



Homer Community Consolidated School District 33C

Board of Education

Board Meeting Summary - July 28, 2026

*Christopher Trzeciak, President - Melissa Chandarana, Vice President - Aaron Wolf, Secretary
Elizabeth Hitzeman, Member - Deb Martin, Member, - Josh Oster, Member - Lilly Miceli, Member*

Consent Agenda:

- Approval of the consent agenda as presented
- Approval of the 6.23.26 Regular Board meeting minutes and the 6.23.26 Regular Meeting Closed Session Minutes (Goal 4)
- Treasurer's Report June 2026 (Goal 5)
- Invoices Payable July 2026 (Goal 5)

Resignations:

Certified

- 1) Gara Scott - Instructional Teacher at Schilling School - eff. 6/2/26
- 2) Margaret Bollinger - Speech Pathologist at Young School - eff. 6/2/26
- 3) Aaron Wilcox - Industrial Arts Teacher at Homer Junior High School - eff. 6/2/26

Non-Certified

- 1) Linda Winterfeldt - Paraprofessional at Young School - eff. 6/30/26
- 2) Agnieszka Gorka - Bus Driver at Transportation - eff. 7/9/26
- 3) John O'Dwyer - Bus Driver at Transportation - eff. 6/2/26
- 4) Katie Zobrist - Lunch Monitor at Schilling - eff. 6/1/26
- 5) Brittney Dreger - Lunch Monitor at Butler - eff. 6/1/26
- 6) George Heller - Bus Driver at Transportation - eff. 6/2/2026

Employment Recommendation(s):

Certified

- 1) M. Lorena Johnson - Special Education Resource Teacher at Homer Jr. High School - eff. 8/17/26
- 2) Jordan Smith - 3rd Grade Teacher at Butler School - eff 8/17/26
- 3) Afeni Willis - Special Education Teacher at Schilling School - 8/17/26, contingent on obtaining state provisional license requirements
- 4) Lizbeth Martinez - Art Teacher at Schilling School and Goodings Grove School - eff. 8/17/26
- 5) Samuel Hernandez Manzanares - Special Education (Intensive Needs) Teacher at

Young School - eff. 8/17/26

- 6) Tara Dempsey - Special Education (Early Childhood) at Young School - eff. 8/17/26

Non-Certified

- 1) Matilda Rapaj - Nurses Aide at Hadley Middle School - salary correction - eff. 8/17/26
- 2) Christina Theriault - Lunchroom Monitor at Hadley Middle School - salary correction - eff. 8/19/26
- 3) Linda Balmer - Bus Driver at Transportation - eff. 8/19/26 dependent on successfully completing a criminal background check, the FMCSA background check, the bus driver physical examination, and obtaining the CDL and school bus permit for driving a school bus. The anticipated start date above is an estimate.
- 4) Kristina Bogaerts - Occupational Therapist at Butler School - eff 8/17/26
- 5) Nicole Meadows - Clerical Aide at Transportation - eff. 8/03/26
- 6) Emily Ryan - Custodian at Young School - eff. 7/29/26
- 7) Kristin Fiore - Lunch Monitor at Schilling - (changing from 1.0 to .5 FTE) - eff. 2026-2027 school year

Extracurricular

2026-2027 Coaches List (attached)

Informational Reports:

Homer Council & Homer Support Staff Council Report

No report

Homer Support Staff Council

No report

Directors' Reports

Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Russ' presentation is attached.

Special Services

Ms. Karalus' presentation is attached.

Assistant Superintendents' Reports

Curriculum and Instruction

Ms. Figurell's presentation is attached.

Human Resources

Dr. Portwood's presentation is attached.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Schoppe's report is attached.

Board Reports

- **Legal Updates:** The Illinois General Assembly concluded its spring session on May 31. Key legislation affecting school districts includes:
 - **SB 2427:** Requires districts to adopt a student cell phone policy by the 2027–2028 school year.
 - **HB 3772:** Limits exclusionary discipline practices for students in grades K–2 beginning July 1, 2027.
 - **SB 2914:** Revises the teacher notice of remedial warning process.
 - **P.A. 104-0338:** Expands the definition of cyberbullying
- **Finance and Facility Update:**
 - Reviewed the district's most recent demographic study and compared it with a second independent analysis to validate enrollment projections. Both reports indicate stable enrollment over the next 10 years, with Goodings Grove and Butler expected to experience the greatest space constraints but no significant future growth. Based on these findings, the committee concluded that planning can focus on addressing current space needs rather than expanding for projected enrollment increases.
 - The committee also reviewed staff feedback, and Tria Architecture presented multiple options to address the identified space concerns.

Old Business

- District Food Service Program Review and Update

New Business: Informational

- Approval Request (First Read only): Additional K-1 Units of Study Texts

Approved New Business

- Approved the 2026-2027 Employee Handbook
- Approved the contract for Liz Carrero, PR Coordinator for the 2026-2027 school year
- Appointed Ms. Katarina Morandi as Head Nurse for the 2026-2027 school year and the corresponding \$5,000 per year stipend
- Approved attendance at the 2026 COSSBA National Conference Board member Trzeciak to attend the 2026 COSSBA Conference
- Approved additional K-1 Units of Study Texts
- Approved the retirement of the following individual(s) subject to compliance with the terms and conditions of the District's one-time IMRF retirement incentive program and to approve separation agreements with said employee(s): Tod Pedigo - Maintenance at All Buildings - eff 6.30.2027
- Authorized a second check run in July to be brought to the Board for approval in August
- Increased the wage for lunch/recess monitors within the district from \$16/hr to \$16.80/hr

Action After Closed

- Approved the recommendation to destroy all verbatim minutes older than eighteen months
- Approved the recommendation to maintain Closed Session minutes as closed to the public

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 11, at 7:00 p.m.