Coal City Community Unit School District #1
Grundy County
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 2, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

President Miller called the public hearing meeting to order at 6:00 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, Director of Business Services Amanda Herrera-Ford, 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Public Hearing on the 2026 – 2027 Budget

President Miller stated the Board of Education approved a tentative Budget on Wednesday, July 1, 2026. A legal notice was published in the Coal City Courant newspaper on Wednesday, July 8, 2026. The tentative budget was on display for public inspection and as of this meeting, no one had requested to review or copy the proposed budget documents. Director of Business Services provided the Board with a summary of the final budget.

President Miller asked if there were any further questions, hearing none, President Miller considered the public hearing on the 2026 - 2027 budget adjourned.

CALL TO ORDER

After the public hearing, President Miller called the regular meeting to order at 6:01 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.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Introduction/acknowledgement of guests. – none.
2. Kim Sondgeroth, Spanish Teacher at the high school was in attendance with students from the Spanish Honor's Society to present the Board with an overseas trip opportunity to Costa Rica in the summer of 2027. The student's presented their itinerary, the cost associated with each student, and they discussed the college credits that could be earned with this opportunity. This topic was under New Business letter E but was moved up for the students in attendance.
3. Principal – Introduction of newly hired certified staff:

Early Childhood Center
Jennifer Durkee
*Kristina Lardi
Madison Phillips

Elementary School
*Kristina Lardi
Kristin Wills

Intermediate School
Natalie Gill
Moree Harney

Middle School
Taylor Gunier
Jacqualyn Henrichsen
*David Lange
Megan Marlin
Xander Smith

High School
Emily Bonnell *(not in attendance)*
Natalie Casey *(not in attendance)*
*David Lange
John Cherry *(was in attendance, but not on the agenda at the time of posting)*
Rebecca Williams *(was in attendance, but not on the agenda at the time of posting)*

The consensus from the new staff is that everyone has been very welcoming; students and staff alike. Board President Miller and Superintendent Spencer welcomed the new staff and look forward to hearing about all the amazing things they'll do.

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. VanDuyne moved, and Mrs. Klein seconded to approve the consent agenda and the facility usage requests:

Group	Building	Date
CC Tennis Assoc.	IS	10/19/26-11/16/26
CC Tennis Assoc.	ECC	10/20/26-11/24/26
CC Tennis Assoc.	ES	10/21/26-12/02/26
Spiezio Baseball	HS	09/25/26
Girl Scouts	ES	09/01/26-05/11/27
On Broadway Dancers	PAC	11/20/26-11/29/26
On Broadway Dancers	PAC	06/07/27-06/13/27
Demolition Wrestling Club	HS	01/24/27

CC Miners	IS	09/22/26-10/1/26
CC Youth Basketball	IS	09/15/26-11/19/26
Girl Scouts	HS	09/14/26-05/03/27

MINUTES
August 5, 2026 - Regular Meeting

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES
August 5, 2026 - Regular Meeting

FINANCIAL REPORTS
Activity Fund Reports – July 2026
Treasurer's Report – July 2026
Monthly Manual Check Report – August 2026
Payroll Report – July 2026
Payroll Report – August 2026
Accounts Payable Report – September 2026

PERSONNEL

Resignations
- Heather Egeland - 1:1 Special Education Aide at the Early Childhood Center. Ms. Egeland's last day was May 22, 2026.
- Kimberly Fisher – 1:1 Special Education Aide at the Early Childhood Center. Ms. Fisher's last day was August 24, 2026.
- Kathryn Long - 1:1 Special Education Aide at the Early Childhood Center. Ms. Long's last day was May 22, 2026.
- Ashley Reszel – Library/P.E. Aide at the Early Childhood Center. Ms. Reszel's last day was May 22, 2026.

Employments - *pending satisfactory completion of all state requirements*
- Sarah Cannon – 1:1 full-time Registered Nurse for the district
- Derek Carlson – Assistant Auditorium Manager
- Lauren Kempes – School Counselor Substitute. Mrs. Kempes is covering for Mrs. Casey, and her anticipated start date is August 25, 2026.
- Hannah Plata – Classroom Aide at the Middle School – Ms. Plata is replacing Ms. Pens, and her anticipated start date is August 31, 2026.
- Phyllis Skubic – Copy Clerk for the Early Childhood Center, Elementary and Intermediate Schools. Ms. Skubic's anticipated start date is August 21, 2026.

Extra-Curricular Assignments
Emily Bonnell – Math Team Sponsor at the High School
Brittany LeFevre – Coalers with Character Sponsor

Middle School Athletic Director Jeff Pacholski is recommending the following for volunteer/coaching positions:

Meg Marlin – Volunteer Assistant Soccer Coach

High School Athletic Director John Cherry recommended the following for volunteer/coaching positions:

Kyle Sulzberger – Volunteer Assistant Golf Coach at the High School

Advertising Donations:
$2, 500 – Rival5
$2,500 – Lori Bonarek Realty

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

ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS

A. EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER REPORT

Principal Davidson Reported:

Calendar of Events:
August 31st - ECC Picture Day
August 31st - 1st Day with ALL of Kindergarten
September 1st - Kindergarten Team Meeting @ 11:10am
September 1st - 1st Grade Team Meeting @ 12:05pm
September 1st - Special Education Team Meeting @ 2:55pm
September 2nd - Support Staff Meeting @ 2:55pm
September 3rd - Shelter-in-Place Drill @ 9:15am
September 3rd - Preschool Team Meeting @ 10:45am
September 3rd - A Team Meeting @ 2:55pm
September 4th - Coaler Friday!
September 7th - NO SCHOOL
September 8th - Special Education Team Meeting @ 2:55pm
September 9th - Early Dismissal
September 10th - Staff Culture Committee Meeting @ 2:55pm
September 11th - Coaler Friday!
September 14th - CPI Team Meeting @ 2:55pm
September 15th - Special Education Team Meeting @ 2:55pm
September 16th - Specials Team Meeting @ 2:55pm
September 17th - Attendance Committee Meeting @ 2:55pm
September 18th - Coaler Friday!
September 21st - SAP Team Meeting @ 2:55pm

September 22nd - Special Education Team Meeting @ 2:55pm
September 23rd - Custodian Team Meeting @ 2:55pm
September 24th - PBS Team Meeting @ 2:55pm
September 25th - Coaler Friday!
September 28th - Fall Benchmarking Begins
September 28th - SAP Team Meeting @ 2:55pm

Current ECC Enrollment for 2025-2026:
PreK: 106
Kindergarten: 132
1st Grade: 123
Total: 361 (in Infinite Campus as of August 26th, 2026)

Completed Safety Drills:
September 2nd - Shelter-in-Place Drill

Month-in-Review:
- August has been all about welcoming our students back to the ECC and settling into a new school year! Our hallways are once again filled with little voices, lots of excitement, and many new faces. These first few weeks have been spent learning routines, navigating the lunchroom, exploring the playground, getting to know teachers and classmates, and—most importantly—beginning to build new friendships and a sense of belonging at school.
- Our Kindergarten students have been attending on their A/B schedule as they adjust to their new routines, and we are excited to welcome all of our Kindergarten students every day beginning next week! It will be wonderful to have everyone together as we move into September.
- We are also preparing for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in September, a cause that is especially close to our hearts at the ECC. We look forward to finding meaningful ways to recognize the month and show our support for children and families impacted by childhood cancer.
- It has been a wonderful start to the year, and we are excited to see all the learning, growing, and friendships that lie ahead!

Recognition:
- I would like to recognize Jennifer Durkee, Madison Phillips, and Kristina Lardi for the amazing work they have done since joining our ECC team! All three have jumped right in without hesitation and have approached every situation with patience, kindness, and a willingness to help. They are knowledgeable, positive, and genuinely excited to work with our students and staff.
- It already feels like they have been part of the ECC family much longer than just a few weeks, and I am so grateful to have each of them on our team!

B. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT

Principal Trotter reported:

Calendar of Events:
August 31st: School Pictures
September 7th: No School
September 9th: 11:45 Dismissal

ES Enrollment:
2nd Grade: 155 students
3rd Grade: 150 students
Total: 305 **(enrolled as of 8/27/2026)**

CCES Happenings and Recognitions:
- Students were excited to meet their teachers, visit their classrooms, and bring in their school supplies during **Back-to-School Night**.
- Every Friday, students and staff show their **Coaler spirit** by wearing school colors and Coaler gear.
- During our **all-school assembly**, we introduced staff members and reviewed schoolwide expectations and **Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS)**.
- Teachers are beginning to complete benchmark testing with their classes.
- Certified staff evaluations will begin in September.
- A special thank-you to our amazing teachers and staff for helping students become familiar and comfortable with our school. Your positive attitudes and welcoming smiles have helped make the beginning of the school year a wonderful experience for our students!

C. INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL REPORT

Principal Carlson reported:

Calendar of Upcoming Events:
9/1-9/30 Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
9/1 PBS (Positive Behavior System) Meeting 3:00 p.m.
9/2 Student Council Meeting 7:20 a.m.
9/2 4th & 5th Grade Team Meeting 3:00 p.m.
9/3 "Go Gold" for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
9/3 Paraprofessional Team Meeting 3:00 p.m.
9/4 Coalers Spirit Day
9/4 New Student Pizza Party 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
9/7 No School ~ Labor Day
9/8 Reading & Math Interventions Begin

9/8 TALC (Teaching & Learning Committee) Meeting 3:00 p.m.
9/9 11:35 Dismissal Day
9/10 Office Staff Meeting 3:00 p.m.
9/11 Patriot Day ~ Wear Red, White & Blue
9/14-9/25 FastBridge Fall Benchmarking
9/14 BLT (Building Leadership Team) Meeting 3:00 p.m.
9/15 PBS (Positive Behavior System) Meeting 3:00 p.m.
9/16 Student Council Meeting 7:20 a.m.
9/16 Special Education Co-Teacher Meeting 3:00 p.m.
9/16 CCIS Pizza Delivery Night 4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
9/17 CPI (Crisis Prevention Institute) Team Meeting 3:00 p.m.
9/18 Coalers Spirit Day
9/21 ASAP (After School Assistance Program) Begins 3:00-4:00 *Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays*
9/21 A Team Meeting 3:00 p.m.
9/22 TALC (Teaching & Learning Committee) Meeting 3:00 p.m.
9/23 Specials Team Meeting 3:00 p.m.
9/24 Custodian Meeting 3:00 p.m.
9/25 Coalers Spirit Day
9/28-10/2 Homecoming Week
9/28 SAP (Student Assistance Program) Meeting 3:00 p.m.
9/29 Culture Club/Events Committee Meeting 3:00 p.m.
9/30 Student Council Meeting 7:20 a.m.
9/30 Special Education Cross-Cat Meeting 3:00 p.m.

Current Enrollment:

4th Grade	142
5th Grade	153
Total:	**295**

This includes one 4th grade student who is enrolled in a special education program outside of CCIS.

As of 8/27/26:
New Students = 8
Move-outs = 6

Emergency/Crisis Drills Completed:

Bus Evacuation	8/19/26
Evacuation/Fire	8/19/26
Shelter-in-Place/Storm	8/20/26
Lockdown	8/27/26

Previous Month in Review:

- We hosted a new student & 4th grade orientation on August 10th at 9:00 a.m. for students and parents. It was packed. The students seemed very excited to see the new gym, learn about CCIS, and walk around their new school. We also offered a 5th grade orientation that day at 10:00 a.m. since those students attended school at CCES last year. About 80% of the 5th graders attended.

- Our Back to School Night/Open House took place on August 13th, and it went very well. Students were able to meet their teacher, bring their school supplies, and get acclimated with the building. Mrs. Norris from the public library had a table set up in the new gym for families to stop by to learn about all the programs and activities the CCPL has to offer. Students were excited to spin the wheel for a prize.
- CCIS created a Welcome Back to School Video for students which we showed at an assembly on the first day of school (August 17) after introducing our staff. The students roared with laughter and applause during the video. Nikki Boresi and Amy Gaffigan planned and produced the video.
- During the first full week of school, students rotated through 4 different common area stations (cafeteria, hallway, assemblies and bathroom) where we shared our behavioral expectations with them along with our reward and consequence system. We also discussed our expectations for recess.
- Beginning Band started on August 19th. We currently have 52 students in band. The full band meets every other day for 35 minutes. Small group sectional lessons take place once every 4 days for 30 minutes each.
- Our school counselor, Holly Engstrom, visited all of our 4th grade homerooms to introduce herself and tell students she is here to support their social/emotional needs.
- Tracy Schmitz and Sarah Veronda screened our new students in reading & math so students can be properly placed into intervention groups, if needed. Tracy and Sarah have also been very helpful in gathering intervention materials for all the CCIS teachers. Our reading and math interventions will begin on September 8th.
- We are off to a fantastic start this school year. The students are smiling and appear happy to be at school. The parents are being supportive. The teachers worked very hard to set up and decorate their classrooms, and they have done a wonderful job getting to know their students. We have already completed 4 safety drills. It feels so good to be back at CCIS!

Staff Recognition:

- I want to recognize and thank Nikki Boresi and Amy Gaffigan for producing our Back-to-School Video.
- I want to recognize and thank Emily Nolan for working with and training Megan Homerding, our new health aide, during the first week of school.
- I want to recognize and thank Ali Scrogham, Megan Homerding, and Holly Engstrom for helping me with our student expectation stations.
- I want to thank the entire CCIS staff for participating in our Back-to-School Video.
- I want to recognize and thank the custodians (Tom Onsen, Reilly Radomski, Jannell McMullen) for all the summer work they completed in our building.

D. MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT

Principal Stone reported:

Calendar of Events:
September 2 - CCMS Intruder Drill at 1:45 p.m.
September 7 - Labor Day -- No School

September 8 - Exploratory Begins
September 8 - CCMS Fire Drill at 1:05 p.m.
September 9 - Early Dismissal at 12:00pm
September 9 - Fall Sports Pictures from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
September 15 - CCMS McTeacher Night from 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
September 18 - CCMS Staff Cookout During Lunches
September 22 - Shelter-In-Place Drill at 10:00 a.m.
September 28 - October 2 – Homecoming Week

Enrollment Numbers on 8/26

6th Grade	156
7th Grade	142
8th Grade	137
Total:	**435**

Month in Review – August 2026

- 6th Grade Orientation was held on Monday August 10th, and we had a great turnout for Ms. Mercedis Neal and her team of WEB Leaders! 6th grade students were divided into two groups in two different time slots to participate in the event.
- New Student Orientation was held on Monday August 10th as well and we had two new families join us for the meeting. Special thanks to Mr. Pacholski, Mrs. Painter, and Mrs. DePersia for assisting with our new students.
- CCMS teachers attended our three teachers institute days to begin the school year on Wednesday, August 12, Thursday, August 13, and Friday, August 14. On our building institute day on Thursday, CCMS staff had a brief staff meeting and then had a few other grade level meetings to discuss the upcoming school year.
- CCMS returned to school on Monday, August 17th and we had an extremely smooth and successful transition to the 2026-2027 school year.
- The CCMS Back to School Night was hosted on Thursday, August 13th and we had a fabulous turnout of students and families. There was an extremely positive sense buzzing around the building and I'm extremely grateful of the support that the community provides CCMS as a whole. Additionally, this was the first year we did it the same night as the elementary buildings and there was an overwhelming sense of doing that model again in the future.
- Our CCMS McTeacher Night is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15th from 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Our staff would love to see you join us at McDonald's on that evening!
- I want to give a major shout out to our two wonderful secretaries at CCMS, Jill Fatlan and Lindsay McMillan, and our health aide, Megan Stoudt, as they have completed all tasks needed for every student to be compliant with registration even with a new system! Thank you to all three of them for their hard work and dedication to our district. CCMS would not be what it is today without these three.

Coal City Middle School Athletics

CCMS Athletics is midway through its fall season. Our 8th-grade baseball and softball teams are set to compete in the IVC tournament this coming weekend. Both teams have been highly competitive, and we look forward to their postseason run next month!

8th-grade softball will also host regionals here at CCMS. We are proud to offer Coach Schmidt and the team a home-field advantage!

Our JV softball/baseball teams - as well as our 6th-grade baseball team are having strong seasons as well. Our coaches are doing an outstanding job developing our student-athletes, who are building great memories and playing highly competitive games.

The soccer team is halfway through its season, and the A team remains undefeated! With 40 student-athletes across the A and B teams, participation is strong. Our B team also recently hosted multiple schools for the Coaler Soccer Invite.

Finally, Mrs. Figge has done a wonderful job running our concession stand this year. Parents and students truly appreciate having concessions available during outdoor events.

CCMS Softball Coaches
Brad Schmitt – A Team
Steph Vucsko – B Team

CCMS Baseball Coaches
Payton Hutchings – A Team - First year as 8th grade coach
Nate Wills – B Team
Mike Pfeiffer – C Team

CCMS Soccer
Mike Kostbade - Retirement year!!!!
Katherine Drey
Meg Marlin is volunteering her time to coach the team as well.

E. HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

Principal Mikula reported:

Calendar of Events:

September 1 - ISU Campus Visit
September 3 - Dangers of Vaping Presentation given by Jen Shell, RN & teacher of Health Occ through GAVC
September 10 - U of I Campus Visit
September 10,12,13- CCHS Theatre Dept presents "Come From Away" (Musical)
September 24 - Post High School Event
September 27 - Athletes in the Arts - 6PM - PAC
September 28 - Homecoming Week Begins

Month in Review:

- ➔ We added an additional Freshmen Orientation Day this year, with a special invite going out to incoming students with an IEP to have them come meet their case manager as well as students in our PATH and ACES program in which we had 10 students attend. The next day we had 128 students attend Freshman Orientation. Link Leaders did an amazing job welcoming in students and helping them feel prepared and comfortable to make the move into high school. The following Monday we welcomed all students and families to Walk Your Schedule Day that gave them the opportunity to walk their schedule, put things in their locker and pick up a few free school supplies.
- ➔ We hosted our annual Meet the Coalers Night where the community was invited to watch a soccer and football scrimmage, enjoy a preview of the marching band, watch a routine from the dance team, and meet the athletes on all fall varsity sports.
- ➔ The high school welcomed students back to CCHS with our annual back to school assembly where teachers were recognized, new staff was introduced and Mr. Kostbade was recognized for his last, first day.
- ➔ The school's "Club Coaler" was a success. Students were able to get in early before school to meet with clubs and organizations they might be interested in getting involved with. In total, 29 clubs participated.
- ➔ On August 20th, a representative from ISU's admissions office came to the school to give students and their families information on the college admissions process. There were about 20 families in attendance.
- ➔ Had our first lockdown drill on Tuesday, August 25.

Current Enrollment:
Freshman: 158
Sophomore: 161
Junior: 150
Senior: 163
Total Enrollment: 632

Discipline Report:
Vaping - 3
Phone (Insubordination) - 3
Leaving Campus – 10

F. STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

Director Krippel reported:

Move-In Special Needs Students
Our district has added 11 new students who require special education services by moving into the Coal City District. This number is lower compared to the previous school year when 14 students requiring special education services moved into the district. These numbers are important to track because these numbers can impact programming and staffing needs prior to the school year.

Move-In Special Education Students	
21-22 School Year	20
22-23 School Year	20
23-24 School Year	5
24-25 School Year	23
25-26 School Year	14
26-27 School Year	11

Current Student Services Data

Coal City Schools IEP Data					
ECC	*ES*	*IS*	*MS*	*HS*	*District*
112	*60*	*46*	*65*	*69*	*352*

Coal City Schools 504 Data					
ECC	*ES*	*IS*	*MS*	*HS*	*Total*
2	*9*	*13*	*40*	*55*	*119*

Coaler Academy Data				
Full Time	*Hybrid*	*Intervention*	*Total Students*	*Pending Referrals*
13	*1*	*0*	*15*	*0*

Out of District Placements
Total Students
9

Miscellaneous Student Data	
ELL	*Homeless*
TBD	*14*

Preschool Statistics			
Current Students	*IEP Openings*	*At-Risk Openings*	*Waitlist*
105/200	*45*	*70*	*0*

G. CURRICULUM REPORT

Director Kenney reported:

Professional Development

During the first semester, our professional development program will feature several outside presenters secured through grant funding provided by the Regional Office of Education (ROE). These opportunities will allow staff to engage in targeted professional learning aligned with instructional priorities across the district. Sessions will focus on the following areas:

- Mathematics Instruction
- Assessment Creation and Rigor
- Meaningful Instruction Through Application

We are grateful for the grant funding that has made these additional professional learning opportunities available to our staff.

Student Information System

The implementation of Infinite Campus was a success. A special thank you goes to our teacher trainers who dedicated time during the summer to learning the new system and then facilitated staff training during our Institute Days on Thursday, August 13, and Friday, August 14. Their preparation and willingness to support their colleagues played an important role in a successful transition.

I would also like to recognize Heather Kruszewski and Cam Stone for their leadership throughout the implementation process. Their continued support, problem-solving, and dedication were instrumental in ensuring a smooth and successful transition to Infinite Campus.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this significant district-wide initiative.

New Teacher Orientation

This year, we welcomed 13 new teachers to our New Teacher Orientation program. Based on feedback from previous years, we were able to streamline the orientation from three days to two while continuing to provide the essential information and resources our new staff members need to begin the school year successfully.

Throughout the two-day orientation, new teachers received training on district-specific topics, including technology, assessments, contractual information, district procedures, and other important resources. This year's group came prepared, engaged, and eager to begin. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and the positive contributions they will make to our students, schools, and district.

Seal of Biliteracy

I am proud to announce that Jacob Cimino has earned the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy. In addition, Hunter Pedigo, Dane Noffsinger, Lance Perino, and Rhiana Vanek earned the State Commendation Toward Biliteracy.

Congratulations to these students, Mr. Castle, and the entire World Languages Department for their dedication and continued commitment to developing biliteracy among our students. These accomplishments reflect both the hard work of our students, and the support and instruction provided by our staff.

At Coal City High School, students earn the State Seal of Biliteracy by meeting the following requirements:

- Earn a score of 4 or 5 on an AP English exam or an ACT English score of 21 or higher
- Earn a score of 4 or 5 on the AP Spanish exam

Students earn the State Commendation Toward Biliteracy by meeting the following requirements:

- Earn a score of 4 or 5 on an AP English exam or an ACT English score of 21 or higher
- Earn a score of 3 on the AP Spanish exam

Mrs. Kenney acknowledged and thanked Heather Kruszewski for all the countless hours and dedication with the implementation of Infinite Campus for the district.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Spencer reported:

1. **FOIA Requests:**
   A FOIA request was received from Tanner Sullivan from The Data Branch requesting contracts, service agreements, order forms, P.O., etc.….

   A FOIA request was received from Phoebe Sinclair from The Data Branch requesting contracts, service agreements, order forms, P.O., etc.….

   A FOIA request was received from Presley Vaughn from The Data Branch requesting contracts, service agreements, order forms, P.O., etc.….

   A FOIA request was received from Nathan Cook from The Data Branch requesting contracts, service agreements, order forms, P.O., etc.….

   A FOIA request was received from Julia Bennett from The Data Branch requesting contracts, service agreements, order forms, P.O., etc.….

   A FOIA request was received from Brian Gavilan from Illinois Education Association-NEA requesting names of all non-certified support staff, job title, hire date, salary, work location, hours worked per week, hours scheduled to work per year, if there is a collective bargaining status.

   A FOIA request was received from Sheri Reid from SmartProcure requesting all purchasing records from May 31, 2026, to current.

2. Monthly student enrollment figures were available for review.

Mr. Spencer acknowledged Mrs. Kenney, Mr. Stone and Mrs. Kruszewski for their work with the implementation of Infinite Campus. Mr. Spencer discussed his conversation with State Representatives regarding the amount of FOIA requests received by schools. Mr. Spencer also discussed obtaining card readers for concession stands.

DATES TO REMEMBER
September 7 – Labor Day/No School
September 9 – Early Dismissal & Middle School Fall Sports Pictures
September 14 – Picture Retakes at the High School
September 23 – Board Study Session of the Whole Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
September 28 – October 2 – Homecoming Week
October 2 – Homecoming Parade
October 3 – Homecoming Dance
October 7 – Board of Education Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
October 15 – Last day to make changes/cancellation for Joint Annual Conference
November 19 – 22 – Joint Annual Conference/Friday Focus Workshops

I. GRUNDY AREA VOCATIONAL CENTER REPORT

Mr. Engelhardt reported:

1. The GAVC Board of Control held the annual Budget Hearing.
2. Approved the Minutes of the June 25, 2026, Board of Control Meeting.
3. Approved the bills, payroll, and financial reports.
4. A representative from Mack and Associates presented the Board of Control with a review of the audit.
5. Jenny Wold, with Illinois Agriculture Education, discussed offering Science credit when students take Agriculture classes through GAVC.
6. Assistant Director Gierke updated the Board of Control on the two days of Teacher Institute.
7. Assistant Director Gierke informed the Board what days each school district started at GAVC.
8. Assistant Director Gierke thanked each district's counselors and administrative teams for their efficient communication with placing students in classes and sections.
9. Assistant Director Gierke informed the Board of Control that Natalie Gregoire and Jenifer Shell are chairing the Professional Learning Community at GAVC.
10. Assistant Director Gierke went through updates with work-based learning.
11. Assistant Director Gierke provided program updates on Agriculture and Health Occupations.
12. Assistant Director Gierke provided dates for the CTE Network meetings and the subject being discussed at each meeting.
13. Assistant Director Gierke informed the Board of Control that TREES, Student to Apprenticeship, was working with the Plumbers Local 130 to participate in their JAC Bridge Program.
14. Director Copes updated the Board of Control on the September calendar.
15. Director Copes provided the Board an update on summer work projects.
16. Director Copes and Assistant Director Gierke discussed the possibility of working with Morris High School to provide an Introductory Career and Technical Pathway in the Fall of 2027.
17. Accepted the FY26 audit from Mack and Associates as presented.

18. Approved the FY27 Budget as presented.
19. Approved moving Closed Session minutes from January 2026 to Open Session for public inspection.

Mr. Spencer added that there are 226 high school students that are participating in a sport, that's about 1/3 of the student body. Mr. Spencer also discussed how some games had to be canceled due to the extreme temperatures.

J. ATHLETIC DIRECTOR REPORT

Athletic Director Cherry reported:

FROM THE ATHLETIC ***DIRECTOR'S DESK***

Fall sports are underway and participation numbers are as follows:

Football - 73 students participating
Volleyball - 32 students participating
Boys Golf - 20 students participating
Girls Golf - 22 students participating
Tennis - 20 students participating
Soccer - 34 students participating
Cheer - 15 students participating
Dance - 10 students participating
Total Participants: 226 students

36% of all students in the building are participating in a fall sport

AN INVITATION FROM CCHS

Senior Recognition for Fall Sports

Friday, August 28th
- Band and Dance team senior recognition

Friday, September 11th
- Football and Cheer senior recognition

Thursday, September 24th
- Girls Golf (at Volleyball game)

TBD
- Soccer and Volleyball

ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

Fall Seasons Underway

- Football started the season with wins at all three levels vs Pontiac, and varsity posting a 40-6 victory in a lightning delayed game that finished on Saturday.
- Volleyball opened the season with three wins on the road at Prairie Central including varsity posting a two-set win (25-21, 25-22).
- Boys golf posted its best showing of the year with a victory at the Seneca Invitational with Jaxon Duke finishing second overall and Frankie Ponio finished third
- Girls Golf also took third place at the Seneca invitational and continues to grow and improve as the season progresses.
- Girls tennis started the season by playing well but falling to Morris. They are also a very young squad and look to improve as the season moves on.
- Boys' Soccer will open the season on 8/27 vs Serena at home and is looking forward to another great campaign this year.

Future Plans

In addition to examining digital ticketing and concession payments, we continue to also look at ways to improve the staffing of concession for high school as well as junior high events by getting teams to sign up to work events to help contribute to their teams. As the year goes on, I will also be looking at ways to add to our programs and the experiences we can provide students, as well as ways to get more students involved in extracurricular activities in the building.

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 ADOPTING THE 2026 – 2027 OPERATING BUDGET

The final budget document, including the Certificate of Working Budget and the Certification of Revenues, was reviewed. As a result of the Budget Hearing earlier in the evening, the Board must formally adopt the district's operating budget for 2026 - 2027. The resolution below was read during the meeting, as well as a signed copy kept on file.

Mr. Engelhardt moved, and Mrs. Rampa seconded to approve the following resolution to adopt the 2026 - 2027 Operating Budget:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Coal City Community Unit School District #1, County of Grundy/Will, State of Illinois, caused to be prepared in tentative form a budget, and the Secretary of

this Board has made the same conveniently available to public inspection for at least thirty days prior to final action thereon;

AND WHEREAS, A public hearing was held as to such budget on the 2nd day of September 2026, notice of said hearing was given at least thirty days prior thereto as required by law, and all other legal requirements have been complied with;

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it resolved by the Board of Education of said district as follows:

Section 1: That the fiscal year of this School District be and the same hereby is fixed and declared to be beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027.

Section 2: That the following budget containing an estimate of amounts available in each Fund, separately, and of expenditures from each be and the same is hereby adopted as the budget of this school district for said fiscal year.

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

B. DISCUSSION ON FY26 FINCIAL AUDIT

A representative from Mack & Associates was in attendance and presented the 2026 financial audit findings. The representative from Mack & Associates indicated that she is waiting on the okay from the federal government before releasing the single audit

C. SECOND READING ON REVISED DISTRICT POLICIES

The following board policies were submitted for review. The Board Policy Committee met and discussed the revised policies in more depth. This was the second reading.

2:70-E	Checklist for Filing Board Vacancies by Appointment
2:120-E3	Resolution to Appoint a Delegate to the Illinois Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly
2:220-E1	Board Treatment of Closed Meeting Verbatim Records and Minutes
2:220-E3	Closed Meeting Minutes
2:220-E5	Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes
2:220-E8	School Board Records Maintenance Requirements and FAQs
2:230	Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board
3:70	Succession of Authority
4:110-AP2	Bus Driver Communication Devices; Pre-Trip and Post-Trip Inspection; and Bus Driving Comments
4:170-AP1, E1	Accident or Injury Form

4:170-AP1, E2	Memo to Staff Members Regarding Contracts By Media About a Crisis
4:170-AP2	Routine Communications Concerning Safety and Security
4:170-AP4	National Terrorism Advisory System
4:175	Convicted Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications
4:180-AP1	School Action Steps for Pandemic Influenza or Other Virus/Disease
5:20-AP	Sample Questions and Considerations for Conducting the Internal Harassment in the Workplace Investigation
5:40	Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease
5:40-AP	Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease
5:70	Religious Holidays
5:100-AP	Staff Development Program
5:110	Recognition for Service
5:130-AP	Email Retention
5:140	Solicitations By or From Staff
5:185-AP	Resource Guide for Family and Medical Leave
5:220-E	Unsatisfactory Performance Report for Substitute Teachers
5:240	Suspension
5:270-E	Notice of Employment
6:60-AP1, E2	Resources for Biking and Walking Safety Education
6:70	Teaching About Religions
6:70-AP	Teaching About Religions
6:80	Teaching About Controversial Issues
6:120-AP4	Care of Students with Diabetes
6:190	Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities
6:235-E4	~~Keeping Yourself and Your Kids Safe on Social Networks~~ Online Safety Resources
7:30	Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer
7:60-AP1	Challenging a Student's Residence Status
7:60-AP2	Establishing Student Residency
7:60-AP2, E1	Letter of Residence from Landlord in Lieu of Lease
7:60-AP2, E2	Letters of Residence to Be Used When the Person Seeking to Enroll a Student Is Living with a District Resident
7:60-AP2, E3	Evidence of Non-Parent's Custody, Control, and Responsibility of a Student
7:80	Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance
7:130	Student Rights and Responsibilities
7:190-E1	Aggressive Behavior Reporting Letter and Form
7:190, E4	Acknowledgement of Receiving Student Behavior Policy and Student Conduct Code
7:200-E1	Short Term Out-of- School Suspension (1-3 Days) Reporting Form
7:240-AP1	Code of Conduct for Extracurricular Activities
7:330	Student Use of Buildings. – Equal Access
7:330-E	Application ~~for~~ to Establish Noncurriculum Related Student Groups ~~t~~That

	Are Not School Sponsored ~~to~~ and Request for Free Use of School Premises for Meetings
8:10	Connection with the Community
8:70	Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities

NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION ON THE ADMINISTRATOR AND TEACHER SALARY/BENEFIT REPORT

Director of Business Services Amanda Herrera-Ford discussed the administrator and teacher salary/benefits report. This report puts the district in compliance regarding the administrators and teachers reporting for TRS.

B. DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC ACT 97-0609 REPORT

Director of Business Services Amanda Herrera-Ford discussed the Public Act 97-0609 report. This IMRF fund salary and benefit report puts the district in compliance.

C. DISCUSSION/ACTION ON APPROVING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CCCUSD1 AND THE VILLAGE OF COAL CITY FOR PROVIDING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Superintendent Christopher Spencer made a recommendation to renew the Intergovernmental Agreement between CCCUSD1 and the Village of Coal City for proving two (2) School Resource Officers (SRO) for the district on a full-time basis during the school year. The cost for the SROs will be shared as outlined in the agreement. The 4-year agreement will end on the last day of student attendance in 2030, unless earlier termination is provided as outlined within the agreement. There were minimal amendments to the legal language within the agreement. Mr. Spencer thanked the Village and the police department for getting this Intergovernmental Agreement in place.

Mr. Harmon moved, and Mr. VanDuyne seconded to approve the four (4) year Intergovernmental Agreement between CCCUSD1 and the Village of Coal City for proving School Resource Officers, as presented.

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

D. DISCUSSION/ACTION ON APPROVING THE SCHOOL SITE DONATION FROM GRUNDY COUNTY

A School Site Donation in the amount of $10,954.59 was received from Grundy County. A resolution was prepared for acceptance of the school site donation.

Mrs. Klein moved, and Mrs. Rampa seconded to approve the resolution to accept the School Site Donation from Grundy County in the amount of $10,954.59, and to waive the reading of the resolution.

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

E. DISCUSSION ON SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY OVERSEAS TRIP PRESENTATION

This item was moved to Notices and Communications at the beginning of the meeting.

F. DISCUSSION ON RLOCK SYSTEM FOR EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Superintendent Christopher Spencer discussed the RLock System that was recently added to the district's emergency procedures. Mr. Spencer provided the Board with a summary of how the system works and how the addition of the RLock System will enhance the current safety measures in place.

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. Engelhardt moved, and Mrs. Rampa seconded to go to closed session at 7:27 p.m. for the purpose of considering information regarding an individual student issue.

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

Mr. Engelhardt moved, and Mrs. Klein seconded to return to open session at 7:35 p.m.

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

BOARD STUDY SESSION OF THE WHOLE DATE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M.
In Coal City CUSD #1 Administrative Center Boardroom

NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 7, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M.
In Coal City CUSD #1 Administrative Center Boardroom

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Harmon moved, and Mr. VanDuyne seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. President Miller asked if there was any opposition to the motion, hearing none considers the motion approved.

_____
Kenneth P. Miller, President

_____
Cynthia Klein, Secretary