



County Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 9:00 AM

Old Lee County Courthouse, Third Floor Boardroom, 112 E 2nd St, Dixon, IL 61021

*This meeting can be viewed in its entirety on YouTube using the web address below
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2L_Yhf_oVE&t*

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:02, by Chair Jack Skrogstad.

II. Committee Member Roll Call: Chair Jack Skrogstad, Vice Chair Ali Huss, Dean Freil, Katie White, Ron Gascoigne, Reed Akre

Jack Skrogstad, Ali Huss, Dean Freil, Katie White, Ron Gascoigne, and Reed Akre all attended in person.

Also present: Keane Hudson, Tom Kitson, and Mike Koppien (Board Members), Dave Anderson (County Engineer/Highway Department), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney), Jennifer Boyd (Assessor), Sami Elarifi (GIS Coordinator), Jeremy Englund (Administrator), Paul Gorski (IT Director), Nancy Petersen (County Clerk and Recorder), Chris Tennyson (Regional Office of Education Superintendent), Jared Yater (Zoning Compliance Officer), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) all attended in person. Alice Henkel (Zoning Administrator) attended via Zoom from 9:37-9:48.

Discussion/Comments not on the agenda:

Tom Kitson encouraged all the board members to review the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on YouTube from Thursday, February 6, 2025. There will be several petitions brought forward at the County Board Meeting in February, one of which will likely be controversial.

III. Public Attendees

Greg Gates (Executive Director at RMTD - Reagan Mass Transit District)

Greg Gates attended the meeting in person and provided the committee with a detailed report from the Reagan Mass Transit District. This report will be attached to the minutes and included in the February County Board agenda packet.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting - (January 14, 2025)

Minutes from the January 14, 2025, County Services Committee Meeting were approved as presented without modification.

V. Transportation/Solid Waste

A. Monthly Report

Dave Anderson walked the committee through the detailed report that he submitted from the Highway Department and Solid Waste Management. This report will be

attached to a copy of the minutes and included in the February County Board agenda packet.

B. Highway Department

1. Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Construction for Perry Road CIR/HMA Section Number 23-00356-00-RS

Motion to move the Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Construction for Perry Road CIR/HMA Section Number 23-00356-00-RS to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the February County Board agenda. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Ron Gascoigne. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Construction for Brooklyn Road Bridge Replacement Section Number 22-00351-00-BR

Motion to move the Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Construction for the Brooklyn Road Bridge Replacement Section number 22-00351-00-BR to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the February County Board agenda. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Katie White. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. Awarding of Bids Received From the February 7, 2025, Bid Letting

Motion to award the bids as presented to the committee, subject to the Highway Commissioner concurrence, as applicable, and IDOT review. **Moved** by Katie White. **Second** by Ali Huss. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. Solid Waste Management

Dave Anderson reported that electronics recycling would resume in April.

VI. Assessor's Office - GIS Department

A. Assessor's Office

1. Monthly Report

Jennifer Boyd walked the committee through the detailed report that she submitted from the Assessor's Office. This report will be attached to the minutes and included in the February County Board agenda packet.

B. GIS Department (Geographic Information System)

1. Monthly Report

Sami Elarifi walked the committee through the detailed report that he submitted from the GIS Department. This report will be attached to the minutes and included in the February County Board agenda packet.

VII. County Board

Jeremy Englund reported the following information from County Board:

- The County Services Committee meeting was being used to test an AI module within OnBoard for recording and assisting with processing minutes.

- Three letters of support are being written for broadband providers seeking state funding.
- The first round of HR Coordinator interviews was completed. The second round of interviews is being planned. The position remains posted until filled.
- The County received a BRIC Grant to establish building codes in Lee County. A meeting is scheduled to discuss the grant details.

VIII. County Clerk and Recorder's Office

A. Monthly Report

Nancy Petersen walked the committee through the detailed report that she submitted. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the February County Board agenda packet. In addition to her report, Nancy explained that in an effort to save money, the office will start using a magazine insert in the Telegraph and Amboy News for election information (early voting, polling locations, etc.), rather than multiple individual notices. This is estimated to save the County \$2,000-\$3,000. Online notifications to subscribers will also be included.

IX. IT Department (Information Technology)

A. Monthly Report

Paul Gorski walked the committee through the detailed report that he submitted from the IT Department. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the February County Board agenda packet.

X. ROE (Regional Office of Education #47)

A. Monthly Report

Chris Tennyson walked the committee through the detailed report that he submitted from the Regional Office of Education for December and January. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the February County Board agenda packet.

XI. Veterans Assistance

No one from Veterans Assistance attended the meeting and no report was submitted.

XII. Zoning / Planning

A. Monthly Reports

Alice Henkel attended the meeting via Zoom. A full report was submitted to the committee prior to the meeting. This report will be attached to the minutes and included in the February County Board agenda packet. In addition to the report, Alice explained that on February 6, 2025, there was a rather controversial Zoning hearing regarding a variance for Jeff Lewis that resulted in a tie vote from the ZBA. The issue will go to the County Board for a super majority vote. Board members were urged to review the YouTube video of the hearing.

Jared Yater walked the committee through the progress in compliance enforcement: Following are the highlights:

- There are roughly 60 non-compliant properties, with new cases regularly arising.
- Three citations are pending, and two were issued in the month of January.
 - He is currently working on 18 active building permits. Seven were closed in the in the last month.
 - He has been asked to help with abandoned properties investigations. He is currently working with two properties in the Dixon area.

B. Petitions Going To the Zoning Board of Appeals - 1 Petition

1. Petition No. 25-P-1638 by Craig A. and Christine Kessel, as owners of certain real property identified as PIN 02-15-19-200-004 and commonly known as 859 Morgan Road, Amboy.

Motion to move Petition No. 25-P-1638 to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the February County Board agenda. **Moved** by Ron Gascoigne. **Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. Petitions Coming From the Zoning Board of Appeals - 4 Petitions

1. Petition No. 24-P-1632 by Jeffrey A. Lewis as owner of certain real property identified as PIN 07-02-17-252-015 and commonly known as 763 Forest Park Dr., Dixon, Illinois.

Motion to move Petition No. 24-P-1632 with corresponding resolution to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the February County Board agenda. **Moved** by Ron Gascoigne. **Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. Petition No. 24-P-1635 by Jake R. Kastner, as owner of certain real properties identified as PINs 07-02-34-300-022, 07-02-34-300-017, 07-02-34-300-035 and 07-02-34-300-018, located on the south side of Stony Point Road.

Motion to move Petition No. 24-P-1635 with corresponding resolution to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the February County Board agenda. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Katie White. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. Petition No. 25-P-1636 by Kevin J. and Shelly L. Rod, as owner of certain real property identified as PIN 05-17-05-100-007 and commonly known as 2506 Shaw Road, West Brooklyn.

Motion to move Petition No. 25-P-1636 with corresponding resolution to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the February County Board agenda. **Moved** by Reid Akre. **Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. Petition No. 25-P-1637 by Kevin J. and Shelly L. Rod, as owner of certain real property identified as PIN 05-17-05-100-007 and commonly known as 2506 Shaw Road, West Brooklyn.

Motion to move Petition No. 25-P-1637 with corresponding resolution to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the February County Board agenda. **Moved** by Reed Akre. **Second** by Ron Gascoigne. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

D. Petitions Going To the Planning Commission - 1 Petition

1. Petition No. 25-PC-78 by the Lee County Zoning Administrator, was filed in which Petitioner seeks to amend the text of Title 10: ZONING REGULATIONS of the Lee County Code of Ordinances to replace Zoning Board of Appeals with Zoning Hearing Officer.

Motion to move Petition No. 25-PC-78 to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the February County Board agenda. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Ron Gascoigne. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

E. Petitions Coming From the Planning Commission - 1 Petition

1. Petition No. 25-PC-77 by the Lee County Engineer, was filed in which Petitioner seeks to amend the text of Title 11: SUBDIVISION, FLOOD CONTROL AND STORM WATER MGMT, Chapter 4: STORM WATER MGMT, of the Lee County Code of Ordinances.

Motion to move Petition No. 25-PC-77 to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the February County Board agenda. **Moved** by Ron Gascoigne. **Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

XIII. **Unfinished Business**

There were no items under Unfinished Business.

XIV. **New Business**

A. Resolution Amending Animal Control Fees and Fines

Motion to move the Resolution Amending Animal Control Fees and Fines to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the February County Board agenda. **Moved** by Reed Akre. **Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. Resolution Appointing Amy Palmer as an Alternate to the Lee County Regional Planning Commission

Motion to move the Resolution Appointing Amy Palmer as an Alternate to the Lee County Regional Planning Commission to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the February County Board agenda. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Ali Huss. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

XV. **Executive Session**

There was no request for an Executive Session.

XVI. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 9:48 a.m. **Moved** by Ali Huss. **Second** by Ron Gascoigne. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

The next County Services Committee Meeting is scheduled for
9:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Respectfully submitted by:
Becky Brenner - Board Secretary

Lee County Highway Department
Report to the County Services Committee – FEBRUARY 2025

The following represents a report of notable Highway Department activities and explanations of requested board actions:

Status of Current Projects

- Bid Letting on 2/7/2025, bid tabulations are attached. Full and detailed bid tabulations were placed on the Lee County website on 2/07/2025.

Other:

- In addition to assembling projects for bidding, the engineering staff will continue inspection of approximately 75 bridges this month to comply with the Federal Highway Administration's National Bridge Inspection Standards.

Board Action Items:

- Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Construction for Perry Road CIR/HMA Section Number 23-00356-00-RS
- Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Construction for Brooklyn Road Bridge Replacement Section Number 22-00351-00-BR
- Resolution 25-PC-77 Text Amendment
- Award Bids listed on attached Bid Tabulation

Solid Waste

Electronics collection is closed for the season and will reopen again in April. The contract is in place with Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations for recycling E-waste in 2025.

Per the host agreement with Republic Services, a letter was sent to the landfill with the newly calculated host fees based upon the CPI increase from December 2023 to December 2024. The host fee for 2024 will be \$2.44 per ton for the first 1000 tons in a day and \$3.01/ton for tons over 1000 in a day. This represents a 2.89% increase from last year.



MONTHLY ASSESSMENT OFFICE REPORT
February 11, 2025 – County Services Committee

- The Board of Review met on January 21st, 23rd and 29th to review appeals filed against 2024 assessment values.
 - Attorney Gary Gehlbach was appointed to the BOR this past July. This was his first time participating in the review process. Gary's knowledge of real estate law, along with his long-standing reputation for being fair and kind in the community, are strong assets to the BOR. Along with Lori Erbes' knowledge as a realtor and Cole Olson's farming operations knowledge, our Board of Review is well equipped to handle the task of determining uniformity in assessments among all taxpayers in our taxing districts.
 - There were 74 appeals docketed (a total of 75 parcels appealed total).
 - Proposed Change Notices were emailed and mailed via standard mail on Monday, February 3rd.
 - Taxpayers who are not satisfied with those initial findings are instructed to contact our office to schedule a hearing in person or via teleconference with the BOR. Hearings will be held on February 18th and February 20th
 - This was the first time we had sent a courtesy copy of the notice via email. This was done to afford the taxpayer ample time to schedule a hearing if necessary.
 - Of the 75 parcels that appealed, 45 parcels were given an initial decrease in their assessment and 30 parcels were sent a notice indicating no change.
- We received our Notice of Confirmation from the Department of Revenue this week confirming a Tentative Equalization Factor of 1.0000. (Notice attached.)
 - While the Assessment Office has had to implement equalization factors internally that have been higher than in past years due to the increase in market value, it has been necessary to accomplish this 1.0 factor at the state level. Receiving the 1.0 factor validates the hard decisions made when we implemented the higher factors at the assessment level.
 - Calculating the factors at our local level enables us to distribute higher factors more equitably to the pockets of the county that are most undervalued vs. a blanket factor the state would apply to the entire county.
- Our office is transitioning from tax year 2024 to 2025. While we are wrapping up with the 2024 assessment appeals and getting ready to roll the tax file to the Clerk and Records office, we are beginning work in 2025 general assessment township work which will be Dixon and Palmyra Townships.
- GIS Dept: We will be meeting with Cloudpoint on Wednesday, 2/19 for a demonstration of two projects we are hoping to implement in the near future. Coming in the next year we will be moving away from ArcGIS Desktop version to ArcGIS Pro as Desktop will no longer be supported starting in 2026. Along with that, there will be some other changes that we are excited about that will improve the quality and integrity of our data. Also coming in 2025 is new aerial photography by Eagleview. The flights will be taking place in April, and we should be receiving the new map layer by this fall.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Boyd, CIAO
Chief County Assessment Officer/GIS Supervisor



Monthly GIS Department Report
February 6, 2025

Completed Activities:

- Processed parcel split and combination requests for December 2024.
- Maintained and updated GIS layers, including land use and other relevant datasets.
- Finalized 2024 zoning changes for the Zoning Department and uploaded them to EagleView.
- Updated and uploaded NG911 and 911 GIS layers to public safety mapping systems.

Ongoing Activities:

- Deploying the Special Event Operations solution for the Dixon Fire Department to improve safety planning and public safety monitoring during special events.
- Preparing City of Dixon GIS data for submission to SB Friedman Development Advisors.
- Calculating the annual contribution for new parcels using the Split Drainage Listing Report provided by the Clerk's Office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sami Elarifi
GIS Coordinator



COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER
REPORT FOR FEBRUARY COMMITTEE MEETING

- **CONSOLIDATED ELECTION APRIL 1, 2025**
- Early Voting and Voting by Mail Begins on February 20, 2025
- Training Sessions for Election Judges held on February 25th at 8:30 & 10:30 at the Holloway Center
- Always looking for Election Day Judges – please reach out to my Election Office 288-3309 for details.
- Economic Interest Papers mailed last week-turn into the Election Department-660 went out
- Election Publication update
- Tax Extension Process is under way in my 2nd floor office.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Petersen
Lee County Clerk & Recorder





IT Department
Paul Gorski, IT Director
www.leecountyil.com

February 11, 2025

IT Board Report – February 2025

1. I am celebrating four years with Lee County. Thank you for allowing me to serve as IT Director.
2. Records Office - Travis Null is migrating users to a newer file server, retiring an old file server.
3. Courts - Jonathan Henrikson is deploying new desktop PCs to court staff.
4. Circuit Clerk – Travis is working on some new PC deployments in the Circuit Clerk's office and retiring an old file server.
5. County-wide – We're migrating user PCs to Windows 11 in advance of Microsoft planned retirement of Windows 10 in October 2025.
6. Animal Control – upgraded the video system to store video for a longer period.
7. We're deploying new storage backup systems to help protect against ransomware and accidental deletion of county data.
8. Upcoming projects include:
 - Computer upgrades in SAO later this spring, pending grant approval.
 - County-wide – reorganize, consolidate on-site login, domain servers.
 - Organize Cybersecurity response team and response team plan.

Contact me with any questions.

Thank you.

Paul Gorski
IT Director
Lee County, IL
815-285-8166
pgorski@countyoflee.org

Regional Office of Education Report

February 2025

VISION 2030

Last month, education leaders from five statewide organizations in Illinois unveiled the Vision 2030 blueprint for excellence in K-12 public education—a policy brief shaped by the voices of over 1,000 stakeholders, including locally elected school board members and dedicated educators statewide—from the southern tip to northern Illinois.

Vision 2030 is rooted in the belief that students thrive and educators excel when they feel safe and connected to each other and to their communities. This guiding principle is critical for fostering academic achievement and individual well-being, and it must be integrated into our instructional approaches, support systems, and funding, so that local districts have the resources needed to ensure that school buildings are safe.

Specifically, Vision 2030 prioritizes:

- **Future-Focused Learning:** Redefining student success to prepare our children for a rapidly changing world.
- **Shared Accountability:** Moving beyond standardized tests to evaluate student growth and proficiency over time.
- **Predictable Funding:** Ensuring sustainable financial resources for excellent education and updated technology to meet today's economic challenges.

Most importantly, Vision 2030 is focused on preserving local flexibility, so that we can make the best decisions for our students right here in our community.

Office of Professional Learning & Educational Services

Current Programs - Office of Professional Learning & Educational Services
Induction & Mentoring
Education Pathway Endorsement
Manufacturing, Health Science, IT & Agriculture Endorsement Programs
Elevating Special Educators
School Improvement & Strategic Planning
School Improvement Cooperative (instructional coaching, training, networking)

Social Emotional Learning/Trauma/Youth Mental Health First Aid/TRS I-A
Early Childhood Professional Learning
Family Education & Engagement
NEXUS Family Support Services
Student Attendance
Computer Science Capacity Building
Afterschool Program
Preschool for ALL Expansion

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Professional Learning & School Improvement

- ROE 47 Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services is currently **auditing 10 school districts** in Lee, Ogle & Whiteside counties. Regional Offices of Education are required to audit the professional development activities offered by districts at least once every five years.
- ROE 47 is partnering with the Illinois and National Science Teacher Association and the Illinois State Board of Education to provide **statewide professional learning to support the implementation of the Illinois Science Standards** in FY 25. Sessions (virtual, face to face, synchronous, asynchronous) launched January 27, 2025 with over 40 participants and will continue through June 30, 2025.
- ROE 47 Office of PL & Ed Services has been awarded a NEW grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health to promote **youth mental health and suicide prevention**. The Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM) program is a school-based program that teaches students (grades 8-12) how to cope with mental health issues and prevent suicide. The program is delivered by certified facilitators in the classroom in a series of interactive sessions(role play, student discussions) over a few weeks. What the program does:
 - Helps students learn about mental health and suicide prevention
 - Teaches students how to identify and respond to mental health concerns
 - Helps students develop coping skills and emotional resilience
 - Encourages students to seek help for themselves and their friends
 - Helps students recognize the need for support
- Active schools with **TRS-IA or RSSI plans** to support trauma-responsive schools include: Amboy Central Elementary, Amboy Jr High School, Amboy High School, Center for Change, Chana Educ Center, Southside School (Morrison), Polo High School, Rock Falls Middle School, Dillon Elementary (RF), Merrill Elementary (RF), Riverdale (RF),

Jefferson (Sterling), Lincoln Elementary (Sterling), Paw Paw Elementary & Jr High, Monroe Center, Sauk Valley Deanery.

- ROE 47 has launched a year-long **social media campaign to raise awareness of trauma**, reduce stigma, and promote resilience. Posts are available each Monday on Facebook.
- ROE 47 partners with Sterling Township's Elevate Youth Program and the Sterling-Rock Falls YMCA to provide an **after school program** for Challand Middle School students at the youth center. The program runs Monday - Thursday from 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. We are serving 15 students each night. In the recent weeks students have really enjoyed using tinkercad and printing on the 3d printer. In the last week we have gained 2 new kids because their friends are excited about coming. Looking forward to planning summer activities with the group and working on study and homework skills.
- The Office Professional Learning & Educational Services is excited to announce that we have been awarded a **Preschool for ALL Expansion grant** through the Illinois State Board of Education. The grant proposed partnering with Dixon YMCA and Dreaming Tree preschool in Dixon to open four full day preschool classrooms serving 80 children ages 3-4.



FREE Program!

Our Locations

ROE 47 is proud to partner with Open Sesame Daycare and YMCA Lovett Child Development Center to provide a comprehensive early childhood education program that prepares children for kindergarten and beyond. Our program offers four classrooms (2 per site) serving 80 students, four certified teachers, family support, a lending library, family events, and an evidence-based curriculum. Together, we're committed to providing your child with a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

Our Mission

The ROE 47 Early Learning Academy partners with families and the community to nurture young minds and foster a love of learning through high-quality early childhood education, empowering children to become confident, curious, and capable learners.

Our Philosophy

The ROE 47 Early Learning Academy believes that all children deserve a strong foundation in early learning within a safe and nurturing environment. Educators work closely with families to support holistic development, respecting each child's unique needs and cultural background. Emphasis is placed on inclusive practices, honoring diversity, and preparing children to thrive academically and socially.

ROE 47 EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY

Empowering children to become confident, curious, and capable learners.



Contact Us

☎ 815.625.1495
🌐 www.roe47.org

2024-2025



A Play-Based Approach to Learning

Our curriculum is designed to engage young minds and spark curiosity. We believe in the power of play to support children's learning and development. Our program emphasizes:

- Child-Centered Learning: Tailoring instruction to meet individual needs.
- Literacy and Math: Building essential skills through hands-on activities.
- Science and Social Studies: Exploring the world around us.
- Creative Expression: Encouraging imagination and self-expression.

Program Hours

Monday - Friday
August - May
Program Follows Dixon Schools calendar
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Wrap Around Care Available!

Breakfast, lunch & snack provided.

Who is Eligible?

- ✓ Be 3 or 4 years old by September 1st of the current school year.
- ✓ Meet state eligibility guidelines.
- ✓ Participate in a developmental screening

Our Program

ROE 47 Preschool for All is a program designed to provide high-quality, **free, full day** preschool education to eligible children in Lee, Ogle & Whiteside counties. Our program focuses on:

- Early Learning: Building a strong foundation for future academic success.
- Social-Emotional Development: Fostering positive relationships and self-regulation.
- Cognitive Skills: Encouraging critical thinking and problem-solving abilities

5 Days of Full-Day Preschool!

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Parent Engagement & Community Outreach

- Parent & Family Engagement Events
 - December 1: Cardinal Community Christmas, Stillman Valley - 50 families
 - December 6: Sights & Sounds, Sterling - 500 people
 - December 31: Noon Year's Eve, Sterling - 18 students
 - January 9: Parent University: Money Matters - 13 families
 - January 13: BLOCK Fest for Preschool Students, Erie - 35 families
- To date, ROE 47 has 144 partners on its IRIS referral platform. There have been 3,150 referrals and 1726 families served. IRIS is an Integrated Referral and Intake System that works to connect local agencies with one another to streamline online client referrals. IRIS supports warm hand-offs for families, closes the communication loop for referring organizations, tracks outcomes, and provides a clear data-driven picture of partner capacity to improve the process over time.

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Social Media

The department's social media presence continues to grow. Like our page on Facebook (Regional Office of Education #47) and download our ROE47 App for weekly teacher talks, instructional tips, news, giveaways, updates & more! Follow us on Twitter @RegionalOffice47. Want to hear from educators & students in the classroom? Check out our Teacher Talks on YouTube! We have an extensive library of 153 videos (and growing) in our collection!

Upcoming Events

For Educators

NGSS CAPACITY BUILDERS SERIES

Welcome to this Zoom-based learning series for administrators, coaches, ROE staff, higher ed, curriculum directors, and science leaders. We'll explore key aspects of science education, including program analysis, effective instruction, integrating key skills, and enhancing science through technology and CTE. Join us to gain valuable insights and collaborate.

THE CURRENT REALITY OF SCIENCE

JANUARY 27
9:00 - 10:00 A.M.

This session will explore the role of science education in preparing students for success in the 21st century. We will demonstrate how science provides a crucial framework for understanding the world, fosters critical thinking, engages students, and connects to all areas of learning. We'll discuss ways to grow your school or district's science program (and ourselves)—starting small and moving to big. This session will inspire administrators to become champions for science in their schools and provide strategies for enhancing science instruction.

INTEGRATING MATH & LITERACY IN SCIENCE

APRIL 28
9:00 - 10:00 A.M.

This session will explore strategies for seamlessly integrating math and literacy skills (including equity) into science instruction. Participants will examine real-world examples of how to make time for these essential connections within the science curriculum.

EVALUATING THE SCIENCE CLASSROOM

FEBRUARY 24
9:00 - 10:00 A.M.

This workshop will explore how to effectively assess and improve implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). We will delve into defining effective science instruction, including phenomena-driven 5-dimensional learning, and culturally responsive teaching. We will then discuss strategies for bridging the gap between current instructional practices and the realities of what the NGSS demands, supporting teachers and administrators in this transition. By the end of this session, participants will be able to identify key characteristics of an effective science classroom and develop strategies for improving teacher feedback to accurately reflect the quality of science instruction.

SCIENCE SUMMIT

JUNE 23
9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

This online summit will feature keynote presentations from leading experts, interactive breakout sessions, and valuable networking opportunities. Attendees will explore key topics such as leveraging technology in the classroom, effective budgeting strategies, best practices in Career and Technical Education (CTE), and identifying and utilizing high-quality educational resources. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and insights from industry leaders, connect with other educators, and discover innovative strategies to improve teaching and learning.



To register visit: www.roe47.org



NGSS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

INTRODUCTION TO OPENSIED

January 28, 2025
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
Virtual



This 90-minute session introduces Illinois K-12 educators to OpenSciEd, a free, NGSS-aligned science curriculum. Explore its inquiry-based approach, access online resources, and learn how to implement OpenSciEd in your classroom.

ADVANTAGES:

- ✓ Free and Openly Licensed
- ✓ NGSS-Aligned
- ✓ Inquiry-Based Learning
- ✓ 3-Dimensional Instruction
- ✓ Student Agency
- ✓ Comprehensive Resources

To Register:
www.roe47.org





February 4, 11, 18 & 25 | 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. | Zoom

Learning Series

WHAT IS SENSEMAKING?

This session explores the core concept of sensemaking in science education as defined by NSTA. Through four 90-minute Zoom sessions, participants will delve into the four critical attributes of effective sensemaking: engaging phenomena, science and engineering practices, student ideas, and disciplinary core ideas. This learning experience will equip educators with the knowledge and strategies to effectively enact these attributes in their classrooms, promoting equity and providing all students with opportunities to develop as scientific thinkers.



Register at www.roe47.org



ASSESSMENT WEB SEMINAR SERIES: DESIGNING EQUITABLE, 3D, CURRICULUM-ANCHORED ASSESSMENTS

Join us for a series of four workshops on Wednesdays, April 9, April 16, April 23, and April 30, 2025 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM, to redesign a three-dimensional classroom assessment connected to your instructional materials.

Using the NCSS Task Design Workbook and examples from a curated list, you'll learn key elements of high-quality 3D assessment design, including sensemaking, problematizing phenomena, and accessibility features.

The goal is to adapt an existing assessment for science classrooms while addressing questions about engaging students in 3D sensemaking and ensuring tasks are meaningful and accessible for all learners.



APRIL 9, APRIL 16,
APRIL 23, APRIL 30
6:00 - 7:30 P.M. CST
VIRTUAL

REGISTER TODAY!

VISIT:
[HTTPS://WWW.ROE47.ORG/PAGE/PL-OPPORTUNITIES-WORKSHOPS](https://www.roe47.org/page/pl-opportunities-workshops)

THIS LEARNING SERIES IS PROVIDED AT NO ADDITIONAL COST THROUGH FUNDS FROM THE ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.



OpenSciEd Curriculum Launch Middle & High School



OpenSciEd High School Biology Launch

This 4-week series (8 x 3-hour web seminars) introduces high school teachers to the OpenSciEd Biology curriculum. Through video observations, peer learning, and hands-on experiences, participants will gain a deep understanding of the curriculum and its alignment with NCSS and the Framework for K-12 Science Education. They will also develop skills in 3D instruction and assessment, and learn to provide effective feedback to support student learning.



OpenSciEd High School Chemistry Launch

This 4-week series (8 x 3-hour web seminars) introduces high school teachers to the OpenSciEd Chemistry curriculum. Through video observations, peer learning, and hands-on experiences, participants will gain a deep understanding of the curriculum and its alignment with NCSS and the Framework for K-12 Science Education. They will also develop skills in 3D instruction and assessment, and learn to provide effective feedback to support student learning.



OpenSciEd Middle School Launch

This 4-week series (8 x 3-hour web seminars) introduces middle school teachers to the OpenSciEd 7th grade climate science unit. Through video observations, peer learning, and hands-on experiences, participants will gain a deep understanding of the curriculum and its alignment with NCSS and the Framework for K-12 Science Education. They will also develop skills in 3D instruction and assessment, and learn to provide effective feedback to support student learning.



Session Details

Tuesdays & Thursdays
5:00 - 8:00 p.m. CT

April 1, 2025
April 3, 2025
April 8, 2025
April 10, 2025
April 15, 2025
April 17, 2025
April 29, 2025
May 1, 2025

All sessions on zoom.
PDHs provided.

Facilitator Training

Individuals interested in becoming a certified facilitator MUST complete ALL launch sessions dates above AND participate in an additional facilitator training to be held virtually on the following dates and times:

4/5/25 & 5/3/25
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Registration for this session is available on the ROE 47 website.

Training supported by ISBE and provided at no additional cost to participants.



To register for these opportunities visit www.roe47.org

CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS IN AGRICULTURE



Learn About:

- Why your FFA members are missing school again
- A year in the life of an Ag Teacher
- Partnerships for work-based learning opportunities
- Agriculture classes are more than electives
- And much more! View full agenda [Here](#)

Chapter Showcase:

- Rochelle
- Geneseo
- Amboy
- West Carroll
- Fulton
- Polo
- Stillman Valley
- Scales Mound
- Oregon
- Sterling
- Kewanee
- Stark County
- Cambridge
- Eastland
- Forrester



Date

February 28, 2025
9:00am - 1:00pm



Location

Tettens Grain
1684 Nachusa Rd
Dixon, IL



RSVP Info

By February 21
[Register Here](#)



The Anxious Generation
How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Creating an Epidemic of Mental Illness
Jonathan Haidt

Childhood was rewired between 2010-2015.

Our kids are capable of doing more.

Social media harms girls more than boys.

Reengage boys in REAL LIFE!

Ban phones in schools.

Play-based childhood - not phone-based.

BOOK STUDY DETAILS

10 Weeks
Starts: January 13, 2025
Ends: March 21, 2025

Zoom Meetings
Tues., January 21, 3:30-4:30 PM
Wed., February 19, 3:30-4:30 PM
Wed., March 19, 3:30-4:30 PM

SCAN ME

"Experience, not information, is the key to emotional development."

Join us for a thought-provoking book study of Jonathan Haidt's *The Anxious Generation*. This groundbreaking work explores the factors contributing to the epidemic of teen anxiety and depression, providing insights into the profound impact of technology on childhood development.

In this book study, we will:

- Delve into the research:** Understand the science behind the decline in youth mental health.
- Explore the causes:** Discuss the role of social media, smartphones, and other factors.
- Discover solutions:** Learn practical strategies to promote well-being and resilience in students.
- Engage in discussion:** Share insights, experiences, and ideas with fellow educators.

Whether you're a teacher, counselor, or simply concerned about the future of our youth, this book study offers a valuable opportunity to learn, connect, and make a difference.

Questions, contact Grace Heimerdinger-Baake at gheimerdingerbaake@roe47.org

REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47
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ROE 47 Computer Science Teacher Leader Program

Session One
The training emphasizes building a strong foundation in computer science education, covering topics like computational thinking, algorithms, programming, and integrating CS into different content areas. Participants will explore resources for teaching CS concepts and collaborative practices like pair programming and debugging.

Session Two
The training delves deeper into integrating computer science (CS) across the curriculum. Participants will explore connections between CS and various content areas for both K-5 and 6-12 grade levels. Practical application will be emphasized through hands-on experience with microbots for grades 6-12. The K-5 session will feature participants designing cross-curricular lessons incorporating unplugged, plugged, and robotic activities for K-5 students.

Session Three
The training deepens CS integration, focusing on physical computing, project-based learning, and AI connections for middle and high schoolers. Elementary teachers will explore microbot basics and designed cross-curricular lessons.

Session Four
This final year 1 session will focus on reflecting on the learning journey and developing actionable plans for integrating computer science into classrooms. Participants will share their experiences, challenges, and successes. We will collaboratively develop strategies for overcoming obstacles and sustaining CS initiatives. Participants will leave equipped with a personalized action plan to implement in their classrooms.

Session Dates

Session One:
MS/HS: September 26
K-5: September 27

Session Two:
MS/HS: January 30
K-5: January 31

Session Three:
MS/HS: March 13
K-5: March 14

Session Four:
MS/HS: June 16
K-5: June 17

Benefits of Participation

- ISTE membership access
- Comprehensive LTC training aligned with new IL CS standards
- Comprehensive 2-year program
- Scholarships for technology conferences
- Access to ROE 47 technology lending library
- Ready-to-use classroom resources and lesson plans
- Networking opportunities with fellow educators
- Professional learning hours
- Support for building an IT pathway endorsement program
- Access to student engagement events (e.g., hackathons)
- And more!

To register, visit www.roe47.org
Space is limited in K-5 and 6-12 programs.
Please contact Anji Garza (agarza@roe47.org) with questions or for more information.

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BUILDING RESILIENCE IN OUR CHILDREN

SEL CAPACITY BUILDERS

SCAN ME

SEL Capacity Builders is dedicated to fostering a strong network of **educators, caregivers, and community leaders** committed to enhancing children's emotional well-being. By providing practical tools and expert knowledge on trauma, attachment, behavior, and more, you will walk away with strategies to use in your classroom, your home, and your workplace to promote resilience.

Sep 30 Trauma & Attachment
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College
Understand how trauma and attachment affect child development and behavior. Presented by The Knowledge Center at Chaddock.

Nov 06 Youth Mental Health First-Aid
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College
Learn to recognize and respond to mental health issues in youth. This session has a pre-work component.

Feb 07 The School of Hope
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College
Learn how the science of hope can improve academic outcomes, decrease anxiety, and change your life. Presented by Cathleen Beachboard.

Mar 21 SEL Summit
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College
Dive into a transformative summit, designed to equip you with the tools and strategies to build vibrant, inclusive communities within your schools. Keynote by Tom Toney.

Jun 05 Building a Tool-Kit
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College
Build a toolkit of strategies to support children's behavior regulation and resilience and explore the importance of self-care. Presented by Jamie Stuart Taylor, LCSW

Please contact Grace Heimerdinger-Baake at gheimerdingerbaake@roe47.org with any questions.

COUNSELOR & SOCIAL WORKER NETWORKING

Connect with colleagues to stay informed about state updates, share best practices, and find support within our professional community.

SCAN ME

SESSION DETAILS

September 5

November 7

January 9


April 3

ROE 47
2214 E. 4th Street, Suite B, Sterling

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

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Illinois Elevating Special Educators
Presents:

"Building Schools of Hope: Strategies for Lasting Impact"

Presented by:

Cathleen Beachboard





This full-day professional development session will equip educators with the tools to create a culture of hope within their schools. Grounded in neuroscience and positive psychology, the training will cover practical strategies to increase student motivation, resilience, and academic success. Participants will engage in interactive sessions, explore case studies, and receive make-it-take-it resources to implement hope-driven practices that support the success and well-being of all students and staff.

Friday, February 7, 2025
8:30-2:30
Check in begins at 8:00
Sauk Valley Community College

Visit ROE47.org to sign up!


Please register by February 3, 2025





Cost: Free
Lunch is included

5 Hours PD Credit



The contents of this flyer were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #H22SA200014. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer: Jessica Coffey.



ILLINOIS ELEVATING SPECIAL EDUCATORS
Presents our 2024-2025
Special Education Professional Learning Opportunities


Visit ROE47.ORG to register for these **FREE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**



DEVELOPING LEADERS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Administrators and teacher leaders:
Are you looking to grow your knowledge, skills, and leadership in special education?

In this series, participants will take a deep dive into processes and procedures for helping students with disabilities, from the early stages of intervention all the way through facilitating productive IEP meetings. Each session will feature a deep dive, opportunities to build your leadership toolkit exploration of current issues, community resources, and roundtable discussions.



October 24
December 10
February 13
April 10

At Sauk Valley Community College
8:30-2:30
Lunch is included
6 PDHs available

TARGETED IMPROVEMENT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF DIVERSE LEARNERS

Administrators and teacher teams:
Join us as we explore special education data, reflect on current systems & practices, understand evidence-based practices, and consider systems development & refinement through a continuous improvement approach to support diverse learners.



November 12
January 14
March 11

At the ROE office in Sterling (by Goodwill)
8:30-2:30
Lunch is included
6 PDHs available

ESSENTIAL FACILITATION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION LEADERS

Administrators and teacher leaders:
This comprehensive workshop series is designed to equip special education teachers with the essential leadership and facilitation skills necessary to excel in their roles as teacher leaders. Participants will develop a deep understanding of teacher leadership, explore effective facilitation strategies, and build the confidence to drive positive change within their school community.



October 17
January 23
April 24
June 19

At Sauk Valley Community College
8:30-2:30
Lunch is included
6 PDHs available

QUARTERLY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Teachers:
Join us in these learning opportunities to learn, share, grow, and connect.

September 20 — **Register today!** 

Special Education Summit
Activities will include a keynote from leading scholar, Cathleen Beachboard. Special educators will also choose sessions specific to their needs, gaining insight into the latest research-based strategies and tips they can apply to supporting students with disabilities in the classroom.

December 6
February 7

More information coming soon!

At Sauk Valley Community College
8:30-3:00
Lunch is included
6 PDHs available

Please reach out to:
Shauna Dinges at sdinges@iesenetwork.org or Kelly Marcum at kmarcum@iesenetwork.org

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INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT NETWORKING

Calling all educators in instructional support roles (instructional coaches, interventionists, etc.). These networking sessions are designed to explore data, reflect on current systems and practices, understand evidence-based practices, and consider systems development and refinement through a continuous improvement approach to support all learners. and your loved ones


Session Dates

- ✓ **August 28**
- ✓ **October 30**
- ✓ **January 29**
- ✓ **April 30**




More Information

ROE 47 

2214 E. 4th St., Suite B, Sterling

8:30 – 11:30 AM 

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NEW TEACHER CADRE

If you are a new teacher, certified or non-certified in a teaching role, or a teacher in a new teaching area, certified or non-certified in a teaching role, we have several options of support designed to help you grow professionally and network with other teachers to share ideas, support and build a network both in your district and outside with other schools to share strategies--instructional, classroom management, remote learning, special education and SEL.

For questions, please contact Gail Wright at gwright@roe47.org

Tue., September 24	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., October 22	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., November 19	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., December 17	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., January 28	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., February 18	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., March 11	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., April 29	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., May 13	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM

SCAN TO REGISTER





7th Annual Social Emotional Learning Summit



Tom Toney
Keynote Speaker

Are you feeling pulled in a million directions? Overwhelmed by the demands of education? As educators, we often find ourselves in a constant battle, striving to create the best possible learning environments for our students. But the pressures can be immense, leaving us feeling exhausted and defeated.

It's time to change the game.

In this summit, we will explore the concept of Tug of War and how it relates to our daily experiences as educators. We'll delve into the energy-sapping habits that can hinder our progress and discover strategies to overcome these challenges.



Understanding the Tug-of-War Mentality: Recognize the common patterns that can lead to feelings of exhaustion and frustration.



Building Positive Relationships: Learn how to foster collaboration and cooperation with colleagues, students, and parents.



Cultivating Resilience: Develop strategies to cope with stress and maintain a positive outlook.



Embracing the Power of Teamwork: Discover how to harness the collective strength of your team to achieve common goals.



Friday, March 21, 2025



8:30 AM - 2:30 PM



Sauk Valley Community College

Scan QR Code



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47

2214 E. 4th Street, Suite 111 Sterling, IL 61082-3109



www.roe47.org



info@roe47.org



[facebook.com/roe47](https://www.facebook.com/roe47)



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Administrator Academy

Literacies of the Digital World: Teaching Technology Skills for Success in the 21st Century

This workshop aims to educate participants on the significance of computer literacy, digital literacy, and digital citizenship for student success in school and life. Attendees will learn to differentiate between these concepts, identify essential skills for each, and understand the appropriate timing for student exposure. Ultimately, participants will create an actionable plan for implementation in their school or district.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

8:30 - 2:30 P.M.

SAUK VALLEY

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

173 IL RTE 2; DIXON



To register, scan code or visit www.roe47.org

For Students

TEAM-BASED CHALLENGE DAY

Work with local industry partners in Manufacturing, Health Science, and Education to solve problems that people encounter in everyday professional practice.

Thursday, March 6th

8:30-2:30 at Sauk Valley Community College



REGISTRATION WILL BE
AVAILABLE SOON!



The Pathway Team at ROE 47 has developed a team-based challenge day for your health science, education, and manufacturing students. Tenth-grade to twelfth-grade students who are working on earning an endorsement in these areas are welcome to attend. Lunch will be provided.

This event will allow students to complete one of their required team-based challenges. Pre-work may be required.

REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION 47 AND SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



HEALTH SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM



APRIL 4TH, 2025

TIME
9:00 - 2:00

Join our area schools as we celebrate the hard work our health science pathway students have accomplished and use this opportunity to inspire other students to enter the health science field. Our goal is to have the students leave with a passion for health science and an excitement that will help them in their future.

MORE INFO:



cmcdonnell@roe47.org



Be Bold

Student Leadership Summit
Step Up.
Stand Out.



Tom Toney
Keynote Speaker

Are you ready to break free from the ordinary and make a difference?

Join us for the Student Leadership Summit and discover the power of boldness.

Don't let your dreams stay just dreams.
Join us and ignite your leadership spark.



Step outside your comfort zone: Embrace change and unlock your full potential.



Discover your unique strengths: Identify your talents and use them to make a positive impact.



Develop essential leadership skills: Learn the habits and attitudes that drive successful leaders.



Set Clear Goals & Achieve Them: Create a roadmap to success and overcome obstacles along the way.



Thursday, March 20, 2025



9:00 AM - 1:00 PM



McCormick Event Center,
Rock Falls

Questions

Contact Michelle Sanders
at msanders@roe47.org



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For Families

A Parent University Event

Parenting Beyond the Screen



Learn to Navigate the Digital World
Gain insights into the potential risks and benefits of social media.



Protect Your Child's Mental Health
Discover strategies to prevent bullying, cyberbullying, and the negative impact of social media on mental health.



Foster Open Communication
Learn how to have open and honest conversations with your child about social media and online safety.



TUES. FEBRUARY 4



7:00-8:30 PM



VIRTUAL



Scan the QR code to register
or text/call (815) 764-1194



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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

9:00 - 11:00 AM

**OREGON PARK DISTRICT ~
NASH RECREATION CENTER**

304 S 5th St, Oregon, IL 61061

BLOCK Fest®, families have the opportunity to play with five varieties of non-interlocking blocks, designing and building structures and deconstructing what they've built!

More Information

Email: gheimerdingbaake@roe47.org
Text: 815-764-1194

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Professional Learning Events
--

December 2024 Participants - 340December 3

LETRS Cohort 3 @ ROE #47

Librarians Networking @ 3:00 p.m.

December 4

Preschool Family Support Specialist @ 9:00 a.m.

December 5

IT Pathway Development Work Group @ 2:00 p.m.

December 10

Developing Leaders in Special Education @ SVCC

LETRS Cohort 1 @ ROE #47

LETRS Cohort 2 @ 3:30 p.m.

December 11

Rock Falls Elementary SIP Day @ Rock Falls Middle School

Montmorency SIP Day @ Montmorency

December 13

Statewide Transition English Summit @ 8:30 a.m.

December 17

New Teacher Cadre @ 3:30 p.m.

January 2025 Participants - 599January 6

Paw Paw Institute Day @ Paw Paw

LaMoille Institute Day @ LaMoille

January 7

Librarians Networking Session @ 3:00 p.m.

January 9

School Counselors & Social Workers Networking Session @ ROE 47

January 13

Amplify ELA Networking Session @ 3:15 p.m.

January 15

LaMoille SIP Day @ LaMoille

January 17

Rock Falls Elementary SIP Day @ Merrill School

January 21

Book Study: The Anxious Generation @ 3:30 p.m.

January 23

Essential Facilitation for Special Education Leaders @ SVCC

January 24

Statewide College & Career Readiness Summit @ 8:30 a.m.

January 27

Superintendents Networking Session @ ROE #47

Illinois Science Capacity Builders Series: The Current Reality of Science @ 9:00a.m.

January 28

New Teacher Cadre @ 3:30 p.m.

Introduction to OpenSciEd @ 4:30 p.m.

January 29

Instructional Support Networking @ ROE #47

River Bend SIP Day @ Fulton

PLT SIP Day @ PLT Elementary

January 30

Computer Science Teacher Leadership Program (6-12) @ SVCC

Eswood SIP Day @ Eswood

January 31

Computer Science Teacher Leadership Program (K-5) @ SVCC

December 2024 & January 2025 in Photos:







REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION 47

HOW WE SUPPORT YOUR DISTRICT

Nexus Program

Regional Office of Education #47 -
February 2025

179

Families Supported

448

Children Supported

62

McKinney Vinto

726

Goals Met

5,880

Family Contacts

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Student Attendance Support



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION 47

***HOW WE SUPPORT
YOUR DISTRICT***

Attendance Support Program

Regional Office of Education #47 -
February 2025

130

Families Supported

255

Children Supported

16

McKinney Vinto

189

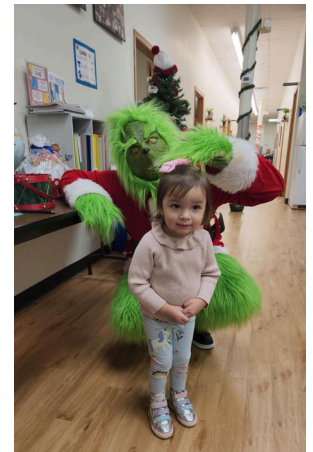
Goals Met

4,011

Family Contacts

Parents as Teachers First Years

December brought a joint holiday party with the Education Outreach program. The EOP students helped us plan and prepare the activities and volunteered to dress up as a special guest for the day. The children and families all had a great time! January has had a lot of sickness - both for staff and families! We have also continued to enroll several new families.



Education Outreach Program

December is always a slow month for the Education Outreach Program as we hit our half-way mark for the school year. We give our students and staff a two week Holiday Break to spend time with family and friends. The students take full advantage of the break and often find it hard to return. We change focus in the winter months to gear towards Barrier Reduction.

The Education Outreach Program is fortunate enough to have BEST, Inc. funding to help with Barrier Reduction! We have been working with many of our students to help with anything from making car insurance payments to purchasing clothing to wear to an interview to fixing a student's headlights on their car.

In January, students are returning to class. The Education Outreach Program held mock interviews and virtual job shadows for this month's group event. The students were able to fill out applications and interview for a job all while getting critiqued to help them prepare for the workforce. They were also able to choose from a variety of jobs to shadow via virtual reality goggles. Through this program with BEST, Inc. they could participate in anything from handing over medical tools to a surgeon during a knee surgery to climbing a broadband tower for maintenance.



McKinney Vento Homeless Program

December is a month of joy for many; however, our McKinney Vento families may not be feeling the same. It adds additional stress to “celebrate” the holidays when the finances are very limited. We worked to connect our families with the community resources to help them celebrate to the fullest. It also puts additional stress on the budget because children are not getting breakfast and lunch at school. Food costs continue to rise and SNAP benefits do not keep pace. Our State grant dollars are limited as to the focus we are able to address, but all is being done to support our families and help to provide the best possible educational success for our students.

Center For Change

December

As we close out the year and move into the winter months, we are excited to reflect on the progress we've made and share our plans for continued growth and engagement into the second semester.

This semester has been one of growth, connection, and success. Our October outing to Selmi's Pumpkin Patch was a wonderful experience for our students, providing them with an opportunity to connect with the community while enjoying hands-on, seasonal activities. The event was well-received by students and staff, reinforcing the importance of providing opportunities outside the classroom that promote social and emotional learning.

As we prepare for the second semester, we are introducing *monthly themes* centered on student growth and performance. These themes will focus on essential values such as:

- **Rewards for Attendance:** Encouraging consistent participation and recognizing students for their commitment to learning.
- **Showing Respect:** Reinforcing positive interactions and respect towards peers, staff, and the community.
- **Acts of Kindness:** Promoting compassion and teamwork within our school and beyond.

These monthly themes will help us build a stronger culture of achievement and positivity while recognizing and celebrating individual student successes.

Thank you for your continued support of the Center for Change. Together, we are fostering an environment where students can thrive both academically and personally.



January February

As we return to school for the second semester, we are excited to continue building on the success of the first half of the year. The transition back has been smooth, and we are focused on maintaining a positive and supportive environment for both students and staff.

This semester, we are actively working towards growth by integrating trauma-informed practices into our program. Recognizing the impact of trauma on learning and behavior, we are beginning to explore strategies that provide a more supportive and understanding approach to student needs. This shift will not only benefit our students but also offer our staff additional tools to foster resilience and positive engagement within the classroom.

A major accomplishment this month is that all staff members have become CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) certified. This training aligns with our goal of becoming a Heart Safe School, ensuring that our team is prepared to respond effectively to medical emergencies. This certification is a critical step in enhancing the overall safety and well-being of our school community, giving staff the confidence to handle emergency situations should they arise.

Additionally, we have begun ACT preparation for our high school students. With collaboration from home districts, we have identified appropriate placements where students will take the

ACT. Our focus is to provide the necessary resources and preparation to help them succeed in this important milestone.

As we progress through the second semester, we remain committed to continuous improvement and student success. The dedication of our staff, the support of our community, and our ongoing initiatives position us for a strong and impactful second half of the school year. We look forward to the growth and progress ahead!

MONTHLY ZONING AND PLANNING REPORT

February 11, 2025 – County Services Committee

ACTIONS COMING FROM THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS –

1. Petition No. 24-P-1632 by Jeffrey A. Lewis as owner of certain real property identified as PIN 07-02-17-252-015 and commonly known as 763 Forest Park Dr., Dixon, Illinois, located on the east side of Forest Park Dr., approximately 470 feet east of Marine Dr., in Dixon Township, Lee County, Illinois, which is zoned R-2, Single Family Residential District, filed a Petition for Variance with the Lee County Zoning Office requesting it be granted a variance from Title 10, Chapter 9, Section 3: Bulk Regulations, specifically side/rear yard setback, for the purpose of adding on to an existing accessory building, due to exceptional topographical conditions. The parcel is 0.92 acres in size.

This petition was heard on February 6, 2025. Following the public hearing, **the Zoning Board of Appeals' vote on the petition ended in a tie (2-2) which results in neither a recommendation to approve or deny the petition.**

Pursuant to 55 ILCS 5/5-12009, any proposed variation which fails to receive the approval of the board of appeals shall not be passed except by the favorable vote of 3/4 of all the members of the county board.

2. Petition No. 24-P-1635 by Jake R. Kastner, as owner of certain real properties identified as PINs 07-02-34-300-022, 07-02-34-300-017, 07-02-34-300-035 and 07-02-34-300-018, located on the south side of Stony Point Road, in Dixon Township, Dixon, Illinois, filed a Petition for Map Amendment with the Lee County zoning Office requesting to amend the zoning map from R-2, Single Family Residential District to Ag-1, Rural/Agricultural District for the purpose of raising and keeping personal chickens and forestry.

This petition was heard on February 6, 2025. Following the public hearing, **the Zoning Board of Appeals voted unanimously (4-0) to recommend approval of this petition to the County Board.**

3. Petition No. 24-P-1636 by Kevin J. and Shelly L. Rod, as owner of certain real property identified as PIN 05-17-05-100-007 and commonly known as 2506 Shaw Road, West Brooklyn, Illinois, in Brooklyn Township, Lee County, Illinois, filed a Petition for Special Use with the Lee County Zoning Office requesting a special use permit for the purpose of farm product processing, packaging and distribution (Farmer's Market). The parcel is currently zoned Ag-1, Rural/Agricultural District and is 4.15 acres in size.

This petition was heard on February 6, 2025. Following the public hearing, **the Zoning Board of Appeals voted unanimously (4-0) to recommend approval of this petition to the County Board, without conditions.**

4. Petition No. 24-P-1637 by Kevin J. and Shelly L. Rod, as owner of certain real property identified as PIN 05-17-05-100-007 and commonly known as 2506 Shaw Road, West Brooklyn, Illinois, in Brooklyn Township, Lee County, Illinois, filed a Petition for Special Use with the Lee County Zoning Office requesting a special use permit for the purpose of construction and farm equipment/machinery sales/services. The parcel is currently zoned Ag-1, Rural/Agricultural District and is 4.15 acres in size.

This petition was heard on February 6, 2025. Following the public hearing, **the Zoning Board of Appeals voted unanimously (4-0) to recommend approval of this petition to the County Board.**

ACTIONS GOING TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS –

1. Petition No. 25-P-1638 by Craig A. and Christine Kessel, as owners of certain real property identified as PIN 02-15-19-200-004 and commonly known as 859 Morgan Road, Amboy, Illinois, in Amboy Township, Lee County, Illinois, filed a Petition for Special Use with the Lee County Zoning Office requesting a special use permit for the purpose of Auto Repair – Minor, as defined by the Lee County Code. The parcel is currently zoned Ag-1, Rural/Agricultural District.

ACTIONS COMING FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION –

1. Petition No. 24-PC-77 by the Lee County Engineer, was filed in which Petitioner seeks to amend the text of Title 11: SUBDIVISION, FLOOD CONTROL AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT, Chapter 4: STORM WATER MANAGEMENT, of the Lee County Code of Ordinances.

This petition was heard on February 3, 2025. Following the public hearing, **the Regional Planning Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to recommend approval of this petition to the County Board.**

ACTIONS GOING TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION –

1. Petition No. 24-PC-78 by the Lee County Zoning Administrator, was filed in which Petitioner seeks to amend the text of Title 10: ZONING REGULATIONS of the Lee County Code of Ordinances to replace Zoning Board of Appeals with Zoning Hearing Officer and to create standards for amending Special Use Permit that have been previously approved by the Lee County Board,



OTHER ACTIONS FROM THE ZONING OFFICE

We received exciting news that Lee County has been awarded funding through a BRIC grant that will allow the County to adopt building codes. We will be meeting with our representatives from Illinois Emergency Management Agency on Friday, February 14, 2025, to discuss what the next steps are for the County.

Last month, Maples Road Solar, LLC received its building permit for a 5 MW community solar project. This project is located on Maples Road, and they will be working onsite as the weather permits.

During the month of January 2025, the Zoning Office processed fourteen (14) building permits. Permit fees in the amount of \$1,018.40 were collected.



Report to County Services Committee of Lee County Board

February 11, 2025 | 9:00 AM

1) RIDERSHIP DATA (November 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025)

	November, 2024	December, 2024	January, 2025	FY 25 Trend
RIDES	7,172	6,584	8,086	95,100
SERVICE HOURS	2,252	2,070	2,498	31,076
MILES OF SERVICE	63,387	57,305	69,706	759,388
FUEL COST	\$18,460.22	\$16,907.88	\$19,295.08	\$268,852.32

2) DEVELOPMENTS

a) Budget/Contracts for FY 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

(1) Funding Allocations for FY 2026 have been announced by IDOT and are as follows:

- (a) 5311 Contract: \$283,450
- (b) DOAP Contract: \$2,240,400
- (c) 5311F Contract (I-88 and I-39): \$2,029,606

b) Rural Winnebago County Transit Services

- i) Working on Intergovernmental Agreement with Winnebago County to provide rural transit.
- ii) Separate agreement being finalized for the contractual hiring of a person to be the PCOM (oversight) of the rural transit services being provided.
- iii) The contractual budget proposed by IDOT for this new rural service is as follows:
 - (i) 5311 Contract: \$207,864
 - (ii) DOAP Contract: \$798,728

c) Vehicle Procurement

- (1) RMTD will be receiving six (6) vehicles (2 minivans, 4 light duty buses) via IDOT's 2020 CVP Application. Delivery could be as early as March, 2025.
- (2) RMTD collaboration with IDOT on a federal proposal to the Low/No Emission Grants.
 - (a) RMTD will procure two (2) electric buses via this proposal.

d) Hydrogen Fuel Feasibility Study

- i) The Request for Proposals for a Project Lead Consultant for the Hydrogen Fuel Feasibility Study was published on Friday, January 3, 2025. Responses to the RFP were due in by 1:00 PM last Friday, February 7, 2025.
- ii) IDOT State Planning and Research Program has awarded \$300,000 to assess the feasibility of using hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and hydrogen fuel in rural Illinois.

e) Service Contract Discussions

- i) Initial discussions on potential service contracts have been had with Rochelle Community Hospital as well as OSF Saint Katharine. Both of these are in the very preliminary stages, with good content from the initial meetings.
- ii) A meeting is also being sought with Mercy Health, which opened an emergent clinic in the City of Dixon late in 2024.

f) Architectural/Engineering Firm / Oregon facility construction

- i) Pre-bid Concurrence paperwork has been submitted to IDOT for its review. Once concurred will allow for going out for the hiring of a General Contractor.
- ii) Larson and Darby, architectural firm out of Rockford, is the architect/engineering firm hired for the Oregon Construction project. This project is part of RMTD application under REBUILD 1

g) Transit Desert Grant / IDOT State Planning and Research

- i) This project will look at the general "transportation needs" of residents in Lee and Ogle Counties, specifically those areas of the counties more remote in nature

- ii) The initial meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee was held Wednesday, January 8, 2025. The next meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee will likely be in March.
- iii) Next steps in the process, spearheaded by the NIU Center for Governmental Studies (NIU/CGS), will include interviews with key stakeholders.
- iv) NIU/CGS is also starting the review of existing data for transit deserts in the two-county region. A Public Survey is being developed by NIU/CGS with distribution in the near future.
- v) A series of Focus Groups will be established by NIU/CGS for the coming months.

h) Auditing Services

- i) RMTD and Wipfli, LLC have completed the annual Single Transportation Audit, as a requirement of RMTD's contract with IDOT.
- ii) The audit reviewed all transit funding sources for the period of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.
 - (1) Downstate Operating Assistance Program
 - (2) 5311 / 5311F for local and Intercity Bus operations
 - (3) CARES (Covid) funding

i) IT Services

- i) The transition from DC Computers to Sundog IT is complete. The agreement with Sundog is a three-year contract with two (2) additional one-year options.

j) Pending Request for Bids / Intercity Bus

- i) An upcoming bid opportunity to operate Intercity Bus services on I-88 and I-39 will be forthcoming in the next six (6) months, with the selected operator beginning on July 1, 2025.
 - (1) Greyhound Bus Lines / FLIX are the current operator on both the I-88 Intercity Bus Route between Chicago and Davenport, Iowa, as well as the I-39 (I-90, and I-74) Route between Chicago and Danville, IL.

k) Request for Bids / Replacement Vehicles

- i) RMTD has an initial draft of a Request for Proposals for two (2) (possibly three) Ford Transit type vehicles, and which has been shared with IDOT for their initial review. As of the date of this response there has been no additional feedback from IDOT on the RFP. This RFP will allow for the use of REBUILD 1 funding.

3) OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

a) Capital Funding / Community Project Funding | Representative Darin LaHood

- i) Funding includes construction of additional administrative space at Dixon Transit Center
- ii) Total amount of funding is \$2.9472 million to provide for planned expansion at the Reagan Transit Center in Dixon.

b) Capital Funding / REBUILD Round 1

- i) Funding provides for construction of new Oregon location
- ii) Furnishings and equipment for Oregon facility
- iii) Implementation of video surveillance cameras in 17 of RMTD's buses and minivans (completed)
- iv) Three (3) new buses (Ford transit type vehicles)

c) Capital Funding / REBUILD Round 2

- (1) RMTD Proposal will allow for the following:
 - (a) Two electric vehicles for use in the RMTD system
 - (b) Three (3) new offices at Reagan Transit Center and secured file room/storage room
 - (c) Develop new Conference Room between Reagan Transit Center and Mechanical Bay
 - (d) Geothermal and Solar technologies will be incorporated into complex

d) Capital Funding / REBUILD Round 3

- i) RMTD will receive \$62,500 for the purchase of 2 service vehicles