

Minutes of the Argos Community Schools
Regular School Board Meeting
Held on January 20, 2026

The Board of School Trustees held a regular school board meeting on January 20, 2026. The following individuals were present for all or a part of the meeting.

- A. Pat Rensberger, Jennifer Hurford and Monty Peden, Board Members
- B. Kerry Johnson-Superintendent
- C. Ned Speicher-Mentor to the Superintendent
- D. Kelli VanDerWeele-Business Manager
- E. Amy Miller-Administrative Assistant
- F. Michael Lacey-School Legal Counsel
- G. Greg Drennen and Kevin McCurdy-LWC Architects

Pat Rensberger called the regular meeting to order at 7:12 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence. Board members Karra Duff and Chris O'Dell were absent.

There was no communication from patrons.

Monty Peden moved to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2025 regular meeting. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Jennifer Hurford made a motion to approve all personnel changes per the attached listing. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Greg Drennen and Kevin McCurdy from LWC were present to update the Board on the upcoming projects. Mr. Drennen brought a summary timeline with him of the expected bid open and close dates. The lighting replacement project has just had the punchlist completed. There are 1 or 2 items that need to be tended to and that project will be complete. The tunnel piping and masonry projects are expected to have an early March bid. He is hoping the masonry project can begin as soon as the weather breaks. Work on the tunnels will begin over summer break so we can minimize the impact to students and staff. The roofing and copings projects will have a

February bid and will also begin as the weather breaks. The new elementary patio project will bid by April and be completed over summer break. He also discussed where the staging areas for each project might be so that contractors might be able to stockpile materials for their respective projects. There will be much more information to come as these projects get underway in the next several months.

Monty Peden made a motion to approve Michiana Contracting Pay App No. 2 for lighting replacements in the amount of \$93,600.00. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 3-0.

Jennifer Hurford moved to approve LWC invoices 19289 and 19289 for \$5,695.00 and \$2,595.01 respectively. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Kelli VanDerWeele asked the Board to approve claims in the amount of \$570,983.74 for the month. There were 8 pages of accounts payable claims totalling \$232,924.75 and 4 pages of payroll claims totalling \$338,058.99. Monty Peden moved to approve as presented. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 3-0.

Kerry Johnson presented the Board with the financial report for the month. As the new calendar year begins, our goals are to maintain our healthy total cash reserves and rainy day fund and to operate within our education and operations fund budgets. There was a slight dip in the net assessed valuations from last year due to Senate bill 1 legislation so we will see how that transpires. Mrs. Johnson also went through the 2025 accomplishments which include but are not limited to a new year contract with the teaching staff being reached which resulted in raises for teachers both years, a wage increase for classified staff, completing the fencing and lighting projects, maintaining student enrollment, and the purchase of the former American Legion building. The focus for 2026 remains on reaching a workable SRO agreement with the town, finalizing the bond sale and beginning the next phase of construction projects, continued training and development of personnel, work based learning, maintaining a passing rate with continued intervention and remediation as needed for the IREAD, completing building upgrades on the new Argos Educational Center and running the ILEARN checkpoints as the new testing platform for the state. 2026 will prove to be a busy year!

In closing comments, Mrs. Johnson shared a couple of thank you notes that had been received and mentioned that it was School Board appreciation month. She thanked the Board for their time, effort and hard work they put into making Argos Community Schools a success.

With there being no other business to discuss, Monty Peden moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 P.M. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 3-0.

ARGOS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Pat Rensberger, President

Jennifer Hurford, Secretary

Monty Peden, Member

Board Approved Personnel Changes January 20, 2026

A. Employment

1. Kendal Ferguson-2nd grade teacher
2. Chris Willis-Temporary HS applied skills teacher
3. Elizabeth Cassel-Jr/Sr High MOMH aide

B. Resignations

1. Carley McCammon-2nd grade teacher
2. Ashley Yeager-Jr/Sr High applied skills teacher
3. Molly Ballinger-Speech language pathologist
4. Cathy Null-Food service clerk/ECA treasurer

C. Volunteers

1. Don O'Dell-5th grade girls basketball
2. Tara Trump-7th/8th grade girls basketball
3. Corey Bowman-6th grade girls basketball

D. Transfer

1. Laura Shafer-Spec Ed to Jr/Sr. High applied skills teacher