

# **County Services Committee Meeting Minutes**

Lee County, Illinois Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 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=BdgVw1tUnM8

#### I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., by Chair Jack Skrogstad.

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

Jack Skrogstad, Dean Feil, and Reed Akre attended in person. Ali Huss attended via Zoom. Jack Skrogstad appointed Board Member Keane Hudson to the meeting to satisfy quorum. Katie White and Ron Gascoigne were absent.

Also present: 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), Alice Henkel (Zoning Administrator), Nancy Petersen (County Clerk and Recorder), Chris Tennyson (Regional Office of Education Superintendent), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) all attended in person. Laura Mangrum (Deputy Zoning Administrator) attended via Zoom.

#### III. <u>Public Attendees</u>

A. Reagan Mass Transit Report

Greg Gates (Director of the Reagan Mass Transit District - RMTD). Greg walked the committee through the report that he submitted from RMTD. This report will be attached to the minutes and included in the September County Board agenda packet.

Samanthan Dopke (resident of Deer Path subdivision in Franklin Grove). Samantha attended the meeting to voice her opposition to the permitting of a barn dominium within her subdivision. She expressed her concern that allowing this structure would significantly reduce the value of her home and the other homes in the subdivision. She also explained that she believed the permit would be in direct conflict with Lee County ordinance 10-5-1 section 3.

IV. <u>Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting - (August 13, 2024)</u>
Minutes from the August 13, 2024, County Services Committee Meeting were approved as presented without modification.

#### V. <u>Transportation/Solid Waste</u>

A. Monthly Report

Dave Anderson walked the committee through the report that he submitted. This report will be attached to a copy of the minutes and included in the September County Board agenda packet.

#### B. Highway Department

1. Resolution Amending Resolution Number 2024-02-003
Dave Anderson explained that in February of 2024 the Board passed a resolution appropriating funds from motor fuel tax to account for a portion of his salary. The term was set at that time to April 18, 2024 - April 18, 2025. The resolution was presented to the Board at the same time he was reappointed as the County Engineer. However, historically the resolution had been approved annually during the month of June setting the term to July 1 - June 30. Because the resolution was approved earlier in 2024 than in past years, IDOT has requested that the current resolution be amended to reflect the dates of July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025, to stay consistent with the previous salary appropriation resolutions and avoid any timeframe overlap.

<u>Motion</u> to move the Resolution Amending Resolution Number 2024-02-003 to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the September County Board agenda. <u>Moved</u> by Dean Freil. <u>Second</u> by Reed Akre. <u>Motion</u> passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### 2. Lee-LaSalle Intergovernmental Agreement

Dave Anderson explained that the Lee-LaSalle Intergovernmental Agreement involves the replacement of a bridge in Brooklyn Township. The bridge is on Slant Road about a mile and a quarter south of Sublette Road right on the boarder of Lee and LaSalle Counties. Statutes (605 ILCS 5/5-502 and 605 ILCS 5/5-503) give the Counties the authority to share the costs of a township bridge that is located on a county line. The cost is split by the Counties, not the Township, and the split is determined in proportion to their respective EAV (equal assessed values) totals. 22.8% of the project cost will fall to Lee County and LaSalle County will be the lead agency for the project.

<u>Motion</u> to move the Lee-LaSalle Intergovernmental Agreement for the repair of structure 052-4125, bridge that crosses Big Bureau Creek Near Sublette, to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the September County Board agenda. <u>Moved</u> by Dean Freil. <u>Second</u> by Keane Hudson. <u>Motion</u> passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. Solid Waste Management

There were no items on the agenda under Solid Waste Management.

#### 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. This report will be attached to the minutes and included in the September 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. The report will be attached to the minutes and included in the September County Board agenda packet.

#### VII. County Board

Jeremy Englund explained that the County continues to work with broadband services providers. There are two that have submitted for Bead Funding. Both were funded, but only one for Lee County projects. The company funded for Lee County does have funds for previously planned expansion projects. The area will not see immediate results, but the long-term goal is to make sure that everyone across the County has access to Broadband. He also explained that the budget process is ongoing. The next Finance Committee budget meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., on September 24th.

#### VIII. County Clerk and Recorder's Office

#### A. Monthly Report

Nancy Peterson walked the committee through the report that she submitted. The report will be attached to the minutes and included in the September County Board agenda packet.

#### IX. IT Department (Information Technology)

#### A. Monthly Report

Paul Gorski was not able to attend the meeting but submitted a detailed report from the IT Department. This report will be attached to the minutes and included in the September 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. The report will be attached to the minutes and included in the September County Board agenda packet.

#### XI. <u>Veterans Assistance</u>

There was no report from Veterans Assistance.

#### XII. Zoning / Planning

#### A. Monthly Report

Alice Henkel walked the committee through the detailed report that she submitted from the Zoning Department. This report will be attached to the minutes and included in the September County Board agenda packet. During

her report Alice made the committee aware of an Illinois Renewable Energy Conference that is being held on October 1st and 2nd in Bloomington.

- B. Petitions Going To the Zoning Board of AppealsThere were no petitions going to the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- C. Petitions Coming From the Zoning Board of AppealsThere were no petitions coming from the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- Petitions Going To the Planning Commission
   There were no petitions going to the Planning Commission.
- E. Petitions Coming From the Planning CommissionThere were no petitions coming from the Planning Commission.

#### XIII. Unfinished Business

A. Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement (tabled during the August meeting)
Jack Skrogstad explained that the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement
was table last month because it was tied to the IPWMAN Ordinance that was
submitted to the County Board during the August meeting but was required to
hold over for a month. Since the ordinance will be voted on this month in
County Board, the committee chose to take the agreement off the table and
forward it to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the September County
Board Meeting.

<u>Motion</u> to take the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement that was tabled during the August meeting off the table. <u>Moved</u> by Dean Freil. <u>Second</u> by Reed Akre. <u>Motion</u> passed unanimously by voice vote.

<u>Motion</u> to move the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the September County Board Agenda. <u>Moved</u> by Keane Hudson. <u>Second</u> by Dean Freil. <u>Motion</u> passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### XIV. New Business

There were no items under New Business.

#### XV. <u>Executive Session</u>

There was no request for an Executive Session.

#### XVI. Adjournment

<u>Motion</u> to adjourn at 9:34 a.m. <u>Moved</u> by Dean Freil. <u>Second</u> by Reed Akre. <u>Motion</u> passed unanimously by voice vote.

The next County Services Committee Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., on Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Respectfully submitted by: Becky Brenner - Board Secretary

# Lee County Highway Department Report to the County Services Committee – SEPTEMBER 2024

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

#### **Status of Current Projects**

- Township and County Seal Coat Completed
- Township and County Crack Filling *Completed*
- Alto Twp. HMA Wedging. Completed
- Bradford Twp. HMA Wedging Completed
- Lee Center Twp. HMA Wedging Completed
- Sublette Twp. HMA Wedging Completed
- Township Aggregate Ongoing
- County Aggregate Ongoing
- Dust Palliative *Completed*
- County Shoulder Stone (Furnish and Place, Various Locations) Completed
- May Twp. HMA *Completed*
- East Grove Twp. HMA Completed
- Wyoming Twp. HMA *Not Started*
- Hamilton Twp. HMA Completed
- Dixon Twp. HMA Patching Completed
- Marion Twp. HMA Patching Completed
- Chicago Road from Village of Paw Paw East to Dekalb County Line HMA Completed
- Pipeline Road Bridge (Bradford Twp.) *Structure Complete, Roadway approach work ongoing*
- Indian Head/Van Petten Road HMA *To begin Mid-September*

#### Other:

- Maintenance crews are mowing, spraying, cutting brush/trees, installing culverts and roadway striping.
- Contact work has begun. We will be managing numerous construction projects totaling approximately \$5.4M, see listing above.
- Phase I engineering has begun on the recent property under option for a new Highway Department facility. The County has engaged Willett Hoffmann and Associates to assist as necessary.

### **Discussion Items:**

### **Board Action Items:**

• Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN)

- Intergovernmental Agreement with LaSalle County for a Brooklyn Township Bridge on Slant Road over Big Bureau Creek.
- Resolution to Amend Resolution 2024-02-003.

# **Solid Waste**

Electronics collection is now open on weekdays (excluding County holidays) from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. The collection program will continue until November 1.



# Chief County Assessment Office/GIS Department

Jennifer J Boyd,

Chief County Assessment Officer and GIS Supervisor

www.leecountyil.com

#### MONTHLY ASSESSMENT OFFICE REPORT September 5, 2024 – County Services Committee

- Annual Assessment Work Update:
  - 2024 quadrennial townships are S. Dixon, Marion, E. Grove, Harmon and Nelson
  - Task list processing for all townships is wrapping up
  - New Commercial Construction still needs processed.
- TrueRoll Meeting:
  - Impact Report: 301 unqualified exemptions have been removed with an estimated \$2 million estimated assessed value returned to the tax roll. Estimated \$178 thousand in tax dollars recovered (not considering PTEL limitation)

Respectfully submitted,

Spring Royal

Jennifer Boyd, CIAO

Chief County Assessment Officer/GIS Supervisor

# **IMPACT REPORT for Lee, IL**



### YOUR RETURN ON INVESTMENT

301 unqualified exemptions removed and "\$2M estimated assessed value returned to your tax roll

**1918** Candidates Reviewed; **84.34%** on Inbox progress

Annual Cost of TrueRoll: \$12,480

Est Tax Recovery: ~ 178K @ 8.3 est tax rate 1300%: TrueRoll has paid for itself

many times over already!

#### How TrueRoll has Helped Staff

**By using TrueRoll**, your team has been able to target the right exemption holders and save time **NOT** researching qualified exemption holders

Using TrueRoll, your existing team has been able to do more in less time thereby eliminating the need to hire more staff

**Using TrueRoll**, your staff has been able to stop researching every single piece of returned mail or requesting NCOA data annually.

#### There's More Work to Do

**300+** Candidates remain in your Inbox **45** Multiple Properties flag remaining; **5** Multi-Homestead out-of-jurisdiction flags remaining; **3** Deceased flags and single applicant remaining

355 Candidates in your inbox; 1405 candidates are being monitored;

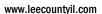
#### **TURBOCHARGE TrueRoll with Application Vetter**

Application Vetter enables the instant validation of new homestead exemption applications received online or in person. Move quickly through your latest new homestead applications, and free staff to work with candidates in your proactive monitoring system, or on other important office tasks. TrueRolls Application Vetter is already integrated into several CAMA systems and BIS online forms. **Book a demo today to see how Application Vetter can streamline your workflow and enhance your productivity!** 

**Upcoming Budget Amount: \$12,480** 

TURBOCHARGED Budget Amount with Application Vetter:

Ask Your CSM Today





# Monthly GIS Department Report September 5, 2024

The GIS Department has been working on the following:

- Processing parcel splits and combination requests.
- Maintaining and updating land use, zoning, and other GIS layers.
- Updating and uploading the NG911 and 911 GIS layers to public safety mapping systems.
- Assigning new addresses to properties in coordination with the zoning department and 911 center.
- Developing a damage assessment dashboard for Lee Count Emergency Management Agency.
- Providing additional GIS data to support the City of Dixon's planning project.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sami Elarifi GIS Coordinator



# **COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER**REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING

#### Election Department Updates:

- GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 5, 2024
- The first day to mail out Ballots is September 26<sup>th</sup> and last day is October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Early Voting starts Thursday September 26<sup>th</sup> here in the courthouse on the first floor from 8:15 to 4:15 p.m.
- Post cards went out to voters for permanent vote by mail. County Website has all the information, and the forms needed to opt out or sign up for permanent vote by mail.
- There is always a need for Election Judges please see the election office on the first floor!
- Election Judge Classes are Tuesday October 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 and 10:30 here in the Courthouse 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Petersen

Lee County Clerk & Recorder



September 10, 2024

IT Board Report – September 2024

- 1. Our primary focus for this month is the deployment of new computers, replacing older computers based on a regular replacement cycle plan.
- 2. A new round of cybersecurity training invitations will be issued this month. Reminder, state law requires cybersecurity training for all county employees on an annual basis.
- 3. IT office move My office and that of Travis Null is moving from 1<sup>st</sup> floor Old Courts to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (basement really) New Courts. We hope to have this move completed by September 20.
- 4. Current IT projects include:
- New Courts Continuing to deploy new computers in New Courts.
- New Courts Coordinating IT upgrades to 4th floor court room build out with New Courts staff.
- LEC Wrapping up a variety of smaller, miscellaneous projects, computer and software upgrades.
- County-wide Recent Windows OS updates are slowing some older computers; we're responding by making sure all needed updates are applied and upgrading systems that are adversely affected.
- 5. Upcoming projects include:
- 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**

#### September 2024

#### **Health Life Safety**

Each year, our office inspects all 75 public and non-public school buildings, as well as other school-related structures, across Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside Counties. This is done to ensure they meet the minimum health and safety standards set forth in the Building Specifications for Health and Safety in Public Schools. By law, school districts are required to maintain their buildings to these minimum standards. Inspection results for each building are available at the Regional Office of Education, and an annual summary report is submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education as mandated by law. This year's inspections will commence on Wednesday, September 4, and are expected to be completed by January 2, 2025. Each inspection is conducted in collaboration with local fire departments or the state fire marshal. Our office currently has three certified inspectors that are doing this work, Christopher Tennyson, Josh Knuth and Michele Hopp.

The Regional Office of Education is also responsible, through the Regional Superintendent of Schools, for statutory compliance with established standards in the construction and remodeling of public school buildings. The Regional Superintendent assures school board approval by resolution of construction plans, review of construction plans for code compliance, issuance of the building permit, and upon review, issuance of school occupancy permits. Further, the Regional Superintendent assures code compliance for temporary/mobile classroom units throughout the region.

#### **Professional Learning & Educational Services**

Current Programs - Office of Professional Learning & Educational Services
Induction & Mentoring
Community Partnership Grant/IDPH Trauma Grant
Education Pathway Endorsement

Manufacturing, Health Science & 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

- The Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services has been awarded an afterschool program grant, a computer science grant, Education Pathways Round 5 grant, Early Childhood PFAE grant, and the Truancy and Alternative Learning Opportunities grant from ISBE. The Office is waiting to hear on competitive proposals that were submitted for R3 grant,
- 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.

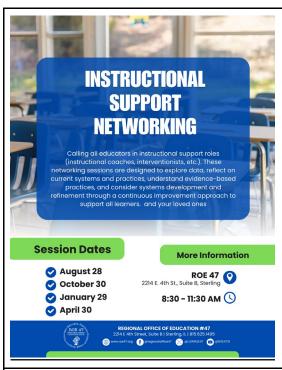
# Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Parent Engagement & Community Outreach

- To date, ROE 47 has 141 partners on its IRIS referral platform. There have been 2644 referrals and 1498 families served.
- Family Educators and ROE 47 PL & Educational Service staff have attended over 36 community events and reached over 10,000 families with parent-child activities, educational materials, and links to EC programs and community services through our IRIS referral platform. In FY25, to date, the office has hosted or participated in community events that facilitated parent-child interaction and heightened awareness of EC opportunities, including:
  - Prophetstown Back to School Bash 2024
  - Bumps, Babies & Toddlers (Dixon)
- ROE 47's Grandma Bonnie's Back to School Supply Closet served over 16 communities at 2 backpack distribution events in Amboy and Sterling in July 2024.
- A social emotional lending library has been established that contains Blockfest, Mindful Trails, family engagement activities and Slumberkins resources. These items are available for check out to schools and agencies. We have 10 Mindful Trails, 15 Slumberkins StoryWalks, 15 Slumberkins Big Books, and Slumberkins books with stuffed animals, as well as a number of games and activities. To date, materials have been used for school wide student learning opportunities, staff professional development, community/school events, and school/community family engagement events.
- A monthly digital family newsletter has been developed and deployed through Mail
  Chimp on a monthly basis. Newsletters include parenting information, community family
  events, early childhood programming and service information, and other important links.
  Parents/caregivers can subscribe to the ROE Family Newsletter at
  <a href="https://mailchi.mp/2cde621b466f/family-sign-up">https://mailchi.mp/2cde621b466f/family-sign-up</a>

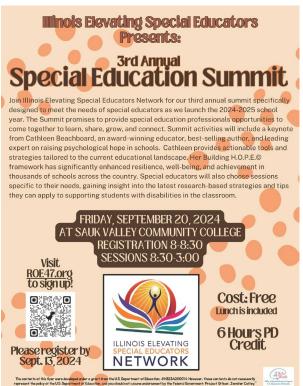
#### Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Social Media

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**









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 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** 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** 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 SEL Summit

8:30 cm. -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 Building a Tool-Kit** 

330 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College
 Build a toolkin of strategies to support children behavior regulation and resilience and explore
 the improtrace of self-crace. Presented by Jamie Stuart Taylor, LCSW

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





#### **ROE 47 Computer Science** Teacher Leader Program



#### **Session One**



#### **Session Two**



#### **Session Three**

e training deepens CS integration, focusing on physical mputing, project-based learning, and Al connections for ddle and high schoolers. Elementary teachers will plore microbit basics and designed cross-curricular



**Session Dates** 

### Benefits of

- STE membership access Comprehensive LTC train aligned with new IL CS standards

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



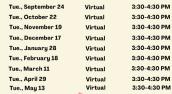


#### REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47 2214 E 4th Street, Suite B | Sterling, IL | 815.625.149



If you are a new teacher, certified or non-certified in a teaching role, or a In you are a new teaching area, 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 and 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







# Strengthening Young People Against Anxiety





Anxiety thrives on unfamiliar situations and the potential for embarrassment, failure, or separation from loved ones, making school a prime trigger. It can impact friendships, confidence, and academic performance, but with the right support, children and teens can thrive.

#### By attending this workshop, you will gain:

- Valuable insights into the world of an anxious child. Practical tools and techniques to confidently support students with anxiety.
- A deeper understanding of how schools can create a buffer against anxiety for all students.

September 5, 2024

♀ Online Via Zoom

















### **COUNSELOR & SOCIAL WORKER NETWORKING**



#### **SESSION DETAILS**



September 5



November 7 January 9



April 3



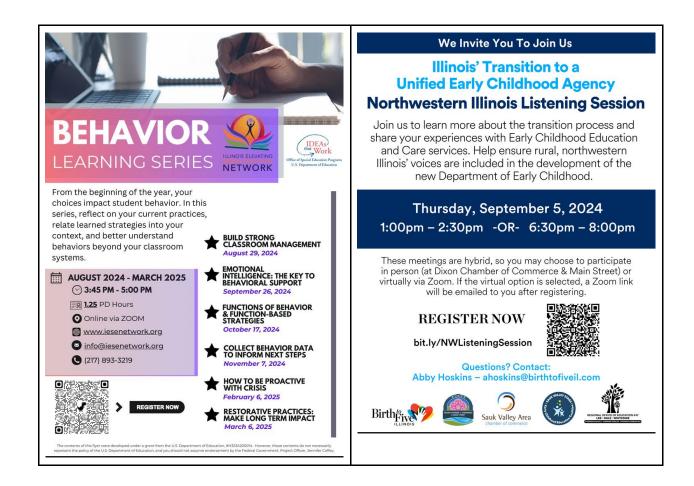
2214 E. 4th Street, Suite B, Sterling



8:30 AM - 10:30 AM







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

#### August 2024 Participants - 684

Monday, August 5 LETRS Cohort @ ROE #47

Tuesday, August 6
New Teacher Workshop @ ROE #47

Wednesday, August 7
EdTech Summit @ SVCC

#### Monday, August 12

Deanery School Improvement Networking Session @ Newman Catholic High School

#### **Opening Institutes**

Paw Paw (21), Rock Falls Elementary (130), LaMoille, Eswood (10), Sterling Public Schools (400)

### July 2024 in Photos:



























#### Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: NEXUS

We are back in action and are full speed ahead already this school year. We have added Mackenzie Garza to our team. We are looking forward to a great 2024-2025 school year!



### Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Student Attendance Support

We have added two new team members to our team. Tabatha Behrens and Kayla Grennan are our new Attendance Support Specialists. They are already a wonderful addition to our team!



#### Parents as Teachers First Years

Recruiting, recruiting, recruiting! We have had quite a number of referrals coming into our program recently so we have been busy filling slots with families. Some referrals have come from another home visiting program that lost some staff members. With family consent, they kindly shared the referral information with us so that we could get families enrolled in home visiting services while they work to hire and train new staff.

This type of collaboration has been a goal of our work through the Sauk Valley STARS Early Childhood Education Coalition. We recognize that connecting families to the support services they need sometimes means that we prioritize what is best for families over what may be best for individual programs. This type of collaboration and sharing of resources strengthens all of the home visiting programs and makes us more effective in supporting families.

The four home visiting programs are all actively participating in the STARS Home Visiting Workgroup which is focused on promoting and strengthening birth to 3 home visiting services to support families and communities throughout the region. This workgroup has also been working towards a more coordinated system for intake and referrals to develop even stronger and more equitable collaboration between the programs that operate in the region. Recently, we have developed a shared marketing brochure to provide education about why home visiting is for everyone:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WRX40b4fEkF1ra3nV6dRdqlvIMPPfdab/view?usp=sharing
We are also in the beginning stages of developing a short home visiting marketing video that can be shared on social media and with other agencies which includes quotes from actual home visiting participants about the value of home visiting.

# **Education Outreach Program**

As we move forward through the first few weeks of class for the 2024-2025 school year, the Education Outreach Program is busy with testing. There are many different formats of tests that our students have to complete and master.

In order for individuals to get enrolled in our program, we must first conduct a series of CASAS testing. The Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) provides testing of basic academic skills, focusing on Reading and Math, for youth and adults as a curriculum tool to aid in instruction. This allows our program to assess academic gaps and the needs of our students. We also are able to use this as a tool to decide if our student is ready to begin GED testing or if there is a need for 1 on 1 with our teacher, accommodations or tutoring.

Once a student is ready for GED testing, they must first take a GED practice test and pass before allowing for the GED test to be scheduled. The Education Outreach Program takes pride in focusing on the student and their needs in regards to the testing. We sharpen their testing taking skills, boost confidence as well as teach to the test and different test formats. We will continue to accommodate our students' needs at many different levels. "Success is never final."

# **McKinney Vento Homeless Program**

Registration and enrollment is a key time to identify our families that are faced with Transitional Housing Arrangements. Immediate enrollment and support services are vital for enhancing the educational success of our students. We are in the process of offering support to community agencies that work and support our families. District wide trainings are being arranged and provided to help alert all the staff for greater opportunities for identifying our families.

# **Center For Change**

As we embark on the new school year, I am delighted to share the exciting developments at the ROE 47 Center for Change, and the strides we have made in our mission to foster an enriching and inclusive educational environment.

We have begun the school year with the proud launch of the Phoenix Leadership Counsel, a groundbreaking initiative designed to amplify student voices and empower our learners. The Phoenix Leadership Counsel is a student-led organization focused on promoting the growth and success of our students through a range of student-led activities and events. This initiative not only provides our students with valuable leadership experience but also ensures that they play a central role in shaping the direction and culture of our programs.

In addition to the Phoenix Leadership Counsel, we are excited to incorporate student-led tours for new students who have been accepted into our programs. This peer-led approach not only helps new students acclimate more smoothly but also fosters a sense of belonging and community from the moment they step through our doors.

At the Center for Change, our commitment to creating an inclusive and positive learning environment remains steadfast. We believe that collaboration between teachers and students is essential to achieving this goal. By working together, we are able to address individual needs, celebrate diverse perspectives, and support each student's unique journey.

As we continue to implement these initiatives and enhance our programs, we remain dedicated to providing a nurturing space where every student can thrive. Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission. We look forward to a successful and transformative school year.



#### MONTHLY ZONING AND PLANNING REPORT

September 10, 2024 – County Services Committee

#### ACTIONS COMING FROM THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - None

ACTIONS GOING TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - None

**ACTIONS COMING FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION - None** 

#### **ACTIONS GOING TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION - None**

#### OTHER ACTIONS FROM THE ZONING OFFICE

The Zoning office is currently working with developers who are seeking building permits for three (3) separate community solar projects: Maples Road Solar 1, LLC; Wiggins Solar, LLC; and OneEnergy Development, LLC. Additionally, the office is working with Ameresco, who is seeking a building permit for their pipeline project.

Retired Sheriff's Deputy Jared Yater is continuing to see results through the Junk and Junk Vehicle program. He is currently working with approximately 48 residents to resolve junk and/or junk vehicle violations. With the assistance of the Sheriff's Department, he will be working with three (3) residents to acquire salvage titles so the vehicles can be lawfully received by a salvage yard.

Last month, Mr. Yater began conducting zoning compliance checks as part of the building permit process. As a reminder, a zoning compliance check is nothing more than confirming that what is reported on the building permit is what is being constructed. He reports that, so far, property owners have been receptive to reintroducing this process.

Earlier this year, Lee County applied for a BRIC grant that would assist the County in adopting building codes. We continue to progress through that process and were recently asked to provide additional information concerning anticipated costs. We anticipate awards to be announced before the end of the year.

On August 21<sup>st</sup>, Laura attended the Village meeting in the Village of Lee with William Shipley from IEMA. Earlier in the month, she had met with Village Mayor Terri Voitek and the head of the public works department to discuss the water issues they have in town. While they are not under the jurisdiction of Lee County, she reached out to Laura as Floodplain Manager for guidance. While the Village itself is not in the floodplain, it does have significant drainage and stormwater management issues.

Laura discussed applying for a scoping grant from FEMA during the meeting. A scoping grant would pay for the engineering study to identify the water issues and offer possible solutions. That study can then be used for a grant to pay for the recommended work. They were both interested in more information and set it up for me to talk about it at their meeting. If anyone knows of an area of Lee County that may benefit from a



Zoning/Planning Department
Alice Henkel, Zoning/Planning Administrator
Laura Mangrum, Deputy Zoning/Planning Administrator

scoping grant to identify water-related issues or has general questions about the grant, please contact Laura with the Zoning Office.

Mr. Shipley from IEMA has been a great source of information and guidance and after discussing the Village's issues with him, he decided to attend the meeting to answer questions as well. The idea was well received, and he is now their point of contact to move forward with applying for the scoping grant.

During the month of August 2024, the Zoning Office processed forty-three (43) building permits. Permit fees in the amount of \$11,330.10 were collected.