

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

Regular Meeting – May 18th, 2026

The Stark County Community Unit School District #100 Board of Education met Monday, May 18th, 2026, at the Stark County Elementary School cafeteria. Members present were Emily Leezer, Ann Orwig, Erin Price, Dane Richards, Chelsea Streitmatter, and Bruce West. Joseph Rediger was absent. Also present were: Brett Elliott, Superintendent; Emily Mastin, Elementary Principal; Jackie Colgan, Elementary Assistant Principal; Megan McGann, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Michael Jenkins, Jr./Sr. High School Assistant Principal; Rebecca Lane, District Clerical/Payroll Clerk; Lisa Winans, Stark County Elementary PreK Aide; Ben Brown, Byrne & Jones; Karen Lisota and Allison Leezer, SCES Parents Club; and students 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 April 20th, 2026 Board Minutes;
- Approval of the April Elementary Activity Funds; April JH/HS Activity Funds; April Self-Insurance Fund; April Imprest Fund; and April Treasurer's Report;
- Approval of the April LEA checks as follows: City of Wyoming \$466.12, Humana \$148.55, Humana \$2,973.70, Humana \$681.25, Humana \$592.45, Stark County CUSD #100 \$167,853.17, Stark County CUSD #100 \$187,574.69, Coaching by Concept \$3,875.00, Angela Roark \$1,075.00, Matt Wilhelm, Inc. \$950.00, U.S. Postal Service \$500.00, VISA \$235.93, VISA \$2,553.02, VISA \$2,968.10, VISA \$2,346.72, Imprest Fund \$6,555.85.

Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Next on the agenda was the approval of May bills. Mrs. Orwig asked if the Crow's Nest elevator issue was ever resolved. Mr. Elliott responded that it has been. Mrs. Orwig then asked where we were at with Taylor Glass and the SCES window project phases. Mr. Elliott answered that we are getting towards the end of the project and that we have also received the \$50,000 matching maintenance grant from the state. Motion was made by Mr. Richards, seconded by Mrs. Leezer, to approve the May bills of \$290,309.53. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Pride and Excellence Recognition was presented to Weston Hamilton, Aiden Hardy (not present), Mira Streitmatter (not present), Vada Edwards, and Emma Skupien. Mrs. Winans, Pre-K Aide, would like to honor this group of fifth graders on their dedication to helping with the PreK bus riders every day this school year. Each of these 5th Grade students gave up their morning free time to assist Mrs. Winans with the young and impressionable PreK students. The helpers showed up every morning to talk with the PreK students, help them read a book, walk them down the hallway, and entertain them; modeling good examples of what Pride and Excellence at Stark County is all about. After working with these students this past school year, Mrs. Winans believes that the Junior High is lucky to have them this fall. Mrs. Winans to her helpers, "Thank you for all you do, and more importantly, thank you for being you."

Visitor Comments:

There were no visitor comments.

Administrative Reports:

Stark County Elementary School Principal, Emily Mastin, shared that our students and staff have successfully wrapped up the final benchmark testing cycle for the academic year, providing a comprehensive look at our annual progress. We are pleased to report a steady upward trend in literacy, with the number of students performing at or above the 60th percentile in ELA increasing by 2.29% from fall to spring. Our math outcomes showed significant momentum this year, yielding a 5.83% increase in the number of students reaching the 60th percentile or higher since our initial fall assessments. We would like to extend a special congratulations to Mrs. Duckworth, Miss Williams, Mrs. Kellogg, and Mrs. Terwilliger for achieving the highest rates of student growth in ELA across the building. Additionally, we want to recognize Miss Milburn, Miss Groter, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Down for their outstanding work in driving the highest rates of academic growth in math this school year. Their dedication has been instrumental in the significant 5.83% increase we've seen in student math proficiency. Our Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) will soon partner with Dara Carr from the Regional Office of Education (ROE) for a dedicated school improvement workshop. During this session, we will conduct a deep dive into our current achievement data to strategically develop our School Improvement Plan (SIP) for the upcoming academic year. We are incredibly proud to announce that seven of our 5th graders (Corbin Gentry, Benton Long, Weston Hamilton, Karsen Hall, Avery Harlan, Vada Edwards, and Luke Down) have qualified for the prestigious College for Kids program through Blackhawk. This significant achievement is reserved for students who demonstrate exceptional academic mastery by scoring at or above the 90th percentile in math or reading, and we look forward to seeing them represent our school in this rigorous gifted program. We would like to extend another sincere thank you to our 5th Grade bus duty helpers (Weston Hamilton, Aiden Hardy, Mira Streitmatter, Vada Edwards, and Emma Skupien) for their dedicated service throughout this school year. These student leaders played a vital role in our morning routine, ensuring every PreK bus rider felt welcomed and supported as they began their school day. There were no questions for Mrs. Mastin.

Stark County Junior High/High School Principal, Megan McGann, shared that we celebrated the Class of 2026 yesterday, Sunday, May 17th, with a wonderful ceremony in the Stark County Arena. We had 38 out of our 41 Seniors who met graduation requirements for ceremony participation. Students have until June 30th, 2026 to obtain their High School Diploma. We were informed by ISBE that the ACT needs to revisit their scoring process, therefore, our ACT scores have been delayed into the first week of June. We will share those once they become official and we are approved to make public. We also celebrated our 8th Grade students and promoted them to High School last week. Congratulations to the future Class of 2030! We spent the first week of May holding our Senior Awards and Athletic Signing Day, while also spending the week celebrating our teachers and school nurses for Teacher/Nurse Appreciation Week! We continue to survey our students and staff for reflections of the 2025-26 school year to bring in our focus for the 2026-27 school year and highlight our areas of strengths and needs moving forward. Ms. McGann sat down with every Senior student to get their feedback on their high school experience.

We closed out our year with our BIST coach, Todd Jefferson, and are excited about streamlining the BIST process with fidelity at the Junior High/High School next year. We continue to celebrate our Junior High Track and High School Track State Bound qualifiers on their accomplishments and wish them the best as they compete at State this upcoming week. There were no questions for Ms. McGann.

Stark County Superintendent, Brett Elliott, congratulated the Senior Class of 2026 for leaving a legacy of excellence and living up to the PHEARCE philosophy, and the mission and vision of SC100. Congratulations to our Lady Rebels Softball team, Coach Amy Wise, and the rest of the coaching staff, who earned the #1 seed in the IHSA Softball Regionals. They will compete in Regionals this week. We continue to work with our insurance assessors as they move through our vehicle and property damage claims due to the recent hail storm. Most vehicle claims have been addressed, but we are still waiting for the results of our property claims. A special thank you to our students, faculty, staff, and building administration for another incredible year navigating through adversity to reach our relentless pursuit of excellence. We have accomplished so much together this year. Congratulations to a very own Board of Education Member, Joseph Rediger, for his promotion to Fire Captain at the Kewanee Fire Department. Thank you, Joe, for your leadership in our community. Lastly, Mr. Elliott gave an update on the budget expenditures through 83.3% of Fiscal Year 2026. There were no questions for Mr. Elliott.

The Board congratulated Mr. Elliott on his new grandbaby that was born this morning.

Unfinished Business:

First up, was the annual approval of the Final 2025-2026 School Calendar as updated to include the three e-Learning days utilized this year. Once approved, this will be sent to the Regional Office of Education (ROE) for final approval. Mr. West made a motion to approve the final school calendar for the 2025-2026 school year as presented. Mrs. Leezer seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Next was a second reading of PRESS Policy Issue #121, with no significant changes. Updates included the annual 5- year review, legal language changes with a focus on student records, reorganization procedures, and parent/family engagement. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to adopt the PRESS Policy #121 updates as presented. Seconded by Mr. Richards and passed with a 6-0 vote.

Ben Brown from Byrne and Jones returned to present a new option for the SCES Playground Project. He presented options for a first phase of the elementary playground replacement. He also clarified that if we were to choose a community build, Byrne & Jones would dig and set all posts and the installation would be done over a span of 2 weekends with Byrne and Jones supervision. If approved tonight, there is potential for the install to be completed in August of this year. Mr. Brown presented price options for replacing the largest piece of the playground, which is the most in need of replacement, along with an option to add-on new swings. The options were presented with both a community build or contractor installation. For just the large structure, the cost would be \$181,000 for a contractor install. The community build option would bring the cost down to \$146,000. The optional Swings Set Add On to the community build would be \$21,800.

SCES Parents Club President, Karen Lisota, asked if the presented costs included site prep. Mr. Brown responded that it included tear out of the old equipment and setting of the posts. Mrs. Price asked how much man power was needed for the community build. Mr. Brown estimated 6-10 volunteers. Mr. Elliott and Mrs. Mastin felt confident that we would be able to find enough volunteers. Mrs. Orwig asked how the phases worked. Mr. Elliott responded that we would only be approving phase 1 tonight and that there was no commitment to complete phase 2. Phase 2 could be visited again at a future date as needed due to equipment decline or as funds become available. Mr. Brown noted that he has price quotes for phase 2 but since phase 2 wouldn't be approved at this time, those prices would have to be reviewed if the board decided to move forward with phase 2 at a future date. The board had questions regarding liability during the install and after the community install. Byrne and Jones certified employees would be supervising and signing off on the install. Additional insurance questions were answered by John Leezer later in the meeting. Mr. Elliott confirmed with SCES Parents Club President Karen Lisota that the club was in agreement and committed to contributing \$60,000 towards phase 1 of the playground project (\$40,000 in the summer of 2026 and the remaining \$20,000 in 2027 after their annual fundraising auction). Mrs. Lisota confirmed that the parents club was in agreement. Due to the continued decline of the main play structure in the past month, Mr. Elliott recommended going forward with replacing the large structure and considering the swings at this time. For the community build of the large structure with the swings add on option, the remainder of the cost of \$107,800 would be need to be funded by the Board of Education for a summer of 2026 installation. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve phase 1 for the elementary playground project as presented, including the community build of the large structure and the swing set add on for a board responsibility of \$107,800. Mrs. Leezer seconded. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

All of the audience left, except for John Leezer from Leezer Insurance Agency, who was presenting next.

John Leezer first answered questions regarding the playground project. The school has liability coverage for volunteers, so that covers the volunteers assembling the playground. Mrs. Price asked if a child were to get injured on the playground after install, if it would be an issue that it was a community build. Mr. Leezer noted that Byrne and Jones was supervising and certifying the build, so that wouldn't be an issue.

New Business:

Mr. Leezer then presented the annual renewal quote for property, casualty and workers compensation insurance coverages including an overall increase of 2.8%. The increase was due to an increase in estimated payroll and an increase in building values. Mr. Leezer noted that the school's 5 year loss ratio looks great since there have not been a lot of claims. He expects that to change after the current claims due to the recent hail storm. Mr. West made a motion to approve the annual insurance renewal for property, casualty, and worker's compensation as presented for Fiscal Year 2027. Seconded by Mr. Richards. Passed with a 5-0 vote, Mrs. Leezer abstained.

With the current contracts for Emily Mastin, Michael Jenkins and Jackie Colgan expiring at the conclusion of the 2026-27 school year, Mr. Elliott recommended a one-year extension in the form of an addendum to their existing contracts, extending each of them through the 2027-28 school year. Mrs. Leezer made a motion to extend the contracts of Principal Emily Mastin, Assistant Principal Michael Jenkins, and Assistant Principal Jackie Colgan through the 2027-2028 school year. Seconded by Mrs. Price. Passed 6-0.

In order to remain competitive during a substitute teacher shortage, Mr. Elliott recommended a \$5.00 increase to the daily substitute teacher rate to \$145 per day for the upcoming school year. Mrs. Price asked if it was a decrease in the pool of subs available or an increase in teacher absences that was causing the sub shortage issues. Mr. Elliott responded that both were an issue. Mrs. Mastin added that there is currently only 1 substitute teacher that is willing to sub at the Elementary School at this time. Mr. Richards made a motion to approve the 2026-27 daily substitute teacher rate at \$145 per day as presented. Ms. Streitmatter seconded. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Next was the first reading of the three-year e-Learning Plan renewal. In order to continue to utilize e-Learning Days, we must renew our three-year e-Learning Plan, which expires in July of 2026. This would provide us the ability to use e-Learning Days through June of 2029. ISBE requires an official posting and public hearing to be held prior to board approval. Mrs. Orwig made a motion for the superintendent to post the proposed three-year e-Learning Plan renewal and hold a public hearing at our next scheduled board meeting on June 15, 2026. Seconded by Mr. West. Passed 6-0.

Mr. Elliott informed the board that funding for the approved DOE Renew America's Grant for the electric bus and facilities upgrades Tier II funding is to be released as early as June 1. Thus, we are ready to let bids for the electric bus barn and asphalt drive at the elementary campus. Mr. West asked if concrete bids would be accepted as an alternative for the asphalt drive. Mr. Elliott responded that they would be accepted. Mr. West made a motion to let bids for the electric bus barn and asphalt/concrete project funded by the DOE Renew America's Grant as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Leezer. Passed with a 6-0 vote.

Superintendent Elliott presented the annual agreement with Gorenz and Associates, Ltd. for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2026 audit. Mrs. Price made a motion to approve the contract agreement with Gorenz and Associates, Ltd. for the Fiscal Year 2026 audit as presented. Ms. Streitmatter seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

With the growth of SC News, Cindy Jenkins, Junior High/High School Principal Secretary, is requesting the opening of an SC News Activity Account. The account will be used for donations received and any future fundraising efforts, allowing the SC News to make purchases through their activity account. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve the opening of a new activity account for SC News. Mr. Richards seconded. Passed 6-0.

Next was an annual approval to let bids for milk, trash, bread, and the Rebel Reporter for the new fiscal year. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve the superintendent to let bids for milk, trash, bread, and the Rebel Report for Fiscal Year 2027. Mr. West seconded. Passed 6-0.

President Orwig led a discussion with the board about holding the Annual Board Retreat on the scheduled board meeting date of July 20th at 8:00 am, at the high school library. The regular board meeting will be held at 1:30 pm that day. At the retreat, the board will look at last year's goals and make new goals for the upcoming fiscal year, as well as meet with all of the directors (Maintenance, Food, Etc.). Another topic to be discussed is the hiring of a new superintendent after Mr. Elliott's retirement at the end of the 2027-28 school year.

Items for Next Meeting:

Award Trash, Milk, Bread, and Rebel Reporter Bids; First Reading of the 2026-27 Extracurricular Code; First Reading of Support Staff and Transportation Handbooks; Public Hearing and Approval of eLearning Plan; Award Electric Bus Barn and Asphalt/Concrete Bids.

Executive Session:

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employee compensation, non-renewals, employee performance, employment of personnel, retirements, and/or resignations at 6:53 pm. Seconded by Mr. West. Motion was approved 6-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. West, to reconvene from Executive Session at 6:59 p.m. and to hold the Executive Session minutes, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. Richards, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 20th, 2026, Not for Release. Motion was approved 6-0.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Tom Blumer as Acting Stark County Junior Senior High Principal during a maternity leave in the fall of 2026. Mrs. Orwig seconded. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer to approve the following summer seasonal custodians: Student Workers: Anna Nagode, Abby Nagode, Hallie Newton, Keagen Sparks, and Paytin Terwilliger, as well as Alexis Martinez and Abbey DeSplinter (substitute). Motion was seconded by Mrs. Orwig. Passed by a 5-0 vote, Mrs. Price abstained.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Courtney Bryner as Head High School Cheer Coach. Seconded by Mrs. Orwig. Passed 6-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer to approve Colin Potter as High School Spanish Teacher beginning in the Fall of 2026. Seconded by Mrs. Orwig. Passed by a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to adjourn at 7:01 p.m.
Motion was approved 6-0.

Ann Orwig
President

Emily Leezer
Secretary

Approved 6/15/2026