

**Coal City Community Unit School District #1
Grundy County
Board Study Session of the Whole Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 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, 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. Board member Quint Harmon, and Director of Curriculum & Instruction Jennifer Kenney were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Discussion on EBC Insurance Renewal Update

CSBO Jason Smith provided the Board with an update on the district's insurance rate renewals. Mr. Smith provided the Board with a summary of meeting he attended with insurance brokers and representatives from the co-op. Mr. Smith discussed the reasons for the percentage increase and the metrics behind it. Mr. Smith also provided the Board with possible changes that could offset some of the cost to district staff. Those changes would involve amending the entire insurance make-up, which would be a huge undertaking. The preventative health screenings were also discussed. Mr. Smith will meet with the insurance committee to gather feedback on how they would like to proceed.

Discussion on Intermediate School Renovation Project Update

Superintendent Christopher Spencer provided the Board with an update on the Intermediate School renovation project. The workers are starting to paint the ceiling, the plywood is up and the insulation is being installed. They are also filling in the landscaping where the crane sat, as it's no longer needed.

Discussion on FY27 Staffing Update

Superintendent Christopher Spencer provided the Board with an update on staffing for FY27. Mr. Spencer went through each building's open positions, if there were applicants and where the principals were in the interview process. Mr. Spencer will update the Board at the next Board meeting.

Discussion on FY27 Preliminary Budget

CSBO Jason Smith presented the Board with a preliminary budget for FY27. Mr. Smith went through the presentation and answered questions along the way. Mr. Smith informed the Board that he is still meeting with the building principals to finalize their budgets for FY27. Mr. Smith is really impressed with Mrs. Hererra-Ford's initiative in meeting with him taking the initiative to forecast the budget on her own to compare. They've had several Zoom calls, and she's come in the office for training periodically. The link below was for the preliminary budget presented to the Board for review and questions.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Gi6sb_Nstf5sx8JrWghnhp9k03ww64N0cTYtvusSNCg/edit?usp=sharing

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Finance Reports

The bank reconciliation report, budget summary report, trial balance, and balance sheet, were enclosed, along with the cash reports, check reconciliation report, cleared check report, and bank statements for February were prepared 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 February were also enclosed for review.

Open

- a) Items not known at agenda preparation time
- b) Sharing Ideas / Information – Mr. Spencer informed the Board that the administration is trying to figure out what to do with the old score board that was removed from the high school. It's too big for the middle school field. He will contact the scoreboard company to determine if it can be recycled. Mr. Spencer reminded the Board member about the GEDC Legislative breakfast, and the Three Rivers Divisional Meeting. If they would like to attend to inform him or LaWanda for registration.

Closed Session

At 6:36 p.m. a motion made by Mrs. Rampa and seconded by Mr. Engelhardt to go into closed session for the purpose of considering information regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, individual student matter, dismissal of specific employees, administrative contracts, and collective bargaining matters.

Roll Call.

Ayes: Mindy Rampa, Dan Engelhardt, Cindy Klein, Matt Melvin, Ryan VanDuyne, Ken Miller

Nays:

Absent: Quint Harmon

Motion: Carried.

Mrs. Rampa moved and Mr. Engelhardt seconded to return to open session at 7:26 p.m.

Roll Call.

Ayes: Mindy Rampa, Dan Engelhardt, Cindy Klein, Matt Melvin, Ryan VanDuyne, Ken Miller

Nays:

Absent: Quint Harmon

Motion:

Adjournment

Mr. Engelhardt moved, and Mrs. Klein seconded to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. the Board Study Session of the Whole meeting.

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Kenneth P. Miller, President

Cynthia Klein, Secretary