

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF CALHOUN COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #40
OF CALHOUN AND GREENE COUNTIES, ILLINOIS**

A Truth in Taxation Hearing, of the Board of Education in Calhoun Community Unit School District #40, consisting of Calhoun and portions of Greene Counties, Illinois was called to order by Superintendent Andrea Lee, Monday, December 18, 2023 at 5:42 p.m. in the Calhoun Elementary School Library.

Upon roll being called the following board members were present: Adam Gerson and Amanda Gress. Luke Fraley arrived at 5:48 p.m., Hannah Nelson arrived at 5:54 p.m. and Jackie Baalman arrived at 6:33 p.m. Nate Sagez and Angie Tepen were absent.

Others in attendance were: Andrea Lee, LeaAnn Klaas, Cheri Burris, Christie Lorsbach, Steven Spencer, Tim Buss, Danielle and Ava Hurley, Deann Koster-Fester, Dylan Ringhausen, Kyle Godar, Peggy Hall, Jen Shirley and Amy Friedel.

Mrs. Lee explained that Calhoun CUSD 40 will be asking for 8.7%.

A motion was made by Amanda Gress, seconded by Adam Gerson that the Board of Education adjourns the hearing and return to the regular meeting.

Board polled:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Baalman – absent | Nelson – absent |
| Fraley – yes | Sagez – absent |
| Gerson – yes | Tepen – absent |
| Gress – yes | |

No quorum.

A motion was made by Adam Gerson, seconded by Amanda Gress that the Board of Education approves the agenda inclusive of:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call of Members
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Truth in Taxation Hearing
- V. Approve Agenda
- VI. Recognition of Visitors, Guests & Public Comments
 - *To preserve sufficient time for the Board to conduct its business, it is our public policy that each individual may speak for a maximum of 5 minutes unless prior arrangements have been made to speak longer.*
 - o Deann Koster-Fester – Calhoun High School History
 - o Kyle Godar – Calhoun Co. Highway Department
- VII. Consent Items
 - a. Adoption of Consent Agenda
 - b. Previous Board Minutes
 - i. Regular Meeting – November 20, 2023
 - ii. Special Meeting – December 5, 2023
 - c. Expenditures
 - d. Financial Reports
 - e. Activity Accounts Report
 - f. Transportation Report

- viii. Committee and Administrative Reports
 - a. Calhoun Elementary School
 - b. Calhoun High School
 - c. Superintendent
 - i. District Services/Maintenance Report

- ix. First Reading of Press Plus Policy Update 113
 - a. 2:20 Powers & Duties of the Board of Education Indemnification
 - b. 2:120 Board Member Development
 - c. 2:200 Types of Board of Education Meetings
 - d. 2:220-E2 Exhibit – Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting
 - e. 2:220-E6 Exhibit – Log of Closed Meeting Minutes
 - f. 2:230 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings & Petitions to the Board
 - g. 4:10 Fiscal & Business Management
 - h. 4:60 Purchases & Contracts
 - i. 4:130 Free & Reduced - Price Food Services
 - j. 4:130-E Exhibit – Free & Reduced – Price Food Services; Meal Charge Notifications
 - k. 4:160 Environmental Quality of Buildings & Grounds
 - l. 5:30 Hiring Process & Criteria
 - m. 5:80 Court Duty
 - n. 5:90 Abused & Neglected Child Reporting
 - o. 5:190 Teacher Qualifications
 - p. 5:200 Terms & Conditions of Employment & Dismissal
 - q. 5:210 Resignations
 - r. 5:220 Substitute Teachers
 - s. 5:250 Leaves of Absence
 - t. 5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays & Leaves
 - u. 6:15 School Accountability
 - v. 6:30 Organization of Instruction
 - w. 6:50 School Wellness
 - x. 6:60 Curriculum Content
 - y. 6:230 Library Media Program
 - z. 7:60 Residence
 - aa. 7:70 Attendance & Truancy
 - bb. 7:160 Student Appearance
 - cc. 7:190 Student Behavior
 - dd. 7:270 Administering Medicines to Students
 - ee. 7:285 Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response & Management Program
 - ff. 7:290 Suicide & Depression Awareness & Prevention
 - gg. 8:30 Visitors to & Conduct on School Property
 - hh. 4:30 Revenue & Investments

- x. Action Items Prior to Executive Session
 - a. Consider Approval of
 - i. Adopt Tax Levy
 - ii. Senior Trip
 - iii. NHS Trip
 - iv. Interfund Transfer
 - v. Board Policy Change
 - vi. Agreement with Calhoun Co. Highway Department
 - vii. Facility Use Fee
 - viii. Special Board Meeting

- XI. **Executive Session** – For the purpose of discussion regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employee(s); legal counsel, collective negotiating matters or deliberations; board vacancies; evidence or testimony presented in a hearing where authorized by law; purchase or lease of real property; sale or purchase of securities, investments or investment contracts; security procedures; student disciplinary cases or any matter involving an individual student; litigation; self-evaluation, practices and procedures, or professional ethics; minutes of meetings lawfully closed; internal control weaknesses, potential fraud risk areas; establishment of reserves, settlement or discussion of claims, loss or risk management information, records, data, advice or communications from or with respect to any insurer of the District. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)
- XII. **Action Items Following Executive Session**
 - a. Consider Approving Personnel Recommendations
- XIII. **Other Business**
- XIV. **Communication and Announcements**
 - a. December 22 – January 8 – Winter Break
 - b. January 16 – School Board Meeting
- XV. **Correspondence**
- XVI. **Adjourn**

Board polled:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Baalman – absent | Nelson – absent |
| Fraley – yes | Sagez – absent |
| Gerson – yes | Tepen – absent |
| Gress – yes | |

No quorum.

A motion was made by Amanda Gress, seconded by Adam Gerson that the Board of Education approves items on the consent agenda which includes:

- i. **Consent Items**
 - a. Adoption of Consent Agenda
 - b. Previous Board Minutes
 - i. Regular Meeting – November 21, 2023
 - ii. Special Meeting – December 5, 2023
 - c. Expenditures
 - d. Financial Reports
 - e. Activity Accounts Report
 - f. Transportation Report

Board polled:

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Baalman – yes | Nelson – yes |
| Fraley – yes | Sagez – absent |
| Gerson – yes | Tepen – absent |
| Gress – yes | |

Motion carried.

Reception of Visitors / Public Comment:

Ava Hurley was present to give details about the Senior class trip.

Deann Koster-Fester told the Board that the 200th Anniversary of Calhoun County will be on January 10, 2025. She would like to include the Calhoun High School on a map of historic sites. She would like to include students in researching the history of the school.

Kyle Godar with the Calhoun Co. Highway Department had updates on the Poor Farm Hollow project.

Tim Buss with IASB explained to the Board what they have to offer with assisting in the new Superintendent search.

Principals Report:

Calhoun Elementary School Principal Christie Lorsbach Report

WOW Winners for November on the character trait of Teamwork were: Dayton Hill, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Mortland, Gage Kamp, Mrs. Lauren Eilerman, Wayne Weber, Noah Breden, Mrs. Weber, Mr. Wilbur Kirbach, Aiden Eilerman, Liam Caselton, Calvin Wallendorf, Cole Murphy, Autumn Mook, Lauren Pohlman, Rylan Sprong, and Kenlie Kronable. Congratulations to all of our winners.

Big thanks to Mrs. Hagen and the 8th Grade Enrichment classes for raising over \$1,100 in donations and multiple boxes of food for St. Vincent DePaul and the Weekend Power Pack Program.

The K-5 Music Program was a success. I would like to give a special shout-out to the staff members who pulled together to make the program decorations a huge success.

Also to Mr. Lee and Mrs. Eilerman who rearranged their PE schedules to accommodate the use of the gym.

Teamwork at its best!

7th Grade Boys Basketball Team won First place in the Pike County Tournament. While the 8th Grade Team took 2nd Place.

Upcoming PTO fundraisers: Adult Night Out (January 27)

Calhoun High School Principal Cheri Burris Report

29 Seniors: 6 are not interested in Work Based Learning, 6 do not qualify but can job shadow, 5 maybes': students who are not sure if they want to participate or we are having trouble connecting with the potential employers. 12 who will be participating in WBL, this includes CEO and Grow Your Own.

Local businesses willing to participate: Fox Pharmacy, Calhoun Collision, Bank of Kampsville, Bank of Calhoun, Calhoun Health Dept., Calhoun Nursing Home, Lindsey Franke, Country Financial, Charles Burch Jr and Cyndi Borrowman, PCRE. I am still waiting to hear back from a couple of businesses.

Mr. Hagen's Leadership class will be having debates.

Mrs. Reed used AI to create an essay with false information. Biology Students had to find the false information in the essay...it was very tricky.

Mrs. Deffenbaugh's College Prep English has been writing essays based on themes in The Metamorphosis.

Lincoln Land and LCCC came to speak to students in Mrs. Deffenbaugh's Tech Writing class.

Ag Biology has been learning about the differences in costs and profit between Organic and Nonorganic Farming.

Geography class gave presentations on the largest companies in the world.

Superintendents Report:

The Calhoun Co. Fair board would like to propose the sale of alcohol during the fair on fair grounds.

Library should open for the second semester. Would like to have an open house night for the community and set what nights the library will be open to the public.

ISBE approval for lighting is still pending.

District Services/Maintenance Report:

December has been very busy with Girls and Boys basketball seasons in full swing. Lots of scheduling with all the away games and trips being taken at the end of the year. Buses are also due for state inspections this month. We've had some wiring issues with the new buses as well as several coolant leaks since the start of the colder weather. All repairs have been made at this time. We're also in the process of training a couple new drivers for bus licenses and starting the process on a new van driver. Laws are changing for the worst again in February for the licensing process of the van licenses. Hopefully we can get our van driver licensed before the changes go in effect.

We are having serious problems with the roof on the high school pulling apart due to the temperature swings. We've had several leaks in the past month due to the rubberized roofing material pulling apart from the expansion and contraction. Rod has been patching the roof on a regular basis in hopes of getting by until the roof replacement this summer. Lots of planning has been going on as well with all the repairs that are scheduled to happen this summer. It's going to be a hectic summer getting all the work completed before the start of the new school year. The school is in dire need of some major repairs. Once all the work is completed the school

should be much more efficient to operate. All the HVAC filters were changed at the end of last month at the elementary school. As of now the units seem to be working properly after all last year's repairs. We're also in the process of replacing some of the drops on the sprinkler system at the elementary school. We have found some of the sprinkler hear drops have rusted and are close to bursting. Two have been replaced and there are several more throughout the school that also need to be replaced. We're trying to schedule the work through the Christmas break.

A motion was made by Hannah Nelson, seconded by Amanda Gress that the Board of Education approves to adopt the tax levy as presented.

Board polled:

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Baalman – yes | Nelson – yes |
| Fraley – yes | Sagez – absent |
| Gerson – yes | Tepen – absent |
| Gress – yes | |

Motion carries.

A motion was made by Amanda Gress, seconded by Adam Gerson that the Board of Education approves the Senior Trip to Florida on February 28 – March 4.

Board polled:

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Baalman – yes | Nelson – yes |
| Fraley – yes | Sagez – absent |
| Gerson – yes | Tepen – absent |
| Gress – yes | |

Motion carries.

A motion was made by Adam Gerson, seconded by Jackie Baalman that the Board of Education approves the upcoming NHS Trip.

Board polled:

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Baalman – yes | Nelson – yes |
| Fraley – yes | Sagez – absent |
| Gerson – yes | Tepen – absent |
| Gress – yes | |

Motion carries.

A motion was made by Amanda Gress, seconded by Jackie Baalman that the Board of Education approves the payback of the Interfund loan between O&M and Education Fund. O&M owes Education Fund \$200,000.00.

Board polled:

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Baalman – yes | Nelson – yes |
| Fraley – yes | Sagez – absent |
| Gerson – yes | Tepen – absent |
| Gress – yes | |

Motion carries.

The motion was tabled to implement a new board policy regarding the duration of investments.

A motion was made by Jackie Baalman, seconded by Amanda Gress that the Board of Education approves the agreement with Calhoun Co. Highway Department as presented upon satisfactory review of school attorney.

Board polled:

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Baalman – yes | Nelson – yes |
| Fraley – yes | Sagez – absent |

Gerson – yes

Tepen – absent

Gress – yes

Motion carries.

A motion was made by Jackie Baalman, seconded by Amanda Gress that the Board of Education approves changes to the Calhoun CUSD #40 facility use form as presented.

Board polled:

Baalman – yes

Nelson – no

Fraley – yes

Sagez – absent

Gerson – yes

Tepen – absent

Gress – yes

Motion carries.

A motion was made by Hannah Nelson, seconded by Adam Gerson that the Board of Education approves to schedule a Special Board Meeting on January 8, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

Board polled:

Baalman – yes

Nelson – yes

Fraley – yes

Sagez – absent

Gerson – yes

Tepen – absent

Gress – yes

Motion carries.

Executive Session:

A motion was made at 6:53 p.m. by Jackie Baalman, seconded by Adam Gerson that the Board of Education enters into executive session.

For the purpose of discussion regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employee(s); legal counsel, collective negotiating matters or deliberations; board vacancies; evidence or testimony presented in a hearing where authorized by law; purchase or lease of real property; sale or purchase of securities, investments or investment contracts; security procedures; student disciplinary cases or any matter involving an individual student; litigation; self-evaluation, practices and procedures, or professional ethics; minutes of meetings lawfully closed; internal control weaknesses, potential fraud risk areas; establishment of reserves, settlement or discussion of claims, loss or risk management information, records, data, advice or communications from or with respect to any insurer of the District. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)

Board polled:

Baalman – yes

Nelson – yes

Fraley – yes

Sagez – absent

Gerson – yes

Tepen – absent

Gress – yes

Motion carries.

A motion was made at 7:15 p.m. by Hannah Nelson, seconded by Amanda Gress that the Board of Education returns to Open Session to continue meeting and take any appropriate action.

Board polled:

Baalman – yes

Nelson – yes

Fraley – yes

Sagez – absent

Gerson – yes

Tepen – absent

Gress – yes

Motion carries.

A motion was made by Jackie Baalman, seconded by Adam Gerson that the Board of Education approves personnel recommendations as presented for the 2023-24 school year.

Resignations: Cheri Burris, CHS Principal effective June 30, 2024

Teaching Hires: Amy Lowis; CES PE Long Term Sub for Lauren Eilerman

ESP Hires: Katie Blackwell; Pre-K Custodial/Cook/Aide

Coaching/Sponsor Hires: Riley Castleton, JH Baseball Head Coach
Jeff Kamp, JH Softball Head Coach
Aaron Elmore, HS Football Head Coach
Missy Zipprich, HS Volleyball Head Coach
Neng Fester; JH Cheerleading Volunteer Coach

Re-assignments: Jamie Mason; from Pre-K Custodial/Cook/Aide to 1:1 aide
Lauren Eilerman; from CES PE to 1st Grade Teacher (2nd semester)

Substitutes: Certified Teacher- Ann Kuehnel, Judi Neese, Terry Woffel
Support Staff- Amanda Kemp

Postings: CHS Principal

*All new hires are subject to completion of background check, EHR (Faith's Law) check, fingerprinting and any other required classes and/or trainings.

Board polled:

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Baalman – yes | Nelson – yes |
| Fraley – yes | Sagez – absent |
| Gerson – yes | Tepen – absent |
| Gress – yes | |

Motion carries.

Informational Items:

December 22 – January 8 – Winter Break
January 16 – School Board Meeting
Correspondence

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Jackie Baalman, seconded by Amanda Gress that the Board of Education adjourns the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Board polled:

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Baalman – yes | Nelson – yes |
| Fraley – yes | Sagez – absent |
| Gerson – yes | Tepen – absent |
| Gress – yes | |

Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education