

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

Regular Meeting – March 17th, 2025

The Stark County Community Unit School District #100 Board of Education met Monday, March 17th, 2025, at the Stark County Elementary School cafeteria. Members present were Ann Orwig, Erin Price, Brian Rewerts, and Dane Richards. Emily Leezer, Joseph Rediger, and Bruce West were absent. Also present were Brett Elliott, Superintendent; Jackie Colgan, Elementary Assistant Principal; Megan McGann, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Michael Jenkins, Jr./Sr. High School Assistant Principal; Rebecca Lane, Unit Clerical/Payroll Clerk; members of the community; and a member of the press.

With a quorum present, President Orwig called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Rewerts, seconded by Mr. Richards, to approve the February and March consent calendars. Items approved under the consent calendar were:

- Approval of the January 21st, 2025 and February 24th, 2025 Board Minutes;
- Approval of the January & February Elementary Activity Funds, January & February JH/HS Activity Funds, January & February Self-Insurance Fund, January & February Imprest Fund, and January & February Treasurer's Reports;
- Approval of the January LEA checks as follows: City of Wyoming \$315.01, Stark County CUSD #100 \$148,680.54, Guardian \$367.15, Guardian \$3,345.94, Guardian \$567.13, Guardian \$471.16, Truck Centers, Inc. \$5,538.66, Stark County CUSD #100 \$175,570.77, Angela Roark \$450.00, VISA \$360.27, VISA \$981.96, VISA \$713.33, VISA \$2,419.42, Imprest Fund \$7,842.85.
- Approval of the February LEA checks as follows: City of Wyoming \$485.58, Stark County CUSD #100 \$157,200.28, Guardian \$352.30, Guardian \$3,511.02, Guardian \$554.05, Guardian \$471.16, Jeff Hemminger \$17,796.95, Stark County CUSD #100 \$167,133.06, Angela Roark \$625.00, U.S. Postal Service \$499.79, Unland Insurance & Benefits \$2,358.00, VISA \$452.68, VISA \$318.04, VISA \$1,521.04, Imprest Fund \$8,235.85.

Motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Next on the agenda was the approval of March bills. Mrs. Orwig asked about the check to Follett. Mr. Elliott confirmed that it is for the new library system, including initial trainings on how to use the new system. Motion was made by Mrs. Price, seconded by Mr. Richards, to approve the March bills of \$202,334.12. Motion was approved 4-0.

Mrs. Orwig presented Pride and Excellence Recognition to NFHS National Arts Finalist, Lauren Best. The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) developed the Heart of the Arts Award in 2013 as a way to recognize individuals who exemplify the positive ideals of performing arts that are the core mission of education-based participation in arts and activities. Students, coaches, administrators and other individuals associated with a high school's performing arts programs are all eligible for the honor, which generally recognizes individuals who have overcome adversity or gone above and beyond their peers. The IHSA receives one nominee to

represent the entire state of Illinois each school year. This year, based on Miss Elswick's recommendation

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and with the support of Principal Megan McGann, the IHSA has chosen Stark County Senior Lauren Best to be the singular Illinois State nominee for her exceptional musical ability, passion, and leadership. Congratulations Lauren, we are so proud of you! Ms. McGann added that Lauren has been a great representation for Stark County.

Next, Mrs. Orwig presented Pride and Excellence Recognition to Steve, Sheri and Sarah (not present) Kraklow, who have gone above and beyond this year supporting both the girls' and boys' basketball teams. Sheri and Steve kept the scorebook and clock for all home girls' basketball games while attending almost every away game to further support the team. With the addition of the new scoreboard in the new high school gym, Steve, Sheri and Sarah learned how to operate the new scoreboard and then worked all of the home boys' basketball games. This dedication and support is tremendously appreciated and takes a great burden off of the administration and athletic director. We are grateful to have such dedicated community members and students supporting our programs. It is with great pride we recognize Steve, Sheri and Sarah (not present) Kraklow with Pride and Excellence Recognition for all of your efforts this past winter season. Ms. McGann added that she is so grateful for their support. They don't have a student on either team, they are just great community supporters who were willing to learn the new scoreboard system.

Lastly, Mrs. Orwig presented Pride and Excellence Recognition to Bryan Edwards. Mr. Edwards reached out in the early fall to volunteer his services for announcing Rebel Football games, as needed. After his debut performance this fall, the crowd was sold on what became the new voice of Rebel Athletics. Bryan brought a new energy and enthusiasm to football and basketball, with various appearances at other events throughout this school year as well. Both home and visiting fans often shared their enjoyment of Bryan's announcing, which has now become a mainstay here at Stark County. Bryan, thank you for truly being the Pride and Excellence of Stark County and always bringing the energy that matches our PHEARCE philosophy. Mr. Elliott thanked Mr. Edwards for always bringing the energy for the students. Mr. Edwards thanked the Kraklows for their assistance during his first year announcing at games.

Visitor Comments:

John Ballentine provided a clarification of his inquiry and quote of a "no" vote in regards to a motion at the February board meeting. He has been covering the Stark County Board of Education meetings for around 10 years, and stated that it is extremely rare to have a "no" vote in Stark County so that is why he contacted Mrs. Orwig for a quote and wrote about it in the newspaper.

No other visitor comments.

Administrative Reports:

Stark County Elementary School Principal, Emily Mastin, was unable to attend the meeting due to being ill. Assistant Principal, Jackie Colgan, shared that our Special Education Department delivered a highly engaging professional development session for paraprofessionals, focusing on the critical development of collaborative team strategies

BIST visit was highly productive, yielding actionable plans to address specific student needs. Additionally, his expertise provided valuable guidance in refining our recovery room model, ensuring a more supportive and effective environment for students. Our recent SIP day AI training proved to be a valuable resource in enhancing our instructional practices. This professional development directly supports our commitment to creating more engaging and differentiated lessons tailored to meet the diverse needs of our students. Our Family Literacy Night, themed "Wizard Quest," was a resounding success, drawing a large and enthusiastic crowd. The magical theme sparked excitement and engagement, fostering a love of reading within our school community. *Read Across America Week* was a vibrant celebration of literacy, filled with fun and creative dress-up days that captivated our students. The excitement continues as students diligently work to complete their Bingo boards, eagerly anticipating Bingo Breakfast on April 11th. Our third-grade students enjoyed an enriching field trip to the Riverfront Museum and a local firehouse in Peoria, providing them with valuable hands-on learning experiences. This immersive trip combined cultural exploration with community awareness, making for a memorable and educational day. There were no questions for Mrs. Colgan.

Stark County Junior High/High School Principal, Megan McGann, shared that course registration has begun for next year's Senior students. Incoming Juniors will begin scheduling once all students from the Class of 2026 are registered, and so on. All scheduling is being done through Ms. McGann for next school year. We completed the practice ACT on March 5th with assistance from our ROE representative, Andrew Lister. Mr. Lister will also meet with the High School staff on March 14th before the students complete the ACT and PreACT on Wednesday, April 2nd. April 2nd is a non-attendance day for Seniors since they have already taken the ACT. Junior High students will complete IAR testing during the first week of April. All 8th grade students will complete the ISA the following week. Juniors no longer take the ISA, as Science is embedded into the ACT assessment. The Lions Club of Wyoming recognized our Top Ten Students from our Senior and 8th grade classes on March 12th. This recognition by our local Lions members is always appreciated by our students. At the event, Seniors got to share their plans for next year with the Lions members and 8th grade class. The SCEF Scholarship application has been released and closes on Friday, March 28th at 3:00 pm. Scholarship interviews will be held on April 7th. SCJSHS presents *Frozen Jr.* as our Musical this year. Shows will run from March 21st-23rd (7:00 PM and 2:00 PM) – we hope that you can come out and enjoy the show to support our students and fine arts community. Elementary students will attend a preview of the musical on Friday afternoon. There are no pre-sale tickets for the musical this year; all tickets will be sold at the door. There were no questions for Ms. McGann.

Mrs. Orwig did not have a question for Ms. McGann, but instead noted that she had heard negative feedback regarding the National Honor Society (NHS) Induction being held during the day this year instead of in the evening. This is asking a lot of our parents, to attend events during the day and have to request time off of work to do so. Ms. McGann thanked Mrs. Orwig for the feedback and plans for staff to be more proactive

about scheduling the NHS Induction next year so that they don't run into the scheduling conflicts that they did this year.

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Stark County Superintendent, Brett Elliott, started his report by noting that we are extremely proud of the bargaining process and the collaborative efforts of the association, district, and board of education that have ratified a powerful teacher contract that is up for board approval tonight. This contract meets our goals of recruiting the best and brightest teachers, retaining our current faculty while showing our appreciation for their dedication to the toughest but most rewarding career in the world that is educating our students. We are in the 10th week and are proud of the progress of our Peer Mentoring Program. The program recently took a pause from normal interactions to participate in a workshop with our high school mentors and our community mentors. This was a rewarding experience for all as we addressed our successes, needs and challenges, while putting solution and supports in place for the continued growth of this meaningful program. After Mr. Jenkins and Mrs. Mastin attended the Illinois State University Job Fair and the district postings of open teaching positions, we have attracted high quality applicants from Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan, Western Illinois University, and Bradley University, just to name a few. Several of those applicants are up for approval tonight with additional interviews scheduled for this week. Lastly, Mr. Elliott wrapped up his report with a budget update on expenditures through 66.7% of Fiscal Year 2025.

Mr. Richards asked Mr. Elliott if the Peer Mentoring Program would start gauging student interest for next year's participation before the end of the school year this year. Mr. Elliott responded that, yes, the program does plan to start identifying mentors and mentees for next school year before summer break this year. There were no other questions for Mr. Elliott.

Unfinished Business:

Mrs. Orwig noted that Principal Mastin and Principal McGann provided clarifying answers to the proposed 2025-26 student handbooks at last month's meeting. This is the second reading. Mr. Richards made a motion to approve the 2025-26 student handbooks as presented. Mrs. Price seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Next is the second reading of the proposed 2025-26 SCJSH Curriculum Guide. Ms. McGann provided clarification of the changes at last month's meeting. Mrs. Price made a motion to approve the 2025-26 SCJSH Curriculum Guide as presented. Mr. Richards seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

New Business:

Superintendent Elliott presented the three-year Tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement that was ratified by the Stark County Teacher Association on Friday, March 14th, 2025. The main details are a flat \$7,000 increase for all teachers in year one, followed by a 4% increase in year two and year three of the three-year contract; a 6% retirement incentive; and expanding the salary schedule from 20 steps to 21 steps in year three. This contract met the goals of the board, including an increase to our base salary to compete locally in recruitment, addressing the black hole on the salary schedule, and rewarding our experienced staff, leading to retention of our teachers.

President Orwig made a motion to approve the 2025-2028 Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented between the Board of Education and the Teacher Association. Seconded by Mr. Richards. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

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Next up was an 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 2025-26 school year. Motion seconded by Mrs. Price and motion passed by a 4-0 vote.

Superintendent Elliott shared that pay rates for support staff have grown 60%- 80% in the past five years due to the district's efforts to reach and exceed the state minimum wage. Specifics regarding Fiscal Year 2026 support staff and administration staff pay rate increases will be discussed during executive session with approval following.

Next was an annual approval for the next round of Chromebooks. After reviewing multiple quotes, IT Director Bunch recommends the purchase of 200 Chromebooks through STS Education. We would commit to a three-year lease agreement with State Bank of Toulon to allow our annual levy to fund the annual lease payments. This is past practice. Mr. Rewerts made a motion to approve the annual Chromebook purchase through STS Education as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Price. Passed 4-0.

In a national teacher shortage, many districts are moving to "Grow Your Own" programs that help fund the educational process for support staff currently employed within the district to become certified teachers. In order to continue to be innovative, Superintendent Elliott recommended a Pilot program that would allow support staff, successfully employed for at least two years, to maintain their salary and position during their student teaching experience. This would come with a four year teaching commitment if hired by the district or the salary paid during student teaching would be reimbursed to the district on a prorated basis if the four-year commitment is not met. This was the first reading with no action taken until April.

Superintendent Elliott shared that due to retirements and resignations there are no RIF's or non-renewals of certified staff for the 2024-25 school year. No action taken.

Our last student fee increases were for the 2023-24 school year, these fees cover books, resources, apps, etc. We are proposing an increase of five dollars per tier, bringing student fees to: Elementary \$50, Junior High \$60, and High School \$70. The proposed increase for Athletic/Activity Fees is \$10, bringing Athletic/Activity Fees to \$70/student and \$140/family. No action taken. Tabled until further discussion.

Ms. McGann and Mrs. Colgan presented an overview of the value and the teacher's request to continue our partnership with BIST (Behavior Interventions and Support Team). This is a continued investment in our students and staff working with student behaviors and accountability. All funding is provided via Title funding. The 2025-26 contract is a reduction from previous years and includes monthly on-site consulting, parent virtual sessions and resources, Vision Team Facilitation, and the Annual BIST Leadership Conference at a total of \$20,800. Within her BIST overview, Mrs. Colgan stated that BIST processes are starting to fall into place at the Elementary level. There is consistency in processes and language throughout the building. Teachers are identifying

missing skills and connecting with students instead of handing out punishments for behavioral issues. Feedback from the elementary teachers is positive. BIST has been a powerful tool at Stark County Elementary.

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Ms. McGann noted that BIST looks different at the Junior High and High School levels. It provides consistency and common language for use throughout the building. Teachers are working on developing the skills to prevent behavioral issues before becoming frustrated. BIST has been a great resource for year 1 and year 2 teachers, it has helped them develop structure in their classrooms. BIST is not as applicable at the High School level but the hope is that students developing skills at the Elementary and Junior High levels will help reduce disciplinary issues when they are at the High School level.

After Ms. McGann's and Mrs. Colgan's overviews, the board discussed BIST feedback that they had received and asked questions for a better understanding of BIST processes. Action was tabled for further discussion with the absent board members.

Due to the pandemic, the Black Hawk College Dual Credit Agreement MOU has not been renewed since prior to 2020. Black Hawk has revised some basic language and it is up for approval tonight. Mrs. Price made a motion to approve the Dual Credit Agreement between Stark County CUSD #100 and Black Hawk College. Mr. Richards seconded and the motion passed by a 4-0 vote.

During the February 2025 Black Hawk College Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting, the BOT approved raising the FY26, FY27, and FY28 in-district tuition rates to \$174.00, \$177.00, and \$180.00 respectively per credit hour effective June 1, 2025, 2026 and 2027. Therefore, effective June 1, 2025, the credit hour tuition for dual credit courses taught by Black Hawk College faculty will be \$174.00 per credit hour. The administrative fee for courses taught by high school faculty will remain \$30 per credit hour for FY26, FY27, and FY28. Black Hawk College remains the most affordable option for students. Mr. Richards made a motion to approve the Black Hawk College rates as presented for the 2025-26 school year for dual credit courses. Mr. Rewerts seconded. Passed 4-0.

Items for Next Meeting:

First Reading of the Summer Project List; Possible First Reading of PRESS Policy updates; Possible Approval of the "Grow Your Own" Pilot program; and items tabled earlier in the meeting.

Executive Session:

Motion was made by Mrs. Price, seconded by Mr. Richards, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employee compensation, employee performance, resignations, retirements, and employments at 7:21 p.m. Motion was approved 4-0.

Motion was made by Mr. Rewerts, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to reconvene from Executive Session at 8:02 p.m. and to hold the Executive Session minutes, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Rewerts, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 24th, 2025, Not for Release. Motion was approved 4-0.

Motion was made by Mr. Rewerts to approve Travis Sparks as Volunteer High School Softball Coach. Mr. Richards seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

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Mr. Rewerts made a motion to approve Zack Snyder as Volunteer Junior High Track Coach. Mrs. Orwig seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Motion was made by Mr. Rewerts to approve Kelsey Berchtold as Elementary Teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Mrs. Orwig seconded and motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Rewerts made a motion to approve Ashlyn Kratochvil as Elementary Teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Mrs. Price seconded and motion passed 4-0.

Motion was made by Mr. Rewerts to approve Abby Hagan as Elementary Music Teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Mr. Richards seconded and motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Rewerts made a motion to approve Rod Hatch as part-time Spanish Teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Mrs. Price seconded and motion passed 4-0.

Motion was made by Mr. Rewerts to approve Brittany Venzon, High School Teacher, for a medical leave of absence from March 6th – March 30th, 2025. Mrs. Orwig seconded, motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Rewerts announced the resignation of Matthew Bowen, High School English Teacher, effective at the conclusion of the 2024-25 school year.

Mr. Rewerts announced the retirement of Angela Tuthill, High School Special Education Teacher, effective at the conclusion of the 2024-25 school year.

Mr. Rewerts announced the resignation of Karen Morrissey, Kitchen Worker, effective March 7th, 2025.

Mr. Rewerts announced the resignation of Erin McClanahan, Elementary Music Teacher, effective at the conclusion of the 2024-25 school year.

Mr. Rewerts announced the resignation of Grace (Michal) McClure, Elementary Teacher, effective at the conclusion of the 2024-25 school year.

Motion was made by Mr. Rewerts to approve the support staff pay increases as presented for Fiscal Year 2026. Mrs. Orwig seconded and motion passed 4-0.

Motion was made by Mr. Rewerts to approve the building administration salary increases as presented for Fiscal Year 2026. Mrs. Price seconded and motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Rewerts announced the resignation of Owen Mercer, Student Custodian, effective March 21st, 2025.

Motion was made by Mr. Rewerts to approve Rick Schertz as 6th-12th Electives Teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Mrs. Orwig seconded and motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Rewerts made a motion to approve for all 2025 teacher retirees a one-time sick leave buyout of up to 20 unused sick days at a \$100 per day rate, to be paid after August 1st, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Richards and approved by a 4-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Rewerts, seconded by Mrs. Price, to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Motion was approved 4-0.

Ann Orwig
President

Emily Leezer
Secretary

Approved 4/21/2025