

Minutes of the Argos Community Schools  
Regular School Board Meeting  
Held on December 16, 2024

The Board of School Trustees held a regular school board meeting on December 16, 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, Laura Shafer and Rachel Dixon, patrons

Pat Rensberger called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M and led the Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence.

Mr. Speicher informed the Board that the notice to bidders for the completion of project 4 had been posted and advertised in both of the local newspapers. Bids for this project are due January 9, 2025 by 3:00 p.m.

There was no communication from patrons.

Monty Peden moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2024 regular meeting. Karra Duff seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

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

Damon Binkley, Athletic Director, presented an overview of a new fundraising and spirit boosting platform for the athletic department. The Dragon Legacy club will be spearheaded by Eugene Snyder, Damon Binkley and Nick Medich. Participants elect to pay a yearly membership fee that offers them a chance to win money back and also support our student athletes. The goal of the club is to cover the costs of uniform and equipment upgrades for our athletic programs and student athletes, thereby increasing student participation and community support. Damon would like to see the program implemented by Fall 2025. Karra Duff moved to

approve the creation of the Dragon Legacy club and Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion. It was approved 5-0.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of 2025 Board meeting dates as listed. Karra Duff moved to approve the dates with Jennifer Hurford seconding and they were approved 5-0.

Monty Peden moved to approve the NEOLA policies and guidelines as presented in the second reading listing. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Karra Duff moved to approve the Early Literacy grant for reading teachers and aides in K-3rd grade. The state awarded \$4756.45 to Argos Community Schools to be distributed among 14 qualified teachers and 7 aides. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Chris O'Dell moved to approve a TAG grant payment amount to Mark Kessel, English teacher. Mr. Kessel will be paid the grant amount out of the education fund for work done on Spring 2024 testing. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Monty Peden moved to approve the release of the retainage in the amount of \$67,486.91 to Ideal Construction for completion of project 3. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Monty Peden moved to approve the memorandum of understanding (MOU) for certified teachers. Existing teachers with an effective or highly effective evaluation are to receive a \$4,000 increase to their base salary. The starting wage for new teachers will be \$47,500. This MOU not only serves to reward our existing teachers but to attract new teachers and stay competitive in the hiring market. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0 as well.

Chris O'Dell made a motion to approve a compensation increase and new contracts for the principals. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. New contracts for teachers and principals will be created and signed this week reflecting these changes.

Karra Duff moved to approve raises for the classified staff as well. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Mr. Speicher asked the Board for consideration of payment for days worked beyond contract for July-December 2024. There were a total of 20 extra days worked during this time.

Jennifer Hurford moved to approve the payment with Karra Duff seconding and it was approved unanimously. Pat Rensberger thanked Mr. Speicher for his hard work and time spent ensuring Argos' success.

Kelli VanDerWeele asked the Board to approve claims for the month of November. There was a total of \$173,589.23 in accounts payable claims and 278,109.66 in payroll claims. Total claims for the month were \$451,6698.89. Monty Peden moved to approve as presented. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

The employees of Sequel Wire, located in Argos, recently donated \$1150.00 on behalf of the company's owners to pay the 2024-2025 negative lunch account balances. We also received a donation of 500.00 from the Maxinkuckee IOOF to be used towards expenses for the Blessings in a Backpack program. Karra Duff moved to accept both gracious donations with Chris O'Dell seconding. The motion was approved 5-0.

Mr. Speicher presented the Board with the financial reports for December 2024. The education fund will finish the year out very strong. We have currently expended 78% of our budget. The operations fund continues to tighten but will end 2024 under budget as we have currently expended 76% of this budget.. The DLGF has not yet released the 1782 for the 2025 budget order so we will have to address that at an upcoming meeting. We will encumber diesel fuel and utility bills, as well as our nursing services so we can protect the 2025 budget. Karra Duff moved to approve the 2024 year-end budget closing and transfers. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0. Chris O'Dell motioned to approve a transfer resolution for 2025 to transfer \$600,000 from the education fund to the operations fund. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0 as well.

There was a reminder that the yearly reorganization meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 13, 2025.

With there being no other business to discuss, Karra Duff moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

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 16, 2024

A. Coach

1. Joe Stone-Lacrosse head coach
2. Andy Petz-Lacrosse assistant coach
3. Allyson Taylor-JV/V assistant softball coach
4. Amberly Stults-7th grade girls basketball coach

B. Employment

1. Jessie Hill-Assistant musical director