EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS

DREAM IT. DO IT.

EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS
MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
MINUTES
October 7, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.

Administration Building – Board Room
1240 State Road 930 East
New Haven, IN 46774

At a meeting (a hybrid in person and virtual meeting) held at the Administration Building, located at 1240 State Road 930 East, New Haven, Indiana, the Board of School Trustees of East Allen County Schools met at 5:30 p.m. on October 7, 2025.

Board members present:
Mr. Timothy E. Hines, President
Mr. Steven M. Screeton, Vice President
Ms. Jennifer L. Blackburn Secretary
Mr. Todd C. Buckmaster
Ms. Pamela G. Dukes
Mrs. Beth A. Wood

Board members absent:
Mrs. Cynthia L. Diehl

EACS Administrators and Association Presidents also in attendance:
Mrs. Marilyn Hissong, Superintendent
Dr. Robby Goodman, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education
Mrs. Teresa Knoblauch, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education
Dr. Patrick McCann, Chief Financial Officer
Mrs. Cassie Lepper, Executive Director of Special Services
Mrs. Patty Prosser, Executive Director of Human Resources
Mrs. Angie Thompson, Director of Development and Federal Programs
Mrs. Tamyra Kelly, Public Information Officer
Mr. Tim Wiegand, Executive Director of Alternative and Career and Technical Education
Mrs. Janet Good, Director of Transportation
Mrs. Emily Keirns, Director of Title III
Mr. Dan Krleski, Director of Food Services
Mr. Michael Starewich, Director of Technology
Mrs. Michelle Wenglikowski, Director of Student Services
Mrs. Renita Peters, Principal, Cedarville Elementary School
Ms. Michelle Rodgers, Principal, Leo Elementary School

1.0 ROUTINE ITEMS

1.1 Call to Order

President Tim Hines called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Jason Klug's 2nd grade class from Woodlan Elementary School led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance (pre-recorded and virtually).

1.3 Approval of Agenda

The agenda for October 7, 2025 was approved as presented with an addendum to Consent Item 3.1 - Human Resources Report, and the addition of Discussion/Action Items 25-1007-4.11 - Acceptance of Settlement and General Release Agreement (300); 25-1007-4.12 - Acceptance of Settlement and General Release Agreement (516); and 25-1007-4.13 - Special Agenda Item per I.C. 20-26-5-11.2.

1.4 Recognition

Johnny Appleseed Festival Spelling Bee Winner

Leo Elementary School 4th grader, Judah Geeting, was the winner of the Johnny Appleseed Festival Spelling Bee. For this year's Spelling Bee, the words were taken from the 1879 revised addition of the McGuffey's Eclectic Spelling Book. Judah was excited to take on this challenge and not only studied the words they gave him but went online to find hundreds more to make sure he was prepared.

IREAD 99% Pass Rate

Cedarville Elementary School principal, Mrs. Renita Peters, and her team of teachers were recognized for achieving a 99% passing rate on the IREAD-3 assessment. This test is a mandatory annual statewide reading assessment in Indiana for 3rd grade students, designed to evaluate foundation reading skills. All 3rd grade students in the state of Indiana must take and pass the test to be promoted to 4th grade. With strong, core instruction and quality interventions, Cedarville Elementary School teachers successfully supported their students in passing the IREAD-3, celebrating a 99% passing rate this past school year.

2.0 PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

3.0 CONSENT ITEMS

Superintendent Hissong requested the Board's approval for the Consent Items as presented as follows:

3.1 Human Resources Report and Addendum
3.2 Financial Reports
3.3 Meetings and Conferences
3.4 Minutes – Regular Meeting – September 16, 2025

Motion: That Consent Items 3.1 through 3.4 be approved as presented.

Motion: Buckmaster Second: Screeton

Discussion: None.

Vote:
3.1–3.4 - Aye: Blackburn, Buckmaster, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Wood (Motion carried 6-0)

Mr. Hines thanked Google for their very generous donation to New Haven High School which will help launch their new broadcasting project.

4.0 ACTION ITEMS

25-1007-4.1 Revised Administrative Guideline 3700 - Extracurricular Accounts

25-1007-4.2 Resolution - Adopt 2026 Budgets, Appropriations and Tax Rates

25-1007-4.3 Resolution - 2026 Bus Replacement Plan

25-1007-4.4 Resolution - 2026 Capital Projects Plan

25-1007-4.5 Resolution - 2026 Budget (Line 2) - All Funds

25-1007-4.6 Resolution - Balancing Accounts for the 2025 Education and Operations Funds

Motion: That Action Items 25-1007-4.1 and 25-1007-4.6 be approved as presented.

Motion: Screeton Second: Buckmaster

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.1-4.6 - Aye: Blackburn, Buckmaster, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Wood (Motion carried 6-0)

25-1007-4.7 Contract with Sylvan Learning Center on Behalf of International Leadership School

Mrs. Angie Thompson presented information to the Board and answered Ms. Blackburn's question.

Motion: That Discussion/Action Item 25-1007-4.7 be approved as presented.

Motion: Screeton Second: Dukes

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.7 - Aye: Blackburn, Buckmaster, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Wood (Motion carried 6-0)

25-1007-4.8 Builders Risk Insurance for Southwick Elementary School

Dr. Patrick McCann presented information to the Board. No questions.

Motion: That Discussion/Action Item 25-1007-4.8 be approved as presented.

Motion: Buckmaster Second: Blackburn

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.8 - Aye: Blackburn, Buckmaster, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Wood (Motion carried 6-0)

25-1007-4.9 2025 Prince Chapman Academy HVAC Renovations – Change Order #1

Dr. Patrick McCann presented information to the Board. No questions.

Motion: That Discussion/Action Item 25-1007-4.9 be approved as presented.

Motion: Buckmaster Second: Screeton

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.9 - Aye: Blackburn, Buckmaster, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Wood (Motion carried 6-0)

25-1007-4.10 Concrete Work at Heritage Jr./Sr. High School's Softball/Baseball Complex

Dr. Patrick McCann presented information to the Board. No questions.

Motion: That Discussion/Action Item 25-1007-4.10 be approved as presented.

Motion: Buckmaster Second: Dukes

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.10 - Aye: Blackburn, Buckmaster, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Wood (Motion carried 6-0)

25-1007-4.11 Acceptance of Settlement and General Release Agreement (300)
(ADDENDUM)

Dr. Patrick McCann presented information to the Board. No questions.

Motion: That Discussion/Action Item 25-1007-4.11 be approved as presented.

Motion: Screeton Second: Blackburn

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.11 - Aye: Blackburn, Buckmaster, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Wood (Motion carried 6-0)

25-1007-4.12 Acceptance of Settlement and General Release Agreement (516)
(ADDENDUM)

Dr. Patrick McCann presented information to the Board. No questions.

Motion: That Discussion/Action Item 25-1007-4.12 be approved as presented.

Motion: Buckmaster Second: Screeton

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.12 - Aye: Blackburn, Buckmaster, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Wood (Motion carried 6-0)

25-1007-4.13 Special Agenda Item per I.C. 20-26-5-11.2 (ADDENDUM)

Dr. Patrick McCann presented information to the Board. No questions.

Motion: That Discussion/Action Item 25-1007-4.13 be approved as presented.

Motion: Blackburn Second: Screeton

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.13 - Aye: Blackburn, Buckmaster, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Wood (Motion carried 6-0)

5.0 INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 Grants and Allocations – 3rd Quarter 2025

5.2 Group Health Insurance Report

5.3 School Improvement Plans (Summaries)

5.4 Summer School Report

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.5 Contract with Fort Wayne Community Schools for Meal Service (ACLA)

Mr. Dan Krleski presented information to the Board. No questions.

5.6 Purchase of New Laptop Computers for EACS Staff

Mr. Michael Starewich presented information to the Board. No questions.

5.7 2026 Group Health Insurance: Rates/Contributions

Dr. Patrick McCann presented information to the Board. No questions.

5.8 Selection of A&E Firm for GO Bond Roofing Projects for 2026

Dr. Patrick McCann presented information to the Board. No questions.

5.9 GO Bond – Additional Appropriations and Final Bond Resolutions

Dr. Patrick McCann presented information to the Board. No questions.

6.0 SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Mrs. Staci Salzbrenner and Mrs. Heather Hunley have been selected as presenters for the IAG Conference in December. They will be presenting the topic “It’s More Than Just A Game: Enhancing High Ability Curriculum and Social Emotional Learning through Game Play.” It’s always exciting when our staff is selected to present at conferences.

Thank you to Dr. Robby Goodman who was instrumental in bringing to New Haven High School Google's and the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation's Robotics Workshop held at NHHS on Tuesday, 9/30. A huge thank you to these organizations. It was very well organized. There was lots of engagement and excitement from both the students and staff who participated.

Prince Chapman Academy held a "PreK Goes to Work at the Construction Site" event. The preschoolers were given vests and hard hats to wear. They visited the worksite and were able to get up close to the equipment and talk to the workers. This was followed by an art activity, and a booking reading. Thank you to Wiegand Construction and Garmann Miller. It was a lot of fun.

Fall Break is this Friday, October 10th through Monday, October 13th. Our schools will be closed but our central offices will be open as usual.

This Thursday, October 9th will conclude our first 9 weeks of school!

Today at Prince Chapman Academy, Food Service Manager, Mrs. Teresa White-Mcdonald, was honored for her 35 years of service in the food service department.

A special Happy Birthday to Mrs. Cassie Lepper who will turn 40 tomorrow!

7.0 BOARD COMMENTS

Name	Topic
Ms. Jenny Blackburn	Congratulations to our CEEL teachers – 99% passing takes a lot of work; Congratulations and great job to Judah for winning the spelling contest; Is looking forward to Fall Break.
Ms. Pamela Dukes	Congratulations to Judah – it takes a lot to get up in front of a group of people and remain calm.
Mr. Todd Buckmaster	Happy Birthday to Mrs. Lepper!
Mrs. Beth Wood	Happy Birthday to Mrs. Lepper!; CEEL teachers/ students worked hard on IREAD; Enjoy Fall Break!
Mr. Steve Screeton	Congratulations to the CEEL teachers and their IREAD results; Enjoy your Fall Break; Happy Birthday to Mrs. Lepper.
Mr. Tim Hines	Reminder there is an Executive Session tonight following this meeting; Congratulations to the CEEL teachers' remarkable IREAD results; Congratulations to Judah – you have to keep your cool and remain relaxed in front of a room full of strangers, and he seems to do very well in front of crowds; It was a privilege to participate in the PCA PreK Construction Day. Project Manager, Mr. Nolan Smith, did a great job interacting with the preschoolers!

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Screeton moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Full audio minutes are available on the East Allen County Schools website, under the School Board tab, at www.eacs.k12.in.us.

The next regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. This meeting will be held at the EACS Administration Building, 1240 State Road 930 East, New Haven, Indiana.

These minutes were approved and adopted by the East Allen County Schools Board of School Trustees on October 21, 2025.

EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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President Secretary