

**AMBOY COMMUNITY UNIT
SCHOOL DISTRICT #272
AMBOY, ILLINOIS**

Thursday, September 17, 2026
6:30 PM

Amboy Junior High School
Cafeteria
240 N Metcalf Avenue
Amboy, IL 61310

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Action: Public Hearing - 2026-2027 Budget
 - C. Open Forum
 - D. Board Committee Reports
2. Action: Consent Agenda Items
 - A. Minutes

2

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE MEETING OF THE
AMBOY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #272 BOARD OF EDUCATION
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2026 AT 6:30 P.M.
AMBOY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

President Pratt called the finance meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:30 p.m. All board members were present except for Stenzel. Superintendent Nichols was also present.

The floor was open for questions or comments. Superintendent Nichols shared the "Attendance Matters" posters created by Janet Crownhart. Nichols also reviewed the AI Guidelines that have been updated for teachers and students. Fencing for the bleachers is almost complete. Rob found 2 vans and the total was lower than what Rob had budgeted. Rob would like to keep the older vans as spares for a little while longer. Nichols mentioned door 10 has started rusting out and rotting at the bottom. He received an estimate for around \$19,000 to replace. Nichols stated there is a security concern with the FFA shop doors due to being open frequently. We have a quote for a screen door which is \$40,000-\$50,000. Josh is also looking into a courtyard with a fence. Nichols also stated that the bus drop off and pick up for all JH and HS students will be in front of the Junior High. Discussion was had about still needing additional parking for events at the JH and HS. Nichols will start looking into parking lot expansion by the tennis courts. The expansion could possibly start in the spring. It was brought to Josh's attention that the Director of Maintenance and the Director of Transportation are only given 10 vacation days per year. He is not sure where the oversight came in but it has been changed for them to receive 20 vacation days per year.

A motion was made by Powers and seconded by White to authorize the administration to place on file, the tentative budget for the 2026-2027 school year, and further to set the 2026-2027 budget hearing for Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., at the Junior High School.

Superintendent Nichols presented the tentative budget for the 2026-2027 school year. Nichols thoroughly went through each of the fund accounts. This is a deficit budget. This is intentional and based on our plan to lower balances. Operating funds projected deficit spending FY 27 **\$1,271,580**. FY 26 operating funds surplus of \$201,788. Operating fund reserves= \$8,785,282. Capital Projects \$800,000 for construction. Health Life Safety \$210,000 for HLS projects. Reasons for deficit: insurance, fuel is budgeted high, and revenue is projected conservatively. Increased costs in Special Education could cause a true deficit in the Ed fund. Debt service= \$1,436,705. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Nichols reviewed financial summary.

A motion was made by Powers and seconded by Montavon to approve the Preventative Maintenance Agreement Renewal with Helm Service, as presented. This agreement has helped catch and prevent issues before they became big problems. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by White and seconded by Brokaw to approve the quote from Brothers Flooring for materials and labor at the High School, as presented. This is for the stairs and an A list item in the 10-year health life safety report. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Payne and seconded by White to approve the three-year certified staff collective bargaining agreement between the Amboy CUSD 272 Board of Education and the Amboy Education Association, for the contract years of 2026-2027, 2027-2028, and 2028-2029, as presented. Motion carried with five yea votes. One vote was abstained by Powers.

A motion was made by Brokaw and seconded by Montavon to approve the three-year support staff collective bargaining agreement between the Amboy CUSD 272 Board of Education and Teamsters Local Union No 722, for the contract years of 2026-2027, 2027-2028, and 2028-2029, as presented. Motion carried with five yea votes. One vote was abstained by Powers.

A motion was made by Powers and seconded by White to accept the resignation of Faith Yocum as Paraprofessional at the High School. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Brokaw and seconded by White to approve the contracts of Janet Crownhart as High School Principal, Andrew Full as Junior High Principal, Jessica Meusel as Central School Principal, and Katie Bulfer as the District's Assistant Principal, all effective from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Powers and seconded by Payne to approve the following personnel pending successful criminal background checks, proper licensure, and submission of pre-employment requirements: Kate McKinley as Social Studies Teacher at the Junior High, effective August 12, 2026, Stephany Nelson as Title I Reading Teacher at Central School, effective August 12, 2026, and Takoda Aseves as 240-Day Custodian at the High School, effective July 21, 2026. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

At 7:31 p.m., a motion was made by Powers and seconded by White to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsa Payne, Secretary

Katie Pratt, President

Approved: _____

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
AMBOY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #272 BOARD OF EDUCATION
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026, AT 6:30 P.M.
AMBOY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

President Pratt called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:30 p.m. All board members were present except Powers. Also present were Yvonne Vicks, Anna Willis, Janet Crownhart, Andrew Full, Jessica Meusel, and Jenny Apple.

The floor was opened to comments from the public. There were none.

Board Committee Reports: The Amboy Education Foundation golf outing had a good turn out and the Sylvan Leffelman Shuffle during Depot Days is coming up.

A motion was made by Payne and seconded by White to approve the following consent agenda items, as presented:

- Minutes of the June 16, 2026 open & closed meetings; and
- Delete audio recordings dated January 23, 2025 and February 20, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

The financial reports were presented in the packet.

A motion was made by Brokaw and seconded by Payne to approve the current expenditures and payroll, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Principals Full, Meusel, and Crownhart reviewed their presented reports. These cover school activities, curriculum and school improvement, PBIS, and building activities. They gave a big thank you to the custodians and summer crews for the great job at cleaning the buildings.

Therapy dog update: The application was completed and turned in and currently waiting for acceptance. This could take up to two months.

FOIA requests: None at this time.

The first reading of Issue 122 of the Illinois Association of School Boards policy revisions were presented.

A motion was made by Montavon and seconded by White to approve the purchases of (1) 2025 Chrysler Pacifica Van and (1) 2024 Chrysler Pacifica Van, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Payne and seconded by Brokaw to approve the motion regarding LaMoille CUSD No. 303's High School deactivation, as presented. This allows them to place Amboy as a choice of schools on the ballot for the election in November. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

At 6:45 p.m., a motion was made by Payne and seconded by Montavon to move to executive session to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in an educational setting. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

At 7:38 p.m., a motion was made by Stenzel and seconded by White to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Payne and seconded by Brokaw to accept the resignation of Hannah Riley as Cook, effective August 12, 2026 and the verbal resignations from Nichole Helm and Shellie Hansen as Bus Aides. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Payne and seconded by Stenzel to approve the following personnel pending successful criminal background checks, proper licensure, and submission of pre-employment requirements: The extra-curricular positions for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented, Abigail Hatheway as Cook, effective August 15, 2026, and Hannah Riley as Van Driver. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

President Pratt announced the next regular board meeting is Thursday, September 17, 2026, 6:30 p.m., at the Junior High School.

There being no further business to bring before the Board, a motion was made at 7:40 p.m. by Montavon and seconded by White to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsa Payne, Secretary

Katie Pratt, President

Approved: _____

- B. Delete Audio Recordings
- 3. Action: Financial Reports
 - A. Review of Financial Reports
 - B. Current Expenditures & Payroll
- 4. Discussion: Reports
 - A. Principal Reports

7

Amboy Central Elementary School
Principal Report
Jessica Meusel
September 2026

School Activities:

- Picture day was held on August 28, retakes will be on October 7.
- STAR Math, STAR Reading, and FastBridge benchmark assessments were administered throughout the week of September 8.
- The first round of Mrs. Goslin's Drawing Club began on September 3.
- Central PTC has scheduled Donuts with Dudes on Thursday, Oct. 8 from 7:15-8:15 a.m. on the blacktop area by the playground. Coffee, donuts, milk, and juice will be offered as a free will donation. This is open to all VIP's for students from preschool through 4th grade.
- Family Literacy Night will be held on September 30 in our Central School gym. Families can visit literacy centers and shop at our Scholastic Book Fair.
- Students, staff, and families are completing our Leader in Me Measurable Results Assessment survey. We use this information for goal setting within our action teams.

School Improvement:

- We held data meetings on September 16 with grade level teams.
- Our Leader in Me Core Lighthouse team met on September 10 to prepare for our SIP day action team meetings.

PBIS:

- Mrs. Selover visited classrooms to introduce Habit 1: Be Proactive. Students learned they are in charge of their own reactions, efforts, words, and moods. They explored the difference between choosing a response and reacting impulsively. They also learned the Pause Plan and practiced calming strategies to use when big feelings arise.
- Students have been earning Clipper Cash to reinforce their good behavior.
- Mrs. Selover and Miss Barrera handed out applications for our first Student Lighthouse team. All 3rd and 4th grade students are invited to apply.



**Amboy High School
Principal's Report
September 2026
Submitted by: Janet Crownhart**



Curriculum and School Improvement

- Student of the Month was Lili Leffelman!
- During homeroom this month students have been working on the first few social-emotional learning (SEL) lessons. Students have watched videos about being themselves and why grades are important. Also, with homecoming week, we took some time to work on hallway decorations and Skits for skit night.
- Illinois State Board of Education has approved the Education, Nursing, Agri-Business, and Welding pathway programs. We are working on a schedule to continue to meet with students surrounding these pathways to make sure they have a chance to earn the endorsements if they choose.
- This is the first year we have been able to have a section of Transitional ELA. This 4th year English class will impact our College and Career Readiness scores as well impacting placement in college ELA courses.
- Our Marching Clippers are being featured on 89.5 WNIJ (NPR station out of DeKalb). "Teacher and student correspondents for the 26-27 school year" He interviews Morgan Kreiser, Gage Mumm, Logan Ketchum, and Amylia Bump. Their segment begins at the 10 minute mark here: <https://www.northernpublicradio.org/teachers-lounge>
- These students were nominated by the University of Illinois System- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign , University of Illinois-Springfield, and University of Illinois-Chicago to their SAA Program (Salute to Academic Achievement)
 - Callan Christofferson, Aaron Costner, Lainey Davis, Chase Huggins, Anthony Linder, Jose Lopez, Gage Mumm, Henry Nichols
 - Students needed to earn a minimum of a 23 Composite ACT score and 3.25 GPA unweighted cumulative GPA.
 - The students are invited to attend a program and reception at the University of Illinois Chicago campus on September 29



**Amboy High School
Principal's Report
September 2026
Submitted by: Janet Crownhart**



- The following students had their artwork in The Student Exhibit at The Grand Detour Arts Festival on September 13th.
 - Caylee Hummel, Lila Reiskamp, Tori Pollock

School Activities

- School pictures were taken on August 18th with Picture retakes available on Sept 23rd.
- Clipper PRIDE awards were handed out at the assembly on Sept 2nd.
 - Avarie Seier, Sarah Buckley, Makayla Burt, Elsie Viall, Kilah Helm, AJ Aune, Seeley Goff, Hunter Roberts, Alex Dowd, Janella Baker, Morgan Kreiser, Jack Thomas, Miguel Garcia-Meirndorf, Liam Rieskamp, Scarlett Payne, Jaxon Hudson, Alexa McKendry, Addison Bump, Emma Work-Sibley, Parker Zimmerly.
- "MINT TO BE HERE"
 - Week of 8/24: 164 of 205 = 80% (lifesaver mint)
 - Week of 8/31: 153 of 207 = 73.9% (lifesaver mint)
 - Month of August: 134 of 207 = 64.7% (Mentos)
- Student council hosted a blood drive on September 9th. Hosting this blood drive allows students to earn scholarships provided by the Red Cross. We had great participation from the community, with 35 donations. Thank you!
- Thank you to the Clipper Backers on the "Welcome to the Harbor" sign that was put up on the fence of the football field.
- Weightlifting Club has started after school. 3 days a week, 1 hour a day.

Building Activities

- Sept 9th, we held our 2nd fire drill. A fire drill with the fire department will be coming in the next few weeks.

Looking ahead

- Homecoming is the week of Sept 21st



**Amboy High School
Principal's Report
September 2026
Submitted by: Janet Crownhart**



- SIP day Monday, Sept 21st, with students having time to work on skits, hallway decorations and the announcement of the Homecoming court.
- Also, the armed intruder drill with the help of the Lee County Sheriff's Office in the morning
- Thursday, Sept 24th is skit night in the gym at 7 p.m., with the announcement of King and Queen at the end of the evening.
- Friday, Sept 25th is the Parade starting about 2:30, and then a home football game at 7 p.m. with the introduction of the homecoming court and reunion classes starting about 6:30 pm.
- Saturday, Sept 26th is the dance in the Clipper Cove.

AMBOY HIGH SCHOOL FFA

8/17/26

BLUE & GOLD NEWSPAPER



Amboy recognized at the Illinois FFA Convention

- The middle school was recognized as a newly chartered chapter and received a superior ranking in the national chapter award.
- Jake Dinges and Logan Ketchum were State Degree Recipients.
- Natalie Pratt, AHS graduate and Illinois FFA President, gave her retiring address.
- Amboy FFA was named the premier chapter of Section 2 for the National Chapter Award.



Updates:

Leadership team meeting Tuesday Aug. 18th at 7:15. Open to all members!

Officer Spotlight



Tyler Mahar is a Junior this year and serving as Chapter President and Section 2 Secretary. Tyler's favorite event is State convention and this year is looking forward to LTS. Tyler also runs cross country & track at Amboy High School.

AMBOY HIGH SCHOOL FFA



8/19/26

Keeping up with the chapter

This summer Laci Daniels and Greyson Henkel went to the Vo-Ag Fair. This fair allows FFA students to showcase their livestock, poultry, crops, and hands-on project displays.



Congratulations Laci on winning Champion Showmanship!



Great job Greyson! Won Sheep Showman & Reserve Champion.

In June, the Amboy FFA sent two members to Washington D.C. as a part of the Premier Chapter Award Tour. This event helps members become effective community leaders. Through interactive workshops, historic tours, and Capitol Hill visits, members learn personal values, advocacy, and civic responsibility. This year Chase Huggins and Jake Dinges were selected to attend.



AMBOY HIGH SCHOOL FFA

9/10/26

BLUE & GOLD NEWSPAPER



Last Wednesday-

- Four members of the Amboy FFA attended the Greenhand Conference
- Four members of the Amboy Middle FFA attended the Discovery Conference held at Blackhawk East Community College.
- Students learned about FFA, agriculture, and leadership while meeting other FFA members from around the region.



Updates:

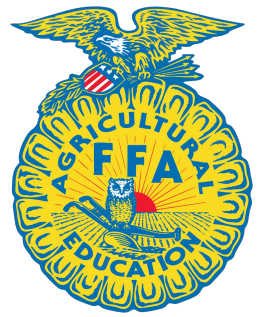
Our Leadership team has a meeting on Sep. 15th @ 7:15am, all are welcome!

Officer Spotlight



Sydney Noble a Sophomore, is our Vice President. Sydney's favorite event is National Convention and this year is looking forward to encouraging others to join FFA. Fun fact about Sydney is that she's an only child!

AMBOY HIGH SCHOOL FFA



9/10/26

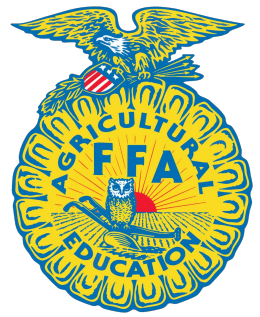
Keeping up with the chapter

The high school had our first Chapter meeting. Officers highlighted the upcoming events and encouraged members to sign up and attend.

AMBOY HIGH SCHOOL FFA



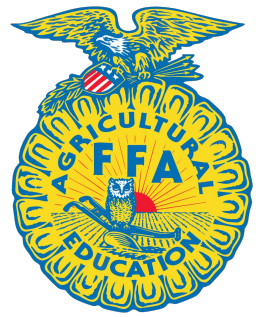
AMBOY HIGH SCHOOL FFA



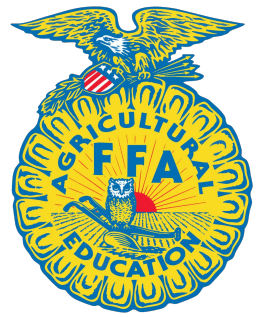
AMBOY HIGH SCHOOL FFA



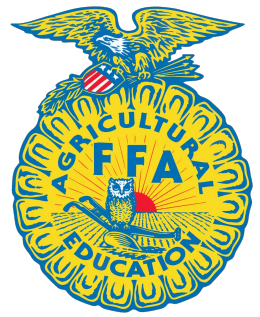
AMBOY HIGH SCHOOL FFA



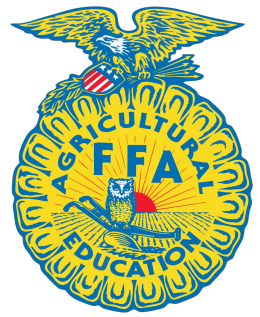
AMBOY HIGH SCHOOL FFA



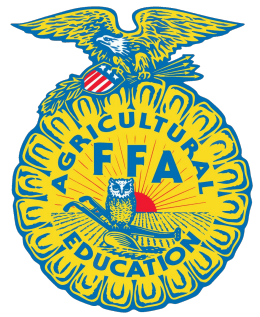
AMBOY HIGH SCHOOL FFA



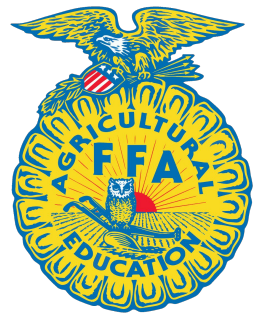
AMBOY HIGH SCHOOL FFA



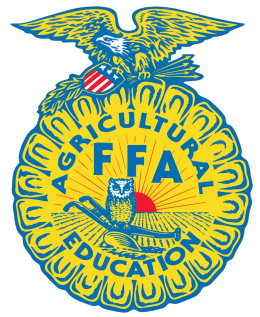
AMBOY HIGH SCHOOL FFA



AMBOY HIGH SCHOOL FFA



AMBOY HIGH SCHOOL FFA





**Amboy Jr. High School
Principal's Report
September 17th, 2026
Submitted by: Andrew Full**

Curriculum and School Improvement:

- A faculty meeting was held on August 31st to discuss the SEL schedule and to move lessons to SIP days.
- The SIP team met with Anji Garza on September 10th and discussed the following topics: student problem-solving, special education, curricular resource adoption, and MTSS handbook.
- Grade level after school meetings have started and are working well.
- Mr. Full attended the IESA Athletic Directors Workshop in Bloomington on Friday, September 11th.

PBIS:

School Activities:

- Science Club has started with Ms. Land being the supervisor and there are 18 participants.
- Art Club has started with Mrs. Goslin being the supervisor and there are 15 participants.
- Speech Team has started with Ms. Vicks being the coach and she has 9 participants signed up.
- The 7th/8th grade girls volleyball teams competed in Montmorency Tournament and the 8th grade placed 2nd.
- Benchmark testing was completed the week of September 14th.
- AJHS and AHS held fire drills on August 25th and September 9th.

B. Superintendent Reports

C. FOIA Requests

5. Discussion: First Reading of the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Amboy CUSD 272 and the Amboy Education Association
6. Action: Issue 122 of the Illinois Association of School Boards Policy Revisions
7. Action: High School Door Replacement Quotes
8. Action: Electric Strike Installation Quote
9. Action: Fence Quote
10. Action: Guidelines for Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)
11. Action: Executive Session
12. Action: Return to Open Session
13. Action: Student Discipline
14. Action: Early Graduation
15. Action: Personnel - Resignation
16. Action: Personnel - Hiring
17. Upcoming Dates, Miscellaneous Items, Board Remarks and Adjournment