

Minutes of the Argos Community Schools
Regular School Board Meeting
Held on April 21, 2025

The Board of School Trustees held a regular school board meeting on April 21, 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

E. Greg Drennen and Kevin McCurdy, LWC Architects

F. Kerry Johnson, Elementary Principal

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 March 17th regular meeting and Executive sessions for March 17-19, April 2-3, 8th and 14th. 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. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Greg Drennen and Kevin McCurdy presented the Board with an update on the facilities. The second part of Project 4 is expected to mobilize by April 28th and work to be completed by June 1st. This includes demolition of existing concrete and new concrete work for the soccer stadium and new soccer fencing. The baseball field mobilization is expected to start June 2 and be complete by July 1st. Both of these projects will work with Spring sports needs in the soccer stadium and are expected to have no impact on the use of the area by students. Drennen broke the possible future projects down into categories for interior and exterior projects. Potential interior projects include tunnel piping and corridor lighting replacements throughout the entire

school. Potential exterior projects include roofing work and additional work needed to address brick and flashing issues throughout the school. Drennen also mentioned that additional work projects could include auditorium lobby finishes, making use of underutilized spaces throughout the school, such as the former building trades area, and upgrading the auditorium house and stage lighting and controls. Drennen touched on the 7 rooftop units that are still needing replaced and a phased approach to replacing outdated classroom ventilators. At this time, none of these are planned projects but the Board will take this information into consideration when addressing the needs of an aging building.

Monty Peden moved to approve the purchase of gift cards for employees celebrating milestone work anniversaries. These employees will be recognized during our Celebration of Years Service, which is scheduled for May 8 at 3:15 in the Media Center. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Speicher then gave his Superintendent report to the Board. He opened with slides showing the recently passed state funding projections for the Education budget for 2026 and 2027. Argos is expected to have an increase of nearly 440K for 2026 and 200K in 2027. This funding is based on a number of factors. Enrollment for Argos Community Schools is currently closed for the 24-25 school year, but will reopen this summer for new and returning students for the 25-26 school year. Registration is set to close on fall count day. Kerry Johnson, our elementary school principal, updated the Board on the IRead testing that was recently administered to our 2nd and 3rd grade students. This was the first year that the test was mandated by the state to be administered to 2nd grade students. Argos has been practicing this for several years. This year, we had 38- 2nd grade students take the test and 16 passed. Mrs. Johnson said she expects more to pass as they administer the test again towards the end of the school year. We have 57-3rd grade students this year. Of those 57 students, 23 of them passed the test last year as second graders and are exempt from taking the test again. Twenty six students who took the test this year as third graders passed. When we combine that number with the number of students who passed last year as second graders, our pass rate is 86%. Teachers will continue to work with those 8 students who did not pass the test and they will be invited to attend summer school. There will be two additional test opportunities for these students to pass the IREAD. Any student that does not pass the IREAD or qualify for a good cause exemption must be held back, according to the new state law. A video highlighting the "Cultivate Food Program" was shown to the Board. The Board was reminded of the upcoming Celebration of Years service to recognize those employees who are celebrating milestone work anniversaries. Mr. Speicher reminded the Board that Tree Fest is happening Tuesday, April 22 in Community Park. Our third grade students will be attending and will be planting trees and building bird houses, among other activities. We recently purchased 2 used buses from the Triton School Corp FFA Consignment Auction. Funds used to purchase those buses were made available through the bus replacement plan.

Kelli VanDerWeele asked the Board to approve claims for the month of March. There were a total of 10 pages of accounts payable claims in the amount of \$64,416.21 and 2 pages of payroll claims in the amount of \$288,068.95. Total claims for the month were \$352,485.16. Chris O'Dell moved to approve the claims. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Speicher presented the Board with the financial reports for the month. The financial year has continued to be very strong. We are currently under budget for both the operations and education funds and will work to maintain that.

With there being no other business to discuss, Monty Peden moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 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 April 21, 2025

A. Employment

1. Jessie Hill-Assistant Musical Director

2. Leanne Senter-Musical Choreographer
3. Laura Bash-Musical Costumes
4. Amee Stone-Musical Accompanist
5. Bob Davis-Musical Sound
6. Deb Sherwood-Elementary Aide
7. Emily LaFree-Middle School Math

B. Resignation

1. Megan Barry-5th grade (effective end of school year)