MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 172
ADAMS COUNTY, ILLINOIS
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

Meeting Convened

The Board of Education of School District No. 172, Adams County, Illinois, met in regular session on September 30, 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, Petty, Sethaler, and Whitfield; and the following members were absent: None. 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.

Open Public Hearing

President Arns opened the public hearing on the 2026-2027 Quincy School District Budget. There were no comments on the budget at this time, but the hearing remained open for comments until closed later in the meeting.

Questions and Comments

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

Retha McColez (QPS grandparent, taxpayer, and rural resident)
Ms. McColez encouraged the Board to explore rooftop solar installations on school buildings, such as Lincoln-Douglas Elementary, as an alternative to commercial solar farms on agricultural land. She stated that a power purchase agreement could provide solar energy with no upfront cost to the district, reduce utility expenses, help protect taxpayers from rising costs, and preserve local farmland. She also urged the Board to take advantage of a free energy assessment available through Ameren and Illinois state programs.

Karla Hildebrand (QHS parent)
Ms. Hildebrand expressed support for the proposed one-cent referendum but emphasized that the district's challenges extend beyond funding. She described ongoing concerns with administrative failures, including

alleged noncompliance with her daughter's IEP, lack of communication with staff, and incidents that negatively impacted her daughter's well-being, arguing that the district must address systemic issues and rebuild trust with teachers, parents, and the community.

Lindsey Ertl and Heidi Lanier (QPS Foundation)
Lindsey and Heidi provided an overview of the Foundation's work supporting Quincy Public Schools through grants, fundraising, and community engagement. They highlighted the current grant cycle, which funds innovative projects and resources for staff and students, including robotics programs, art tables, music instruments, garden projects, and support for district initiatives that might not otherwise be funded through state resources. They also shared information about the Foundation's ongoing annual campaign and upcoming Dream Big Gala, which will recognize distinguished alumni and educator Ben Dombrowski for his positive impact on students and the district.

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 August 2026***
b. ***Minutes – August 26, 2026***
c. ***Check Register and JH/SH Activity Fund Reports***
d. ***Acknowledge receipt of the Freedom of Information Log: August 22, 2026 – September 25, 2026 (Information Only)***

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

Report of the Superintendent/Staff

Superintendent Gray shared an update on district activities and events for September. ECFC students celebrated Constitution Day by creating classroom constitutions focused on positive behavior and responsibility. At the Academy, Mr. Vahlkamp was awarded the Optimist Club's September Operation Innovation Grant, which funded the purchase of tool bags for student project work. Rooney Elementary hosted its annual Donuts with Grownups event to encourage family engagement. Junior High students resumed participation in the Comet Tutoring peer-to-peer academic support program. Dr. Gray also shared that the district will host a community informational session regarding the upcoming ballot initiative on October 6 at the Quincy Family YMCA.

Building and Grounds Committee

Committee Member Dodd reported that the committee received updates on several ongoing projects. The Quincy Senior High School electrical upgrade is progressing, with all four transformers installed and final tie-over work planned during a school break to minimize disruptions. Updates were also provided on the ECFC roof and HVAC project, with roof work completed and additional HVAC improvements continuing. Mr. Dodd commended Building and Grounds staff, custodial teams, grounds crews, and contractors for resolving a significant electrical issue at Flinn Stadium before Homecoming and for addressing HVAC challenges during a period of extreme heat.

Approve QHS HVAC Bid – Building B

It was recommended by the Building and Grounds Committee and moved by Member Dodd to approve the QHS HVAC Bid for Building B to Peter's Heating and Air Conditioning for the amount of $5,217,300.00 (Doc. Reg. No. 4056). On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Petty, Sethaler, and Whitfield; and the following members voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: None. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

District Improvement Committee

The District Improvement Committee did not meet in September.

Finance Committee

Ryan Whicker, Chief of Business Operations, reported that there are no material changes to the budget since last month. The district continues to project a surplus in its operating funds, driven in part by higher revenue estimates and current staff vacancies. He noted that filling all open positions at base salary and minimum benefits would cost approximately $3 million and would eliminate the projected surplus. Mr. Whicker also updated the committee on the annual audit. Auditors recently completed their on-site work, and the district expects the audit results to be presented to the Finance Committee in November or December, pending state reporting requirements. He also noted that the district is subject to multiple layers of financial oversight, including reviews by auditors, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Regional Office of Education, and various grant agencies.

Discipline Committee

The Discipline Committee did not meet in September.

Policy Committee

It was recommended by the Policy Committee and moved by Member Whitfield to remove from the table and adopt the following June 2026 PRESS Policy revisions:

2:230	Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board
5:40	Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease
5:70	Religious Holidays
5:240	Suspension
6:70	Teaching About Religions
6:80	Teaching About Controversial Issues
6:190	Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities
7:30	Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer
7:130	Student Rights and Responsibilities
7:330	Student Use of Buildings – Equal Access
8:70	Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities

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

Close Public Hearing

President Arns asked if there were any questions regarding the 2026-2027 Quincy District Budget prior to closing the hearing. There were none. President Arns closed the public hearing at 6:22 p.m.

Approve 2026-2027 Quincy School District Budget

It was recommended by Finance Committee and moved by Member Arns to approve the 2026-2027 Quincy School District Budget (Doc. Reg. No. 4057). On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Petty, Sethaler, and Whitfield; and the following members voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: None. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Executive Session

At 6:25 p.m., it was moved by Member Arns and seconded by Member Dodd 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; h) the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students; i) pending, probable, or imminent litigation; and j) attorney/client privilege. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Petty, Sethaler, and Whitfield; and the following members voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: None. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Resumption of Rules

It was moved by Member Brock and seconded by Member Whitfield 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, Petty, Sethaler, and Whitfield; and the following members voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: None. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Student Discipline

It was moved by Member Whitfield and seconded by Member Dodd to adopt the recommendation made in executive session for pre-expulsion agreements for two students from QJHS. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Arns, Brock, Davis, Dodd, Petty, Sethaler, and Whitfield; and the following members voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: None. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Personnel Addendum

It was moved by Member Davis 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, Petty, Sethaler, and Whitfield; and the following members voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: None. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

PERSONNEL ADDENDUM

Quincy Board of Education

SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

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

RP - Replacement for Project Fund position

CERTIFIED

APPOINTMENT				
1	C/R	JULIE PETER – CERTIFIED 1:1 FLOAT NURSE – DISTRICT	08/24/2026	181 DAY, BA, STEP 19, $49,928.18 (173 DAYS)
2	R	AVERY KECK - CERTIFIED TEACHER	27-28 SCH YR	POSITION TBD, SALARY TBD
3	R	ROYAL BUGH – PT CASE MANAGER – QHS	09/09/2026	TIMESHEET, 19.5 HRS/WK, $30/HR
RESIGNATIONS				
4		ADDIE FORD - PREK TEACHER – ECFC	10/07/2026	
LEAVE OF ABSENCE				
5		MATT SAFLEY – TEACHER – ROONEY		09/22/2026 – 09/28/2026
6		LOGAN BRUNENN – TEACHER – QAVTC	UPDATE	08/17/2026 – 08/21/2026 (USED 7 DAYS)
7		TONI SMITH – TEACHER – QJHS	UPDATE	RETURNED 10/27/2025 WITH RESTRICTIONS, TO CONTINUE THROUGH RETIREMENT DATE
8		ERIC NICHOLSON – TEACHER – QHS		09/01/2026 – 09/15/2026
9		CLARE SMITH – TEACHER – QJHS	UPDATE	INTERMITTENT, 01/23/2026 – END OF 25-26 SCH YR (USED 8 DAYS)
10		ALEXA REID – SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEADER – ECFC	UPDATE	03/09/2026 – 06/01/2026
11		AUTUMN THOMPSON - PSYCHOLOGIST – QJHS	UPDATE	04/20/2026 – 06/01/2026
12		TAYLOR STARNES – TEACHER - BALDWIN	UPDATE	04/27/2026 – 08/08/2026
13		PAIGE OWSLEY – COUNSELOR – QHS		09/22/2026 – 12/22/2026
14		MAISHA WADE – TEACHER - QHS	UPDATE	08/12/2026 – 09/08/2026, HALF DAYS ONLY. FULL RELEASE NO RESTRICTIONS ON 9/17/26
15		CASSANDRA KOCH – TEACHER – LINCOLN-DOUGLAS	UPDATE	08/12/2026 – 09/14/2026
16		ERIC NICHOLSON – TEACHER – QHS	UPDATE	09/01/2026 – 09/28/2026
17		TAWNYA SPARROW – TEACHER – LINCON-DOUGLAS	UPDATE	08/13/2026 – 09/24/2026
18		KATE SANDERS - TEACHER – QHS		09/08/2026 – 12/08/2026
19		BRITTANY BLEICHNER – TEACHER – DENMAN	UPDATE	06/25/2026 – 09/21/2026
RETIREMENT				
20		KATE SANDERS - HEARING IMPAIRED TEACHER – QHS	END OF 26-27 SCH YR	
21		STACEY METTEMEYER – READING RECOVERY TEACHER – BALDWIN	END OF 26-27 SCH YR	
22		TONI SMITH – PE TEACHER – QJHS	12/18/2026	
23		DAVE BELLIS – TEACHER – QAVTC	09/29/2026	
24		TARA STUTHEIT – TEACHER – ILES	END OF 26-27 SCH YR	
TENURE				
25		KRISTY STEGEMAN-ILES		
OTHER ACTION				
26		CRAIG LOERTSCHER – SOCIAL WORKER – LINCOLN-DOUGLAS		SUSPENSION WITH PAY PENDING INVESTIGATION, EFFECTIVE 09/04/2026
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT				
CLASSIFIED				
APPOINTMENT				
27	R	JENNIFER BAKER – PARA, QHS	08/12/2026	181 DAY, LEVEL A, STEP 0, $16.45/HR
28	R	ANGELA BARNARD – PARA, QHS	08/12/2026	181 DAY, LEVEL C, STEP 0, $17.40/HR
29	R	MORGAN PETTYJOHN – PARA, ECFC	08/12/2026	181 DAY, LEVEL C, STEP 0, $17.40/HR
30	R	NICHOLAS LANTZ – SSFL, BALDWIN	08/12/2026	181 DAY, LEVEL A, STEP 0, $27.75/HR
31	R	ASHLEY VENVERTLOH – CLASSIFIED FLOAT/1:1 NURSE, QHS	08/12/2026	181 DAY, ASSOCIATES, STEP 14, $39,863.00
32	R	KIMBERLY REQUET – CLASSIFIED NURSE, QHS	08/12/2026	181 DAY, BA, STEP 13, $44,513.00
33	R	STACEY HUDNALL – PARA, ROONEY	08/12/2026	181 DAY, LEVEL A, STEP 0, $16.45/HR
34	R	LINDSAY KINARD – PARA, DENMAN	08/12/2026	181 DAY, LEVEL C, STEP 4, $17.84/HR
35	R	MAKENNA LOHMEYER – PARA, ECFC	08/12/2026	181 DAY, LEVEL C, STEP 0, $17.40/HR
36	C/R	RITA CARPER – BOOKKEEPER/SECRETARY – QJHS	09/08/2026	193 DAY, NO CHANGE IN SALARY
37	R	WILLIAM PRIDEMORE – SECURITY GUARD – BALDWIN	08/24/2026	181 DAY, STEP 0, $16.70/HR
38	R	BROCK FRERICKS - MID-DAY CUSTODIAN - DENMAN	08/24/2026	260 DAY, STEP 0, $16.25/HR
39	C/R	BROCK FRERICKS – K-5 NIGHT CUSTODIAN – LINCOLN-DOUGLAS	09/08/2026	NO CHANGE IN SALARY
40	R	BRIANNA STEINKOENIG -NIGHT CUSTODIAN – DENMAN	08/24/2026	260 DAY, STEP 0, $28,860.00 (222 DAYS)
41	R	TRINITY SHAW - CAFETERIA COOK - QHS	08/31/2026	173 DAY, STEP 0, 5 HRS/DAY, $16.25/HR

42	C/R	TRINITY SHAW – CAFETERIA COOK– QHS	09/15/2026	173 DAY, STEP 0, 6 HRS/DAY, $16.25/HR
43	C/R	AMY MUELLER – DRIVER	08/28/2026	177 DAY, STEP 5, 5 HRS/DAY, $21.67/HR
44	R	DAVE RIES - DAY CUSTODIAN - QJHS	09/08/2026	260 DAY, STEP 0, $27,430.00 (211 DAYS)
45	R	HEATH HENDERSON – DRIVER	09/08/2026	166 DAY, STEP 1, ECFC SEIU, 5 HRS/DAY, $21.00/HR
46	R	SAM LATHROP – DRIVER	09/04/2026	176 DAY, STEP 2, 2.5 HRS/DAY, $21.42/HR
47	R	MIKAYLA PATTERSON- CAFETERIA COOK – DENMAN	09/14/2026	
48	C/R	KORTNEY MACDONOUGH - AFTER SCHOOL CHILDCARE ASST. – DENMAN	09/08/2026	177 DAY, TIMESHEET, 2 HRS/DAY, $18/HR
49	C/R	MACKENZIE CARTER – BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE SUPERVISOR - DENMAN	09/08/2026	177 DAY, TIMESHEET, UP TO 17.5 HRS/WK, $20/HR
50	R	REBECCA ESON- PARA - QJHS	09/16/2026	181 DAY, LEVEL A, STEP 0, $16.45/HR (NO LONGER STARTING)
51	O	ZACHARY DREBES - ASST. VOLUNTEER FOOTBALL COACH – QJHS	09/16/2026	VOLUNTEER COACH
52	O	TIMOTHY CLINGINGSMITH - ASST. VOLUNTEER 7TH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL COACH – QJHS	09/16/2026	VOLUNTEER COACH
53	C/R	TED REES – MID-DAY CUSTODIAN – DENMAN	09/23/2026	NO CHANGE IN SALARY
54	C/R	CARLY GUTHRIE - KITCHEN HELPER - DENMAN	09/28/2026	TIMESHEET, 2.75 HRS/DAY, $16.25/HR
55	C/R	JUDITH STEINKAMP – RIDER	09/28/2026	176 DAY, STEP 2, 5 HRS/DAY, $16.58/HR
56	R	JOHN ARCHIBALD – ECFC RIDER	09/28/2026	166 DAY, SEIU, STEP 0, 5 HRS/DAY, $16.25/HR
57	R	NICOLE SPARROW – SECRETARY – THE ACADEMY	09/28/2026	193 DAY, STEP 1, 8 HRS/DAY, $18.55/HR
58	R	GRACIE STAPP - PARA – ROONEY	09/28/2026	181 DAY, LEVEL A, STEP 0, $16.45/HR
59	R	HARLEY CAIN- PARA – ECFC	09/28/2026	181 DAY, LEVEL A, STEP 0, $16.45/HR
60	O	ERIK DOLIESLAGER - ASST. VOLUNTEER FOOTBALL COACH – QJHS	09/19/2026	VOLUNTEER COACH
61	O	JOSEPH WIEWEL - ASST. VOLUNTEER FOOTBALL COACH – QJHS	09/16/2026	VOLUNTEER COACH
RESIGNATIONS				
62		BRIAN LEWTON – QJHS 7TH GR. BOYS BASKETBALL COACH AND QJHS HEAD TRACK AND FIELD COACH	08/19/2026	
63		H. RAY WILSON – TRANSPORTATION	08/13/2026	
64		HEATHER STARR – BOOKKEEPER – QJHS	09/01/2026	UPDATED DATE
65		PEGGY WILSON- COOK, LINCOLN DOUGLAS	09/04/2026	
66		TORIE ELLIS- ISS, QJHS	09/08/2026	
67		KATHY UPPINGHOUSE- CAFETERIA COORDINATOR – DENMAN	08/27/2026	
68		AMY HARMS- KITCHEN HELPER, DENMAN	08/28/2026	
69		JAMES VALENTINE – DRIVER - TRANSPORTATION	08/31/2026	
70		MIKE HOWERTON – SECURITY GUARD (181) – QHS	09/25/2026	
71		RYANN (ZIMMERMAN) JANSEN -FAMILY & COMMUNITY COORD. – QJHS	09/18/2026	
72		KORTNEY MACDONOUGH- CHILDCARE SUPERVISOR – DENMAN	09/04/2026	
73		BRIAN ROWATT – ASST. TRACK & FIELD COACH – QJHS	09/08/2026	
74		VICKIE VANHOVE – RIDER- TRANSPORTATION	09/25/2026	
75		BRIAN HOLZGRAFE – VOLUNTEER TENNIS COACH	09/15/2026	
76		GIANNA MAGGIO - ATTENDANCE SECRETARY – QJHS	09/30/2026	
77		REBECCA ESON- PARA - QJHS	09/16/2026	NO LONGER STARTING
78		EMLEA MOWEN - SSFL – ILES	10/16/2026	
79		CARSON NEALLY - ASST. WRESTLING COACH – QJHS	09/15/2026	
LEAVE OF ABSENCE				
80		JAMES REILLY – MAINTENANCE		08/11/2026 – 08/28/2026 (USED 14 DAYS)
81		TERESA REILLY – PARA – LINCOLN-DOUGLAS		08/20/2026 – 08/28/2026 (USED 7 DAYS)
82		STACY ACHILLES – SECURITY GUARD - QHS		09/03/2026 – 11/25/2026
83		AMANDA LIESEN-MILLER – ISS SUPERVISOR – ILES		09/13/2026 – 11/27/2026
84		KORTNEY MACDONOUGH – PARA – DENMAN	UPDATE	08/24/2026 – 09/01/2026 WITH RESTRICTIONS
85		APRIL SIBBING – NURSE – ECFC	UPDATE	INTERMITTENT, 01/21/2026 – END OF 25-26 SCH YR (USED 2.5 DAYS)

86		JESSICA BRIDAL – SSFL – QJHS	UPDATE	INTERMITTENT, 25-26 SCH YR, (USED 27 DAYS)
87		KENDRA HARBIN – NURSE – QJHS	UPDATE	04/07/2026 – 08/14/2026
88		JANA ALLEN – FOOD SERVICE – ECFC	UPDATE	08/14/2026 – 09/04/2026 (USED 16 DAYS)
89		KAITLIN SMITH – PARA - ECFC		03/12/2026 – 08/12/2026
90		DON BYRD – SECURITY – BALDWIN	UPDATE	INTERMITTENT, 06/01/2025 – END OF 25-26 SCH YR (USED 9 DAYS)
91		MIKE PETTIT – TRANSPORTATION		09/14/2026 – 10/26/2026
92		JANET ALLEN – PARA – ECFC		08/31/2026 – 11/23/2026
RETIREMENT				
93		TERESA (TERRY) SPENCER – CAFETERIA COORDINATOR – QJHS	12/18/2026	REQUESTING RETIREMENT INCENTIVE-DENIED (RETIREMENT DATE APPROVED 11/19/25)

Adjournment

At 7:55 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