

EFFINGHAM COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #40
EFFINGHAM, ILLINOIS

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026

The Board of Education meeting will be held at the Unit #40 Board Office at 2803 S. Banker St., Effingham, IL at 5:30 p.m. The number of the public permitted to attend the Unit #40 Board of Education meeting may be limited.

The Unit #40 board meeting will be streamed live on YouTube. Please use the following links to access the meeting:

Live stream starting at 6:00 p.m.: <https://youtube.com/live/r1LPA9AqMQQ?feature=share>

Live stream following closed session: <https://youtube.com/live/HdQ3naB9YH0?feature=share>

1. Call to Order Regular Meeting/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call
President Wendling called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:30 PM
Secretary Willenborg called the roll.
Members present: Erica Boone, Brandon Duncan, Chad Thompson, Desha Wear, and Jill Wendling
Members absent: Andrew Altman and Jane Willenborg
Members in attendance remotely: none
Staff present: Andrew Johnson, Kelsey Baker, Michelle Morrissey
2. Acknowledgements
3. Recognition of Visitors
4. Adjournment to Closed Session
Boone made a motion, seconded by Duncan to adjourn to Closed Session at 5:30 PM.
Roll call vote
AYES: Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling
NAYS: none
ABSTAIN: none
Motion Carried
 - A. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District.
 - B. Student disciplinary cases pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, and the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students pursuant to Section 2(c)(10) of the Open Meetings Act.
 - C. Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.
 - D. Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property.

5. Return to Open Session

Wear made a motion, seconded by Boone to adjourn and return to open session at 6:56 PM.

Roll call vote

AYES: Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

6. Financial Report

Baker reported a net fund balance of \$30,463,250.11 and an Operating funds net total of \$25,581,219.71. Reimburse the imprest account in the amount of \$3,270.39 and approve the bills as listed:

Education Fund – \$656,777.58

Little Hearts Daycare - \$13,229.19

Operations, Building & Maintenance Fund – \$167,993.56

Bonds & Interest - \$15,675.73

Transportation Fund – \$204,730.34

Tort Fund – \$71,721.81

Capital Improvements - \$1,859.04

Total - \$1,131,987.25

Boone made a motion and seconded by Thompson to approve the financial report and to reimburse the imprest account in the amount of \$3,270.39 and payment of bills in the amount of \$1,131,987.25.

Roll call vote

AYES: Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

7. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes: January 12, 2026, Regular and Closed Session Meeting Minutes; January 14, 2026, HR/Athletics Committee Meeting Minutes; February 11, 2026, Special and Closed Session Meeting Minutes

B. Cafeteria Report: Enclosed

C. Student Teachers:

Student	Type	Unit 40 Teacher	Grade/Subject	School	Date
Zoey Elmore	Short Term Field Experience: Practicum	Charlie Huber	Art	EHS	January - May 2026
Scott Robinson	Short Term Field Experience: Practicum	Josh Robison	English	EHS	January - May 2026
Lydia Smith	Short Term Field Experience: Practicum	Tiffany Mumm	English	EHS	January - May 2026
Amber Lilley	Short Term Field Experience: Practicum	Dannette Williamson	English, Grade 12	EHS	January - May 2026

Courtney Mathews	Short Term Field Experience: Practicum	Ellen Warner	HS Math	EHS	January - May 2026
Sullymar Rivera-Perez	Short Term Field Experience: Practicum	Aaron Adams	Social Studies	EJHS	January - May 2026

D. Fundraisers:

Group	Event	Reason	Date
EJHS Band & Choir	Discount Cards	Raise funds for the music program	February 12-26, 2026

E. Field Trips:

Group	Event	Date
EHS Winter Guard	MCCGA Winter Guard Competition	January 31, 2026
EHS History Club	City Museum, St. Louis, MO	March 13, 2026
CGS 4th Graders	St. Louis City Museum	March 25th & 26th, 2026
SS 2nd Graders	Terre Haute Children's Museum	March 25th & 26th, 2026

Wear made a motion, seconded by Boone to accept the Consent Agenda.

Roll call vote

AYES: Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

8. Correspondence - None

9. Superintendent's Report

A. Foundation Report: Enclosed

B. Enrollment: As of 1.31.26, the total enrollment is 2,304 (7 students more than the previous month and 24 fewer students than the previous year)

C. FOIA Request: Enclosed

D. Presentation from Jessica Reeder and Talitha Wiedman on SS Successes (Academically)

10. New Business

A. Discussion about CORE Academy Financial Partnership – Tabled until the March meeting. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Duncan

B. Discussion about 2026-2027 School Calendar

C. Approve Glass & Shuffett to Perform the FY26 Audit
Boone made a motion, seconded by Thompson to approve Glass & Shuffett to complete the District's FY26 audits at a cost not to exceed \$35,000.

Roll call vote
 AYES: Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling
 NAYS: none
 ABSTAIN: none
 Motion Carried

- D. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with ROE #3 for Alternative Education
 Boone made a motion, seconded by Duncan to approve the 2026-27 Intergovernmental Agreements with ROE #3 for alternative education programs.

Roll call vote
 AYES: Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling
 NAYS: none
 ABSTAIN: none
 Motion Carried

- E. Approval to Eliminate the Summer Bridge Programs for K-5 and Transition those Opportunities to the 21st Century Grant Program

Tabled until the March meeting. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Boone

Roll call vote
 AYES: Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling
 NAYS: none
 ABSTAIN: none
 Motion Carried

- F. Amend the 2025-26 School Calendar Due to Use of Two Emergency Days
 Boone made a motion, seconded by Wear to Amend the 2025-26 school calendar to reflect the use of two Emergency Days on January 26th & 27th, 2026.

Roll call vote
 AYES: Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling
 NAYS: none
 ABSTAIN: none
 Motion Carried

10. Personnel List

EMPLOYMENT:	
Kyle Webb	8th Grade Boys Track Coach for the 2025-26 School Year
Chris Moschenrose	2nd Shift Custodian at SS
Brandi Wooten	Para at SS
TRANSFER:	
Amanda Hille	Head Cook at SS
Stacey Winterstein	4 Hr. Cook at SS
Devynn Haslett	Secretary at ELC for the 2026-27 School Year
Lauren Pals	Director of Special Education, July 2026
VOLUNTEER:	
Randy Hansen	JH Bass Fishing Assistant Coach for the 2025-26 School Year
TERMINATION:	
Natalie Ritchey	Para at EHS

Thompson made a motion, seconded by Duncan to approve the personnel list as presented.
Roll call vote

AYES: Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

11. Possible Action on Resolution Authorizing Student Disciplinary Action

Thompson made a motion, seconded by Boone to approve Resolution Authorizing Student Disciplinary Action for Student 2026-11.

AYES: Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

12. Approval for Administrative and Director Contracts/Salaries

Boone made a motion, seconded by Thompson to approve administrators and directors contracts/salaries as presented.

Roll call vote

AYES: Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

13. Adjourn

Boone made a motion, seconded by Duncan to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM.

Roll call vote

AYES: Boone, Duncan, Thompson, Wear, Wendling

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

Motion Carried

Date of Minutes: Monday, February 16, 2026

Date of Approval: _____

President

Secretary

EFFINGHAM COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #40

Effingham, Illinois

Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting

Date: February 16, 2026

Time: 5:30 PM

A motion was made by Boone, and seconded by Duncan, to adjourn to closed meeting to discuss:

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors, or specific volunteers of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor, or a volunteer of the District or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).**
- Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
- The selection of a person to fill a public office, including a vacancy in a public office, when the District is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the District is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3).
- Evidence or testimony presented in open hearing, or in closed hearing where authorized by law, to a quasi-adjudicative body, as defined in the Open Meetings Act, provided that the body prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision with its determinative reasoning. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4).
- Evidence or testimony presented to the Board regarding denial of admission to school events or property pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/24-24, provided that the Board prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision setting forth its determinative reasoning. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4.5), added by P.A. 103-311.
- The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).
- The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6).
- The sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7).
- Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8).**
- Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).**
- The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).
- Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).**
- The establishment of reserves or settlement of claims as provided in the Local Government and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act, if otherwise the disposition of a claim or potential claim might be prejudiced, or the review or discussion of claims, loss or risk management information, records, data, advice or communications from or with respect to any insurer of the District or any intergovernmental risk management association or self-insurance pool of which the District is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(12).
- Self-evaluation, practices and procedures, or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the District is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16).
- Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed, 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(c)(21).
- Meetings between internal or external auditors and governmental audit committees, finance committees, and their equivalents, when the discussion involves internal control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards of the United States of America. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(28).

Closed Meeting Roll Call:

"Yeas" - 5	"Nays" - 0
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Motion: Carried