

ASTORIA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES

These minutes are unofficial until approved by the board.

Wednesday, November 19th, 2025

The Truther in Taxation Hearing was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the District library.

Members present: Cameron, Easley, France, Musson, Prather, Skiles, Stevens

Members absent: none

Administrators present: Supt/HS Principal Dr. Tori Lindeman
JH/Elementary Principal Dave Crouse
Assistant Principal Casey Welscher
Secretary Ashley Davis

Community members present: Courtney Wherley, Wes Carithers, Mandy Friedrich, Monica Stutsman, Tessa Eggleton, Curtis Dean, Lacey Welch and Gracie Welch

Dr. Lindeman presented to the Board and audience the levy and taxation information. Although there will be some changes to the levy in specific funds, the overall levy when bond funding is identified drops a very small percentage.

The hearing ended at 6:45 p.m.

The regular board meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. in the District Library.

Members present: Cameron, Easley, France, Musson, Prather, Skiles, Stevens

Members absent: none

Administrators present: Supt/HS Principal Dr. Tori Lindeman
JH/Elementary Principal Dave Crouse
Assistant Principal Casey Welscher
Secretary Ashley Davis

Community members present: Courtney Wherley, Wes Carithers, Mandy Friedrich, Monica Stutsman, Tessa Eggleton, Curtis Dean, Lacey Welch and Gracie Welch

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Skiles, to approve the consent agenda items (minutes of the previous meeting held in October and November, bills and payroll as presented, destruction of all audio recordings and minutes of closed session meetings prior to 2/28/2024-Board Policy 2:220) except for the treasurer's report Easley, France, Musson, Prather, Skiles, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Gracie Welch, daughter of Jake and Lacey Welch, was recognized as the High School Student of the Month. Gracie talked about the activities she has been involved in and her future plans.

The FFA President Gracie Welch thanked the board for allowing them to attend the National Convention. She updated the board on the details and fun the group had.

Sponsor of FFA and Ag teacher, Wes Carithers also updated the Board on all the activities that have been recently completed. The students planted trees on the square, repaired/rebuilt the Santa house and helped set up the square for the memory trees.

We received two FOIA from CT Mills; Public Access LLC and Justin Wenig. The requested information has been submitted.

Old Business:

The High School Gym Advertising spots have both been purchased. Proceeds from this are going to the schools Backpack program. Purchasers are Bridges Family Farms and Country Company's Steve Butler.

A new \$500,000 CD investment with IPAVA STATE BANK has been completed.

New Business:

Motion by Prather, seconded by Cameron, to approve the resolution to abate the 2025 bond payment using \$50,000 of facility tax funds. France, Musson, Skiles, Easley and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Stevens, seconded by Skiles to improve increasing the reimbursement for personal cell phone use to \$30 per month for the identified employees (paid bi-annually). Musson, Prather, Cameron, Easley, and France voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Musson, seconded by Prather, to approve the application for the Illinois State Board of Education FY 26 Maintenance Grant in the amount of up to \$50,000, matching funds, and authorize administration to execute all necessary documents. Skiles, Cameron, Easley, France, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Easley to approve and authorize submission of the 10- year Health Life Safety Survey, to ISBE via IWAS, for all district facilities in compliance with Illinois School Code and ISBE regulations conducted by Graham and Hyde Architects. Skiles, France, Musson, Prather and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Musson, seconded by Prather to discontinue the benchmarked years of longevity stipend incentive for employees in lieu of annual percentage wages. Easley, France, Skiles, Stevens, and Cameron voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Musson, seconded by Cameron to hire Phillip Scrogum as a substitute bus driver. Easley, France, Prather, Skiles, Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Skiles, seconded by Prather to hire Jared Trone as a substitute bus driver. Musson, Cameron, Easley, France and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

First reading of Press issue 120: (no action required)

Tabled the motion to hire Casey Welscher as the 2026-27 Elementary Principal and Director of Special Education.

Assistant Principal Report: Casey Welscher spoke to the Board regarding the new Targeted designation received by the Middle School from ISBE. This will provide \$36,000 in funding to focus on assisting the low income students in increasing achievement.

The Principal report from Mr. Crouse included:

- Junior High Teachers met with 21/45 parents (47%) while the Elementary Teachers met with 137/152 parents (90%)
- We had a very successful Bookfair.
- The 8th graders had a field trip to Challenger in Bloomington.
- The “Blurb” has been provided with each of the Elementary and Jr. High teachers sharing the news of their classroom.

The Principal/Superintendent report from Dr. Lindeman included:

- Randy Stambaugh has donated two additional property lots to the school.
- Ameren and Justin Woods completed the work in the back of the school on the 3-phase electrical system.
- The backpack program is in full swing: currently providing 76 backpacks to students. Thanks to all the staff in assisting with this project. With a special thanks to Carri Bridges, Stephanie Carithers, Tessa Egleton and Courtney Wherley for their hard work.
- The RIF committee will meet at the end of the month per ISBE regulations.
- The Triple I conference begins November 21st, 2025: Dr. Lindeman will be attending along with France and Stevens.
- Thanksgiving Holiday Break will be November 26-28.

Motion by Musson, seconded by Prather, to go into closed session at 7:38 p.m. for the following purposes:

- Appointments, employment, compensation, discipline, performance and/or dismissal of specific employees

Skiles, Cameron, Easley, France and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Musson, to adjourn the closed session at 7:58 p.m. Easley, France, Prather, Skiles, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

A motion to Adjourn the regular meeting was made by Musson and seconded by Stevens. Easley, France, Prather, Skiles, and Stevens voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, December 17th at 6:30 p.m.