

**STARK COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #100**  
**Stark, Knox, Marshall, Henry & Peoria Counties, Illinois**

**Regular Meeting – October 21, 2025**

The Stark County Community Unit School District #100 Board of Education met Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at the Stark County Elementary School cafeteria. Members present were Ann Orwig, Erin Price, Joseph Rediger, Chelsea Streitmatter, and Bruce West. Emily Leezer and Dane Richards were absent. Also present were: Brett Elliott, Superintendent; Emily Mastin, Elementary Principal; Jackie Colgan, Elementary Assistant Principal; Megan McGann, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Rebecca Lane, District Clerical/Payroll Clerk; Mike Bunch, IT; Cory Cowan, Gorenz and Associates, Ltd.; members of the Stark County Junior High Cross Country team; and members of the community.

With a quorum present, President Orwig called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance, and the Mission and Vision statements were recited.

Motion was made by Mr. West, seconded by Mrs. Price, to approve the consent calendar. Items approved under the consent calendar were:

- Approval of the September 22, 2025 Board Minutes;
- Approval of the September Elementary Activity Funds, September JH/HS Activity Funds; September Self-Insurance Fund, September Imprest Fund, and September Treasurer's Report;
- Approval of the September LEA checks as follows: City of Wyoming \$255.34, Stark County CUSD #100 \$156,884.28, Marilyn Ely \$119.00, Nelson Auto Sales \$20,695.00, SCHS Activity Fund \$1,674.58, Stark County CUSD #100 \$211,781.49, Coaching by Concept \$4,150.00, Paige Rewerts \$1,703.00, Angela Roark \$400.00, Cokel Welding & Muffler \$330.68, Humana \$157.82, Humana \$3,053.90, Humana \$711.09, Humana \$628.45, IESA \$35.00, VISA \$1,654.54, VISA \$246.16, VISA \$1,026.69, VISA \$2,490.38, Unland Insurance \$365.00, Accident Fund Ins. Co. \$1,532.00, Stark County CUSD #100 \$200.00, Imprest Fund \$13,399.17.

Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Next on the agenda was the approval of October bills. Mrs. Orwig asked about the check to Riverstone. Mr. Elliott responded that it was for diamond dirt for the baseball field. Motion was made by Mr. Rediger, seconded by Ms. Streitmatter, to approve the October bills of \$294,866.46. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

President Orwig presented Pride & Excellence Recognition to the 2025 Stark County Junior High Girls Cross Country team who earned the IESA Sectional Championship and advanced to the 2025 State Finals. The Lady Rebels had an outstanding season and became the first Sectional Champions since the Stark County Junior High Cross Country Program began, just four years ago. Congratulations to Coach Gary Frail for starting the SC JHXC program and for all of the success that he has had over the past four years. Congratulations to the 2025 IESA Sectional Champions and State Qualifying Lady Rebels: Lucy Denton, Sedona Smith, Gemma Listwan, Rosie Godfrey, Hailey Lane, Ariella Ely, Mia Thompson, Olivia Campbell (Alternate), Brailynn Galli (Alternate), and Korbin Down (Alternate).

Coach Frail added that this team made his dream come true. After Dusti Smith went to state a few years ago, he was asked "What's next?" to which he responded that he wanted to take a team to state. With only three 8<sup>th</sup> graders on the team this year, Coach Frail is excited for next year, stating "We'll be back."

Ms. McGann added that it has been a privilege to watch this program be built from the ground up over the past four years. She noted that it is obvious that Coach Frail is a very proud coach and she looks forward to seeing these young athletes compete during their high school careers.

**Visitor Comments:**

Breann Cart, former elementary parent, addressed the board feeling that the principal did not return calls nor act on concerns brought forth regarding bullying and her daughter. She stated that Assistant Principal Colgan handled those issues but Principal Mastin did not intervene and that is why she came into the school without approval during the school day, which led to her being trespassed. She stated that the Bullying Form on the website is just an excuse to avoid concerns. She asked if her detailed speech would be shared with the media. President Orwig stated that the unofficial minutes are a summary and the board does not control what the media prints. Ms. Cart said that she would send her speech to the media. She requested a copy of all of her daughter's records. President Orwig stated that she could email Mrs. Mastin with a request. Ms. Cart said she would not communicate with Mrs. Mastin nor Mr. Elliott but still wanted copies.

Samantha Berchtold, parent, addressed the board stating she grew up here and wanted to stay here but was disappointed that she had to remove her son from the school because the administration does not listen to parents and sweeps concerns under the rug. She also stated that the administration only cares about the image of the district not the concerns of parents.

There were no other visitor comments.

**Education Committee Report:**

President Orwig provided an overview of the Education Committee meeting that was held on October 14, 2025. The committee meeting included a thorough discussion regarding the state required bullying procedures and policy, Threat Assessment Teams at both campuses per state mandate to evaluate any student threats to self or others, along with other safety protocols, administrative communication processes with parents, and the inability per the law to share the discipline results of students with other parents. Mrs. Orwig noted that there are procedures in place and a team that reviews all bullying and threat allegations; an individual principal does not make a decision regarding bullying or threats on their own.

**Instructional Coaching Conference Report:**

Mrs. Colgan presented an overview from her attendance at the National Instructional Coaching Conference. She started by thanking the board for the opportunity to attend. She felt that she made several networking connections that she can use in the future to find and share coaching resources, and with whom she can share ideas to get feedback.

Mrs. Colgan also shared that she felt the conference confirmed what they have done so far through the Instructional Coaching Program at Stark County Elementary, and she is excited for what's next in the elevation of the program. She added that she has already used some of the knowledge that she gained at the conference in her Instructional Coaching Corner within their weekly Snapshot (weekly principals' communication with staff).

**Administrative Reports:**

Stark County Elementary School Principal, Emily Mastin, shared that October is Fire Prevention Month and SCES celebrated by hosting a special visit from the Toulon and Wyoming Fire Departments. Students gained vital, hands-on knowledge about fire safety, focusing on both prevention strategies and correct actions to take during a fire emergency. Last week's parent-teacher conferences saw fantastic attendance, underscoring the strong commitment our families have to student success. These meetings are crucial for reviewing progress, setting goals, and ensuring an open line of communication between home and school. Over 93% of our students had a conference and our teachers are reaching out to connect with the remaining 7%. Thank you to all of our parents for your active involvement! Mrs. Colgan attended an instructional coaching conference in Arizona recently. She gained valuable information on how to best support our team in her coaching role. We are excited to see the impact of Mrs. Colgan's experience here at SCES. Thank you to our amazing Parents Club for consistently going above and beyond to support our community! Their hard work was evident last week when they provided meals for all staff during parent-teacher conferences. Their efforts not only support our educators but also create wonderful learning opportunities, such as successfully organizing and running the recent Book Fair. Fun and learning were in full swing with two exciting field trips! Our Kindergarten students traveled to Tanners Orchard for a perfect fall outing filled with apple picking, pumpkin patches, and farm fun. At the same time, the 3rd graders explored the Peoria Riverfront Museum, sparking curiosity with interactive displays and educational experiences. While in Peoria, the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders also visited the downtown firehouse. We love seeing our students engaged in real-world learning! Our students were treated to a vibrant performance by Zar Elektrik, which wonderfully showcased diverse music from around the world. This concert was free through Crossroads Cultural Connections. Leading up to the event, Miss Hagan featured Zar Elektrik as her inaugural "Musician of the Week"; laying the foundation for an ongoing effort to expose students to diversity in music education. There were no questions for Mrs. Mastin.

Stark County Junior High/High School Principal, Megan McGann, shared that they finally received cut scores and are actively looking at them in order to set SIP goals for the Toulon campus. Our ILT is participating in an emotional intelligence book study and sharing their findings with the staff once a month in PLC. Focus this month was on Places We Go When We Compare and Places We Go When Things Don't Go as Planned. Our ILT members lead short lessons during PLC to share the message from the month with the whole staff and how it can be tied into the work we do as educators and the message that we can bring to our students and school community. We are gearing up for Quarter 1 Data Meetings to begin this week with all teachers that provide a grade to students. Teachers will meet with the Principal and Instructional Coach to review Quarter 1 Data with the goal of identifying focus areas and skills that need

additional growth within their content area. We have implemented Peer Tutoring after school on Wednesdays, and during school hours (during Advisory) on Wednesdays and Thursdays. This support is provided for all students after school and for our Junior High students during the day. We want to recognize our National Honor Society and Student Council leaders for providing the peer tutoring and setting the example for our junior high students. Opportunities for staff tutoring before and after school have also continued. Quarter 1 Problem Solving meetings were completed by our RtI team last week. Students that are significantly failing one or more core courses in Quarter 1 will transition to our Innovation Lab/Recovery Room classroom with Ms. Turnbull for Quarter 2. The goal is for students to recover the course through our online learning platform and return to the in person class during Semester 2. Ms. Turnbull will also be providing students with character building lessons and social emotional support groups throughout the week as well. The Junior High Student Council is proud to host Red Ribbon Week during the last week of October. We will welcome Missy Leverton from OSF for a Vaping Presentation for both the Junior High and High School students on Wednesday, October 29th and spend the week focusing on the message of the importance of living a drug free life! Thank you to Mrs. Acree and her student leaders for taking on this task for the first time at SCJSHS. Homecoming Week was a huge success! We can't thank our sponsors enough, Melissa Jackson, John Carroll, and all class sponsors for their dedicated effort throughout the week! It provides us so much energy as we close out the first quarter! Our first State Bank of Toulon Attendance Incentive was a hit. Thank you to Lucy Dot's and West Main Coffee for providing delicious cookies for students who recorded 95% attendance or higher for the month of September. We had over 90% of Junior High and High School students receive the recognition, and we are currently gearing up for the next month's recognition. There were no questions for Ms. McGann.

Ms. McGann left the meeting in order to attend High School Volleyball's Senior Night.

Stark County Superintendent, Brett Elliott, thanked the building leadership for their daily efforts going above and beyond to meet the mission and vision of the school including academic achievement, personal growth, and social responsibility of all students; the supports put in place for all students; and their passion for educating our students. Our Education Committee meeting was very productive thanks to the detailed presentations from our Principals, who truly put the kids first. Next week, we will celebrate the retirement of Vicki Nowlan and want to formally thank her for many years of dedication to Stark County Junior-Senior High School. She will officially retire on October 31, 2025. We will host a retirement open house for current and former faculty and staff at the Stark County High School Library tomorrow, Wednesday, October 22nd from 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm. We will host our October SIP (School Improvement Day) on Wednesday, October 29th, with an 11:00 am student dismissal. We have submitted our 2026 ISBE Matching Maintenance Grant that could provide \$50,000 towards the completion of our final phase of the SCES Window Replacement Project, if approved. Facilities Director, Bob Bohm and Mr. Elliott attended the Annual Business (Energy) Symposium in Springfield, IL, hosted by Ameren with breakout sessions and numerous vendors. Attendance provided the district two, 15% discount vouchers towards our next energy efficiency project. Mr. Elliott closed with a financial update on expenditures as we are now 25% through the 2026 fiscal year. There were no questions for Mr. Elliott.

**Unfinished Business:**

Cory Cowan, CPA, from Gorenz and Associates, Ltd. presented an overview of the Fiscal Year 2025 financial audit with no findings. The district received a profile score of 3.7 with the only hit being the amount of long term debt currently outstanding. As expected for a school district, the majority of income is from real estate taxes and the majority of expenditures are for salary and benefits. The district ended the fiscal year with a surplus (income higher than expenditures). Mr. Cowan then reviewed trends from over the last 5 years. Seeing no questions from the board, Mrs. Price made a motion to accept the Fiscal Year 2025 financial audit as presented. Seconded by Mr. West, passed with a 5-0 vote.

**New Business:**

The first order of new business was the annual approval for the Superintendent to begin the Tax Levy Process for 2025. Mr. West made a motion to approve Superintendent Elliott to begin the 2025 Tax Levy Process. Seconded by Mr. Rediger. Motion passed with 5-0 vote.

Superintendent Elliott reminded the board that if the tentative tax levy increase is greater than 5% over the previous year, a Truth in Taxation Public Hearing is required prior to submitting the final Tax Levy. As past practice, the Board will hold a Truth in Taxation Hearing, regardless of exceeding the 5% increase, prior to approving the final levy. No action taken.

Superintendent Elliott presented an overview of the 2025-26 Snow Day/Emergency Day procedures. The same procedures have been in place the past five years. We have an approved e-Learning Plan that will allow us to use up to 5 emergency days without make ups. Mr. West made a motion to approve the 2025-26 Snow Day/Emergency Day procedures as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Price. Passed 5-0.

Transportation Director, Toni Nowlan, created snow route pick up and drop off locations for when school is in session but roads are challenging or in the event of a driver shortage. The routes will require parents to transport their children to designated pick up/drop off locations for each route to avoid country roads or reduce route times. The district would provide notification the evening before when applicable. This tentative draft is seeking board input and will be up for approval in November. No action taken.

The LTC Conference agreed to increase the official's rate for junior high football from \$90 to \$100. Mrs. Price made a motion to approve the junior high football official's rate of \$100 for 2025. Seconded by Ms. Streitmatter. Passed 5-0.

Superintendent Elliott presented an overview of SCCI, Stark Council for Continuous Improvement, and their Housing Development efforts that includes the development of a new subdivision, day care center, and senior living. Mr. Elliott is currently the President of SCCI and encouraged any community members and community leaders to join their efforts for the continued growth of our community. The next SCCI quarterly meeting will be at Stark County High School on Wednesday, November 19th at 6:00 pm. No action taken.

President Orwig provided an overview of the Annual Triple I School Board Conference to be held on November 21st-22nd in Chicago with a board dinner held on Friday evening and accommodations at the Fairmont Hotel. The Board of Education traditionally attends the conference bi-annually. No action taken.

**Items for Next Meeting:**

Tentative Tax Levy; Building/Finance Board Committee; Possible PRESS Policy First Reading.

**Executive Session:**

Motion was made by Mr. West, seconded by Mrs. Price, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employee compensation, non-renewals, employee performance, employment of personnel, and/or resignations at 7:03 p.m. Motion was approved 5-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Orwig, seconded by Mr. West, to reconvene from Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. and to hold the Executive Session minutes, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Orwig, seconded by Mr. West, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 22, 2025 and October 14, 2025, Not for Release. Motion was approved 5-0.

Mrs. Orwig announced the resignation of Jim McMillen, transportation/bus driver, effective October 17, 2025.

Motion was made by Mrs. Orwig, seconded by Mrs. Price, to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. Motion was approved 5-0.

Ann Orwig  
President

Emily Leezer  
Secretary

Approved 11/17/2025