Minutes of the Argos Community Schools
Regular School Board Meeting
Held on July 13, 2026

The Board of School Trustees held a regular school board meeting on July 13, 2026. The following individuals were present for all or a part of the meeting.

A. Pat Rensberger, Karra Duff, Jennifer Hurford, Chris O'Dell and Monty Peden, Board Members

B. Kerry Johnson, Superintendent

C. Kelli VanDerWeele, Business Manager

D. Amy Miller, Administrative Assistant

E. Jeff and Jessica Good, Patrons

Pat Rensberger called the meeting to order at 7:09 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence. In communication from patrons, Jeff Good addressed the Board in regards to the recent change in the student handbook requiring all home school students to enroll and complete 5 classes per semester to be eligible to participate in athletics. Board president Rensberger thanked him for his time and said the Board will discuss the policy further.

Chris O'Dell moved to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2026 regular meeting and executive session. Karra Duff seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Monty Peden made a motion to approve all personnel changes per the attached listing. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Karra Duff made a motion to approve 5 invoices from LWC. Those invoices include 19790 for tunnel piping replacement, 19802 for elementary patio area, 19803 for rooftop unit replacement, 19807 for roofing and coping replacement and 19808 for exterior masonry repairs. The total amount of invoices is 14,092.96. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Karra Duff moved to approve Ziolkowski pay app no. 2 for $10,802.48 for exterior masonry repairs. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Monty Peden made a motion to approve Core Mechanical Service pay app no. 2 for tunnel repairs in the amount of $148,679.53. Karra Duff seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Chris O'Dell moved to approve the agreement between the Bowen Center and Argos Community Schools for the 2026-2027 school year. There are no changes from the previous year's agreement. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Karra Duff moved to approve the purchase of new chemistry and integrated chemistry/physics textbooks from McGraw Hill. It's been several years since we've updated those textbooks and with new teachers coming, it's time to do so. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Monty Peden moved to approve the 2026-2027 recommended cafeteria pricing for students and adults. These changes will affect full pay customers only and are recommended by the IDOE as part of their price line equity. Reduced prices will continue to be .30 for breakfast and .40 for lunch. Full pay elementary breakfast will be 1.50, with extra entrees being 2.65. Full pay elementary lunch will be 3.00 and jr/sr high lunch will be 3.10. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Jennifer Hurford moved to approve the ACS Food Service Bids for the 2026-2027 school year. There are no changes from last year's suppliers. Gordon's will continue to be our main distributor,Commercial Food Systems will provide all snack and beverage items to the cafeteria and Dairy Farmers of America/Kemps' will provide all milk products.   Karra Duff seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0

Karra Duff moved to approve a resolution authorizing ACS to process a one time 27th payroll payment during the 27/28 school year, due to the payroll calendar. This pay will happen on 12/31/27. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Monty Peden moved to approve the consideration of a stipend for Stephanie Riffel for taking over the duties of Work Based Learning Coordinator for the 26/27 school year in addition to her regular duties. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Karra Duff moved to approve the consideration of a stipend for Amy Miller for assuming the duties of ECA and Food Service Treasurer for the 26/27 school year in addition to regular duties. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Jennifer Hurford also moved to approve the consideration of a stipend for Kelli VanDerWeele for completing all of the requirements needed to obtain her Chief Financial Officer certification. Karra Duff seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0, as well.

The Board was also asked to look over NEOLA policy 5136 for a second reading and approval of our new policy for personal communication devices. This new policy affects all cell phones, smart watches, smart glasses and other personal communication devices. The new law from the state of Indiana states that all PCD's will be powered off and locked up from bell to bell. Students will not be able to access them at lunch time or passing periods. Students will be able to use them at extra curricular events and sports activities as needed. Karra Duff made a motion to approve policy 5136 as written and Chris O'Dell seconded the motion. It was approved 5-0.

Jennifer Hurford asked for approval of a resolution authorizing payment for unused vacation and personal days from the 25/26 school year for all applicable staff. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Next on the agenda was the Superintendent report. Mrs. Johnson reminded the Board that opening day for staff is scheduled for Monday, August 10th. The day will begin at 7:30 a.m. in the auditorium lobby where teachers and staff can grab a donut and update any paperwork needed for the Administration office.There is an all staff meeting scheduled for 8:00 a.m. in the auditorium followed by breakout sessions later in the day. Lunch for all staff will be served in the cafeteria. Back to School Night is scheduled for the evening of the 10th as well. Elementary students will be able to meet teachers and tour classrooms. The Jr-Sr High will open to students to find classrooms, locate lockers and have any questions answered. The Marshall County Health Department will be available on Tuesday, August 11th from 12-2 in their mobile vaccination clinic to administer required childhood immunizations. The 11th is also a ½ teacher work day. Students return on Wednesday, August 12th. Mrs. Johnson also updated the Board on the construction progress throughout the school. The tunnel repair project is progressing nicely and the contractors believe they might be finished in a couple of weeks. Ziolkowski will be working into October on the exterior masonry repair. Brown & Brown is nearly done with the elementary patio project. SPG Roofing progress is moving at a slower pace due to several setbacks but work continues and they are hopeful to wrap up before school begins.

Kelli VanDerWeele asked the Board to approve claims for the month of June There was a total claim amount of $557,348.29 for accounts payable and $267,962.48 for payroll. The total claim amount for the month was $825,310.77. Jennifer Hurford moved to approve the claims as presented and Monty Peden seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Mrs Johnson presented the Board with the financial reports for June 2026. We are officially halfway through the 2026 budget year and have expended 38% of the education fund and 41% of the operations fund. Both funds look very healthy and are right on track with where we like to be at this point in the school year.

With there being no other business to discuss, Karra Duff moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 P.M. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

ARGOS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

____
Pat Rensberger, President

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Karra Duff, Vice President

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Jennifer Hurford, Secretary

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Chris O'Dell, Member

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Monty Peden, Member

Board Approved Personnel Changes July 13, 2026

A. Employment

1. Monica Crace-HS Special education aide
2. Nicole Sharpe-Elementary title 1 aide