

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

Thursday, April 17, 2025
6:30 PM

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Open Forum
 - C. Board Committee Reports
2. Action: Consent Agenda Items
 - A. Minutes

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
AMBOY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #272 BOARD OF EDUCATION
THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025 AT 6:30 P.M.
AMBOY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

President Pratt called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:30 p.m. All board members were present except Stenzel. Also present were Joshua Nichols, Yvonne Vicks, Anna Willis, Elizabeth Hennessy, Janet Crownhart, and Andrew Full.

President Pratt opened the floor for public comments. Elizabeth Hennessey from Raymond James presented the Financial Projection Model. Booklets were handed out to everyone for review. Section 1 reviewed assumptions, EAV, tax cap revenue model, and levy strategies. Section 2 reviewed fund by fund projections. Section 3 reviewed outstanding debt.

A motion was made by Powers and seconded by White to approve the following consent agenda items, as presented:

- Minutes of the February 20, 2025 open & closed meetings;
- 2025-2026 IHSA membership renewal; and
- Delete audio recordings dated October 19, 2023.

Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Superintendent Nichols reviewed the financial reports. The district has received 96% of the anticipated revenue for the year and \$404,536 in sales tax revenue. This is roughly 100% of the anticipated local revenue and 64% of the anticipated state revenue. The district has used 67% this fiscal year.

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

Andrew Full and Janet Crownhart reviewed their Principal reports, as presented. These contain the month's curriculum and school improvement, school activities, PBIS, and building activities.

For his Superintendent report, Mr. Nichols noted that maintenance has been busy with interior lighting in the junior high gym and high school stairwells. Maintenance had the elevator's hydraulic leak repaired as well.

There were no FOIA requests to report.

Board Policy Review: March is the last month to review Section 5, Personnel and Section G, Personnel.

A motion was made by Powers and seconded by Montavon to approve the 2025-2026 school calendar, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Payne and seconded by White to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Amboy CUSD #272 and the Lee County Sheriff's Office, as presented. This allows them to access our camera system remotely in case of an emergency. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

At 7:13 p.m., a motion was made by Brokaw and seconded by Powers 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; collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives; and student discipline. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

At 7:40 p.m., a motion was made by Powers and seconded by White to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Payne and seconded by Montavon to approve the suspensions of students 3-20-25-1 through 3-20-25-16, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Powers and seconded by Brokaw to accept the resignation from Melanie Kopriva as English Teacher at the High School, effective at the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Payne and seconded by Montavon to approve the following personnel pending successful criminal background checks, proper licensure, and submission of pre-employment requirements: Kim Atherton and Jacob Riley as Van Drivers, Brenda Deery as Van Driver and Aide, and Dennis Yocum as Substitute Bus Driver, all effective March 12, 2025; Erica Boyle as Girls Track Coach at the Junior High; summer workers, as presented; tenure contracts to probationary teachers, as presented; contract renewals to tenured teachers, as presented; contract renewals to non-tenured probationary teachers, as presented; and contract renewals to support staff, as presented. Motion carried with five yeas and one abstention. One vote was abstained by Powers.

President Pratt announced next regular board meeting: Thursday, April 17, 2025, 6:30 p.m., at the Junior High School.

There being no further business to bring before the Board, a motion was made by Payne and seconded by Montavon to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsa Payne, Secretary

Katie Pratt, President

Approved: _____

**MINUTES OF THE RETREAT OF THE
AMBOY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #272 BOARD OF EDUCATION
SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025 AT 8:32 A.M.
AMBOY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

The Board of Education Retreat was called to order at 8:32 a.m. Katie Pratt, Nichole Stenzel, Elsa Payne, Nick Brokaw, Rory White, and Drew Montavon were present. Also present were Superintendent Nichols, Janet Crownhart, Andrew Full, and Jessica Meusel. Mandy Powers was absent.

Mr. Nichols began with the State of the District:

- Enrollment trend- 713 as of February 2024
- Current Revenue= \$13,576,322 or 96%
- Current Expenses= \$11,081,734 or 67%
- Fund balances, O & M trend, transportation fund were reviewed.
- Per student spending- instructional \$7,776, operational \$17,784
- IAR results and trend, assessment results, ISBE's ESSA goals reviewed.
- Buildings and Grounds updates-High School parking lot, Central windows and doors, boilers at Central, High School auditorium upgrades, lights and ceiling tiles at HS and Central, HS bleachers, JH locker rooms, Health Life Safety Plan.
- Going forward- RTI/Remediation at Central and JH, access to viable curriculum for all students, SEL, technology integration/ usage and AI, school improvement plans and goals, professional development, and District Strategic Plan implementation and monitoring.
- Nichols gave a demonstration using Google's AI source, Gemini. AI could be used in the classroom as a tool for teachers to enhance learning.

Nichols reviewed the transportation report provided by Rob. The district currently runs 6 primary routes and 7 special routes. Rob would like to be able to add Pete's route back in. Rob would also like to purchase another van due to the number of special routes that are ran daily.

Break from 9:42-9:49

Nichols reviewed the maintenance report provided by Brian Lampe. The current conditions and recommendations for each school were reviewed, as well as the non-attendance district buildings. Lampe gave recognition to the two new full-time custodians and two reliable subs.

- Priority Area #1- Recruit and Retain High Quality Staff
 - District Staff handbooks were given out at the start of the school year.
 - Job Fairs.
 - Staff recognition. Awards/pins will be given for milestone years of service
 - Mentor program.
- Priority Area #2- Maintain and Improve School Facilities and Financial Health.
 - Develop and communicate a district cleaning schedule and protocols.
 - Construct a 10-year facilities plan. Health Life Safety plan ends in 2025.
 - Establish a transparent plan and protocols for communicating building concerns.
- Priority Area #3- Address Emotional and Mental Issues of Students and Staff
 - Implement SEL curriculum K-12
 - Central- adopted Leader in Me for 25-26 implementation
 - JH- Caring School Community
 - HS- Josten's

- SAEBERS: Social, Academic, and Emotional Behavior Risk Screener is the K-12 risk screener.
 - Trauma Informed Action Plan: Surveys taken to create action plans at each building.
 - Andrew reviewed AJHS extra-curriculars
 - Janet reviewed SAEBR's, SEL, HS extra curriculars, and ROE mentors
 - Discipline- total incidents at high school= 274, junior high= 109. Most frequent types= kicked out/removed from class, inappropriate behavior in class, disruptions, insubordination.
 - Attendance- Central= 129 students with 5 or more absences and 28 students with 10 or more absences, JH= 117 students with 5 or more absences and 52 with 10 or more, HS= 56 students with 5 or more absences (last year was 136) and 18 students with 10 or more absences (last year was 11).
- Priority Area #4: Prepare students to be college and career ready through new/innovative programming.
 - Meusel began for Central
 - Central 2025-2026 schedule- Art in morning, WIN and Guided Reading will be within first 2 weeks of school, Boot Camp in early August, Summer School (invite-only of Tier 2 and Tier 3 students), master schedule has been reworked for current special ed caseload using IEP minutes.
 - Central projected enrollment 2025-2026- ECE= 1, preschool= 40, Kindergarten= 32, 1st =51, 2nd= 39, 3rd= 45, 4th= 52
 - Central Staffing- would like to add additional 4th grade teacher, additional Special Ed resource teacher, and Math Interventionist.
 - Central School Reading and Math Data reviewed, and reviewed student movement between tiers. IAR test scores for Central were also reviewed.

Break from 11:46-11:57 to grab lunch (working lunch)

- Full reviewed 2025-2026 class schedules, curriculum, retention, and summer school. Full also reviewed 5 Essentials Data, and IAR trends.
- Crownhart reviewed Math and ELA goals, Pathways work, 2025-2026 class schedule, Academic opportunities, PSAT and SAT scores, and retention.
 - Spots for Co-op and Whiteside are being held for Ohio students if they dissolve their high school and we absorb some of their students.
 - A brief discussion was had as to why Health and Drivers Ed classes will not be offered during the summer this year. ESSR money is gone which funded the summer classes. Cost for a summer teacher would be roughly \$4,000, and we would also need to find a teacher that would be willing to teach the classes. There was also a discussion regarding sex-ed and abstinence education in Health classes.

Principals dismissed at 1:02 pm

- At 1:12 p.m. the board began the review of the Superintendent Evaluation with Mr. Nichols.
 - Goals and priority areas in evaluation were reviewed.

At 2:01 p.m. a motion was made by Stenzel and seconded by Montavon to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsa Payne, Secretary

Katie Pratt, President

Approved: _____

- B. Delete Audio Recordings
- 3. Seating of New Board Members
 - A. Proclamation of Election
 - B. Oath of Office
- 4. School Board Reorganization
 - A. President Pro Tempore
 - B. Election of Officers
- 5. Action: Seating of Appointed Board Members
- 6. Action: School Board Meeting Dates
- 7. Action: Financial Reports
 - A. Review of Financial Reports
 - B. Current Expenditures & Payroll
- 8. Discussion: Reports
 - A. Principal Reports



**Amboy Jr. High School
Principal's Report
April 17th, 2025
Submitted by: Andrew Full**

Curriculum and School Improvement:

- The School Improvement Team met on Thursday, March 20th to discuss next year's schedules, special education, and educational mandates.
- On Monday, April 14th a faculty meeting was held to discuss grades and keeping up with grades as we get closer to the end of the school year.
- On Thursday, April 17th grade level team meetings were held to discuss end of the plans, awards, and students.

PBIS:

- On Monday, April 7th, we held our monthly PBIS celebration/assembly and the following awards were handed out:
 - o Students of the Month-
 - 5th Grade- Auggie Boyle and Emersyn Moore
 - 6th Grade- Kensley Helm and Michael Dallam
 - 7th Grade- Nolan Scully and Annabelle Leffelman
 - 8th Grade- Shawn Thompson and Sydney Noble
 - P.E.- Mackenzie Alletto and Roman Spinelli
 - o Clipper P.R.I.D.E.- Jack McCoy, Ariyah Bellows, Emersyn Moore, Audree Schaefer, Jackson Scully, Mackenna Alletto, Alexzander Brown, Tanner Mares, Casey Stampfler, Zaelen Wilson, Madison Phillips, Brison Fenwick, Alivia Schultz, Avery Wittenauer, Zoey Zambrano, Erika Decker, Jaron Wittenauer, Seeley Goff, Selena Daffer, Eli Kaleel, Aubreyanne Kimball, and Vivian Oury.
 - o Positive Office Referral- Levi Atkinson and Amiyah Villarreal
 - o Faculty/Staff Shout-Out Winners- Maureen Harris and Brandi Spreeman
 - o We recognized Young Authors and March Mammal Madness Winners

- Grade Level Competition

School Activities:

- On April 10th, the 6th grade went on their field trip to Flow and the Burpee Museum in Rockford.
- On April 11th and 12th the AJHS Drama Club performed the musical “Happy Valley High” and did an outstanding job.
- On April 17th, the 7th grade went on their field trip to the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.



**Amboy High School
Principal's Report
April 2025
Submitted by: Janet Crownhart**



Curriculum and School Improvement

- Student of the Month is Carson Barlow.
- Congratulations to Caylee Hummel for placing 1st in the 2025 Student/Teacher Art Exhibit with her Charcoal & Pencil piece called "The Calm Before the Roar". The selected pieces will be displayed as banners on the 1st Avenue Bridge between Sterling and Rock Falls.
- On March 13th, the Parliamentary procedure team place 1st overall in the Section 2 Contest, they will compete on April 2nd in the District contest - 1st place overall team
 - 1st place chairperson - Tyler Huggins
 - 1st place floor member - Logan Ketchum
 - 2nd place floor member - Chase Huggins
 - 3rd place floor member - Natalie Pratt
 - 4th place floor member - Grace Althaus
 - 7th place floor member - Jake Dinges
- On March 18th, Ms Rose took the anatomy students to visit the labs at OSF to see what they do and how things work.
- Ms Harvey took 8 students to the Freshmen Leadership Conference on March 20th. Students include: Channing Bellows, Addison Blaine, Landon Carter, Mady Clarida, Bella Daly, Faith Fenwick, and Jayce Hermeyer.
- Congratulations to Caylee Hummel. She won Best of Show 2D at The Next Picture Show High School Art Exhibit. Show runs through 4/26.
- Juniors took the ACT on April 9th and freshmen/sophomores took the Pre-ACT on April 15th. A retake for the ACT will be on April 29th.



**Amboy High School
Principal's Report
April 2025
Submitted by: Janet Crownhart**



- On April 4th, 2 students attended the Nursing Symposium at SVCC. Congratulations to Alexis Cheever on earning her Nursing Endorsement!
- On April 11th, 4 students attended the Education Symposium at SVCC. Congratulations to Hunter Rasmussen and Brooklyn Strub on earning their Education Endorsement.
- On April 23rd -25th, Mr Kolton will be attending and presenting at the Illinois Association of College Admission Counseling annual conference in Peoria. He will be presenting on what rural students can bring to a college campus as well as what challenges rural students may face in the college admission process as well as when they arrive on campus.

School Activities

- Homeroom Material
 - Freshmen, sophomore, and junior students worked on Method Learning to help with the types of questions that would be asked on the ACT/PreACT
 - SEL Lessons included "How to be a Better Friend"
 - Time was given to get caught up on missing work and finishing the year strong

Looking Ahead

- Prom - May 3rd @ Deer Valley
- Baccalaureate - May 21st at 7 pm at St. Patrick Church
- Honor's Night - May 22nd at 7 pm in the AHS auditorium
- Graduation - May 25th at 2 pm in the AHS gymnasium

Amboy Central Elementary School
Principal Report
Jessica Meusel
April 2025

School Activities:

- Our third and fourth grade students completed IAR testing.
- Students are participating in a Book Blast to get books for their home libraries.
- April 16 is our Central Elementary School Spring Concert at Amboy High School. The show starts at 6:30 p.m.
- Students will complete STAR and Fastbridge testing the week of April 28.
- Family Bingo Night will be held on Friday, May 2 at 6 p.m.
- Our family engagement committee sent a survey to parents so we can use their feedback to support our 25-26 family night planning.
- Preschool screenings were held on April 16 and 17.
- Special thanks to the Amboy Education Foundation for providing a taco bar on April 17.
- April 23 will be tie-dye day at Central School. Students will make class color t-shirts to wear on our field day.
- On April 24 Miss Garriott is hosting a preschool family night for families.
- Kindergarten Screenings will be held at Central School on April 29 and May 1.
- Kindergarten Roundup is on May 6 at 6 p.m. in the Central School gym. Incoming kindergarten students and their families will have an opportunity to meet our kindergarten team, tour the school, and finalize paperwork.

PBIS:

- April's Conscious Discipline skill focuses on consequences. Mrs. Selover is visiting classrooms to teach students about learning from our mistakes.

- B. Superintendent Reports
- C. FOIA Requests
- D. Action: Board Policy Review
- 9. Discussion: First Reading of the 2025-2026 Fee Schedule
- 10. Action: 2025-2026 IESA Registration
- 11. Action: Van Purchase
- 12. Action: Memorandum of Understanding with the Amboy Education Association
- 13. Action: Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement
- 14. Action: Executive Session
- 15. Action: Return to Open Session
- 16. Action: Student Discipline
- 17. Action: Personnel - Resignation
- 18. Action: Personnel - Hiring
- 19. Upcoming Dates, Miscellaneous Items, Board Remarks and Adjournment