

Minutes of the Argos Community Schools  
Regular School Board Meeting  
Held on December 18, 2023

The Board of School Trustees held a regular school board meeting on December 18, 2023. The following individuals were present for all or a part of the meeting.

A. Pat Rensberger, Jennifer Hurford, Karra Duff and Monty Peden, Board Members

B. Ned L. Speicher, Superintendent

C. Kelli VanDerWeele, Business Manager

D. Amy Miller, Administrative Assistant

Pat Rensberger called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M and led the Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence. Board member Chris O'Dell was absent from the meeting.

There was no communication from patrons.

Monty Peden moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2023 public hearing and regular meeting. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it passed 4-0.

Karra Duff made a motion to approve all personnel changes per the attached listing. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it passed 4-0.

Greg Drennen from LWC was scheduled to attend the meeting but was unable to attend due to the inclement weather. In his absence, Mr. Speicher presented Drennen's slides to the Board. He updated the Board on all of the building projects, the gas turbine generator and Gym 2 retro-fit light bulbs that will be installed later in the week.

Next item on the agenda was the approval of 2024 Board meeting dates as listed. After discussion, Karra Duff moved to revise the July date to the 22nd, so as to not conflict with the county fair, scheduled for July 13th-19th. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 4-0.

Monty Peden asked for approval of the rooftop units invoice from Ideal Construction for project #3 in the amount of \$487,436.40. Karra Duff seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Speicher asked the Board to approve the release of the retainage payment of \$40,000 to R. Yoder Construction for Project #1. Karra Duff moved to approve the retainage payment with Monty Peden seconding and it was approved 4-0. Mr. Speicher then asked the Board to approve payment #1 for Project #4 (Site Development), also to R. Yoder Construction. This payment is \$145,494.90. Karra Duff moved to approve the payment. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it was approved 4-0.

Jennifer Hurford asked for approval of 8 open invoices for LWC for professional services rendered during the building projects. The total amount due is \$25,444.29. Karra Duff moved to approve the invoices as presented and it was approved 4-0.

Mr. Speicher asked the Board for consideration of payment for days worked beyond contract for July-December 2023. There were a total of 22 extra days worked during this time. Monty Peden moved to approve the payment with Karra Duff seconding and it was approved unanimously.

Kelli VanDerWeele asked the Board to approve claims for the month of November. There was a total of \$59,800.11 in accounts payable claims and \$284,192.94 in payroll claims. Total claims for the month were \$343,993.05. Jennifer Hurford moved to approve as presented. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it was approved 4-0.

The employees of Sequel Wire, located in Argos, recently donated \$1860.00 on behalf of the company's owners to pay the 2022-2023 negative lunch account balances. Karra Duff moved to accept the gracious donation with Jennifer Hurford seconding. The motion was approved 4-0. Mr. Speicher updated the Board on the Cultivate food project. Recently, we have been able to begin offering the service to our middle school kids who are in need. Cultivate and ACS are now providing weekend meals to qualified students K-8th grade.

Mr. Speicher presented the Board with the financial reports for December 2023. The education fund will finish the year out very strong. The operations fund continues to tighten but will end 2023 under budget. Mr. Speicher showed slides for both the Education and Operations funds appropriations. Both have increased for 2024. He was also pleased to share with the Board that the Argos Community tax rate has decreased from 1.0797 in 2023 to 1.0601 for 2024. Argos Community Schools was able to structure all 4 building projects with no tax increase to the community! Speicher also asked the Board for approval of 2023 Year end budget closings to zero out all accounts and a monthly transfer of \$50,000 from the Education fund to the Operations fund for 2024. Jennifer Hurford moved to approve these changes, with Monty Peden seconding and both were approved unanimously.

In closing comments, Mr. Speicher updated the Board on the US 31/S.R. 10 intersection. Argos Community Schools was recently host to the US 31 Coalition meeting for stakeholders in this project. Another meeting will be held sometime in January 2024 which will allow the public to see the seven possible plans for the project. Construction is expected to be completed sometime in 2027.

There was a reminder that the yearly reorganization meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2024.

With there being no other business to discuss, Karra Duff moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 4-0.

ARGOS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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Pat Rensberger, President

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Chris O'Dell, Vice President

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Jennifer Hurford, Secretary

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Karra Duff Member

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Monty Peden, Member

Board Approved Personnel December 18, 2023

A. Coach

1. Tara Trump-5th Grade Girls Basketball

B. Volunteer

1. Dale Trump-5th Grade Girls Basketball