

Coal City Community Unit School District #1
Grundy County
Board Study Session of the Whole Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Call to Order

President Miller called the study session meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Board members answering roll call present: Dan Engelhardt, Quint Harmon, Cindy Klein, Matt Melvin, Mindy Rampa, Ryan VanDuyne, and Ken Miller. Also, in attendance were Superintendent Christopher Spencer, CSBO Jason Smith, Director of Student Services Luke Krippel, Community Relations Specialist Ann Gill, and Secretary to the Board of Education LaWanda Gagliardo. Director of Curriculum & Instruction was absent

Pledge of Allegiance

President Miller led the Board, and others present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Discussion on FY27 Staffing

Superintendent Christopher Spencer provided the Board with an update on staffing for FY27. Mr. Spencer discussed each building's available positions. Some of the openings are due to retirements, transfers, and others are due to the addition of sections. As it applied to the position, Mr. Spencer provided the Board with stats on applicants that applied, also, where the administration is in the hiring process. Mr. Spencer also discussed adding a Math Coach for the district. The salary for this position would come from Title funds, for this school year. Mr. Krippel is still seeking a psychologist for the district.

Discussion on Administrative Procedures

The Board of Education discussed an administrative procedure regarding Student Demonstrations and Protest. Mr. Spencer provided the Board with a summary of how the administrators were made aware of the walkout. Mr. Spencer discussed how the administration's priority was controlling the situation and the safety of the students, and the steps that were taken to ensure the walkout went smoothly. Students who wanted to participate were allowed too, and those who didn't there was no pressure. There were about 60 – 65 students who participated, students were also given an opportunity to speak before the official walkout took place. The local authorities were nearby if needed to ensure student safety. There was a document presented to possibly become an administrative procedure for the district.

Mr. Spencer consulted Superintendents of surrounding districts and currently those districts don't have an administrative procedure in place for student walkouts. The Board's concern that such a procedure, at this point, could be too restrictive and create more issues in the future. The Board also discussed the impact such restrictions could have on the First Amendment rights of students. The student handbook has expectations outlined. The Board thanked the Board member who presented the document for consideration and felt this is something to be kept on hand for the future. The Board also thanked the administration for how they handled the situation with the students.

Discussion on Intermediate School Renovation Project

Superintendent Christopher Spencer provided the Board with an update on the renovation project at the intermediate school. The roof is almost completed, and the studs have been installed in the gym,

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plywood, and drywall will soon be added. Mr. Spencer was able to show the Board pictures of the progress.

Discussion on Bid Tabulations

CSBO Jason Smith discussed bid tabulations for the middle school roofing project, and slab jacking at the early childhood center and other capital projects throughout the district. For each project, Mr. Smith presented diagrams, different scenarios based on all or partial work and the projected cost for each. Mr. Smith also discussed the timeframe these projects could be completed within. Bid award recommendations will come at the March Board meeting.

Discussion on EBC Renewals for FY27

CSBO Jason Smith discussed insurance renewals for FY27. Mr. Smith discussed the projected percentage increase, and that the increase is closer to market value. Mr. Smith reminded the Board that the district is a part of a co-op, and the pros and cons of that connection. The Board asked what identifiers drives cost. Mr. Smith also provided the Board with options on lowering the premiums for employees. The Board thanked Mr. Smith for the information and his efforts in gathering this information.

Discussion on Arena Renewables

CSBO Jason Smith presented the Board with information received from Arena Renewables. The introductory information was regarding the purchasing or leasing of district property to install solar panels. The Board asked the administration to gather more information and present that at a future meeting.

Discussion on GATA FY25 Single Audit

CSBO Jason Smith discussed the FY25 GATA Audit findings. This is an audit of the district's annual audit performed by Mack & Associates. Mr. Smith also mentioned that the district has converted over to Skyward and he praised the work done by his team on learning the new system.

Finance Reports

The bank statements, trial balance, budget summary reports, balance sheet, bank reconciliation reports, check reconciliation report, cash reports, and cleared check report for January were enclosed for review. Detailed reports were available in the Business Office for review prior to the meeting. The Treasurer's report, investment report, and lunch report for January were also enclosed for review.

Open

Items not known at agenda preparation time – none.

Sharing Ideas / Information – Superintendent Christopher Spencer informed the Board briefly of State Qualifying Chess Team at the middle school; middle school wrestlers were going to regionals, and high school Wrestling Team State taking place over the weekend. Mr. Spencer also reminded the Board to be on the lookout for their Statement of Economic Interest.

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Closed Session

At 7:30 p.m. a motion made by Mr. Harmon and seconded by Mrs. Klein to go into closed session for the purpose of considering information regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, student matter, dismissal of specific employees, and pending litigation.

Roll Call.

Ayes: Dan Quint Harmon, Cindy Klein, Engelhardt, Matt Melvin, Ryan VanDuyne, Ken Miller

Nays:

Absent: Mindy Rampa

Motion: Carried.

Mr. Engelhardt moved, and Mr. Harmon seconded to return to open session at 7:52 p.m.

Roll Call.

Ayes: Dan Engelhardt, Quint Harmon, Cindy Klein, Matt Melvin, Ryan VanDuyne, Ken Miller

Nays:

Absent: Mindy Rampa

Motion: Carried.

Adjournment

Mr. Harmon moved, and Mr. VanDuyne seconded to adjourn at 7:53 p.m. the Board Study Session of the Whole meeting.

Kenneth P. Miller, President

Cynthia Klein, Secretary