

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OF  
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 172  
ADAMS COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
HELD ON FEBRUARY 25, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.**

**Meeting Convened**

The Board of Education of School District No. 172, Adams County, Illinois, met in regular session on February 25, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Office, Room 214, 1416 Maine Street, Quincy, Illinois, in said school district.

**Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by President Arns, who directed the secretary to call the roll. On the call of the roll, the following members were present and answered to their names: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Sethaler and Whitfield; and the following members were absent: Member Petty. Whereupon the President declared a quorum was present.

**Moment of Silence**

President Arns declared a moment of silence and reflection.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Arns.

**ILMEA All-State Musicians**

Thirty-two QHS and QJHS All-State Musicians were honored by the Board. Students honored include Brielle Cole, Dylan Eidson, Addison Gosteli, Joseph Keller, Thomas Keller, Jack Miller, Savannah Tournear, Judson Minnick, Austin Mondon, Natalie Predmore, Ryan Siebert, Jude Steiner-Haubrich, Keira Dolieslager, Jamie Meyer, Emma Reed, Rebecca Seaman, Aliviya Oshner, Sarah Predmore, Michael Spencer, Samantha Tournear, Caleigh Twaddle, Conall Wolfmeyer, Noah Schaefer, Arrow Crist, Kael Holzgrafe, Carolina Lopez, Max Lansing, Eric Siebert, Elise Snider, Madison Fennell, Violet Holzgrafe, Joel Meirose, and George Seaman.

**Questions and Comments**

President Arns opened the meeting to questions and comments to members of the Board, by members of the public.

Dennis Williams and Gabriella Esselmann (Bella Ease)

Bella Ease reported an increase in distance learning referrals, including students not currently enrolled, previously homeschooled, or expelled for truancy. The program is now serving over 30 students, with some successfully transitioning back to Quincy Public Schools. Due to limited

capacity and the late point in the school year, new enrollments may soon be paused. Counseling services are provided through Cornerstone, and they are exploring an additional partnership with Clarity. Consistency and accountability between school and home remain key factors in student success. A community group has also been formed to address broader student behavior and family support needs, emphasizing that this is a shared community responsibility.

### **Consent Agenda**

*It was moved by Member Sethaler and seconded by Member Davis to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:*

- a. Treasurer's Report January 2026*
- b. Minutes – January 4, 2026 & January 28, 2026*
- c. Check Register and JH/SH Activity Fund Reports*
- d. Acknowledge receipt of the Freedom of Information Log: January 24 through February 20, 2026 (Information Only)*
- e. Midwest Youth Services Networking Agreement (Doc. Reg. No. 4005)*

On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Sethaler and Whitfield; and the following members voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: Member Petty. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

### **Reports of the Superintendent**

Superintendent McGuire introduced Mr. Richard Pugh as the new Principal of Baldwin School. While this is a new leadership role, Mr. Pugh is certainly not new to Quincy Public Schools. He previously served as an administrator at Adams and Iles Elementary Schools before continuing his administrative career with Hannibal Public Schools. Prior to his work in school administration, Mr. Pugh served as a Behavior Interventionist in Hannibal, Associate Director of Student Services at Chaddock, and an Associate Faculty Member at John Wood Community College. He also brings extensive experience in a variety of teaching and student support roles. Mr. Pugh holds a master's degree and is currently completing his doctorate. He has already begun engaging with the Baldwin school community by shadowing Mr. Sohn, meeting with staff, and preparing for a smooth transition this spring.

Our second Community Engagement Workshop welcomed 76 participants, including parents, staff, and community members, with a strong mix of both returning and new attendees. Across the first two workshops, we have engaged 149 community members, demonstrating meaningful community involvement in the future of QPS. This session focused primarily on staffing, and we are carefully reviewing all feedback received. The next workshop will be held on March 24 from 5:30–7:30 p.m. (doors open at 5:00 p.m. for a light dinner). The topic will be “Helping Every Student Succeed,” with a greater focus on the student experience. We appreciate the continued partnership of our families, staff, and community members as we work together to strengthen Quincy Public Schools.

### **Building Committee**

The Building Committee did not meet.

### **District Improvement Committee**

Chairperson Arns presented student measures of improvement based on winter MAP assessment data. She explained that new national norms were recently established, replacing the previous norms from 2020. These updated benchmarks reflect expected growth based on national student performance data. When compared to the new norms, QPS students are performing at or slightly above the expected growth levels and are within the standard margin of error, indicating positive and consistent academic progress across the district.

### **Finance Committee**

Chief of Business Operations Whicker shared an update on the recent bond refunding, noting that the results were more favorable than initially projected. While prior estimates anticipated approximately \$681,000 in taxpayer savings, the final results reflected savings of approximately \$1,114,000 due to strong market conditions at the time of the sale. This outcome exceeded expectations and resulted in increased savings for taxpayers.

### **Discipline Committee**

The Discipline Committee did not meet.

### **Policy Committee**

***It was recommended by the Policy Committee and moved by Member Whitfield to remove from the table and adopt the following PRESS Service Updates October 2025 and Updates to Comply with Collective Bargaining Agreements:***

2:120	Board Member Development
2:150	Committees
2:270	Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited
4:10	Fiscal and Business Management
4:30	Revenue and Investments
4:80	Accounting and Audits
4:140	Waiver of Student Fees
4:190	Targeted School Violence Prevention Program
5:10	Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
5:90	Abused and Neglected Child Reporting
5:100	Staff Development Program
5:170	General Personnel - Copyright **Update the DMCA Agent
5:185	General Personnel – Family and Medical Leave
5:190	Professional Personnel – Teacher Qualifications **Change to August 15 to Comply with CBA

5:200	Professional Personnel – Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal **Update School Year Holidays to Comply with CBA
5:220	Professional Personnel – Substitute Teachers
5:250	Personnel – Sick Leave, Leaves of Absence, Holidays, and Vacation **Update Sick Leave Chart, Maternity Leave, Funeral Leave, and Holidays to comply with CBA
5:280	Duties and Qualifications
5:290	Educational Support Personnel **Add “and retirement” to Comply with CBA
5:300	Schedule and Employment Year
6:20	School Year Calendar and Day
6:40	Curriculum Development
6:60	Curriculum Content
6:130	Program for the Gifted
6:160	English Learners
6:220	Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Program; Responsibility Use and Conduct **QPS changed this to Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)
6:260	Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs
6:300	Graduation Requirements
6:310	High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students
6:315	High School Credit for Students in Grades 7 or 8
6:320	High School Credit for Proficiency
7:10	Equal Educational Opportunities
7:70	Attendance and Truancy
7:140	Search and Seizure
7:150	Agency and Law Enforcement Requests
7:180	Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
7:190	Student Behavior
7:290	Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention
7:310	Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools
7:315	Restrictions on Publications; High Schools
7:340	Student Records
8:30	Visitors and Conduct on Property

On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Sethaler and Whitfield; and the following members voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: Member Petty. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

### **Approve Annual Grants and Allocations**

***It was moved by Member Brock and seconded by Member Arns to approve the following annual grants and/or allocations: Title I, Part A, Title II, Part A, Title IV, Part A, Title I Part A 1003 School Improvement Grant, Title I- Neglected, Title I-Delinquent, Title III-LIEP, Special Education IDEA Flow-Through, IDEA PreK, Head Start, Early Childhood Block Grant, Truants’ Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP), Regional Safe Schools-Subcontract, Adult Education and Family Literacy, WCR Carl Perkins, WCR Career and Technical Education Improvement Grant, QAVTC QPS Perkins Sub-Grant, QAVTC CTEI Sub Grant, QPS CTEI Sub-Grant, Ag Incentive Grant, Ag Three Circles Grant, Advanced Placement, School Library Per Capita Grant, Tracy Family Foundation Grants, Full Scale Community Schools Grant- Subcontract, Community Foundation Grants, Ag Incentive Grant***

*for Middle School, WCR College and Career Pathways Endorsement, and WCR CTE Education Pathway, ISBE After School Programs, COLA and Quality Improvement.* On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Sethaler and Whitfield; and the following members voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: Member Petty. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

### **Discipline Improvement Plan**

Director of Teaching and Learning Kim Dinkheller reported that the District is within the top 20% of Illinois school districts for exclusionary discipline (suspensions) and as required, has developed a District Improvement Plan to address this designation. Board members received a copy of the plan for review prior to approval, and the approved plan will be posted on the District website for public access. The Improvement Plan is organized around four key focus areas: strengthening Tier 1 schoolwide supports, implementing restorative practices, enhancing Tier 2 behavioral interventions, and increasing family and community engagement. ***It was moved by Member Dodd and seconded by Member Sethaler to approve the Discipline Improvement Plan (Doc. Reg. No. 4006).*** On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Sethaler and Whitfield; and the following members voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: Member Petty. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

### **Electric Bid for QHS**

Chief of Business Operations Ryan Whicker provided an update on the QHS electric grid project, noting that while preparations are underway, the full switchover will not occur until next summer due to timing delays and extended lead times for large electrical equipment. It was explained that much of the current equipment dates back to the 1970s and presents safety concerns for staff. Once the new equipment is installed this summer, the District will be positioned to quickly transition power in the event of a catastrophic failure, significantly reducing downtime and potential disruptions to school operations. ***It was moved by Member Davis and seconded by Member Dodd to approve the electric bid for \$3,281,000.00 to Brown Electric (Doc. Reg. No. 4007).*** On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Sethaler and Whitfield; and the following members voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: Member Petty. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

### **Resolution Approving the Sale of the District's General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2026**

***It was moved by Member Arns and seconded by Member Brock to approve the Resolution for the Sale of District's General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2026 in the amount of \$36,100,000.00 (Doc. Reg. No. 4008).*** On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Sethaler and Whitfield; and the following members voted

Nay: None; and the following member was absent: Member Petty. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

### **Enterprise Leases for Three Vans**

*It was moved by Member Arns and seconded by Member Dodd to approve the Enterprise Lease for to Enterprise for Three Vans at a cost of \$1,201.07 monthly lease per vehicle for 60 months (Doc. Reg. No. 4009).* On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Sethaler and Whitfield; and the following members voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: Member Petty. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

### **Executive Session**

*At 6:37 p.m., it was moved by Member Arns and seconded by Member Davis that the Board suspend the rules and go into executive session to discuss: a) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the School District; g) student disciplinary cases; and j) attorney/client privilege.* On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Sethaler and Whitfield; and the following members voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: Member Petty. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

### **Resumption of Rules**

*It was moved by Member Davis and seconded by Member Brock to resume the conduct of the regular meeting under rules.* On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Sethaler and Whitfield; and the following members voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: Member Petty. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

### **Student Discipline**

*It was moved by Member Sethaler and seconded by Member Whitfield to adopt the recommendation for a pre-expulsion agreement for one student from The Academy.* On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Sethaler and Whitfield; and the following members voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: Member Petty. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

## Personnel Addendum

*It was moved by Member Sethaler and seconded by Member Arns to approve the Personnel Addendum.* On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Sethaler and Whitfield; and the following members voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: Member Petty. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

<b>PERSONNEL ADDENDUM</b> <i>QUINCY BOARD OF EDUCATION</i> <i>FEBRUARY 25, 2026</i>		<b>PERSONNEL CODES</b>		
		\$\$ - New operating Fund Position (increase in FTE) B - Paid for by Booster Clubs C - Change in classification or position O - Other P - New Project Fund position PR - Replacement for Project Fund position R - Replacement for vacant Operating Fund Position S - Summer School		
<b>CERTIFIED</b>				
<b>APPOINTMENT</b>				
	R	EMILY STOLLBERG – TUTORING CENTER SCIENCE TEACHER (CBE-TR) - QHS	02/09/26	BA, STEO 0, 15,320.40 (68 DAYS)
	R	BRENNEN MOORE – SECONDARY MATH TEACHER – QHS	2026-27	SALARY TBD
	R	ELIZABETH CEPEDA – COUNSELOR – QHS	2026-27	SALARY TBD
	C/R	FLORENCE DEE FLEMING – TRANSITIONAL – KIND – ECFC	2026-27	NO CHANGE IN SALARY
	C/R	BRANDI MANY – DEAN – QHS	2026-27	NO CHANGE IN SALARY
	C/R	CHANDRA CRAWFORD – INSTRUCTIONAL COACH – ROONEY	2026-27	NO CHANGE IN SALARY
	C/R	KOLBY GLASGOW – 1 <sup>ST</sup> GRADE – ROONEY	2026-27	NO CHANGE IN SALARY
	C/R	ADDIE FORD – PREK TEACHER – ECFC	2026-27	NO CHANGE IN SALARY
	C/R	JESSICA KOSCIELSKI – TRANS. KINDERGARTEN COORD. – ECFC	2026-27	NO CHANGE IN SALARY
	C/R	BREANNE PATTERSON – 2 <sup>ND</sup> GRADE – ROONEY	2026-27	NO CHANGE IN SALARY
<b>RESIGNATIONS</b>				
		MEGHAN GERTZ – SPECIAL ED TEACHER - BALDWIN	END OF 2025-26 SCH. YEAR	
		RHIANNON DIEKER – ELA TEACHER/STUDENT COUNCIL SPONSOR – QJHS	03/13/26	
		TONI RADEL – MUSIC TEACHER – ROONEY	END OF 2025-26 SCH. YEAR	
		MARY GREWELL – KINDERGARTEN TEACHER – LINCOLN-DOUGLAS	END OF 2025-26 SCH. YEAR	
		DENISE POLAND – SOCIAL WORKER – ILES	01/14/26	PASSED AWAY
<b>LEAVE OF ABSENCE</b>				
		TONI SMITH – TEACHER – QJHS	UPDATE	09/12/25 – 04/16/26 EXTENDED RESTRICTIONS
		CLARE SMITH – TEACHER - QJHS		01/23/26 – END OF 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR (INTERMITTENT)
		SCOTTIE CHATFIELD– TEACHER – QJHS		02/17/26 – 03-08-26
		MICHELLE STOUT – ACADEMIC LEADER – LINCOLN-DOUGLAS	UPDATE	11/27/25 – 02/27/26 EXTENDED
		AUTUMN THOMPSON – PSYCHOLOGIST – QJHS		04/27/26 – END OF 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR
		CHRISTINA DUFFY – TEACHER – BALDWIN		02/02/26 – 03/02/26
		STACIE NIFFEN – TEACHER - QHS		02/25/26 – 05/06/26
		BETHANY OTTE – TEACHER – QHS	UPDATE	12/18/25 – 02/16/26
<b>RETIREMENTS</b>				
		POLLY SPRICK – TEACHER – BALDWIN	END OF 2025-26 SCH. YEAR	
<b>EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT</b>				

**CLASSIFIED**

<b>APPOINTMENT</b>				
	R	MAYELA HERNANDEZ – PARA – QJHS	02/12/26	LEVEL A, 16.20 HR, 7,371.00 (65 DAYS)
	C/R	BRITTNEY MYERS – SECURITY GUARD - BALDWIN	02/02/26	181 DAYS, 16.25 HR, 8 HRS, 9,490.00 (73 DAYS)
	R	APRIL MOORE, AFTER SCHOOL CHILDCARE ASST. – ROONEY	02/02/26	2.25 HRS DAY/11.25 HRS WEEK, 17.00 HR
	R	GABRIELLA BOWEN – BUS MONITOR – TRANS	01/27/26	176 DAYS, STEP 0, 25 HRS/WEEK, 16.05 HR
	R	MICHELLE GRASSMUCK – MID-DAY BUS MONITOR - TRANS	01/23/26	166 DAYS, STEP 0, 7.5 HRS/WEEK, 16.05 HR
	R	MARY CHRISTNER – CLASSIFIED NURSE – BALDWIN	02/03/26	181 DAYS, BA DEGREE, STEP 10, 7 HRS/DAY 15,797.52 (72 DAYS)
	R	SARA BROWN – PARA – LINCOLN-DOUGLAS	02/03/26	LEVEL A, 16.20 HR, 8,164.80 (72 DAYS)
	R	JENNA VANDAVEER – FAMILY SUPPORT SPECIALIST - ECFC	01/05/26	BA DEGREE, 24.00 HR/7 HRS DAY, 15,288.00 (91 DAYS)
	B	KAYLA DYER – ASST. VOLLEYBALL COACH - QHS	2025-26	STEP 0, 3,442.63 (STIPEND)
	R	JEFFREY NIFFEN – LIBRARY/MEDIA SECRETARY – QHS	02/11/26	193 DAYS, STEP 3, 8 HRS/DAY, 10,592.64 (72 DAYS)
	R	KAITLYN DEDERT – PARA - ROONEY	01/12/26	LEVEL A, 16.20 HR, 7,144.20 (63 DAYS)
	C/R	BRIGHAM JOHN – SSFL – ACYH	2026-27	NO CHANGE IN SALARY
	\$\$	ERIN HEDGES – ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ASSISTANT – BOE	03/17/26	41,600.00 - INCREASE IN HOURS
<b>RESIGNATIONS</b>				
		CHEYENNE RIGG – PARA – LINCOLN-DOUGLAS	01/29/26	
		KEVIN BROWN – SECURITY GUARD – QAVTC	03/04/26	
		MICHAEL TIMMONS – SECURITY GUARD – QJHS	02/27/26	
		ELIZABETH KOCH – PARA – QHS	02/19/26	
<b>LEAVE OF ABSENCE</b>				
		SABRINA THOMAS – TRANSPORTATION		01/12/26 – 02/23/26
		JOHANNA SHAW – DRIVER – TRANSPORTATION	UPDATE	10/20/25 – 02/18/26 EXTENDED
		TERRY SCHWARTZ – TRANSPORTATION		01/14/26 – 02/25/26
		GERALD PERKINS – TRANSPORTATION		02/01/26 – 03/16/26
		VICKEY HAXEL – PARA – ILES	UPDATE	08/11/25 – 04/02/26 EXTENDED
		MICHAEL FLOWERREE – TRANSPORTATION		02/17/25 – 03/03/26
		KRISTIN STINNETT – ADM. ASST – SPECIAL ED	UPDATE	01/26/26 – 02/09/26 (USED 9.5 DAYS)
		ANGELA RAINES-CALDWELL – COMM. SCHOOL COORD. – QHS		01/27/26 – 04/01/26
		JOHANNA SHAW – DRIVER – TRANSPORTATION	UPDATE	10/20/25 – 03/02/26 EXTENDED
		KAITLIN SMITH – PARA - ECFC		03/12/26 – END OF THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR
		LAUREN KLINGELE – FLOAT NURSE – DISTRICT		04/01/26 – 05/13/26
<b>RETIREMENTS</b>				
		THERESA EDWARDS – PARA – ECFC	END OF 2026-27 SCH. YEAR	REQUESTING RETIREMENT INCENTIVE-APPROVED
		KIMBERLY WERT - ADM. ASST. TO SUPT./BOARD SECRETARY-BOE	06/30/27	REQUESTING RETIREMENT INCENTIVE-APPROVED
		PENNY LITTLE – HR MANAGER/QHS & QJHS HEAD CHEER COACH - BOE	06/30/27	REQUESTING RETIREMENT INCENTIVE-APPROVED
		VICKI RIDDER – SECRETARY – DENMAN	END OF 2025-26 SCH. YEAR	
		TRACI CALVIN – PARA – QHS	02/27/26	

**Adjournment**

*At 8:17 p.m., it was moved by Member Arns that the regular meeting adjourn. The motion carried with all in favor and the regular meeting was duly adjourned.*

/s/ Shelley Arns  
President

/s/ Kim Wert  
Secretary