

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

Regular Meeting – March 23rd, 2026

Due to the weather, the Regular Meeting scheduled for March 16th, 2026 was postponed a week to March 23rd, 2026.

The Stark County Community Unit School District #100 Board of Education met Monday, March 23rd, 2026, at the Stark County Elementary School cafeteria. Members present were Ann Orwig, Erin Price, Dane Richards, Chelsea Streitmatter, and Bruce West. Emily Leezer and Joseph Rediger were 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; Casey Miller, Executive Director of the Henry-Stark Counties Special Education District; Mary Jo Groter, Stark County Elementary School Teacher; and a member 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. Richards, seconded by Mr. West, to approve the consent calendar. Items approved under the consent calendar were:

- Approval of the February 17th, 2026 Board Minutes;
- Approval of the February Elementary Activity Funds; February JH/HS Activity Funds; February Self-Insurance Fund; February Imprest Fund; and February Treasurer's Report;
- Approval of the February LEA checks as follows: City of Wyoming \$341.22, Humana \$148.55, Humana \$3,013.80, Humana \$696.17, Humana \$613.45, Stark County CUSD #100 \$169,873.17, U.S. Postal Service \$500.00, Stark County CUSD #100 \$188,239.56, Coaching by Concept \$3,537.50, Angela Roark \$625.00, VISA \$1,360.05, VISA \$971.37, VISA \$764.60, VISA \$465.72, Imprest Fund \$6,448.73.

Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Next on the agenda was the approval of March bills. There were no questions for Mr. Elliott regarding the bills. Motion was made by Mr. West, seconded by Ms. Streitmatter, to approve the March bills of \$280,262.93. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Pride and Excellence Recognition was presented to Ms. Mary Jo Groter, one of our Elementary School Teachers. Tonight, we are proud to present the Pride and Excellence Award to Miss Mary Jo Groter. Mary Jo's exceptional work as a first-grade teacher has earned her national recognition, putting a spotlight on the high standard of instruction we strive for here in Stark County. Every year, Mary Jo takes a data-driven approach to literacy that has transformed her classroom. Starting last year with significant challenges, she utilized her expertise in Structured Literacy, using the Orton Gillingham Curriculum to ensure every child made progress. Her commitment led to remarkable growth, with her students moving from intensive intervention to meeting—and exceeding—grade-level benchmarks. Today, her classroom is a place where students don't just learn to read; they develop the confidence to tackle complex words and find joy

in their own academic success. Beyond the classroom, Mary Jo serves as a leader among her peers, advocating for the best instructional practices across our district. By being featured in a national publication, she has represented Stark County with distinction, showing the entire country the incredible outcomes that happen when passion meets professional expertise. Mary Jo, thank you for your tireless dedication to our students and for representing our district so well on a national level. Congratulations on this Pride and Excellence Award.

Visitor Comments:

Henry-Stark Counties Special Education District Executive Director, Casey Miller, addressed the board. He provided an update on the Wings Academy construction project. The plan is for Wings Academy to open for the 2026-27 school year, with an opening date of August 17th, 2026, with Kim Johnson as Principal for the building. Mr. Miller clarified that the Life Skills program in Kewanee will not be going away, and that Wings Academy will serve students with a higher need. The goal is to serve high needs students in Kewanee rather than having to transport them to Peoria, Galesburg, or the Quad Cities like we are currently doing. He stated his appreciation for the team work of both the advisory and governing board members in his first year as director. He also thanked People's National Bank, American Legion Post 31, and Dewberry for all of their assistance through the process of purchasing and remodeling the building on Railroad Avenue in Kewanee. Ms. Streitmatter asked how many students will be enrolled at Wings Academy. Mr. Miller responded that the facility will house 50 students along with lots of resources for those students. There were no other questions for Mr. Miller.

There were no other visitor comments.

Administrative Reports:

Stark County Elementary School Principal, Emily Mastin, shared that enrollment has remained consistent this month. Our 3rd through 5th grade students were scheduled to begin the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) and Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) testing windows on March 16th to measure mastery of statewide standards and determine our annual school rating. Due to the weather, testing was delayed a couple of days but is off to a strong start. To ensure every child has the best opportunity for success, we are emphasizing the importance of consistent, on-time attendance throughout the testing window and wish all our students the very best of luck! Working alongside Mr. Jefferson, our staff engaged in a BIST consultation to evaluate and adjust student success plans based on real-time data. This collaborative review ensures our classroom management strategies are consistently updated to provide the highest level of support for every student. Our staff also works to make sure that BIST language is consistent from one grade level classroom to the next grade level classroom. We invite everyone to the "Luau for Learning" annual auction on March 21st at the Stark County Jr. Fairgrounds to support our Parents Club. This major fundraising effort is focused on "Project Playground" ensuring our students have the high-quality recreational spaces they deserve. We are proud to congratulate Miss Mary Jo Groter for being featured in a national article by the IMSE Journal, which highlighted her success in implementing Structured Literacy and the Science of Reading in her classroom. Her dedication to evidence-based instruction has led to significant measurable growth in student reading levels, and we are thrilled to see her hard work recognized on a national stage.

We recently hosted a highly successful Family Literacy Night centered around the theme “Unlock the Love of Literacy,” which brought families together to celebrate and strengthen our students’ reading journeys. We extend a special thank you to Mrs. Kunkel for her exceptional coordination in making this impactful evening possible for our school community. Our Read Across America celebration was a resounding success, featuring a vibrant spirit week and the return of “The Hot Seat” to showcase our student model readers. We extend our sincere thanks to Mrs. Kelly for her leadership in these initiatives, as students work diligently to complete their Reading Bingo cards for the upcoming celebratory breakfast on April 2nd. The annual book character contest is also coming up on April 29th. Congratulations to Luke Down and Rennon Morrissey Copeland for being selected to receive the Illinois Principals Association Student Leadership Award on April 10th. These students were nominated by our 5th-grade teachers and selected by a full staff vote, recognizing them as exemplary models of character and leadership within our school. There were no questions for Mrs. Mastin.

Stark County Junior High/High School Principal, Megan McGann, shared that the Toulon campus also has testing coming up, including: Practice ACT (Juniors Only) on April 1st, ACT (Juniors) and Pre-ACT for all (Freshman-Sophomores) on April 22nd, IAR Testing (6th-8th Grade) on March 25th, 26th, and 27th, ISA Testing (8th Grade) on April 21st, 23rd, and 24th. We hosted the High School LTC Band Festival in February, welcoming in over 100 LTC students across our District. We would like to thank Angie Roark for all of her contributions to this event as one of our SC Fine Arts Network members and retired teachers. We completed our 5 Essentials Survey with 100% engagement from our 6-12 students and teachers! We hosted 3 wonderful nights Under the Sea at our Spring Musical! The students shined in their roles and we are so appreciative of the work done by Kari Bush, Erin Hardigan, Mike Bunch, and all other volunteers and staff that assisted! We also were so impressed with our celebrity guest appearance, Mr. Elliott as Chef Louie! We had a great National Honor Society Ceremony, led by our NHS Sponsor, Shannon Westphal. Juniors and Seniors were honored in front of their families and peers for their academic success and character. There were 16 new inductees into NHS that evening. We also had a successful Senior Parent Meeting, resulting in over 90% of Senior parents attending to hear about upcoming important dates. There were no questions for Ms. McGann.

President Orwig reminded the board of the upcoming High School Graduation and 8th Grade Promotion dates, May 17th and May 13th, respectively. Our past practice is for all of the Board of Education to attend High School Graduation, if possible. A member of the Board will also attend 8th Grade Promotion.

Stark County Superintendent, Brett Elliott, shared, as a follow up from our last meeting, that we have received a second estimate for the elementary playground and are waiting on a third. These will all be shared at our April meeting with the board and parents club. As Mrs. Mastin mentioned earlier, this Saturday, March 21st, the SCES Parents Club is holding their annual fundraising auction. This year their theme is “Luau for Learning” and their main focus for fundraising is “Project Playground”. We have also received a new estimate to begin our sound proofing project in the arena at a starting cost, doing self-installation, of an estimated \$12,000 compared to the recommended \$360,000 from

the architect, including labor. Mr. Bohm is looking at ordering 100-120 baffles to start with.

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A reminder that the 2026 Spring Break is April 3 - 10. Students and staff return Monday, April 13, 2026. Mr. Elliott provided a brief budget update on expenditures through 66.7% of the Fiscal Year 2026, noting that the budget was still looking good. Mr. West asked if the third playground bid was from Byrne & Jones; Mr. Elliott responded that it was and that they plan on having a bid to us by the next board meeting. There were no other questions for Mr. Elliott.

Unfinished Business:

Ms. McGann presented the final revisions to the 2026-27 grading procedures for the Junior-Senior High. Mr. West made a motion to approve the 2026-27 Junior-Senior High Grading Procedures as presented. Mr. Richards seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

New Business:

Maintenance Director Bohm has begun to draft the 2026 Summer Maintenance Project List. Mr. Elliott asked the board to review and please provide input over the next month as the list is revised for possible approval in April. This list will allow Mr. Bohm to begin preparation and ordering for summer projects and to determine FY26 or FY27 funding. This is a first reading, no action taken.

Next was the annual contract agreement with the IHSA to continue participation in all IHSA athletics and activities in the upcoming school year. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve the annual contract renewal with the IHSA for the 2026-27 school year. Seconded by Mr. West. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Superintendent Elliott shared the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 pay rate increases for Support Staff. Our Support Staff wage rates have grown 60% - 90% in the past six years through our efforts to reach and exceed the state minimum wage. We must keep in mind the potential for Illinois to increase the minimum wage again, to \$20 - \$22/hour in the near future. Mr. Elliott also proposed raises for Building Administration Staff. Further discussion will happen in executive session with possible approval following.

President Orwig made a motion to adopt the Resolution to Non-Renew Teacher, Daymon McDowell, at the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year. Seconded by Mr. West. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Items for Next Meeting:

Approval of Summer Project List; Approval of BIST Contract; First Reading of PRESS Policy updates.

Executive Session:

Mrs. Price made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employee compensation, employee performance, employment of personnel, retirements, and/or resignations at 6:41 pm. Seconded by Mr. West. Motion was approved 5-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Price, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to reconvene from Executive Session at 6:49 p.m. and to hold the Executive Session minutes, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

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Motion was made by Mrs. Price, seconded by Mr. West, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 17th, 2026, Not for Release. Motion was approved 5-0.

Mrs. Price made a motion to approve Megan Lane for overload pay for one additional class period, starting Monday, March 2nd, 2026 through the end of the 2025-26 school year. Seconded by Mr. Richards. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Mrs. Price announced the resignation of Shannon Westphal, Intern Counselor, effective at the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year.

Mrs. Price announced the resignation of Elizabeth Dietz, Kindergarten Teacher, effective at the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year.

Motion was made by Mrs. Price to approve the Support Staff and Administrative Staff pay rate increases as presented for Fiscal Year 2027. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Orwig and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Price, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to adjourn at 6:51 p.m. Motion was approved 5-0.

Ann Orwig
President

Emily Leezer
Secretary

Approved 4/20/2026