

Minutes of the Argos Community Schools
Regular School Board Meeting
Held on March 17, 2025

The Board of School Trustees held a regular school board meeting on March 17, 2025. The following individuals were present for all or a part of the meeting.

A. Pat Rensberger, Monty Peden, Jennifer Hurford, Chris O'Dell and Karra Duff, 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 7:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence.

There was no communication from patrons.

Monty Peden moved to approve the minutes of the February 10th Regular and Executive and the March 3 Executive Session. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Karra Duff moved to approve the personnel changes per the attached listing. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Next item on the agenda was the approval of invoice #18330 for LWC in the amount of \$6,875.00. Chris O'Dell moved to approve the invoice as presented. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Mr. Speicher updated the Board on the recent testing done for IREAD in grades 2 and 3. Testing has been completed. Over 50% of our second graders passed the test, including one student who had a perfect score. What an accomplishment! Initial results show that approximately 74% of our 3rd graders passed the exam as well. Third graders who didn't pass the exam will have two more attempts to pass the exam. The next attempt will be closer to the end of the school year and then following the close of summer school. Third graders who didn't pass on the first attempt must attend at least 90% of summer school and pass the final exam or new state law requires us to retain them. Mr. Speicher touched on the ILEARN testing schedule, which is scheduled to begin in late April. A copy of the schedule was sent to all parents the

week before the meeting. Mr. Speicher also reviewed kindergarten roundup, which was held on March 12. We had approximately 31 students attend roundup this year. Numbers always grow as we get closer to the start of the new school year.

Karra Duff moved to approve the 2025 summer school dates and hours. Summer school will begin Monday, June 2 and end Thursday, June 26th. Classes are offered Monday through Thursday from 8-12 for catch up growth in the elementary, as well as select middle and high school courses. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Karra Duff made a motion to approve the 2025 summer work schedule. As in the past, full time employees working over the summer will work 10 hour days Monday through Thursday instead of the traditional 5 day week work schedule. The school will be closed on Fridays to conserve energy. The summer work hours start Monday, June 2nd and will end July 24th. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Chris O'Dell moved to approve the 2025 Summer Teacher Academy dates of July 14-17 and July 21-24 from 9:00-3:30. Teachers attending a half day session will be paid 75.00 and those attending full day sessions will be paid 150.00. All funding for the Academy is paid out of the Title 2 grant. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Kelli VanDerWeele asked the Board to approve claims for the month of February. There was a total of \$67,372.81 in accounts payable claims and \$275,440.37 in payroll claims. Total claims for the month were \$342,813.18. Jennifer Hurford moved to approve as presented. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Mr. Speicher presented the Board with the financial reports for February 2025. Both the operations and education budgets are healthy. Overall, Argos is very financially sound. He then touched on legislative updates impacting local schools. In the past, starting salaries for teachers were mandated to be at least \$40,000. Now the mandate is \$45,000. Starting salaries at Argos are \$47,500. State government also mandated that 62% of the education fund be spent on teachers salaries. That mandate is now 65%. Mr. Speicher also updated on the squirrel brownout claim that was filed with our insurance company. Over 60K in damage was realized due to the brownout. Unfortunately, after much work on behalf of our maintenance department and others and the payment of the deductible, we received a check for \$6,215.14. The Board also was updated on the architect visit that happened prior to this meeting. Greg Drennen has addressed all of the building and site needs for Argos and will be putting together a comprehensive list of what he believes needs to be addressed in order of importance. The fencing and drainage portion of the Project 4 addendum will start at the end of March and they are expecting to be finished by the end of June.

There were no closing comments.

With there being no other business to discuss, Monty Peden moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 P.M.. Karra Duff seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

ARGOS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Pat Rensberger, President

Monty Peden, Vice President

Jennifer Hurford, Secretary

Chris O'Dell, Member

Karra Duff , Member

Board Approved Personnel Changes March 17, 2025

A. Volunteer Assistants

1. Ben Ennis-Lacrosse
2. Zak Heiman- Lacrosse