Coal City Community Unit School District #1
Grundy County
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 1, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Introduction/acknowledgement of guests. – Superintendent Christopher Spencer introduced John Cherry, the new Athletics/Activities Director at the high school.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

1. In regard to agenda items – none.
2. In general (Limited to 5 minutes per person.) – none.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

President Miller asked if there were any items that the Board would like to remove from the consent agenda. Hearing none, President Miller asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda and the following facility usage requests.

Mr. Engelhardt moved, and Mrs. Klein seconded to approve the consent agenda including the facilities usage requests.

Group	Building	Date
Small Town Theatrics	PAC	07/17/26-07/19/26
IL Valley Industries	HS	03/10/27
CC Miners	HS	08/16/26-09/26/26
CC Miners	HS	10/07/26-10/08/26
CC Miners	MS	07/27/26-10/29/26
YMCA	MS	01/16/27-03/06/27
Grundy Area FFA	MS	08/29/26

MINUTES
June 10, 2026 - Regular Meeting
June 24, 2026 - Board Study Session

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES
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FINANCIAL REPORTS

Activity Fund Reports – May 2026
Treasurer's Report – May 2026
Monthly Manual Check Report – June 2026
Payroll Report – June 2026 – *not available due to insurance and IMRF invoices not being received*
Accounts Payable Report – July 2026

PERSONNEL

Employments – *pending satisfactory completion of all state requirements*

- Gabriel Barla – Permanent Substitute at the Early Childhood Center
- Olivia Barrientos – 1:1 Special Education Aide at the Intermediate School
- Peggy Fenney – Permanent Substitute at the Elementary School
- Tarra Draino – Permanent Substitute at the Intermediate School
- Cassidy Gazda – 1:1 Special Education Aide at the Middle School
- Katie Hulbert – Permanent Substitute at the Middle & High School
- Taylor Oswald – 1:1 Special Education Aide at the Intermediate School

Transfers

Ashley Reszel – full-time Classroom Aide at the Early Childhood Center – Mrs. Reszel is transferring to the Library/P.E. Aide at the Early Childhood Center.

Leave Requests

- Natalie Casey – Social Worker at the High School – Ms. Casey is requesting a twenty-nine (29) day FMLA leave, in accordance with the Teacher's Negotiated Agreement, from approximately Monday, August 31, 2026, through Monday, October 12, 2026. Ms. Casey plans to return to work Tuesday, October 13, 2026.

Extra-Curricular Assignments

- Colin Hart – JV Boys Soccer Coach
- Traci Fritz – 6-12 ELA Department Leader
- Cade Mueller – Sophomore Baseball Coach
- Aimee Wren – PreK-5 ELA Department Leader

Curriculum Director Jennifer Keney is recommending the following for Mentor positions:

- Andrew Brimm mentoring David Lange
- Tommy Fatigante mentoring Margaret (Megan) Marlin
- Robin Fincher mentoring Alexander Smith
- Rebecca Himes mentoring Taylor Gunier
- Savannah Jacobs mentoring Natalie Gill
- Katie Ludes mentoring Kristina Lardi

- Kailee Marketti mentoring Madison Phillips
- Kasandra Marsala mentoring Natalie Casey
- Brenna Noffsinger mentoring Jacqualyn Henrichsen
- MaryKay Sthay mentoring Emily Bonnell
- Angie Phillips mentoring Jennifer Durkee
- Sarah Veronda mentoring Moree Harney
- Lori Watson mentoring Kristin Wills

Roll Call.
Ayes: Dan Engelhardt, Cindy Klein, Quint Harmon, Ryan VanDuyne, Ken Miller
Nays:
Absent: Matt Melvin and Mindy Rampa
Motion: Carried.

ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS

A. STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

Director Krippel reported:

Illinois State Board of Education Grants
The following grants have been received and are pending approval from the Illinois State Board of Education.

Preschool for All (PFA)	**$411,223**
IDEA Preschool	**$11,412**
IDEA Part B	**$498,885**
Title I	**$199,012**
Title IV	**$14,893**

Vacancies
Full-Time Paraprofessionals

B. CURRICULUM REPORT

Director Kenney reported:

Department News:
The teachers from various departments and grade levels have completed summer curriculum work. This year has been a quieter year as we are not requiring new guide sheets for our assessments. Staff members completed over 950 hours of summer curriculum work, focusing on new assessments,

updating curriculum, and converting over to the Illinois State Standards. Thank you to the Board of Education for allowing us to continue our work to improve learning in the district.

ACT Results:
ACT results are back in and corrected. ACT scores were originally retracted due to scoring errors. The new results have slight changes for our students, with no scores decreasing. All scores have a maximum of 36, with writing having a maximum score of 12. Comparison results will be available in the fall once school designations have been released.

Composite	English	Math	Reading	Science	STEM	Writing	ELA
Mean Score	Mean Score	Mean Score	Mean Score	Mean Score	Mean Score	Mean Score	Mean Score
19.3	18.2	20.2	19.4	19.5	20.1	6.4	18.2

Follow Up:
Below is the 5-year plan as presented at the board meeting. This will begin next year with a focus on math and continue until all subject areas have been reviewed.

2026-2027 School Year

- K-5 - Mathematics assessment and curriculum deep dive
- 6-12 - One course deep dive
- Fine Art and PE - review assessments and curriculum alignment
- Hiring of District Math Coach
- Transition to ISS in math
- Professional development on math standards and instructional methods (K-5)
- Professional development in mathematics with Rachel Sibley (6-12)
- Professional development on data analysis for department leaders
- Data Analysis Committee convenes to create analysis plan

2027-2028 School Year

- K-5 - Science and CTE assessment and curriculum deep dive
- 6-12 - One course deep dive
- Fine Art and PE - review assessments and curriculum alignment
- Identify needs of science and CTE in district
- Professional development on NGSS (K-12) and revise standards to match ISS
- Professional development on data analysis for all teachers
- Data analysis on all mathematics and one course assessments to begin

2028-2029 School Year

- K-5 - ELA assessment and curriculum deep dive
- 6-12 - One course deep dive
- Fine Art and PE - review assessments and curriculum alignment
- Identify needs of ELA in district
- Transition to ISS in ELA
- Professional development in ELA (K-12)
- Data analysis on all science and CTE assessments to begin
- Continued data analysis of mathematics
- Review of mathematics process from 2026-2028 to assess further needs of department

2029-2030 School Year

- K-5 - Social Studies assessment and curriculum deep dive
- 6-12 - One course deep dive
- Fine Art and PE - review assessments and curriculum alignment
- Identify needs of Social Studies in district
- Transition to ISS in SS
- Professional development in SS (K-12)
- Data analysis on all ELA assessments to begin
- Continued data analysis of mathematics and science
- Review of science process from 2027-2029 to assess further needs of department

2030-2031 School Year

- K-5 - review all assessment data and make revisions as indicated with data analysis
- 6-12 - One course deep dive or review of all data analysis for changes
- Professional development TBD
- Data analysis on all Social Studies assessments to begin
- Continued data analysis of mathematics, science, and ELA
- Review of ELA process from 2028-2030 to assess further needs of department

Upcoming Work:
There is still much work to be done in my office. We will focus on state-required mandates for teacher training, setting up professional development for the upcoming school year, and training for Infinite Campus. The 2026-2027 school year will focus on instructional practices and school improvement plans. More details will follow in the upcoming months.

C. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Spencer reported:

1. At the April 8, 2026, Board meeting, the Board authorized the Superintendent to employ personnel as needed due to current candidate shortage. This authority will sunset on July 1, 2026. The following will be employed for the 2026 – 2027 school year, *pending satisfactory completion of all state requirements:*

   Certified Staff:
   - John Cherry – High School Athletics Director. Mr. Cherry's anticipated start date is July 1, 2026. Mr. Cherry is replacing Mr. Boresi.
   - Kristina Lardi – Math Interventionist for the District. Ms. Lardi's anticipated start date is August 10, 2026.

   Support Staff:
   - Renee Bergmark – 3hr Food Server at the High school. Ms. Bergmark's anticipated start date is August 14, 2026.

2. **FOIA Requests:**
   - A FOIA request was received from Carson from Data Branch requesting all products from ESS/ESI, Kokua Education, Scoot Education, Zed Education and Build ED from 2002 to present.
   - A FOIA request was received from Daniel Cramer from Upgraid requesting utility statements for district owned/operated facilities for the past 12 months, and facility condition assessment, building condition assessment, deferred maintenance report, facility master plan, long-range facility plan, or capital improvement/investment plan relating to district facilities; Energy audit, energy assessment, ASHRAE audit, energy-conservation-measure study, performance-contracting feasibility assessment, or similar facility-energy report after January 1, 2020.
   - A FOIA request was received from Ms. Walters requesting emails, text messages, draft proposed surplus IGA Projection & TIF area map.
   - A FOIA request was received from Catarina Mascarenhas from Judiciocracy, LLC requesting public entity's email service provider, entity's Junk Mail, E-Mail Spam, and/or filters related to handling unsolicited emails and/or messages from unknown senders, including but not limited to documentation showing retention periods, filtering, safe senders, junk/spam senders, blocked senders, and any reporting mechanism for the same.

3. **Student Teachers**
   - Nathan Conrad, a student at Illinois State University will complete his student teaching in the fall at the elementary and middle school, with P.E. Teachers Branden Petersen and Mark Masters.
   - Ryan Wisneski, a student at Illinois State University will complete his student teaching in the fall at the high school with Social Studies Teacher Dave Sinkular.

Mr. Spencer informed the Board on what Mr. Stone did for the staff with the passing of Ms. DePodesta. Board President Miller offered to be of assistance if needed. Mr. Spencer also provided the Board with an update on how Blake Ness did at the SkillsUSA State Championship; he placed 23re overall in carpentry.

DATES TO REMEMBER
July 3 – Office Closed in Observance of the 4th of July
July 9 – Walk-in Registration from 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
July 14 – Walk-in Registration from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
July 29 – Board Study Session of the Whole Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

D. GRUNDY AREA VOCATIONAL CENTER REPORT

Mr. Engelhardt reported:

1. Approved the Minutes of the May 28, 2026, Board of Control Meeting.
2. Approved the bills, payroll, and financial reports.
3. Assistant Director Gierke provided the Board of Control with the College and Career Readiness Indicators (CCRI) data.
4. Assistant Director Gierke informed the Board of Control that 173 students with IEP's and 504's was served in 2025 - 2026.
5. Assistant Director Gierke discussed the opportunity for new staff to participate in the ICTA Back to School Retreat in July.
6. Assistant Director Gierke informed the Board of Control with the dates of the Teacher Institute days in August.
7. Assistant Director Gierke informed the Board of Control that 117 students held employment in positions that were related to their program area.
8. Assistant Director Gierke informed the Board of Control that 444 students obtained an industry recognized certificate.
9. Assistant Director Gierke informed the Board of Control that a total of 225 students completed 60 plus hours of work-based learning.
10. Director Copes updated the Board of Control on the July and August calendar.
11. Director Copes provided the Board of Control with an update on Project House #28. He stated that the house is on schedule and maybe a little ahead of schedule.
12. Director Copes presented the tentative budget for FY27.
13. Director Copes provided the Board of Control with an update on the passage of SB 3070, which allows students in Vocational School to have a waiver of the foreign language requirement.
14. Approved the FY27 tentative budget.
15. Approved the FY27 Budget Hearing date for August 27, 2026, at 5:20 p.m.

16. Approved and authorized the Director to offer teacher and/or support staff contracts for positions that are or could become available.
17. Approved allowing the GAVC office to make summer payments.
18. Approved the GAVC e-learning plan as presented.
19. Approved Joan Tully, Bookkeeper's retirement request.
20. Approved the resolution authorizing the Director to finalize the purchase of the Fields of Saratoga lot.

E. ATHLETIC DIRECTOR REPORT

Athletic Director Boresi reported:

2026 CCHS June Athletic Report

Summer camps have been in full swing. So far, we have had over 500+ youth camp participants.

Youth Tennis	June 1-5
Wrestling Youth	June 8-12
Youth Girls Basketball	June 1-5
Youth Football	July 13-17
Youth Volleyball	July 6-10
Youth Boys Basketball	June 8-12
Youth Soccer	June 15-19
MS Wrestling	June 1-5
Youth Softball	July 13-17
Youth Baseball	July 20-24
Youth Cheer Camp	June 22-26

This is the first year in which IHSA No-Contact week has been changed to the week of the 4th of July. The No-Contact is June 28th until July 4th. Fall sports begin on August 10th with football starting on August 5th.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

1. In regard to agenda items – none.
2. In general (Limited to 5 minutes per person.) – none.

OLD BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE 2026 – 2027 TENTATIVE OPERATING BUDGET

The tentative budget represents the compilation of an effort that annually begins the preceding fall. Numerous groups, as well as individuals, have an opportunity to provide input on this final product.

The district is legally required to have its Tentative Operating Budget on display for public inspection for a period of not less than thirty (30) days. Interested individuals may inspect the formal document in the District Administration Office at 550 S Carbon Hill Road, between Monday, July 13, 2026, and Wednesday, September 2, 2026. The legal notice, when published, meets the legal requirements of the State of Illinois.

Mr. Engelhardt moved, and Mr. Harmon seconded to approve the 2026 - 2027 Tentative Budget as presented and to approve the legal notice for public hearing that said budget is available for public inspection for no less than thirty (30) days at the District Administration Office from July 13, 2026, until the Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

Roll Call.
Ayes: Dan Engelhardt, Quint Harmon, Cindy Klein, Ryan Van Duyne, Ken Miller
Nays:
Absent: Matt Melvin and Mindy Rampa
Motion: Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION/ACTION ON APPOINTMENT OF THE TITLE IX COORDINATOR, NON-DISCRIMINATION COORDINATOR, AND SEX EQUITY HEARING OFFICER

The Board must annually take formal action to appoint a Title IX and Non-Discrimination Coordinator and Sex Equity Hearing Officer.

Mr. Harmon moved, and Mr. VanDuyne seconded to approve the appointment of Amanda Herrera-Ford as the Title IX and Non-Discrimination Coordinator and Sex Equity Hearing Officer for the 2026 - 2027 school year.

Roll Call.
Ayes: Quint Harmon, Ryan Van Duyne, Dan Engelhardt, Cindy Klein, Ken Miller
Nays:
Absent: Matt Melvin and Mindy Rampa
Motion: Carried.

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ON APPOINTMENT OF THE LIAISON OF STUDENT RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

The Board must annually take formal action to appoint a liaison to facilitate enrollment and transfer of students records in the legal custody of the Department of Children and Family Services.

Mr. VanDuyne moved, and Mrs. Klein seconded to approve the appointment of Director of Student Services, Luke Krippel as the liaison for student records for the Department of Children and Family Services for the 26 – 27 school year.

Roll Call.
Ayes: Ryan Van Duyne, Cindy Klein, Dan Engelhardt, Quint Harmon, Ken Miller
Nays:
Absent: Matt Melvin and Mindy Rampa
Motion: Carried.

C. DISCUSSION/ACTION ON CONTINUING DISCLOSURE UNDERTAKING

A Federal requirement for school districts with outstanding bond debt is that each district must provide a "Continuing Disclosure" report to certain repositories. The proposal from Raymond James and Associates, will assist the district with continuing disclosure obligations at a fee of $1,750. The invoice was attached for review.

Mr. Engelhardt moved, and Mr. Harmon seconded to accept the proposal from Raymond James & Associates, Inc. to provide the District with the annual Continuing Disclosure for a fee of $1,750, as presented.

Roll Call.
Ayes: Dan Engelhardt, Quint Harmon, Cindy Klein, Ryan Van Duyne, Ken Miller
Nays:
Absent: Matt Melvin and Mindy Rampa
Motion: Carried

D. DISCUSSION/ACTION ON APPOINTMENT OF THE DISTRICT'S FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT OFFICER

The Freedom of Information Act, Public Act 096-0542, states that "The General Assembly herby declares that it is the public policy of the State of Illinois that access by all persons to public records promotes the transparency and accountability of public bodies at all levels of government. It is a fundamental obligation of government to operate openly and provide public records as expediently and efficiently as possible in compliance with the Act." It is a requirement of this act to appoint a FOIA officer.

Mr. VanDuyne moved, and Mrs. Klein seconded to appoint Amanda Herrera-Ford as the Freedom of Information Act Officer and Open Meetings Act Officer for Coal City Community Unit School District #1 FY27.

Roll Call.
Ayes: Ryan Van Duyne, Cindy Klein, Dan Engelhardt, Quint Harmon, Ken Miller
Nays:
Absent: Matt Melvin and Mindy Rampa
Motion: Carried.

E. DISCUSSION/ACTION ON APPROVING THE HEAD OF TECHNOLOGY JOB DESCRIPTION

Superintendent Christopher Spencer presented and discussed the Head of Technology job description. Some of the responsibilities were performed by Mr. Smith and additional duties added for the creation of this job description.

Mr. Engelhardt moved, and Mr. Harmon seconded to approve the Head of Technology job description, as presented.

Roll Call.
Ayes: Dan Engelhardt, Quint Harmon, Cindy Klein, Ryan Van Duyne, Ken Miller
Nays:
Absent: Matt Melvin and Mindy Rampa
Motion: Carried.

F. DISCUSSION/ACTION ON APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH ARC FACILITIES

Superintendent Christopher Spencer made a recommendation to enter an agreement with ARC Facilities. ARC Facilities provides instant access to facilities information at any time. This is a five (5) year agreement from 2027 through FY31. ARC Facilities offers an app that will allow the maintenance workers to access building plans at their fingertips and create efficiency when needing to order replacement parts.

Mrs. Klein moved, and Mr. Engelhardt seconded to approve the five (5) year agreement with ARC Facilities, as presented.

Roll Call.
Ayes: Cindy Klein, Dan Engelhardt, Quint Harmon, Ryan Van Duyne, Ken Miller
Nays:
Absent: Matt Melvin and Mindy Rampa
Motion: Carried.

A. DISCUSSION ON REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION ANNUAL INSPECTION

Superintendent Christopher Spencer discussed the Regional Office of Education Annual Inspection Report for the 25 – 26 school year. The district received straight A ratings on the ROE's Annual Inspection report. Mr. Spencer thanked the staff that allowed for the rating that were received.

OPEN FOR ITEMS NOT KNOWN AT AGENDA PREPARATION TIME COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

1. In regard to agenda items – none.
2. In general (Limited to 5 minutes per person.) – none.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. VanDuyne moved, and Mr. Engelhardt seconded to go to closed session at 6:25 p.m. for the purpose of considering information regarding the appointment, employment, compensation of specific employees, and administrative contracts.

Ann Gill, Jennifer Kenney, Luke Krippel and Amanda Herrera-Ford left the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

Christopher Spencer and LaWanda Gagliardo left the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Roll Call.
Ayes: Ryan VanDuyne, Dan Engelhardt, Quint Harmon, Cindy Klein, Ken Miller
Nays:
Absent: Matt Melvin and Mindy Rampa
Motion: Carried.

Mr. Harmon moved, and Mr. VanDuyne seconded to return to open session at 7:07 p.m.

Christopher Spencer and LaWanda Gagliardo returned to the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Roll Call.
Ayes: Quint Harmon, Ryan VanDuyne, Dan Engelhardt, Cindy Klein, Ken Miller
Nays:
Absent: Matt Melvin and Mindy Rampa
Motion: Carried.

ACTION AS A RESULT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mr. VanDuyne moved, and Mrs. Klein seconded to approve the administrative contract of John Cherry as the high school Athletics/Activities Director, as discussed and presented in closed session.

Roll Call.
Ayes: Ryan VanDuyne, Cindy Klein, Dan Engelhardt, Quint Harmon, Ken Miller
Nays:
Absent: Matt Melvin and Mindy Rampa
Motion: Carried.

Mr. Engelhardt moved, and Mr. Harmon seconded to approve the administrative contract of Heather Kruszewski as Head of Technology, as discussed and presented in closed session.

Roll Call.
Ayes: Dan Engelhardt, Quint Harmon, Cindy Klein, Ryan VanDuyne, Ken Miller
Nays:
Absent: Matt Melvin and Mindy Rampa
Motion: Caried.

BOARD STUDY SESSION OF THE WHOLE DATE: JULY 29, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M.
In Coal City CUSD #1 Administrative Center Boardroom

NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE: AUGUST 5, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M.
In Coal City Intermediate School North Gymnasium

Mr. Spencer reminded the Board that the August 5, 2026, Board meeting is taking place in the gymnasium at the Intermediate School.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Harmon moved, and Mr. Engelhardt seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. President Miller asked if there was any opposition to the motion, hearing none considers the motion approved.

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Kenneth P. Miller, President

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Cynthia Klein, Secretary