

**AMBOY COMMUNITY UNIT
SCHOOL DISTRICT #272
AMBOY, ILLINOIS**

Thursday, December 14, 2023
6:30 PM

Amboy Junior High School
Cafeteria
240 N Metcalf Avenue
Amboy, IL 61310

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Action: Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Public Hearing on the 2023 Tax Levy
 - C. Open Forum
 - D. Board Committee Reports
2. Action: Consent Agenda Items
 - A. Minutes

2

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
AMBOY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #272 BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023, AT 6:30 P.M.
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

President Pratt called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:31 p.m. All board members were present. Also present were Joshua Nichols, Jamie Rodriguez, Scott Leffelman, Yvonne Vicks, Aubrey Burke, Anna Willis, Bonita Willis, Jim Murphy, Joanie Zimmerly, Emily Seier, Emmie Henkel, Kathleen Russell, Cara Milewski, Janet Crownhart, Andrew Full, and Jessica Meusel.

The floor was opened to comments from the audience. There were none.

Elsa Payne shared information from the Buildings and Grounds meeting. The track will be resurfaced and the secured entrance at Central will begin summer 2024. They will look into the Central windows for possibly summer 2025.

A motion was made by Montavon and seconded by Powers to approve the following consent agenda, as presented: minutes of the October 19, 2023, open & closed regular board meetings and delete audio recordings dated May 24, 2022. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Superintendent Nichols reviewed the finance reports. The district has received \$10,779,560 of the anticipated revenue for the year and \$191,330 in sales tax revenue. This represents 97% of the anticipated local revenue and roughly 28% state revenue. The district has used roughly \$4,522,689 this fiscal year.

A motion was made by Stenzel and seconded by White to approve the tentative tax levy for the year 2023, as presented, and to set a public hearing date for Thursday, December 14, 2023, 6:30 p.m., at the Junior High School. Superintendent Nichols provided a summary on the tentative tax levy. He'll present the levy at the truth and taxation hearing during the December board meeting. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Brokaw and seconded by White to approve the current expenditures and payroll, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

The next order of business was Principal Reports. Jessica Meusel and Central School teachers presented the IAR ELA and Math academic progress data from the Illinois Report Card. Central School received Commendable with an Overall Index Score of 78.45 and ranked #257 out of 1,669 elementary schools in Illinois. Andrew Full and Janet Crownhart summarized curriculum and school improvement, school activities, and PBIS from their presented reports.

Superintendent Nichols presented a tutorial on how to get to the online Illinois State Report Card then how to navigate to all the information it provides.

For his Superintendent Report, Nichols gave an update of progress on several areas that needed or needs maintenance. There have been no FOIA requests since the last meeting.

The first reading of the Illinois Association of School Boards policy revisions was presented.

A motion was made by Powers and seconded by Montavon to approve the revised 2023-2024 High School Student Handbook, as presented. This changes the activity/athletic code violation process to match other student discipline appeal process. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Stenzel and seconded by White to approve to purchase one 2019 53-passenger school bus, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Montavon and seconded by Payne to adopt the Amboy CUSD #272 Strategic Plan, as presented. This plan was developed by a hard-working committee that used feedback received from surveys and focus groups. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

At 7:10 p.m., a motion was made by White and seconded by Brokaw to move to executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in an educational setting and student discipline. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

At 7:36 p.m., a motion was made by White and seconded by Payne to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Powers and seconded by Stenzel to approve the suspensions of students 11-14-23-1 through 11-14-23-22, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Payne and seconded by Brokaw to accept the retirement resignation of Peter Ayling as Bus Driver, effective January 19, 2024. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Stenzel and seconded by Montavon to approve the following personnel pending successful criminal background checks, proper licensure, and submission of pre-employment requirements: Jennifer Yocum as Bus Aide, effective October 16, 2023; Noah Hansen as 5th/6th Grade Scholastic Bowl Coach; and Kyle Schoenholz as Freshman Boys Basketball Coach. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

President Pratt announced upcoming date: Regular School Board Meeting - Thursday, December 14, 2023 – Junior High School – 6:30 p.m.

There being no further business to bring before the Board, a motion was made by Powers and seconded by White to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsa Payne, Secretary

Katie Pratt, President

Approved: _____

- B. Delete Audio Recordings
- 3. Action: Financial Reports
 - A. Review of Financial Reports
 - B. Current Expenditures & Payroll
- 4. Discussion: Reports
 - A. Principal Reports



**Amboy Jr. High School
Principal's Report
December 14th, 2023
Submitted by: Andrew Full**

Curriculum and School Improvement:

- A faculty meeting was held on Monday, November 27th to discuss Parent/Teacher Conferences and second chance breakfast.
- On Wednesday, December 6th the science, social studies, and physical education departments met in their content area.
- Mr. Kerley and Mrs. Schabacker are currently piloting new SEL curriculums.

PBIS:

- On Wednesday, December 20th, we held our monthly PBIS celebration/assembly and the following awards were handed out:
 - o Students of the Month-
 - 5th Grade-
 - 6th Grade-
 - 7th Grade-
 - 8th Grade-
 - P.E.-
 - o Clipper P.R.I.D.E.-
 - o Staff Shout-Out Winners-
 - o Boys Basketball was recognized
 - o Cheerleaders were recognized
 - o Speech Team Awards
 - o Grade Level Competition
- On Tuesday, December 19th AJHS held our 2nd quarter PBIS celebration at Plum Hollow.

School Activities:

- Parent/Teacher Conferences were held on November 20th and 21st.
- The 7th and 8th grade boys basketball teams competed in the Chadwick Tournament on Saturday, December 4th. The 7th grade placed 3rd and 8th grade placed 4th.
- Starting on Tuesday, December 5th the AJHS Student Council hosted our December to Remember Dress Up Days.
- The 6th grade boys basketball team competed in the RRVC Tournament and finished in _____ place. The 8th grade boys basketball team competed in the RRVC Tournament and finished in _____ place.
- Coding Cub has started and is sponsored by Mrs. King. She had four students at her first meeting.
- The AJHS Band and Choir hosted their Winter Concert on Friday, December 15th.
- Girls basketball open gyms will be starting on Monday, December 18th.

Amboy Central Elementary School
Principal Report
Jessica Meusel
December 2023

School Activities:

- December 1 was Grinch Day at Central School. We had many students and staff dress up in festive Grinch Gear. Our Central Family Movie Night was a HUGE success! Our gym was packed and the kids loved it! Families were able to enjoy cookies, popcorn, grinch punch, and hot cocoa. Special thanks to our Family Engagement Committee for all of their hard work and effort. We have an incredible staff!
- Parent Teacher Conferences were well attended with a 96% attendance rate. Thank you to Central School PTC for providing snacks for our teachers.
- Our Canned Food Drive to help out our Amboy Fire Department began on November 27 and will end on December 15. The class that brings the most canned food items will win a pizza party from Casey's.
- On November 30 students who met their individual reading goal earned a bag of popcorn to enjoy while watching Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.
- Thank you to Travis Kemmerer and the Amboy High School band and choir for inspiring future musicians during their special performance on November 30.
- On December 4 we had an all school assembly to recognize our smarties of the week and get an update on our reading progress. We have earned 7,262 points. Our school goal is 20,000.
- Our Central School Winter Parties will be held on December 20 from 10:30-11:00 a.m. All parents are invited to attend, please leave younger siblings at home because space is limited.

School Improvement:

- Students are working hard completing assessments for the winter benchmark. Central School staff will have data meetings on December 18 and 19 to discuss student progress.
- Central School teachers completed a Trauma Responsive Schools Implementation Assessment as the first step of our trauma informed action plan. Our social emotional learning task force will review the results and create an action plan for the 24-25 school year.

PBIS:

- December's character trait is gratitude. Mrs. Selover is visiting classrooms to present a lesson on gratitude. The November kindness competition wrapped up with 98 acts of kindness at Central School during the month and our third grade class earned the "sprinkle kindness everywhere" cupcakes.



**Amboy High School
Principal's Report
December 2023
Submitted by: Janet Crownhart**



Curriculum and School Improvement

- Student of the Month is Kimber Zitelman.
- Congratulations to the Illinois State Scholars: Brennan Blaine, Gabriel Jones, Austin Shugars, and Landon Whelchel.
- November 14th, Mrs. Sachs attended the Special Education Leadership Training.
- November 15, Mrs. Cleary took 20 students to the Figge Art Museum.
- On November 15th, the Section 2 FFA agronomy and Section 2 FFA dairy foods CDEs occurred.
 - The dairy foods team consisted of Emma Dinges, Anna Carlson, and Brysen Full. They placed 3rd as a team in our section!
 - The agronomy team consisted of Morgan Kreiser, Grace Althaus, Leia Maxfield, Tanner Welch, Chase Huggins, Gavin Nichols, Henry Nichols, Westin Wittenauer, Jake Dinges, Jason Dickinson, Michael Ackert, Logan Ketchum, and Lilly Drew. The agronomy team placed 1st overall in Section 2! As individuals, Westin Wittenauer was 9th, Gavin Nichols was 6th, Logan Ketchum was 4th, and Jake Dinges was 2nd place overall.
- November 20th and 21st, Mr. Heavner took a group of FFA members to the BUILD Conference at ISU.
- November 28th, Mr. Heavner took the FFA officers to the Sauk Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting to receive a grant for \$4000 to benefit the Ag Program.
- November 30th, Mrs. Bulfer attended part 2 of a Transformational Leadership Academy Series at SVCC.
- November 30th and December 1st, Mr. Sustaita and Mrs. Whitman attended the IAPHERD Convention.



**Amboy High School
Principal's Report
December 2023
Submitted by: Janet Crownhart**



- December 1st, Ms Scriven attended the Transitional ELA summit at SVCC.

School Activities

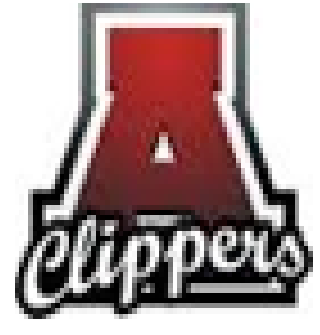
- Brooklyn Strub, Liz Clarida, and Micah Miller completed their Pathways Team-Based challenge by providing lessons for Central's science club. It was a success and all the students learned a lot.
- During homeroom this month, students watched videos on Digital Citizenship while working through the next SEL lessons.
- Parent-teacher conferences were held on November 20th and November 21st. The high school had approximately 26% of the parents attend.
- PSAT 9 scores and PSAT/NMSQT scores have been released. Students should have access to these scores through Khan Academy.
- Final exam exemptions were discussed with students during 21st Century Ready, and a video was sent out explaining the process to the rest of the students on December 6. Students can be exempted from up to 5 classes based on tardies, grades, and PSAT/SAT scores.
- The kitchen staff is reporting a great turn-out for 2nd chance breakfast, greatly increasing the number of students getting breakfast daily since the beginning of the school year.

Looking Ahead

- Final exams will be held on December 19th, 20th, and 21st.
- 2nd semester starts on January 4th. Mr. Kolton has been busy meeting with students to ensure they are in the correct classes right away when they return from break.



Amboy High School
Principal's Report
December 2023
Submitted by: Janet Crownhart



- B. Superintendent Reports
- C. FOIA Requests
- D. Board Policy Review
- 5. Action: Illinois Association of School Boards Policy Revisions
- 6. Action: Resolution abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2023 to pay debt service on the General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2019A, of the Amboy Community Unit School District #272, Lee County, Illinois
- 7. Action: Resolution Authorizing a Public Hearing Date for Transfer of Funds
- 8. Action: Naming Central School Gym after George Mason
- 9. Action: Executive Session
- 10. Action: Return to Open Session
- 11. Action: Student Discipline
- 12. Action: Personnel - Resignation
- 13. Action: Personnel - Hiring
- 14. Upcoming Dates, Miscellaneous Items, Board Remarks and Adjournment