - March 18, 2026**

I move to approve the closed session minutes of March 18, 2026. This motion, made by Scott Dierker and seconded by Alyssa Bennett, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**Adjourn**

I move to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:46 PM. This motion, made by Heather Askins and seconded by Amber Schmidt, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**The next meeting is May 20, 2026 at 6:30 PM at the Unit Office**

President: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_