

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 172
ADAMS COUNTY, ILLINOIS
HELD ON JULY 23, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.**

Meeting Convened

The Board of Education of School District No. 172, Adams County, Illinois, met in regular session on July 23, 2025, 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, Davis, Dodd, Petty, and Whitfield; and the following members were absent: Member Brock and Member Sethaler. 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.

Arrival of Member Brock

Member Brock arrived at 6:02 p.m., which was duly noted by the board secretary.

Questions and Comments

President Arns opened the meeting to questions and comments to members of the Board, by members of the public and employees of the district, in compliance with state statutes.

Katie Myers (Parent of Denman Student)

Raised concerns about the district's response to alleged incidents involving Kim Kirby and Jennifer Oitker. Asserted that the administration prioritized self-preservation over student safety, failed to notify parents, and did not place staff on administrative leave during an active DCFS investigation. Claimed multiple students had their mouths taped and incidents of spanking continued after DCFS involvement. Also reported concerns about student images posted publicly on staff social media.

Adele (on behalf of Sarah Goodapple, Parent of Denman Student)

Read a written statement from Sarah Goodapple, whose daughter was reportedly among those whose mouths were taped shut. Emphasized the importance of bodily autonomy and professional boundaries. Criticized the staff's behavior and the administration's response, calling for the removal of the staff involved or her child's withdrawal from QPS.

Laura Shaw (Parent)

Expressed disappointment with the investigation's outcome, noting that many students assumed spanking was "normal." Cited QPS employee-student boundary policies and asserted the educators' behavior was a violation of professional expectations. Requested further investigation into staff social media posts involving student photos and installation of security cameras in unmonitored school areas.

Sharadan Parks (Parent and Former QPS Employee)

Described two specific incidents involving her children witnessing birthday spankings and having tape placed on their mouths. Shared that her daughter later disclosed routine spanking by a teacher throughout the school year. Urged the Board to act on repeated and ongoing concerns.

Susan Trusley (on behalf of an Anonymous Denman Parent)

Read a statement from a parent who did not feel safe speaking publicly. Expressed concern over a culture of silence and lack of accountability. Emphasized the emotional harm to students and questioned whether district leadership was fulfilling its duty to protect children.

Crissie Duran (Longtime QPS Volunteer and PTA/PTO Member)

Detailed several inappropriate incidents reportedly witnessed or disclosed by students, including birthday spankings, favoritism with classroom gifts, and the taping of students' mouths. Criticized the internal investigation process and the district's public messaging, urging the Board to stand with families and staff who have spoken out.

Steve Homan (Community Member)

Defended the teachers in question, citing the DCFS investigation which found no evidence of abuse. Warned against the harm of spreading unverified allegations and emphasized the importance of due process and trust in official investigations.

Brooke Wells (Parent of Denman Student)

Stated that her six-year-old daughter was restrained and had her mouth taped after the DCFS case was reportedly closed. Condemned the district's dismissal of her daughter's account as "non-credible." Emphasized the psychological harm to children who are not believed and warned of the precedent being set by the district's actions.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Treasurer's Report*
- b. Minutes –June 25, 2025*
- c. Check Register and JH/SH Activity Fund Reports*
- d. Acknowledge receipt of the Freedom of Information Log: June 21 through July 18, 2025 (Information Only)*

On the call of the roll, the following members were present and answered to their names: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Petty, and Whitfield; and the following member was absent: Member Sethaler. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Reports of the Superintendent

The Super's 8 Highlights

1. Registration for the 2025–2026 school year is now available online. Each school will also offer in-person registration help on designated days. Visit QPS.org for complete information.
2. Kindergarten classes will begin with a staggered start this year. This helps young students adjust in smaller groups. Each school will share their schedules with parents prior to the start of school.
3. Interested in becoming a substitute teacher? The ROE will hold monthly online trainings for short-term licenses. Visit ROE1.NET to register.
4. QHS freshmen and new students parent night will be held on August 6 at 6pm and parents can meet the teachers on August 27 from 6-8pm.
5. Early Childhood & Family Center staff attended the national Frog Street Conference. They gained new ideas and skills to better support our youngest learners.
6. Back-to-School Fairs will be held at Iles Elementary on August 2 and at the Quincy Neighborhood Federation on August 5. Both events will offer immunizations, clothing, school supplies, and more.
7. Lincoln-Douglas 5th graders selected as house leaders got a big surprise. They received personalized yard signs to celebrate their new role.
8. Shout Out to Maintenance Staff —A sincere thank you to Allan Schrand and Scott Watkins for the tremendous effort and hard work they dedicated to clearing out the backroom and the technology areas at the Board Office. Your commitment and heavy lifting are truly appreciated, and the results speak volumes.

Building Committee

The Building Committee did not meet in July.

District Improvement Committee

The District Improvement Committee did not meet in July.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee reviewed the Fall 2025 Food and Non-Food Bids. Mr. Whicker explained that the district was 100% through the fiscal year, and that the Education Fund expenditures to date were 92.31% of the budgeted amount through June 2025. He noted that all funds ended the year below budget.

Discipline Committee

The Discipline Committee did not meet in July.

Policy Committee

Chairperson Whitfield reported that the Policy Committee reviewed the revisions from IASB PRESS Service from June 2025. The following policies were laid on the table to be approved at the August Board meeting.

1:10	School District Legal Status
1:20	District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements
2:80	Board Member Oath and Conduct
2:130	Board-Superintendent Relationship
7:40	Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students

7:90	Release During School Hours
7:130	Student Rights and Responsibilities
7:140	Search and Seizure
7:300	Extracurricular Athletics
7:325	Student Fundraising Activities
8:80	Gifts to the District

2025-2026 Milk Bid

It was moved by Member Arns and seconded by Member Davis to approve the bid for milk from Prairie Farms at a low escalator cost of \$322,910.00. (Doc. Reg. No. 3966). On the call of the roll, the following members were present and answered to their names: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Petty, and Whitfield; and the following member was absent: Member Sethaler. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

2025-2026 Bread Bid

It was moved by Member Davis and seconded by Member Arns to approve the bid for bread from Kohl Wholesale at a cost of \$50,843.50 (Doc. Reg. No. 3966). On the call of the roll, the following members were present and answered to their names: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Petty, and Whitfield; and the following member was absent: Member Sethaler. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

2025-2026 Produce Bid

It was moved by Member Petty and seconded by Member Dodd to approve the bid for produce to Kohl Wholesale at a cost of \$70,969.84 (Doc. Reg. No. 3966). On the call of the roll, the following members were present and answered to their names: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Petty, and Whitfield; and the following member was absent: Member Sethaler. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

2025-2026 Food/Non-Food Items Bid

It was moved by Member Brock and seconded by Member Petty to approve the lowest bids for food/non-food items from Kohl Wholesale at a cost of \$905,262.30 (Doc. Reg. No. 3966). On the call of the roll, the following members were present and answered to their names: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Petty, and Whitfield; and the following member was absent: Member Sethaler. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Real Property Tax Assessment Settlement Agreement with KIN, Inc.

It was moved by Member Davis and seconded by Member Arns to approve the Real Property Tax Assessment Settlement Agreement with KIN, Inc. (Doc. Reg. No. 3967). On the call of the roll, the following members were present and answered to their names: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Petty, and Whitfield; and the following member was absent: Member Sethaler. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Real Property Tax Assessment Settlement Agreement with Menard, Inc.

It was moved by Member Petty and seconded by Member Brock to approve the Real Property Tax Assessment Settlement Agreement with Menard, Inc. (Doc. Reg. No.3968). On the call of the roll, the following members were present and answered to their names: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Petty, and Whitfield; and the following member was absent: Member Sethaler. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Real Property Tax Assessment Settlement Agreement with Home Depot #1915

It was moved by Member Arns and seconded by Member Davis to approve the Real Property Tax Assessment Settlement Agreement with Home Depot #1915 (Doc. Reg. No. 3969). On the call of the roll, the following members were present and answered to their names: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Petty, and Whitfield; and the following member was absent: Member Sethaler. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Resolutions on Tentative 2025-2026 QAVTC, West Central Regional and Special Education Association Budgets

It was moved by Member Dodd and seconded by Member Arns to approve the Resolutions on Presentation of Tentative 2025-2026 Quincy Area Vocational Technical Center , West Central Regional and Special Education Budgets and set hearing date as August 20, 2025 (Doc. Reg. No. 3970). On the call of the roll, the following members were present and answered to their names: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Petty, and Whitfield; and the following member was absent: Member Sethaler. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Charge for Community Engagement

Superintendent Pettit shared that the Charge for Community Engagement is designed to support gathering and understanding the community's educational values, priorities, and expectations. This process will help build a broad-based consensus on district goals and establish consistent, representative information to guide decision-making. Upon completion, the initiative aims to produce a long-range vision for Quincy Public Schools, outline steps for implementation, and foster ongoing collaboration between the district and the community.

It was moved by Member Davis and seconded by Member Whitfield to approve the Charge for Community Engagement (Doc. Reg. No. 3971). On the call of the roll, the following members were present and answered to their names: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Petty, and Whitfield; and the following member was absent: Member Sethaler. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

IBEW Local 34 Contract July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027

It was moved by Member Dodd and seconded by Member Whitfield to approve the IBEW Local 34 Contract for July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027 as presented (Doc. Reg. No. 3972). On the call of the roll, the following members were present and answered to their names: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Petty, and Whitfield; and the following member was absent: Member Sethaler. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Executive Session

At 6:53 p.m., it was moved by Member Arns and seconded by Member Petty 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; b) collective negotiating matters between the School District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; i) pending, probable, or imminent litigation; j) attorney/client privilege or other matters appropriate for a closed meeting pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. On the call of the roll, the following members were present and answered to their names: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Petty, and Whitfield; and the following member was absent: Member Sethaler. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Resumption of Rules

It was moved by Member Petty and seconded by Member Arns to resume the conduct of the regular meeting under rules. On the call of the roll, the following members were present and answered to their names: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Petty, and Whitfield; and the following member was absent: Member Sethaler. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Personnel Addendum

It was moved by Member Brock and seconded by Member Davis to approve the Revised Personnel Addendum As Amended. On the call of the roll, the following members were present and answered to their names: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Petty, and Whitfield; and the following member was absent: Member Sethaler. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

*REVISED PERSONNEL ADDENDUM **AS AMENDED QUINCY BOARD OF EDUCATION JULY 23, 2025				PERSONNEL CODES \$\$ - 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
CERTIFIED				
APPOINTMENT				
1	\$	BRIAN MCINTYRE - STUDENT COUNCIL CO-SPONSOR – QHS	25-26 SCH YR	DISTRICT PAID – 12.14%, STEP 0, \$4,286.51 STIPEND
2	R	ALISON TALCOTT– MUSIC - ROONEY	25-26 SCH YR	SALARY TBD
3	R	HILLARY MARKS – 2 ND GRADE - ROONEY	25-26 SCH YR	SALARY TBD
4	R	GRACE BEELER – SPEECH & LANGUAGE PATH - QJHS	25-26 SCH YR	SALARY TBD
5	R	MELISSA CUNNINGHAM – 4 TH GRADE - ROONEY	25-26 SCH YR	SALARY TBD
*6	R	JORDAN RAGAR – CBE- 5 TH GRADE SPED CO-TEACHER - ROONEY	25-26 SCH YR	SALARY TBD
RESIGNATIONS				
7		AMY SLOUGH – 4 TH GRADE TEACHER – ROONEY	06/20/2025	
8		AMANDA GRIESBAUM – ELA TEACHER – QJHS	06/23/2025	
9		ABBY BOLT – PE TEACHER – QJHS	07/31/2025	
LEAVE OF ABSENCE				
10		SARAH MILLER – TEACHER – ROONEY		08/11/2025 – 11/11/2025
11		HEATHER MASTON– TEACHER - QJHS		08/11/2025 – 09/22/2025
RETIREMENTS				
12		SHEILA BENZ – NURSE - DENMAN	07/01/2026	REQUESTING MOU1 (UPDATED DATE)/APPROVED
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT				

CLASSIFIED				
APPOINTMENT				
13	R	BLAKE CRABTREE - MECHANIC - TRANSPORTATION	06/26/2025	260 DAYS, \$21.75/HR
14	C/R	ELIZABETH SEALS - HEAD 8TH GRADE BASKETBALL COACH (GIRLS) – QJHS	25-26 SCH YR	DISTRICT PAID – 8.81%, STEP 4, \$3,251.95 STIPEND
15	C/R	JUSTIN TRAMMEL – DAY CUSTODIAN - QJHS	7/11/2025	260 DAY, NO CHANGE IN SALARY
16	C/R	SARA NYTES – CAFETERIA COORDINATOR – LINCOLN DOUGLAS	8/12/2025	NO CHANGE IN SALARY
17	R	KELLEY LAWSON - JV BASKETBALL COACH (GIRLS) – QHS	25-26 SCH YR	DISTRICT PAID – 14.01%, STEP 0, \$4,946.79 STIPEND
18	R	MASON SWISHER - ASST. VARSITY FOOTBALL COACH – QHS	25-26 SCH YR	DISTRICT PAID – 10.10%, STEP 0, \$3,566.21 STIPEND
19	R	MAKAYLA MCGHEE – CERTIFIED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT - DISTRICT	25-26 SCH YR	SALARY TBD
20	R	RITA CARPER – SECRETARY - QJHS	25-26 SCH YR	193 DAYS, SALARY TBD
21	R	LORI BUCKMAN – KITCHEN HELPER	25-26 SCH YR	173 DAYS, 2.75 HRS/DAY, SALARY TBD
*22	\$	AMBER BORDEWICK – ATHLETIC SECRETARY - QJHS	25-26 SCH YR	203 DAYS, PART TIME, 19.5 HRS/WEEK
23	R	ANDREA FISCHER – PARA - QJHS	25-26 SCH YR	SALARY TBD
24	R	GENAVIEVE ZENGEL – PARA - BALDWIN	25-26 SCH YR	SALARY TBD
25	R	JUDITH MEYERS – CROSSING GUARD	25-26 SCH YR	HOURLY TBD
26	R	BRENDA SHIRES – KITCHEN HELPER - QJHS	25-26 SCH YR	HOURLY TBD
27	R	TIFFANY KYER – PARA - QJHS	25-26 SCH YR	NO LONGER STARTING, RESIGNED 7/16/2025
RESIGNATIONS				
28		CHEYENNE GRISSOM – BASKETBALL COACH (GIRLS) - QHS AND QJHS	06/27/2025	
29		BROOKE NIEKAMP – ATTENDANCE SECRETARY – QJHS	07/01/2025	
30		ABBY BOLT – ASST. CROSS COUNTRY COACH– QJHS	07/31/2025	
31		HAILEY ALVIS – ASST. VOLLEYBALL COACH – QHS	07/14/2025	
32		KENNETH DAVIS – SECURITY GUARD – DENMAN	07/16/2025	
LEAVE OF ABSENCE				
33		ROGER EDWARDS – TRANSPORTATION	UPDATE	04/26/2025 – 06/04/2025
34		JESSICA BRIDAL – SSFL – QJHS		INTERMITTENT, 25-26 SCH YR
35		HALEY BROWN – SSFL – ROONEY		08/11/2025 – 09/22/2025
36		TERESA KLINGELE – CUSTODIAN – BOE	UPDATE	08/25/2025 – 11/14/2025
RETIREMENTS				
37		CHARLES WATKINS – CUSTODIAN – DENMAN	09/01/2026	REQUESTING RETIREMENT INCENTIVE/APPROVED
**38		CYNTHIA CARTER – PARA – ECFC	06/25/2025	
**39		JOHANNA SHAW – BUS DRIVER – TRANSPORTATION	END OF 25-26 SCH YR	REQUESTING RETIREMENT INCENTIVE/APPROVED
**40		TAMMY DAVIS – PARA – ECFC	06/30/2026	REQUESTING RETIREMENT INCENTIVE/APPROVED

Adjournment

At 7:52 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