

**Coal City Community Unit School District #1**  
**Grundy County**  
**Board Study Session of the Whole Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 27, 2026**

**Call to Order**

President Miller called the Board Study Session of the Whole meeting to order at 6:12 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, Director of Curriculum & Instruction Jennifer Kenney, Community Relations Specialist Ann Gill, Secretary to the Board of Education LaWanda Gagliardo, and Middle School Principal Camerson Stone.

**Discussion on the 2026 – 2027 Board Meeting Schedule**

Superintendent Christopher Spencer discussed the 2026 – 2027 Board Meeting Schedule. Mr. Spencer discussed shifting to the following Board Study Session of the Whole meeting dates for 2027:

Wednesday, September 23, 2026 *(due to Superintendent Conference)*

Wednesday, November 18, 2026 *(due to holiday)*

Wednesday, December 16, 2026 *(due to holiday)*

Wednesday, March 24, 2027 *(due to spring break)*

These amendments will be presented at the June Board meeting for approval.

**Discussion on FY27 Staffing Update**

Superintendent Christopher Spencer provided the Board with an update on staffing for FY27. Mr. Spencer went through each building and discussed if there were positions available at that building and the status of any open positions. Mr. Spencer also discussed the amendments made to the Athletic Director position along with the salary adjustment.

**Discussion on Substitute Teacher Pay Increase**

Superintendent Christopher Spencer discussed increasing the pay for substitute teachers starting FY27. Mr. Spencer recommended increasing the substitute teacher pay from \$150 to \$160, and the permanent substitute teacher pay from \$175 to \$195. Mr. Spencer worked with surrounding school district's Superintendents to come up with a rate that works for all. This recommendation will be presented at the June Board meeting for approval.

**Discussion on School Improvement Plan at the Middle School**

Middle School Principal, Cameron Stone was in attendance and discussed the results of the 5 Essentials Survey and provided the Board with an update on the School Improvement Plan. Mr. Stone praised and thanked his School Improvement Team and the staff for all their hard work and dedication to this process. Mr. Stone also thanked the Board for their support. Mr. Stone discussed how the staff was tasked with identifying a student to mail a post card to, and how that was well received by the families. Mr. Stone also presented the areas of improvements from the 5 Essentials Survey.

**Coal City Community Unit School District #1**  
**Grundy County**  
**Board Study Session of the Whole Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 27, 2026**

**Discussion on Amendments to the High School Student Handbook**

Superintendent Christopher Spencer discussed the amendments to the high school student handbook. The amendments will be presented at the June Board meeting for approval.

**Discussion on Property, Casualty, and Worker's Compensation Insurance Rate Renewals**

CSBO Jason Smith discussed the rate renewals for property, casualty, and workers compensation insurance for the district. The initial increase was 34.7% but due to a surplus in the co-op, they are issuing an equity payment of \$16k, which will take the increase down to 14%. Mr. Smith will work with Mrs. Herrera-Ford to ensure she is up to speed when she starts full-time with the district.

**Discussion on Braceville Sewer Easement**

At the April 29 Board Study Session meeting, Superintendent Christopher Spencer discussed the Easement Agreement with the Village of Braceville along Berta Road. Mr. Spencer provided the Board with an update. The Easement Agreement will be presented at the June Board meeting for approval.

**Discussion on District Health Screenings**

CSBO Jason Smith discussed the health screenings for district employee's dependents. Mr. Smith informed the Board of a billing change with the insurance that would charge the employees a \$30 co-pay for their dependents to obtain the screening within the district versus going to their primary physician for free. Mr. Smith's recommendation is to strike the dependents from being required to have the annual screening, and for the Board to pay for eligible employees to obtain the annual screening even though they do not have insurance through the district.

**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 April were all 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 April were also enclosed for review.

**Open**

- a) Items not known at agenda preparation time – Mr. Spencer mentioned presenting a Memorandum of Understanding at the June Board Meeting to reflect the Board's decision.
- b) Sharing Ideas / Information – Board Member Quint Harmon thanked Board Secretary LaWanda Gagliardo for all her work for the Joint Annual Conference scheduling and reservations.

Mr. Spencer reminded the Board that the PTAB hearings starts Monday, June 8, 2026.

Board President Miller reminded the Board members to complete the Superintendent's Evaluation for him to compile the data and present the findings to Mr. Spencer.

**Coal City Community Unit School District #1**  
**Grundy County**  
**Board Study Session of the Whole Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 27, 2026**

**Adjournment**

Mr. Harmon moved, and Mr. VanDuyne seconded to adjourn at 6:44 p.m. the Board Study Session of the Whole meeting.

---

Kenneth P. Miller, President

---

Cynthia Klein, Secretary