

Midwest Central Community Unit School District #191
High School Library, 910 S Washington St, Manito, IL 61546
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 18, 2026 - 6:30 PM

Board Minutes

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Heather Askins: Present
Melinda Beebe: Present
Alyssa Bennett: Present
Jay Blair: Present
Scott Dierker: Present
Amber Schmidt: Present
Tara Zaayenga: Present

III. Recognition of 8th Grade Boys Basketball Team

IV. Visitors Wishing to Address the Board

A. Traci Sondag and husband addressed the Board on her attendance and termination recommendation. She felt that her treatment was unfair.

V. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes

1. Open Meetings - January 21, 2026
2. Destruction of Closed Meeting Verbatim Records - August 1, 2024 and August 15, 2024

B. Treasurer's Report

C. Payment of Bills

VI. Motion for Consent Agenda

I move to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll call. This motion, made by Amber Schmidt and seconded by Melinda Beebe, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Heather Askins: Yea
Melinda Beebe: Yea
Alyssa Bennett: Yea
Jay Blair: Yea
Scott Dierker: Yea
Amber Schmidt: Yea
Tara Zaayenga: Yea

VII. Reports

A. FOIA

1. Michael Henry
2. Max Binnington - Judiciary

B. Transportation Report

C. Principals

D. Superintendent

1. Mason County Sales Tax Totals

VIII. Business Discussion/Action Items

A. School Calendar 2026-27

I move to approve the 2026-27 school calendar as presented. This motion, made by Jay Blair and seconded by Alyssa Bennett, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

B. Amended 2025-26 School Calendar

I move to approve the 2025-26 amended school calendar as presented. This motion, made by Heather Askins and seconded by Jay Blair, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

C. Consideration to make Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Lincoln's Birthday, Casimir Pulaski Birthday, Columbus Day, and Veterans Day optional attendance days.

I move to approve making Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Lincoln's Birthday, Casimir Pulaski Birthday, Columbus Day, and Veterans Day optional attendance days. This motion, made by Amber Schmidt and seconded by Melinda Beebe, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

D. Seniority Lists

I move to approve the Seniority List and Classified Seniority List as presented. This motion, made by Melinda Beebe and seconded by Amber Schmidt, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

E. Consideration of Contract with Farnsworth for MC High School Practice Facility Addition Design & Construction Phase Services

I move to approve the Contract with Farnsworth for the MC High School Practice Facility Addition Design & Construction Phase Services and authorize the superintendent to execute the contract. Roll call. This motion, made by Jay Blair and seconded by Amber Schmidt, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

- Heather Askins: Yea
- Melinda Beebe: Yea
- Alyssa Bennett: Yea
- Jay Blair: Yea
- Scott Dierker: Yea
- Amber Schmidt: Yea
- Tara Zaayenga: Yea

F. Surplus Property

I move to approve the surplus property list as presented and authorize the superintendent to dispose of the property. This motion, made by Alyssa Bennett and seconded by Amber Schmidt, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

IX. Executive Session to Discuss

I move to enter into executive session to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) and (21) at 8:20 PM. Roll call. This motion, made by Amber Schmidt and seconded by Alyssa Bennett, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

- Heather Askins: Yea
- Melinda Beebe: Yea
- Alyssa Bennett: Yea
- Jay Blair: Yea
- Scott Dierker: Yea
- Amber Schmidt: Yea
- Tara Zaayenga: Yea

- A. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) 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; and
- B. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06 (5 ILCS 120/2.06).

X. Departing Executive Session

I move to depart executive session at 9:00 PM. This motion, made by Amber Schmidt and seconded by Heather Askins, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XI. Personnel Discussion/Action Items

A. Appointments

- Patty Noonan - Middle School Musical Director

I move to approve appointing Patty Noonan as the Middle School Musical Director for the 2025-26 school year. This motion, made by Alyssa Bennett and seconded by Amber Schmidt, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

B. Action on Employment of Traci Sondag - High School Secretary

I move that the Board of Education terminate the employment of Traci Sondag and direct the Superintendent to notify Ms. Sondag of the termination. This motion, made by Heather Askins and seconded by Amber Schmidt, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

C. Leave Requests

1. Jenny Kraft - Leave of Absence

I move to approve the leave of absence for Jenny Kraft as presented. This motion, made by Melinda Beebe and seconded by Scott Dierker, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

2. Emily Bortell – Maternity

I move to approve the leave of absence for Jenny Kraft as presented. This motion, made by Amber Schmidt and seconded by Jay Blair, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

D. Informational Items - Resignations, Employee Transfers

1. Chris Fisher - Resign - 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach

2. Rhonda Fisher - Resign - 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach

E. Superintendent Evaluation

I move to approve the Superintendent's evaluation as presented. This motion, made by Jay Blair and seconded by Alyssa Bennett, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

F. Closed Session Minutes - January 21, 2026

I move to approve the closed session minutes of January 21, 2026. This motion, made by Amber Schmidt and seconded by Melinda Beebe, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

G. Other Personnel Items

XII. Adjourn

I move to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:02 PM. This motion, made by Heather Askins and seconded by Amber Schmidt, Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XIII. The next meeting is March 18, 2026 at 6:30 PM at the Unit Office

President: _____ Secretary: _____