

Minutes of the Argos Community Schools  
Regular School Board Meeting  
Held on December 15, 2025

The Board of School Trustees held a regular school board meeting on December 15, 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. Kelli VanDerWeele, Business Manager

D. Amy Miller, Administrative Assistant

E. Ned Speicher, Advisor/Mentor to Superintendent

Pat Rensberger called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 November 17, 2025 regular meeting. and the November 24, 2025 special meeting. 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.

Next item on the agenda was an update from Greg Drennen of LWC. Mr. Drennen was unable to make the meeting due to a prior commitment so Mrs. Johnson updated the Board on his behalf. LWC is continuing to work on the upcoming project needs which will be funded by the current bond process we are going through. She mentioned that the tunnel piping is definitely the first project that will begin next summer after school is dismissed and that the elementary patio resurfacing project has been moved up to next summer as well.

Chris O'Dell moved to approve Michiana Contracting pay app No. 1 for the interior lighting project for the amount of \$169, 479.00. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Jennifer Hurford moved to approve LWC invoices 19156 for future bond study in the amount of \$16,738.75 and 19168 for lighting improvements in the amount of \$2,500.00. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0, as well.

Monty Peden moved to approve the quote from Beldon Interiors for new carpet for the former American Legion building, now home to the Argos Educational Center. Mrs. Johnson is working with the vendor to narrow down an installation date for the carpeting. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to approve the Form of the Tenth Amendment to Lease with the Building corporation. The school corporation is funding our newest project through a lease financing as it has done with the past construction and renovation projects. Argos Community Schools Building Corporation currently owns a portion of both the Argos Jr-Sr High and elementary school buildings. They are leasing that real estate back to the school corporation. The lease rental due from the School Corporation will be paid from property taxes. The lease rental (as shown as a maximum amount in the Tenth Amendment) will be sufficient to pay the principal and interest due to the bond holders, per Ice Miller. Karra Duff moved to approve the Form of Tenth Amendment to Lease as legally required. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0. A motion was then made to re-approve the Building Corporation, as they must approve the bond. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Karra Duff moved to approve the following 2026 Board meeting dates. January 13: Reorganization; January 20, February 9, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 13 (early due to fair), August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16 and December 14. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Monty Peden moved to approve the termination of the current health insurance agreement we have with MASE, effective 12/31/25. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0. Argos Community Schools will be transitioning all health insurance coverage to Apex Benefits effective 1/1/26. Karra Duff moved to approve this new agreement with Jennifer Hurford seconding. It was approved unanimously. Apex Benefits is able to provide comparable coverage to MASE, while lowering employee premiums. Employees have recently gone through enrollment and are happy with the change in providers.

Mrs. Johnson presented the Superintendent Report to the Board. Summer school 2025 reimbursements have been received back from the state. We submitted a total of \$31,359.80 in expenses for the session and were reimbursed \$18,742.19. Second and third grade reading was reimbursed at 100%. Despite being reimbursed at 53%, Mrs. Johnson feels that summer school is necessary and we will continue to offer it to those students needing additional help. Mrs. Johnson also updated the Board on the former American Legion building, now home to the

Argos Educational Center. The new roof is on, the building has been thoroughly cleaned and is in the process of being painted and brightened up with new light fixtures and ceiling tiles. Carpet will be installed in the old dining portion of the building in the near future. An update on the TAG grant followed. We have received final guidance from the State on how to distribute the award amount. Unfortunately, we will only be able to distribute to about 9 teachers. The funds received from the state don't fully fund the awards even at the lowest tier. Mrs. Johnson is working on an application process for teachers to apply for the award money. Interested teachers will be able to submit an application and show proof of how they've met the criteria for that award level. Mrs. Johnson also added that there had been a small roof leak in the auditorium that had affected the sound equipment. We are currently working on getting that equipment repaired.

Kelli VanDerWeele asked the Board to approve claims for the month of November. There was a total of \$845,034.38 in accounts payable claims including a debt service payment and \$321,618.44 in payroll claims. Total claims for the month were \$1,166,652.82. Jennifer Hurford moved to approve as presented. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

The employees of Sequel Wire, generously donated \$1,600.00 on behalf of the company's owners, to go towards paying the 2025-2026 negative lunch account balances. Karra Duff moved to accept this gracious donation with Jennifer Hurford seconding. The motion was approved 5-0.

Mrs. Johnson presented the Board with the financial reports for the month. The education fund will finish the year out very strong. We have currently expended 82% of our budget. We have currently expended 77% of the operations budget. As in the past, we will put encumbrances in the education budget for things like nursing services, insurance, dental, PERF and Veba for the 2026 budget. We will also encumber EMC insurance services, fuel/diesel from Keystone and utilities from the Town of Argos in the operations budget to protect it in 2026. Chris O'Dell moved to approve the 2025 year-end budget closing and transfers. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

There was a reminder that the yearly reorganization meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

With there being no other business to discuss, Chris O'Dell moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 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 December 15, 2025

A. Musical Staff

1. Bob Davis-Sound/Tech Theater
2. Laura Bash-Costumes
3. Amee Stone-Accompanist
4. Jessie Hill-Assistant Director