

**ASHTON FRANKLIN CENTER COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #275**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, March 17, 2025**

- I. The AFC Board of Education met in regular session on March 17, 2025. The meeting was brought to order by President, Chad Murphy at 7:00pm in the JH/HS Library.
- II. Members present were: Amy Buhrow, Mark Delhotal, Jackie Fransen, Tim Henert, Kyle McClanahan, Chad Murphy and Tiffany Willstead. Administrators present were: Mr. Lindy, Mrs. Hurt, Ms. Burkitt and Mr. Hamel.
- III. Motion was made by Tim, seconded by Mark to accept Consent Agenda items A-H as presented. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.
- IV. Liaison Reports
  - A. Ogle County Ed Co-op: Nothing to report.
  - B. AFC Ed Foundation: Meeting to be held on 4/9 at 5:30.
  - C. IASB: Nothing to report.
  - D. Technology: Working on camera solutions, firewall and content solutions, and preparing for state tests.
  - E. AFC FFA Alumni: An AFC student will be farming the 10 acres and will receive a \$2,500 grant. Going over scholarship applications, 2 will be awarded at Honor's Night.
  - F. FFA Report: Mrs. Viall presented a review of past and upcoming activities and contests. Members attended a food science event, JH students attended contest, 7 students advanced in state proficiencies, and \$750 was raised for the Buddy Bag program.
  - G. Insurance: Nothing to report.
  - H. PTC: JH Dance/Game Night went very well. Breakfast with a Buddy will be on 4/11, Adult Bingo fundraiser to be held on 5/10, and a yard sign fundraiser is currently underway.
  - I. Music Boosters: Nothing to report.
  - J. Athletic Boosters: Hosting Dueling Pianos was well attended.
  - K. Acknowledgements: None.
- V. Recognition of Registered Visitors: None.
- VI. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Lindy reviewed the report as submitted. \*Attached to minutes
- VII. Principals' Reports
  - A. JH/HS: Mrs. Hurt reviewed the report as submitted. \*Attached to minutes.
  - B. ES: Ms. Burkitt reviewed the report as submitted. \*Attached to minutes.

VIII. Athletic Director's Report: Reviewed the report as submitted. \*Attached to minutes.

IX. Discussion Items

- A. ZeroEyes-Firearm Detection Software: Ryan Pendelton from ZeroEyes joined us via Zoom to go introduce the Board to the software program and answer questions. The program would provide an extra layer of safety for the district buildings and is integrated with the CrisisGo App that we already use. We would need to purchase new and updated cameras for the software to work as intended. Mr. Lindy will come back to the Board with a proposal for cameras. There are minimal instances of false positives in identifying weapons. ZeroEyes has a monitoring team that works 24/7/365 and will quickly alert our local law enforcement if a weapon is detected. They are willing to train at the school with Lee County officers over summer break to get them familiar with the program.
- B. Student Accident Insurance Renewal: The cost per student has not changed. The cost to the district will be \$3,956 for the upcoming school year. The district is required to carry Student and Athletic Accident Insurance.
- C. Staff Spotlight: Mrs. Arjes, Mrs. Reinhart, and Mr. Dudziak were recognized this month for their continuous hard work and dedication to AFC. Congratulations to them!

X. Executive Session

- A. Motion made by Tim, seconded by Mark to go into Executive Session at 7:49pm. Motion carried by a unanimous roll-call vote.
- B. Board returned to Regular Session at 8:45pm.

XI. Action Items

- A. Motion made by Amy, seconded by Jackie to Approve the 2024-2025 Seniority List as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous roll-call vote.
- B. Motion made by Jackie, seconded by Mark to Approve Annual IHSA Membership Renewal as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous roll-call vote.
- C. Motion made by Mark, seconded by Tiffany to Approve the Student Accident Insurance Renewal from Gallagher Benefits as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous roll-call vote.
- D. Motion made by Mark, seconded by Amy to Approve the Reemployment of Non-Tenured Staff as Listed: Carley Ackland, John Dudziak, Kelsi Eyster, Sarah Lave, Kassandra McKay, Josh Stone, Brian Treadwell, Amanda Chapman, Maura Daly, Abbie Janicke, Michelle Mairs, Jordan Piller, Christine Wolf, and Jessica Wolf . Motion carried by a unanimous roll-call vote.
- E. Motion made by Tiffany, seconded by Mark to Accept the Resignations of:
  - 1. David Smith as HS Head Football Coach
  - 2. Rachel Adams as Permanent SubstituteMotion carried by a unanimous roll-call vote.

- XII. Adjourn – Motion made by Mark, seconded by Jackie to adjourn the meeting at 8:47pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chad Murphy, Board President

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Tiffany Willstead, Board Secretary



**AFC CUSD #275**  
**Superintendent's Report**  
March 17, 2025

- **Budget Progress-** As of the end of March, the Education Fund stands at 65% of expenditures and 87% of revenues. The Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Fund is at 65% of expenditures and 93% of projected revenue. The Transportation Fund is at 58% of expenditures, primarily due to the annual lease payment, and 84% of projected revenue. Total fund balances have reached \$12.3 million, with \$10.7 million invested across a mix of Certificates of Deposit (CDs), Treasuries, and Money Market Funds.
- **Facilities-** The Junior High/High School chair lift is now fully operational following its successful installation and inspection.
- **Spring Legislative Session-** There are currently hundreds of bills awaiting action in the legislature. While the volume of bills is not unusual, what stands out is that little progress has been made so far. Much of the legislative session has been consumed with hearings focused on the uncertainty at the federal level.
- **U.S. Department of Education (DOE)-** The current administration is actively pursuing the elimination of the DOE, taking its first significant step last week by dismissing one-third of the department's staff. The potential impact on funding streams for programs like IDEA, NSLP, and Title is still unclear. While it is suggested that these funds may be transferred to another department, the details remain uncertain. The situation is evolving rapidly, and the landscape could look very different in six months, but the current level of uncertainty is challenging.

Earlier this week, the USDA eliminated funding for the Local Food for Schools program, which provided fresh, locally-produced food to low-income students. This cut includes allocations for the current fiscal year, resulting in a \$27 million loss for Illinois. While program terminations are common, it's highly unusual for funding to be cut mid-year after the funds were already allocated. Hopefully, this is not indicative of future federal funding trends. In the past year, total federal revenue for AFC was \$661,000, which included one-time ESSER funds; typically, federal revenue is closer to \$400,000.

**To: Mr. Lindy and AFC School Board**  
**From: Malinda Hurt, JH/HS Principal**  
**Re: Board Report**  
**Date: March 2025**

*Ashton-Franklin Center Jr/Sr High School staff creates a stable and secure environment  
where students realize their potential by taking ownership of their learning goals  
and become well-rounded members of society.*

### **School Improvement Plan**

Grades 7-8 SMART Goal: AFC Jr/Sr High will increase the percentage of students who meet and/or exceed the Illinois Assessment of Readiness by 2% per school year, resulting in a 10 % increase in meets and/or exceeds by 2027. This will prepare students to be college and/or career-ready.

Grades 7-8 SMART Goal: AFC Jr/Sr High will decrease the number of discipline referrals through Skyward by 5% per school year, resulting in a 25% decrease in discipline by 2027. This will prepare students socially and emotionally to meet academic expectations.

Grades 9-12 SMART Goal: AFC Jr/Sr High will increase the percentage of students meeting or exceeding both benchmarks on the SAT by 2% per school year, resulting in a 10% increase in meets and/or exceeds by 2027. This will prepare students to be college and/or career-ready.

Grades 9-12 SMART Goal: AFC Jr/Sr High will increase family engagement by 10% each year, resulting in a 30% increase in overall student investment by 2027. This will prepare students socially and emotionally to meet academic expectations.

### **Building Updates**

- Social Studies Pilot
  - McGraw Hill pilot complete, TCI pilot in progress
- The Leadership Team is currently working on WACC interview process & Student of the Month Celebration.
  - The semester 2 SOM celebration will be on May 14th before school begins.
- Pathway Endorsements
  - Education, Health Science, and Manufacturing applications approved
  - Six students will receive Pathway Endorsements
- OnToCollege
  - John Baylor, creator, will visit AFC on April 3rd to conduct an OnToCollege ACT Prep lesson for all junior students.
  - “Tens of thousands of students have taken OnToCollege’s (formerly John Baylor Prep’s) in-person and online Prep Courses for the ACT® Test and SAT® Test. John’s contrarian techniques have inspired students for more than two decades—improving scores, scholarships, and college choices. Used by more than 800 high schools in 27 states, OnToCollege’s online Courses routinely increase an entire high school’s ACT® Test score average 1-3 points and SAT® Test score average 50-150 points.”
  - Thank you to Ms Hansfield for organizing this visit, from scheduling, preparing resources, ordering t-shirts, and meeting with OnToCollege representatives.

### **Student Services**

- Testing
  - IAR/ISA
    - Reviewed accommodations with Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. McKay
    - Completed the infrastructure trail with Mr. Gleissner
    - Created all JH Proctor groups and assigned students to ELA/Math/Science
    - Met with all teachers and presented a slideshow with all the needed information

- Put together all items that are needed for JH ISA testing
  - JH ISA testing is complete
- PreACT/ACT
  - Met with HS teachers about online training that needs to be completed
  - Made necessary changes to testing groups and seating charts based on meeting
  - Completed online training
- WACC
  - Preliminary numbers submitted for SY 25-26
  - 44 students have signed up
  - 8 students to be tested with a Math and Reading test for the Health Occ & Allied Health program
  - New interview process for wait-listed students. Next school year, all WACC applicants will go through the interview process
- CRDC
  - Completed and submitted with no errors or warnings ahead of the deadline
  - The report has been validated
- Miscellaneous
  - Printed transcripts for many students for scholarships
  - Sent out numerous scholarships for senior students

### **Counseling & College and Career Readiness**

- Provided counseling services to students & participated in parent meetings
- Completed the second round of senior meetings
- Attended a portion of Amboy Career Day to brainstorm new ideas on how to expand AFC Career Day.
- Prior to maternity leave, ensured CCR classes are scheduled out for the remainder of the school year, ensured framework tasks were to be completed, and provided teachers with information to support students with completing required tasks

### **Noteworthy Events**

- March 17 - 20 Book Fair
- March 22-30 Spring Break
- April 4 Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
- April 8 ACT/Senior Explore Day
- April 9-11 7th-8th grade IAR
- April 15 Pre-ACT 9th & 10th grade
- April 18 No School
- April 21 No School
- April 24 Community Coffee
- April 26 Prom

### **Current Enrollment**

7th	40
8th	37
9th	25
10th	35

11th	34
12th	32
Total	203

**To:** Mr. Lindy and AFC Board of Education  
**From:** Jenah Burkitt, AFCES Principal  
**RE:** Board Report  
**Date:** March 2025

### **AFC Elementary School Improvement Goals**

- AFC Elementary School will increase the total percentage of students who meet or exceed on the Math IAR by 3-4 percentage points on Spring 2024 IAR (Y1), 5-6 percentage points in SY 24-25 (Y2), 7-8 percentage points in SY 25-26 (Y3), and 9-10 percentage points in SY 26-27 (Y4), resulting in a 24-28 percentage point increase in meets or exceeds by 2027. This will prepare students to be college or career-ready.
- AFC Elementary School will increase the total percentage of students who meet or exceed on the ELA IAR by 3-4 percentage points in SY 24-25 (Y1), 5-6 percentage points in SY 25-26 (Y2), and 7-8 percentage points in SY 26-27 (Y3), and 9-10 percentage points increase in SY 27-28 (Y4), resulting in a 24-28 percentage point increase in meets or exceeds by 2028. This will prepare students to be college or career-ready.
- AFC Elementary School will decrease the number of major discipline referrals by 5% per school year, resulting in a 25% decrease in major discipline referrals that result in disciplinary action by 2027. This will prepare students socially and emotionally to meet academic expectations.

### **Building Updates**

- NEW! Student Leadership Team
  - Mrs. Chapman & Mrs. Christine Wolf will be co-advisors for a Student Leadership Team comprised of 5th & 6th graders.
  - Some of the responsibilities of the SLT will include stocking our Loot Lagoon, creating school-wide goals & planning celebrations once goals are achieved, planning dress-up days, etc.
  - They will spend the remainder of this year fundraising with 4th & 5th grade students. These funds will be used to support the activities they plan.

### **Upcoming Events**

- March 19th - March Awards Assembly
- March 31st - April 4th - IAR Testing
- April 1st - Family Math Night
- April 4th - Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
- April 7th - 11th - Spring Scholastic Book Fair
- April 11th - Breakfast w/ a Buddy
- April 14th-16th - ISA Testing
- April 15th - Kindergarten Round-Up
- April 24th - Community Coffee
- May 3rd - PTC's Parents Night Out - Rock & Roll BINGO
  - Tickets are now on sale!

### **Current Enrollment**

- ECSE - 11
- Kindergarten - 21
- 1st Grade - 23
- 2nd Grade - 30
- 3rd Grade - 30
- 4th Grade - 34
- 5th Grade - 34
- 6th Grade - 34
- TOTAL - 217

**To: Mr. Lindy and AFC School Board**  
**From: Matt Hamel, JH/HS Athletic/Activities Director**  
**Re: Board Report**  
**Date: March 2025**

**Winter Sports:**

- We hosted the 1A Scholastic Bowl Regional on Monday, March 10th. Our team made it to the championship match where we came up short against a very good Stockton team. Congratulations to Mr. Waters and the Scholastic Bowl team for another outstanding season.
- Jr. High girls basketball played for the conference championship on Tuesday, March 11th against Byron. They came up 3 points short but finished 2nd in conference!

**Spring Sports:**

- Track had their first indoor track meet on Thursday, March 13th at Sterling. Outdoor meets will begin in early April.
- Baseball is sitting around 23 boys on the team, which gives us enough for both a varsity and a JV team. Their first game is scheduled for Monday, March 17th at home against Forreton at 4:30pm
- Softball has around 14 girls on the team. We have a full varsity team and are trying to get as many JV innings as possible. Their first game is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 17th at home against Forreton, pending completion of the dugouts.

**Miscellaneous:**

- AFC Athletic Boosters hosted dueling pianos on Saturday, March 15th
- The Jr/Sr High Band and Choir concert was on Tuesday, March 11th
- I believe that we will be hosting a softball regional, but am waiting for final confirmation from the IHSA.