

ASHTON FRANKLIN CENTER COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #275

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 19, 2025

- I. The AFC Board of Education met in regular session on May 19, 2025. The meeting was brought to order by President, Cullen Searing at 7:00pm in the JH/HS Library.
- II. Members present were: Mark Delhotal, Lea Henert, Tim Henert, Kyle McClanahan, Cullen Searing and Tiffany Willstead. Members absent: Jackie Fransen. Administrators present were: Mr. Lindy, Mrs. Hurt, Ms. Burkitt and Mr. Hamel.
- III. Motion was made by Mark, seconded by Kyle 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: Nothing to report.
 - C. IASB: Nothing to report.
 - D. Technology: Completed firmware and software updates and end of reports, collected chromebooks, electronics recycling to take place on July 2nd.
 - E. AFC FFA Alumni: Next meeting scheduled for 6/1.
 - F. FFA Report: Nothing to report.
 - G. Insurance: Nothing to report.
 - H. PTC: Installed new officers, next meeting in July to discuss yearly budget.
 - I. Music Boosters: Nothing to report.
 - J. Athletic Boosters: Tiffany Willstead will serve as treasurer.
 - K. Acknowledgements: None.
- V. Recognition of Registered Visitors: None.
- VI. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Lindy reviewed the report as submitted.
- VII. Principals' Reports
 - A. JH/HS: Mrs. Hurt reviewed the report as submitted.
 - B. ES: Ms. Burkitt reviewed the report as submitted.
- VIII. Athletic Director's Report: Reviewed the report as submitted.
- IX. Discussion Items
 - A. Memorandum of Understanding with Lee County Sheriff's Dept Allowing Access to District Security Cameras in an Emergency: Deputy Kellen was in attendance to explain what the Sheriff's Office would use camera access for. The camera feed will be accessible by the Sheriff and on duty staff and is to be viewed for

possible imminent threats. If at any time that District wishes to break the contract with Lee County, we may. Sheriff's Office is looking forward to training with the ZeroEyes staff, as we are the first District in the county to utilize the program.

➤ Jackie Fransen entered meeting at 7:07pm.

- B. Natural Gas Supply Bid: Mr. Lindy with like to go with a one-year bid from NRG, NRG's bid came in lower than our previous provider and below current market prices.
- C. YMCA After School Program: A board member requested a discussion regarding the program. There are concerns about the District providing the funding for the program as some District tax payers have raised concerns about their tax dollars being used for "daycare". Mr. Lindy stated that our cost to provide the program came in under \$5,000-\$10,000 under the projected \$55,000 and that it is not a burden on the District's finances as we are in a strong financial position and not taking away from opportunities elsewhere. The program services anywhere from 13-24 students per day, with Wednesday attendance being the highest. The supervision staff is able to provide homework assistance for students in attendance. Dixon runs a similar program with the YMCA but parents are responsible for the cost of supervision. The Board is in full support of continuing the program but a couple would like to other alternatives for covering the cost of the service.
- D. June 2027 8th Grade Washington DC Trip (EF Tours): Mrs. Dimmig would like the District to approve the trip at no cost to the District. The District is not affiliated with the EF Tours trips and Mr. Lindy would prefer the District not be attached to these trips in the future.
- E. FFA Annual Report: No one in attendance to report.
- F. 6-12 Social Studies Curriculum: The Curriculum Committee has selected and recommends McGraw Hill Social Studies as the new Social Studies curriculum for 6th-12th grades. The curriculum was piloted this school year and works very well with our other current curricula. Ms. Burkitt reported that The Spring Benchmarking is the first time everyone at the ES has scored above average on math with the new curriculum.
- G. FY 26 Audit Proposal from Benning Group: The annual agreement for audit services will be \$24,650. Mr. Lindy and the Board are happy with the switch to Benning and would like to stay with them. Benning Group has been very responsive and thorough which means that our financial controls are stronger and reports are more accurate.
- H. Staff Spotlight: Mrs. Bay, Ms. Mahaffey, and Mr. Treadwell were recognized this month for their continuous hard work and dedication to AFC. Congratulations to them!

X. Executive Session

- A. Motion made by Jackie, seconded by Mark to go into Executive Session at 8:05pm. Motion carried by a unanimous roll-call vote.
- B. Board returned to Regular Session at 9:16pm.

XI. Action Items

- A. Motion made by Tim, seconded by Tiffany to Approve the MOU with Lee County Sheriff's Department as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous roll-call vote.
- B. Motion made by Mark, seconded by Lea to Approve the Natural Gas Supply Bid form NRG as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous roll-call vote.
- C. Motion made by Mark, seconded by Cullen to Approve the June 2027 8th Grade Washington DC Trip Request. Motion carried by a unanimous roll-call vote.
- D. Motion made by Tiffany, seconded by Mark to Approve the 6-12th Grade Social Studies Curriculum with McGraw Hills as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous roll-call vote.
- E. Motion made by Mark, seconded by Kyle to Approve the Changes to the Signatories of Various District Bank Accounts. Motion carried by a unanimous roll-call vote.
- F. Motion made by Mark, seconded by Cullen to Approve the FY 2025 Audit Proposal from District Auditor, Benning Group as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous roll-call vote.
- G. Motion made by Mark, seconded by Tim to Approve the Continuation of the After School Program with the YMCA. Motion passed by majority 5-1 vote, with Kyle voting no and Lea abstaining.
- H. Motion made by Mark, seconded by Kyle to Impose a Two-Year Expulsion on Student #1. Motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.
- I. Motion made by Mark, seconded by Lea to Approve the Hire of Melissa McMillian as HS Agriculture and FFA Teacher. Motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote, with Tim abstaining due to conflict.
- J. Motion made by Mark, seconded by Lea to Approve the Hire of Michael Olson as HS Special Education Teacher. Motion passed by a majority 5-1 vote, with Jackie voting no and Tiffany abstaining due to conflict.
- K. Motion made by Tiffany, seconded by Jackie to Approve the Hire of Olivia Garcia as 6-12th Grade Band and Choir Teacher. Motion passed by unanimous roll-call vote.
Motion carried by a unanimous roll-call vote.
- L. Motion made by Lea, seconded by Mark to Approve the Hire of Marissa Sanford as HS Paraprofessional. Motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.
- M. Motion made by Mark, seconded by Tiffany to Approve the Maternity Leave/FMLA Request by Abby Janike anticipated for 8/15/25-10/3/25. Motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.
- N. Motion made by Mark, seconded by Kyle to Approve the Resignations as Follows:
 - 1. Kelly Viall as HS Agriculture and FFA Teacher

2. Melanie Garrity as Bus Driver
 3. Rebecca Engelbarts as HS Football Cheer Sponsor
- Motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.

XII. Adjourn – Motion made by Tiffany, seconded by Mark to adjourn the meeting at 9:24pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Cullen Searing, Board President

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.