

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FORRESTVILLE VALLEY C.U.S.D. #221
February 6, 2025

The Board of Education of the Forrestville Valley Unit School District #221, Counties of Ogle and Stephenson, Illinois, met at Highland Community College Room H-206 on February 6, 2025, for a special meeting.

A. Call to Order

The special meeting was called to order by President Braker at 8:00 a.m.

B. Seating & Oath of Office of Sarah Lott, New Board of Education Member

Mrs. Sarah Lott recited the Oath of Office and was seated to the Board of Education. Member Lott was welcomed by fellow board members.

C. Roll Call

Members Present: Chip Braker, Sarah Lott, Shaun Gallagher, Bob Gronewold, Shawnda Ludwig, Dr. April Moore, Dr. Craig Pauls

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Sheri Smith, Travis Heinz (8:07am), Heather Politsch (8:34am), and Kyle Zick (8:07am), and Ryan Schrader (8:21 am).

D. Review and Adoption of Board of Education Agenda

A motion was made by Member Gallagher and seconded by Member Pauls to adopt the Board of Education agenda. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

YEA: Moore, Ludwig, Lott, Gallagher, Pauls, Gronewold, and Braker

NAY: None

E. Appointment of Forrestville Valley Education Foundation BOE Representative

President Braker appointed Dr. Pauls as Board representative for the Forrestville Valley Education Foundation.

F. Recognition of Visitors & Public Comments

This item was addressed with no members of the public wishing to address the board.

G. Strategic Planning Session

Facilities Review:

Mrs. Smith discussed and reviewed the Estimated Facilities Project List with the Board for the upcoming summer as well as life safety requirements. Mr. Scott Johnson of Richard L. Johnson Associates was present and provided floor planning options for consideration of future projects.

Financial Review:

Mrs. Smith provided a brief review of current district finances to include an overview of the final FY25 budget with projected fund balances. The Board was also provided the 2024 final tax levy by fund and a historical tax rate review. Tammie Beckwith Shallmo from PMA Securities was present via remote means and presented financial scenarios regarding current bond series, debt capacity,

and issuance of debt certificates and funding bonds. The board discussed various financial scenarios and impact to district budget and tax rates.

Personnel and Staffing Review

Mrs. Smith discussed the staffing needs for 2025-2026 school year as well as enrollment of staff in the TeacherReady program, part of the Cardinal University opportunity.

Teaching and Learning

Mrs. Smith summarized Professional Development opportunities for 2025-2026 to include training through the Ruby Payne Company and effects of poverty on student learning.

H. Closed Session

1. A motion was made by Member Gallagher and seconded by Member Pauls to adjourn to closed session at 11:49 a.m. to discuss the Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body for the public body – 5ILS120/2(c)(1); Litigation – 5ILCS120/2(c)(11); On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

YEA: Ludwig, Pauls, Lott, Gronewold, Moore, Gallagher, and Braker
NAY: None

2. A motion was made by Member Pauls and seconded by Member Gronewold to return to open session at 1:32 p.m. On a roll call, the motion passed.

YEA: Gallagher, Lott, Ludwig, Moore, Gronewold, Pauls, and Braker
NAY: None

I. No action items resulting from Closed Session

J. Other Matters to Come to the Attention of the Board

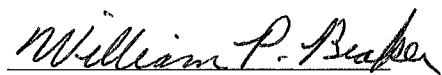
1. IASB Division Dinner Meeting on March 31, 2025, in East Dubuque

K. Adjournment

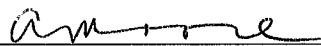
A motion was made by Member Gallagher and seconded by Member Pauls to adjourn the meeting. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

YEA: Gallagher, Moore, Pauls Gronewold, Lott, Ludwig, and Braker
NAY: None

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.



(President, Board of Education)



(Secretary, Board of Education)