

ASTORIA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES

These minutes are unofficial until approved by the board.

Wednesday, January 21st, 2026

The regular board meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the District library.

Members present:

Cameron, France, Musson, Prather, Skiles, Stevens

Members absent:

Easley

Administrators present:

Supt/HS Principal Dr. Tori Lindeman

JH/Elementary Principal Dave Crouse

Assistant Principal Casey Welscher

Secretary Ashley Davis

Community members present:

Catherine Reavley, Hayden Chambers, Gracie Welch, Jeremiah Miller, Tymber Chambers, Rachel Lindsy, Janee Seitz, Nichole Stambaugh, Kloe Stambaugh, Brinlee Zeisler, Rosie Nicks, Tammy Stambaugh, Tasha Stambaugh, Sharenda Bollinger, Wendy Danner, Stephanie Carithers, Casey Welscher, Kelsey Dean, Curtis Dean, Heather Malott, Deavan Malott, Madison Gale, Eric Follman, Sara Trone, Jared Trone, Heily Windsor, Staci McCombs, Randy McCombs, Carri Bridges, Carrie Hollenback, Ty Otto, Georgiana Clemens, Darla Pittman, Mandy Friedrich, Jill Alexander, Maggie White, Libby Albers, Holly Wesley, Jodi Merrick, Ashley Yazvec, Jason Yazvec, Pamela Carlock, Scott Dean, Trevor Weaver, Owen Fisher, Joe Fisher, Loni Shouse, Stephanie Ewing, Natalie McCombs, Brittany Batterton, Sadie Barding, Colbi Osborne, Jessica Shawgo, Dallas Hamm.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance

No additions or deletions

Motion by Musson, seconded by Cameron, to approve the consent agenda items (minutes of the previous meeting held in December, bills and payroll as presented, destruction of all audio recordings and minutes of closed session meetings prior 4/20/2025-Board Policy 2:220) Prather, Skiles, Cameron, France, Musson, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Hayden Chambers, daughter of, Rachel Lindsy and Jeremiah Miller was recognized as the High School Student of the Month. Hayden talked about the activities she has been involved in and her future plans.

Audience to visitors. Each speaker is allowed up to 5 minutes to address the Board. The following persons signed up to address the Board to speak:

Catherine Reavley, Kelsey Dean, Mandy Friedrich, Curtis Dean & Staci McCombs.

Correspondence:

- * FOIA: TRS 2026 Retirement Questions
- * FOIA: CT Miller – District Dollar Thresholds
- * Astoria Lions Club: Thank you for pancake sausage supper assistance
- * Astoria Chamber of Commerce: Thank you to NHS and FFA (and other students) assistance in holiday events; Santa house repairs and tree installation.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Skiles, of the new Track and Cross- Country uniforms. France, Musson, Prather, Skiles, Cameron, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

The Principal/Superintendent report from Dr. Lindeman included:

- Thank you to our dedicated School Board members for your time, leadership, and Commitment to our students and community. January is School Board Appreciation Month, and we are grateful for all you do to support public education.
- The FY26 ISBE Maintenance Grant for CUSD #1 has been approved. Laverdiere has also started sending us product submittals for the Ag Shop opening.
- The amendment for our application for Consolidated District Plan has been approved. Targeted planning year has been approved. The funds should be disbursed quickly. We have been approved for back dated items to Nov. 1, 2025.
- The new High School Sign has been installed. Thank you to Mr. Crossman, Mr. Carithers and his students in for all their hard work and efforts! It looks amazing.
- The Paraprofessionals all went to the ROE for a full-day training on the 5th.
- Certified staff joined VIT for a joint training with the districts' attorney Susan Nicholas on the topics of social media, digital and appropriate/personal student communications, relationships and general privacy. We had lunch and enjoyed some good collaboration time.
- Future training will be conducted here in March for the Dr. Bruce Perry framework of NME (Neurosequential Model Education) related to brain development and trauma impact learning/behaviors.
- Information has been gathered on the School Board Student Representative Program. Currently, I am still gathering data and information from districts currently Implementing the program, but the goal is to have a member of the HS student body participate in the school board process and represent the students.
- The fiscal year's recognition process was completed this week. We are not listed for a full compliance report this year per the probe data, but a final letter will come from the ROE if anything further is changed.

- Thousands of Illinois teachers were incorrectly told Monday that they were being audited. The Illinois State Board of Education tracks teachers' professional development to ensure they complete 120 hours of continuing education credits every five years. Staff were notified that if they received the email to disregard. Corrective emails with accurate data will be sent in the upcoming weeks.
- We have one employee who has been accepted to the McKendree University "Para to Teacher Program". Her coursework began last week. This program was part of a breakout session I attended at the Triple I conference in November. We are very excited for her new opportunity.
- ACE Day / Career Day will be Friday, January 23rd during the morning hours. High School student's sign-up for the career areas that interest them the most and are scheduled with likeminded presenters for the day.
- FFA Week is scheduled for the last week in February (02/23 - 02/27), with the FFA Banquet begin held on the evening of Sunday (03/01). FFA plans to have a fish fry on Friday and will host AG Olympics/Games Friday afternoon for the high schoolers.
- Fine Arts Week is scheduled for the second week in March (03/09 - 03/12). There is a Teachers' Institute on that Friday (03/13), so it is a short 4 day week for students. The Art Club will have games planned for the high schoolers on Thursday morning, with the Talent Show following that afternoon. The talent show is typically for the entire school.
- The High School Play is getting underway! The casting list was announced this week and the kids seem excited!!! Practices for the play are starting right away. The cast will likely perform one of their songs during the talent show for Fine Arts Week. The play is scheduled for Friday, March 13th @7pm and Saturday, March 14th @2pm.
- The Junior class will be attending a Career Fair Day at Canton High School on Friday, March 27th.
- SWAT CLUB will be hosting PREVENTION DAY in the Junior High on Wednesday, April 1st. Mrs. Reavley and the high school students that are members of SWAT will be out of class that day while putting on Prevention Day for the Junior High Students.
- Junior Senior Prom will be held on Saturday, April 25th.
- A meeting will be held with Eagle Point Solar for their presentation and cost analysis update on January 22, 2026. (This is a rescheduled meeting due to illness) Currently, this is the business working with VIT.

The Principal report from Mr. Crouse included:

- Jr. High students attended a Peoria Rivermen Hockey game on Thursday, Dec. 18th.
- Report cards went home on Friday, January 9th.
- Progress reports go out Friday, February 6th.
- Scripps Spelling Bee is back. We will hold our Spelling Bee here at school on Thursday, February 19th. Winner will advance to Peoria Library Spelling Bee for a chance to advance to Washington.
- Jr. High BB is wrapping up with 7th grade regional this weekend and 8th grade next.
- Jr. High VB is in full swing and will have 3 home games in the next 3 weeks.

The Assistant Principal report from Mrs. Welscher included:

- Next year we will offer a yearlong Introduction to Education course in which students will complete coursework two days per week and spend three days per week gaining hands on experience in elementary classrooms. The program is also launching a Regional Future Teachers' Club with a kickoff meeting on January 29 in Macomb. The meeting is informational and designed to build excitement about teaching as a career.

We plan to take a group of about 10 students interested in joining the Mentor program next year.

- All students have completed their Winter Map testing. I compared the same students who tested in Winter 2024 with their most recent MAP assessments to provide an apples to apples view of growth. The results are strong: every achievement score is at or above the 50th percentile, with significant gains in both reading and math. That growth reflects the daily work of our teachers, updates to our reading and math curriculum and added intervention time in junior high and high school.

Motion by Cameron seconded by Musson, to go into closed session at 7:02 p.m. for the following purposes:

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

Musson, Prather, Skiles, Cameron France and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Musson, seconded by Prather, to adjourn the closed session at 9:34 p.m. France, Musson, Prather, Skiles, Stevens, and Cameron voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Skiles, seconded by Musson, to approve the minutes of the closed session. France, Musson, Prather, Skiles, Stevens, and Cameron, voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Musson, seconded by Prather, to adopt findings and recommendations of investigator related to Dr. Lindeman and authorizing issuance of letters to the parties. Musson, Prather, Skiles, Easley, France, and Stevens voted aye. Cameron- Nay. Motion passed.

Motion by Musson, seconded by Prather to accept the resignation of Kurt Chenoweth as JH Cross-Country Coach. Prather, Skiles, Cameron, France, Musson, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Musson, to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Casey Welscher as the JH Cross- Country Coach. Skiles, Cameron, France, Musson, Prather, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Musson, seconded by Prather to accept, the resignation of Kynlee Stambaugh as the paraprofessional /1 to 1 paraprofessional. Musson, Prather, Skiles, Cameron, France and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Skiles, seconded by Prather, to accept the resignation of Joe Clemens JV Boys Head Basketball Coach and Assistant Boys Basketball Coach. Prather, Skiles, Cameron, France, Musson, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Prather, seconded by Musson to approve Kevin Doubet as volunteer to assist Boys High School JV and Varsity Basketball Coach. Skiles, Cameron, France, Musson, Prather and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Musson, seconded by Skiles, to approve Pete Egleton as volunteer to assist Girls Basketball Coach. France, Musson, Prather, Skiles, Stevens, and Cameron voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Musson, seconded by Skiles to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:51p.m. France, Musson, Prather, Skiles, Stevens, and Cameron voted aye. Motion passed.

The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, February 18th, at 6:30 p.m.