

Minutes of the Argos Community Schools  
Regular School Board Meeting  
Held on October 21, 2024

The Board of School Trustees held a regular school board meeting on October 21, 2024. The following individuals were present for all or a part of the meeting.

A. Pat Rensberger, Chris O'Dell, Jennifer Hurford, Karra Duff and Monty Peden, Board Members

B. Ned L. Speicher, Superintendent

C. Kelli VanDerWeele, Business Manager

D. Amy Miller, Administrative Assistant

E. Beth Cohagan, Teacher and Patron

Pat Rensberger called the Public Hearing on Capital Projects and Bus Replacement Plans to order at 7:07 P.M. There were no opening statements or patrons present for public testimony. The hearing was adjourned at 7:09 P.M.

Pat Rensberger called the regular meeting to order at 7:09 P.M and led the Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence.

There was no communication from patrons.

Monty Peden moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2024 regular meeting and executive session. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Karra Duff made a motion to approve all personnel changes per the attached listing. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Monty Peden motioned to approve the 2025-2026 Argos Community Schools calendar. The calendar is similar to calendars in years past and aligns well with both Triton and Plymouth, whom we share students with. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Monty Peden moved to approve the 2025 school district budget as advertised. The budget has been sent to the state and we will wait for word from the state. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0 as well.

Chris O'Dell moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Argos Schools to increase the monthly contribution for health insurance premiums for employees enrolled in the MASE health insurance program by 40.00, effective January 2025. The school is doing this to help offset the nearly 11% increase from MASE that will be passed onto those employees who are enrolled in the school's health insurance. Karra Duff seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Chris O'Dell moved to approve the Capital Projects and Bus Replacement Plans as advertised. Karra Duff seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Chris O'Dell moved to approve the payment of a December stipend for full time employees who are rated effective and highly effective. Classified staff members who work 5 days a week and are considered full time will receive a \$300.00 stipend. Certified staff members with the same evaluation ratings will receive a \$500.00 stipend. Jennifer Hurford seconded Chris' motion and it was approved unanimously.

Jennifer Hurford moved to approve the reimbursement to Argos Schools for construction costs that have been paid from the projects out of the operations fund. The total reimbursement is \$514,367.28. Karra Duff seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Monty Peden moved to approve the purchase of a Trident carpet extractor from KSS Enterprises for \$4,574.75. Our current carpet cleaner has outlived its life expectancy and needs to be replaced with a more efficient model. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Jennifer Hurford moved to approve Tremco Roofing to patch and repair roof areas 4, 6, 9, 10 and 20. These areas have been determined to be the areas needing the most immediate attention. All work to these areas will be completed before winter sets in. Total for this project will be \$9,785.00. Karra Duff seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Chris O'Dell made a motion to approve the agreement between Brand Tech and Argos Schools for contracted technology services for our networks, servers and system. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it was also approved 5-0.

Jennifer Hurford moved to approve the obsolete equipment list. Items on this list include many old technology items such as iPads, projectors, printers and laptops. Upon approval, these items will be recycled. Karra Duff seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Jennifer Hurford moved to approve the final two pay applications for Project 4 site improvements for a total of \$77,990.12. With the payment of these, we will have officially

released the retainage money and the project will be closed. Monty Peden moved to second the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Speicher asked the Board to approve Super Seal for the striping and sealing of our existing parking lots in September 2024 in the amount of \$13,161.00. Chris O'Dell moved to approve the request, Karra Duff seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Monty Peden moved to approve 2 donations made to Argos Community Schools. The first was from The Dictionary Project and the Argos Lions Club. They provided dictionaries to every 5th grade student. The second donation was from the Plymouth Elks Lodge #2548 and was for \$2,000. This donation is intended to help the Cultivate program currently in place for our students. Jenny Hurford seconded the motion and it was also approved 5-0.

Kelli VanDerWeele asked for approval of 7 pages of accounts payable claims in the amount of \$62,569.58 and 4 pages of payroll claims in the amount of \$296,294.35 for a total monthly claim of \$358,863.93. Monty Peden moved to approve the claims as presented with Chris O'Dell seconding and it was approved 5-0.

In the Superintendent Report, Mr. Speicher asked Kelli to update everyone on the old safe deposit box, formerly located at Lake City Bank. The last time the box had been accessed was 2004. We have moved the contents of the box to our current bank and will hold the safe deposit box there, at no cost to the corporation. An enrollment update was given to the Board. We are currently at 665 students, which is just a few students shy of our enrollment numbers for the last two years. A teacher salary scattergram for the 2024-2025 school year was given to the Board so they could see the range of salaries.

Mr. Speicher presented the financial reports for September to the Board. We have spent 64% of our education fund and 62% of our operations fund. Both funds will tighten as we go throughout the rest of the year. We should be able to encumber funds at the end of year to protect the 2025 budget.

There were no closing comments.

Chris O'Dell moved to adjourn the meeting, with Karra Duff seconding the motion. Pat Rensberger adjourned the meeting at 7:57 P.M.

ARGOS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

---

Pat Rensberger, President

---

Chris O'Dell, Vice President

---

Jennifer Hurford, Secretary

---

Karra Duff Member

---

Monty Peden, Member

Board Approved Personnel October 21, 2024

A. Employment

1. Tina Rakoczy-Mentor teacher to Elizabeth Swango
2. Alexandra Zechiel-Varsity girls basketball assistant
3. Emilio Avendano-7th grade boys basketball coach
4. Stephanie Riffel-JV volleyball from volunteer position
5. Karlee Martin-Education technology director

B. Resignation

1. Sherri Fore-Full time Title 1 aide
2. Ryan Bush-Technology director-Effective November 1, 2024