

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

A regular meeting, 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 Board Vice President Jackie Baalman, Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 5:32 p.m. in the Calhoun Elementary Library.

Upon roll being called the following board members were present: Jackie Baalman, Adam Gerson, Nate Sagez and Angie Tepen. Luke Fraley, Amanda Gress and Hannah Nelson was absent.

Others in attendance were: LeaAnn Klaas, Lori Young, Tiara Lorschach, Suzanne Steckel, Pam Friedel, Christie Lorschach, Steven Spencer and Amy Friedel. Chris Coughlin and Dawn Mager-Harring arrived at 6:39 p.m.

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

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call of Members
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Approve Agenda
- V. 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 Suzanne Steckel – Annual Financial Report
- VI. Consent Items
  - a. Adoption of Consent Agenda
  - b. Previous Board Minutes
    - i. Regular Meeting – October 22, 2024
  - c. Expenditures
  - d. Financial Reports
  - e. Activity Accounts Report
  - f. Transportation Report
- VII. Committee and Administrative Reports
  - a. Calhoun Elementary School
  - b. Calhoun High School
  - c. Superintendent
    - i. District Services/Maintenance Report
- VIII. First Reading Press Policy Update 117
  - a. 2:105 Ethics & Gift Ban
  - b. 2:120 Board Member Development
  - c. 4:30 Revenue & Investments
  - d. 4:60 Purchases & Contracts
  - e. 4:150 Facility Management & Building Programs
  - f. 4:170 Safety
  - g. 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity & Minority Recruitment
  - h. 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited
  - i. 5:90 Abused & Neglected Child Reporting
  - j. 5:120 Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; & Conflict of Interest

- k. 5:125 Personal Technology & Social Media; Usage & Conduct
- l. 5:230 Maintaining Student Discipline
- m. 6:60 Curriculum Content
- n. 6:135 Accelerated Placement Program
- o. 6:270 Guidance & Counseling Program
- p. 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities
- q. 7:100 Health, Eye & Dental Examinations; Immunizations; & Exclusion of Students
- r. 7:200 Suspension Procedures
- s. 8:10 Connection with the Community

IX. Action Items Prior to Executive Session

- a. Consider Approval of
  - i. Tentative Tax Levy
  - ii. Annual Financial Audit Report
  - iii. Annual Statement of Affairs Publication
  - iv. NHS Trip

X. **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)

XI. Action Items Following Executive Session

- a. Consider Approving Personnel Recommendations
  - i. Jr. High Cheer Coach
  - ii. Substitutes

XII. Other Business

XIII. Communication and Announcements

- a. November 27 – 1:15 Dismissal
- b. November 28 & 29 – Thanksgiving Break
- c. December 17 – Board Meeting
- d. Correspondence

XIV. Adjourn

Board polled:

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

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Angie Tepen, seconded by Nate Sagez that the Board of Education approves items on the consent agenda which includes:

XV. Consent Items

- a. Adoption of Consent Agenda
- b. Previous Board Minutes
  - i. Regular Meeting – October 22, 2024
- c. Expenditures

- d. Financial Reports
- e. Activity Accounts Report
- f. Transportation Report

Board polled:

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

Motion carried.

**Reception of Visitors / Public Comment:**

Suzanne Steckel presented the audited 2023-2024 Annual Financial Report.  
Amy Friedel was present to share concerns about sports safety to the board.

**Principals Report:**

**Calhoun Elementary School Principal Jean Heil Report**

Students did a great job performing at the Veterans Day Program. Thanks to Mrs. Becker for all the beautiful artwork and decorations and to all the teachers who helped in preparing students.

Our “World Kindness Week” Food Drive was hugely successful! Thanks to the SEL Team for coordinating! A winner will be announced this week. The food will be delivered by students to St. Vincent De Paul in Hardin. Congratulations to our September’s Student and Staff of the Month (Empathy): Pam Friedel, Traci Hillen, Linda Webster, Amanda Weber, Isabella C., Bailey H., molly W., Abbott T., Jaylyn K., Lillian W., Noah M., Maya S., Wayne W., Aliyah S.

Congratulations to our October’s Student and Staff of the Month (Self-Direction): Tara Adams, Greg Presley, Ellen Churchman, Jeannette Johnson, Lincoln C., Holly R., Adam M., Rylan S., Kallie H., Kate R., Maeve R., Harry H., Sophie Mo., Berlyn E., Claire J., Nolan E., Alena N., Jax C., Harvey H.

**Calhoun High School Principal Christie Lorsbach Report**

1st Quarter Honor Roll: 106 students made the first quarter honor roll. That is 62% of Calhoun High School. Great work students!! Each student received a pass to get into the any home high school event from Oct. 18th – December 31st.

The Volleyball team is STATE BOUND!!!! Congratulations Team and Coaches!! The team was given a district wide clap out on Wednesday, November 13th. Big thanks to CEJHS staff and students for walking over and for the percussion band section for playing the cadence as the team walked through the halls.

The Football team is headed to Round #3 in Playoffs! Conner Longnecker has been named to the All-State Team and Luke Brannan has received honorable mention. Congratulations to the team, boys, and coaches! The students also greeted the CEJHS students on Wednesday and visited Calhoun Nursing and Rehab on Thursday. Audrey Gilman signed with Creighton University on Wednesday, Nov. 13th. She was supported by her family, fellow softball players, students and staff. Congratulations Audrey!!

The National Honor Society held the induction ceremony for the new members on Wednesday, November 6th at 6:30pm. A dinner was held after for families to attend.

The Veteran’s Day program was held on Friday, November 8th at 9:00 am. 25 Veteran’s attended the ceremony and enjoyed a delicious breakfast by our cooks, Stephanie and Valerie. Big thanks to Mrs. Wanda Deffenbaugh, Mrs. Robbie Becker, Mrs. Jean Heil and Mrs. Kathy Friedel for organizing and decorating. Thanks to all of the FFA members for greeting and serving as hosts to our Veterans. All of your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated to host such a wonderful event.

GRP was here Monday, Nov. 4th to look into a few leaky spots in the roof. With some rain finally in the forecast, we were able to see what needs to be fixed.

All Junior and Senior students attended the Career Fair hosted by Jersey Community 100. Students were able to attend sessions with speakers on the career fields that they were interested in.

Scholastic Bowl traveled to Raymond/Lincolnwood for a match on November 12th. The results were one winning match and they lost two. The next match is being held on November 19th at Mt. Olive.

Thanks to James Jones with Thunderbird Hauling, as he donated \$1,100 to the volleyball team. On November 19, we will be having a student assembly with Julie Smith, from Webster University. She will be discussing digital literacy/AI. The presentation will be done in two sections; she will meet with Seniors/Juniors and then with Sophomores/Freshman. Mrs. Sarah Becker arranged a speaker for the Art class on Thursday, Nov. 14th. Mr. Harry Weber shared his experience and knowledge with students. Thank you Mrs. Becker! LCCC has scheduled a visit on November 18th to discuss career opportunities for any student interested in the medical/nursing fields. ACT Prep coming up for Juniors before the ACT will be taken. Art and Band Club will be at St. Anslem Hall in Kampsville on Dec. 8 to display their art and play music.

**Superintendent Lori Young Report**

Special Thank You – Recognize Modern Woodman & Allen Johnson for donating funds for shot clocks. \$4000  
2024 Illinois report Card – Annual Summative Designation – Both schools are **Commendable** this year for all students. The Elem. Building was Targeted last year for a sub group (students with IEPs) and is in the 1st year of a 4-year improvement cycle.

Van Accident - Van driver hit a deer on Nov. 5th. No one was injured. It was the 2019 white van with the wheelchair lift. Everything has been submitted to insurance and in process of being repaired, however the van is out of commission for a few weeks.

Building & Grounds Committee Meeting Updates - On Oct. 31 & Nov. 14. Committee Members: Jackie Baalman, Adam Gerson, Lori Young, Christie Lorschach, Jean Heil, Lance Sibley, & Rod Hart. We have been reviewing Job Descriptions for: Custodians, Groundskeeper, Maintenance (Rod’s position), & Director of District Services (Lance’s position). Along with discussing a System Organizational Chart. The committee is asking for Board input on job descriptions. Please share your ideas/ input with BOE Committee Members to bring to the next meeting on Dec. 3.

**District Services/Maintenance Report:**

Maintenance Report: The painter got all the tee pee’s that were peeling scraped off and repainted before the rain set in. They also got all the beams painted in the gym where all the old panels were clipped. GPR also got the heat exchanger and gas valve replaced on the two RTU’s at the elementary school. We also had them do the yearly inspection on the boilers at the elementary while they were here. Rod has been working on the electric in the greenhouse to get the fans and heat up and running before winter. Also this month we replaced all the furnace filters in the high school in preparation of the heating season. The Health Life Safety and State Fire Marshal Inspection went well. I’m still waiting on the reports from the inspections.

Transportation Report: Transportation this month has been very hectic with volleyball and football being in the finals. There have been several long trips taken in the last couple weeks. The buses have all been prepped for winter. Girls basketball season will start this week and the boys season will be starting in a couple weeks.

A motion was made by Adam Gerson, seconded by Angie Tepen that the Board of Education approves the tentative tax levy as presented.

Board polled:

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

Motion carries.

A motion was made by Angie Tepen, seconded by Nate Sagez that the Board of Education approves the Audited 2023-2024 Annual Financial Report as presented.

Board polled:

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

Motion carries.

A motion was made by Angie Tepen, seconded by Nate Sagez that the Board of Education approves the Annual Statement of Affairs for publication.

Board polled:

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

Motion carries.

A motion was made by Nate Sagez, seconded by Adam Gerson that the Board of Education approves the NHS trip as presented.

Board polled:

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

Motion carries.

### **Executive Session:**

A motion was made at 6:39 p.m. by Angie Tepen, seconded by Nate Sagez 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 – absent
Fraley – absent	Sagez – yes
Gerson – yes	Tepen – yes
Gress – absent	

Motion carries.

A motion was made at 7:29 p.m. by Adam Gerson, seconded by Angie Tepen that the Board of Education returns to Open Session to continue meeting and take any appropriate action.

Board polled:

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

Motion carries.

A motion was made by Angie Tepen, seconded by Nate Sagez that the Board of Education approves personnel recommendations as presented for the 2024-25 school year.

Resignations: Amy Lowis, Jr. High Cheer Coach

Substitute Teacher: Stacey Wallendorf, Austin Phillips, DJ Lorton, and Blake Schumann

Substitute Secretary/ Paraprofessional: Mary Schmieder

\*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 – absent

Fraley – absent

Sagez – yes

Gerson – yes

Tepen – yes

Gress – absent

Motion carries.

**Informational Items:**

November 27 – 1:15 Dismissal

November 28 & 29 – Thanksgiving Break

December 17 – Board Meeting

Correspondence

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Angie Tepen, seconded by Nate Sagez that the Board of Education adjourns the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Board polled:

Baalman – yes

Nelson – absent

Fraley – absent

Sagez – yes

Gerson – yes

Tepen – yes

Gress – absent

Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

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President, Board of Education

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Secretary, Board of Education