

**North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200**  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Education  
**District Office**  
6248 North Boone School Road, Poplar Grove, IL 61065  
Tuesday, July 22, 2025  
6:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Nan Schilling.

Present: President Nan Schilling, Secretary Russell O'Donnell, Vice President Judy Hutchinson, Mary Maxey, Sarah Meyer, and Ed Mulholland.

Absent: Joe Haverly

**RECOGNITION OF THE UNIFIED TRACK TEAM**

The Unified Track Team was recognized for their First Place Win at State. All athletes and coaches were presented with a certificate of achievement from the School Board.

**RECOGNITION OF THE GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM**

The 2024/2025 Varsity Girls' Softball team was recognized for their Third Place finish at State. All of the athletes and coaches were presented with a certificate of achievement from the School Board.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Hutchinson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, and Mrs. Meyer seconded this motion.

The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

Mrs. Patty Wolski spoke as both a parent and staff member regarding the cleaning of buses after extra-curricular activity routes.

**TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCE UPDATE**

The June Treasurer's Report was as presented. Treasurer Randy Steen introduced himself and spoke regarding the Treasurer's Report. His primary responsibility is to report total district funds and ensure the totals match the business manager's records. If any member would prefer to see a different format of the report, please reach out to Mr. Steen.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Policy Committee-** The first draft of policy edits has been emailed to all committee members. Members should bring notes and comments for discussion at the next meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

**Business Services Committee**—The committee met on July 8, 2025. Substitute pay rates were discussed and will be presented at tonight’s meeting. Also discussed were a copy paper procurement, impact fees, and a potential “lunch for all” program. The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 11, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

**Facility/Long-Range Planning Committee**—The committee met on July 10, 2025. The summer job list progress was reviewed. An update was given on the U of I water table study. Discussion included preventive maintenance on gym floors, an update on the LED lighting project, and a “top 10” priority list was discussed. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

**Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Committee**—The next meeting is September 17, 2025, at 4:45 p.m..

## CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Hutchinson motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with the following amendment to the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting: Change “A board member” to “Mr. Mulholland” under Recommendations From Executive Session, and Mr. O’Donnell seconded it.

- A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, June 17, 2025
- B. Minutes of the Special Board Meeting, June 25, 2025
- C. Minutes of the Business Services Committee Meeting, June 10, 2025
- D. Minutes of the Facilities/Long Range Planning Committee Meeting, June 12, 2025
- E. Personnel
- F. Satchel Pulse Renewal 25/26 School Year
- G. Speech/Language Services Contract 25/26 School Year

### Discussion:

*(none)*

The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Moving Items on the Agenda

No discussion or comments were offered.

- B. IASB Conference

For the current year's IASB Conference in Chicago, the costs are projected to be under \$10,000, which means that no vote is required. The attendance will follow the guidelines outlined in Dr. Cascio's email.

For future planning, it was discussed to bring the discussion and approval earlier in the year, preferably March or April, to allow registration to happen when it opens the first week of June. This will avoid last-minute hotel and registration issues.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. July 2025 Bills**

Mrs. Meyer motioned to approve the July 2025 Bills, minus the invoice for the wrestling mats as it is currently being amended, and Mr. O'Donnell seconded it.

#### Discussion:

Regarding the invoice for the wrestling mats, the Board-approved amount differed from the invoiced amount by nearly \$2,000. Upon investigating the discrepancy, it was revealed that the vendor mistakenly charged for mats that do not require tape. The vendor has agreed to issue a revised invoice matching the Board-approved price. The current invoice will be excluded from the July bills and paid in August once the corrected one is received.

The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

#### **B. Approval to Develop a Tentative Budget for FY26**

Mrs. Hutchinson motioned to approve the development of a tentative budget for FY26, and Mr. O'Donnell seconded it.

#### Discussion:

A question was raised about the responsibility of this item, as there is no Business Manager. Dr. Cascio will lead the process with some assistance.

The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

#### **C. 2025-2026 Substitute Rates**

The 2025-2026 Substitute rates were discussed at the July Business Services Meeting. The goal was to improve the substitute fill rate (currently 72-75%) and reduce teacher burnout from covering multiple classes. A financial analysis revealed that higher rates could result in cost savings compared to the \$250/day cost incurred when positions remain unfilled.

Mrs. Hutchinson made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Substitute Rates as presented, and Mrs. Meyer seconded it.

Discussion:

It was discussed that keeping the same sub in a class for the day improves consistency and reduces disruption. Pulling paraprofessionals to sub is costly and then creates staffing shortages elsewhere.

Ayes: Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Maxey, Mrs. Meyer, Mr. O'Donnell, and Mrs. Schilling

Nays: Mr. Mulholland

The motion carried with five ayes and one nay.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Cascio spoke regarding onboarding and the District Office's team effort. We are currently in a busy transition with many moving parts, and the District Office Staff should be commended for taking on extra responsibilities while maintaining their regular duties, while ensuring essential operations (e.g., payroll) run smoothly.

Dr. Cascio stated that Coyote and Jake Electric donated their services and materials for the new football scoreboard installation. These companies will be recognized with banners near the football field. The scoreboard has been delivered, and the installation work is underway.

Regarding facilities improvements, the stadium audio has been upgraded. There are now four working speakers instead of just one. The carpet and tile replacement projects are ongoing, notably at Manchester, where the flooring was several decades old.

Dr. Cascio recognized Liz Saveley (math) and Becke Bielawski (ELA), who were selected from 900+ applicants statewide, to help set new performance benchmarks for State Assessments.

In closing, Dr. Cascio acknowledged the rapid changes and ongoing improvements and his appreciation for collaboration and willingness to adapt during this transition.

At 7:24 p.m., Mrs. Hutchinson made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the following:

*The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and,*

and was seconded by Mr. O'Donnell.

The motion carried with a unanimous roll call.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A. Personnel

**RETURN TO OPEN MEETING**

At 8:08 p.m., Mrs. Hutchinson made a motion to return to Open Meeting, and Mr. O'Donnell seconded it.

The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to approve a 3.5% salary increase for Non-Bargaining Staff, and Mrs. Hutchinson seconded it.

Discussion:  
(none)

The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to hire Isaiah Johnson as the Athletic Director for the Middle School and High School, and Mrs. Hutchinson seconded it.

Discussion:  
(none)

The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to approve the contract of Karen Simmons as the Interim Director of Special Education, and Mrs. Meyer seconded it.

Discussion:  
(none)

The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to approve the Agreement with Student Centered Services for financial consulting for FY26 budget development with a cost not to exceed \$9,600, and Mrs. Meyer seconded it.

Discussion:  
(copy)

The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION**

- A. Enrollment
- B. FOIA Log
- C. Student Activity Fund Reports

Mr. Mulholland asked about the status of the School Resource Officer (SRO) and if they would be starting at the beginning of the school year. Questions were raised about the process, funding, and a required intergovernmental agreement with the Boone County Sheriff's Office. Dr. Cascio will contact Scott Yunk directly to obtain more information on the next steps.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mrs. Hutchinson and seconded by Mr. O'Donnell to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

The motion carried with a unanimous voice call.

**PRESIDENT**     *Nan Schilling* /s/    

**SECRETARY**     *Sarah Meyer* /s/    

**APPROVED: 08/19/2025**