

Minutes of the Argos Community Schools
Regular School Board Meeting
Held on October 20, 2025

The Board of School Trustees held a regular school board meeting on October 20, 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. Kerry Johnson, Superintendent

C. Ned Speicher, Mentor to Superintendent

D. Kelli VanDerWeele, Business Manager

E. Amy Miller, Administrative Assistant

F. Beth Cohagan, Tory Tolliver, Sara Peden and Mallori Zechiel, Patrons

Pat Rensberger called the public hearing on the Capital Projects and Bus Replacement Plans to order at 7:03 P.M. Opening statements were made by Ned Speicher. There was no public testimony. Monty Peden moved to close the hearing with Chris O'Dell seconding and the hearing was adjourned at 7:06 P.M.

Pat Rensberger called the regular meeting to order at 7:07 P.M and led the Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence.

There was no communication from patrons.

Karra Duff moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2025 regular meeting and public hearing as well as the October 8 Public Hearing. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Chris O'Dell made a motion to approve all personnel changes per the attached listing, including an addition of Jerry Miller for Fall supervision. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Tory Tolliver was present to speak about the upcoming Literacy Night scheduled for November 5. The event will be held from 6:00-7:30 in the elementary. The event is family

friendly and open to all. Participants can choose 3 sessions from 11 available sessions which include Black Out Poetry and an escape room. There will be concessions available to purchase and families are encouraged to attend this fun evening.

Greg Drennen with LWC Architects updated the Board on all things construction. Michiana Contracting worked over Fall Break installing the new lighting in the hallways and corridors. They didn't quite complete the project so they will be moving their employees to the second shift to finish so they don't have to work around kids in the hallways during the day. Greg then presented slides showing the Board what he believes are the priority construction/renovation projects in the next couple of years. Priority will be given to the tunnels, followed by several other projects including roof and masonry work, elementary patio concrete work, rooftop units and auditorium lobby finishes. The Board can decide which projects they would like to implement and in what order they would like to do them. A meeting has been set for October 21 with our bond counsel to start the preliminary funding work on the next phase of projects.

Jennifer Hurford moved to approve the dual credit success payment for Beth Cohagan for 2024-2025. These payments were approved at the September Board meeting but Beth was omitted on the list of payees. Karra Duff seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Monty Peden moved to approve the 2026 school district budget as advertised. The proposed budget has gone through the hearing and advertisement process, has been posted on Gateway and has now been sent to the state for approval. We will wait to hear back on any cuts that are made. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0 as well.

Jennifer Hurford 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 recently ratified 25-26/26-27 Master Contract for Certified Staff. Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Speicher thanked both the Board and Beth Cohagan, President of the ACTA, for coming to an agreement that recognizes the hard work that our certified staff does daily as well as meets the budgetary requirements of the school. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Karra Duff moved to approved R. Yoder Construction pay application No. 3 for Project 4 Site Development Improvements in the amount of \$82,858.86. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Chris O'Dell moved to approve 3 invoices from LWC for a total due of \$27,758.17. Those invoices include 18940 for future bond study, 18945 for lighting replacements and 18595 for site improvements. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Monty Peden 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/or are considered full time will receive a \$300.00 stipend. Certified staff members with the same evaluation ratings will receive a \$500.00 stipend. Karra Duff seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Karra Duff moved to approve a \$40.00 increase to the school's monthly contribution for health insurance premiums for employees enrolled in the MASE health insurance program, effective January 2026. The school is doing this to help offset a large premium increase from MASE that will be passed onto those employees who are enrolled in the school's health insurance. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Chris O'Dell moved to approve a quote from V&M Construction for \$16,251.65 for a new roof for the former American Legion building. Work is expected to begin mid November, if not sooner. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Kelli VanDerWeele asked for approval of 11 pages of accounts payable claims in the amount of \$82,797.73 and 2 pages of payroll claims in the amount of \$324,411.97 for a total monthly claim of \$407,209.70. Monty Peden moved to approve the claims as presented with Chris O'Dell seconding and it was approved 5-0.

In the Superintendent Report, Mrs. Johnson updated the Board on the recent ADM count taken by the State. Argos Community Schools has 627 students for which we are receiving money from the state. Superintendent Johnson feels that our enrollment is consistent. We have some large classes balanced out by smaller ones. We will continue to host Kindergarten Round Up in an effort to forecast enrollment numbers.

Mrs. Johnson presented the Board with the financial report for September. We are 75% through the year and have expended 65% of the education fund and 72% of the operations fund. The operations fund has trended upwards due to building and bus repairs as of late. Both the rainy day and cash reserves have remained unchanged.

In closing comments, Mrs. Johnson wanted to share with the Board a thank you note that she had received from Jon VanDerWeele regarding the students who participated in the 9/11 Walk. He had nothing but positive things to say about the student speaker, the music department and others affiliated with the school that helped to make the 9/11 Memorial Walk a success.

Karra Duff moved to adjourn the meeting, with Chris O'Dell seconding the motion. The motion was passed 5-0 and Pat Rensberger adjourned the meeting at 8:13 P.M.

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 October 20, 2025

A. Employment

1. Derek Smith-Full time substitute
2. Ranna Quimby-Co Sponsor of Elementary Kindness Club
3. Statia Scaife-Co Sponsor of Elementary Kindness Club
4. Patricia Robinson-Maternity leave coverage for Mrs. Wortley
5. Jerry Miller-Fall sports supervision

B. Resignation

1. Olivia Tarascio-Full time substitute