



# County Services Committee Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Nov 13, 2023 at 9:00 AM CST

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

## I. Call to Order

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

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

Ron Gascoigne was absent. Ali Huss attended via Zoom video conferencing. Jack Skrogstad, Dean Freil, Katie White and Reed Akre attended in person.

Also present: Bob Olson, Keane Hudson, Tom Kitson, and Mike Koppien (Board Members), Dave Anderson (County Engineer/Highway Department), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney), Greg Gates (LOTS Director), Paul Gorski (IT Director), Alice Henkel (Renewable Energy Coordinator), Jeff Hilden (Facilities Director), Nancy Petersen (County Clerk and Recorder), Wendy Ryerson (current Lee County Administrator), Chris Tennyson (ROE Superintendent), Jeremy Englund (incoming Lee County Administrator), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) all attended in person.

Following roll call, Tom Kitson introduced Jeremy Englund as the incoming Lee County Administrator. Jeremy was hired on November 13, 2023. Wendy Ryerson, the current Administrator, will be retiring within the coming weeks.

## III. Public Attendees

Connie Blosser Emery (owner of JYD's, Home of the Junk Yard Dog Food Truck/Trailer) attended the meeting to ask the County to adopt a tent staking code due to an incident at the Lee County 4H Fair that totaled her food truck.

## IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting - (October 10, 2023)

Minutes from the October 10, 2023, 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. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the November County Board agenda packet. Dave reported two (2) items during the meeting that were not covered in his report:

1. The Highway Department is currently in the process of hiring a maintainer. This hire will be a replacement employee.
2. Dave gave a shout out to the Highway Department Maintenance Team and Engineer Brian Tjernlund for creating a slab bridge drain insert that won the IDOT - Build a Better Mousetrap Competition. The drain helps mitigate deterioration on the underside of slab bridges.

B. Highway Department

1. *Engineering Agreement for Township Bridge Design*

Dave Anderson explained that this agreement would allow for the expenditure of Township Bridge Funds to design a bridge on Pipeline Road for Bradford Township. He went on to report that Township Bridge funds have quadrupled. He had worked with the Illinois Association of County Engineers since about 2008, to increase the funds.

**Motion** to move the Engineering Agreement for Township Bridge Design to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the November County Board agenda. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Reed Akre. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. *Annual MFT Maintenance Appropriation Resolution for 2024*

Dave Anderson explained that this resolution appropriates Motor Fuel Tax funds for basic materials and general maintenance work for FY 2024. This must be in place by the first of the year to expend MFT funds.

**Motion** to move the Annual MFT Maintenance Appropriation Resolution for FY 2024 to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the November County Board agenda. **Moved** by Katie White. **Second** by Reed Akre. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. *Solid Waste Management*

Dave Anderson reported that electronic recycling in Amboy had ended for the season and that updated signs would be posted at the recycling lot located on West 4th Street in Dixon.

VI. Assessor's Office - GIS Department

A. *Assessor's Office*

1. Monthly Report

Jennifer Boyd was at the Illinois Association of County Officials Conference in Bloomington and was not able to attend the meeting but submitted a detailed report. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the November County Board agenda packet.

B. *GIS Department*

1. Monthly Report

Sami Elarifi was not able to attend the meeting but submitted a detailed report. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the November County Board agenda packet.

VII. County Board

A. *Administrator Report*

Wendy Ryerson reminded the Committee that there will be a Truth in Taxation meeting at 5:30 p.m., on **Tuesday, November 21, 2023**, immediately preceding the 6:00 p.m., monthly County Board Meeting.

VIII. County Clerk'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 November County Board agenda packet.

IX. IT Department

A. *Monthly Report*

Paul Gorski walked the committee through the detailed report that he submitted. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the November County Board agenda packet. Paul took the time to congratulate Jennifer Boyd and Sami Elarifi on the successful deployment of the new GIS system.

X. LOTS

A. *Monthly Report*

Greg Gates walked the Committee through the detailed report that he submitted. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the November County Board agenda packet.

XI. ROE

A. *Monthly Report*

Chris Tennyson walked the Committee through the detailed report that he submitted. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the November County Board agenda packet.

XII. Veterans Assistance

There was no report from Veteran Assistance.

XIII. Zoning / Planning

A. *Monthly Report*

Alice Henkel walked the Committee through the detailed report that she submitted. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the November County Board agenda packet. Alice also reported that the office is working on the building permit process for the Crawford 1 and Crawford 1a Community Solar Projects. A road use agreement for this project is expected to be presented to the County Board in December 2023.

B. *Petitions Going to the Zoning Board of Appeals - None*

C. *Petitions Coming From the Zoning Board of Appeals - 3 Petitions*

1. Petition No. 23-P-1616 by Petitioner Wiggins Solar, LLC, regarding PIN 18-08-11-400-014, located in South Dixon Township.

**Motion** to move Petition 23-P-1616 to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the November County Board agenda. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Reed Akre. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. Petition No. 23-P-1618 by Petitioner First State Bank, regarding PINs 05-17-08-302-016 and 05-17-08-302-015, located in Brooklyn Township.

**Motion** to move Petition 23-P-1618 to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the November County Board agenda. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Reed Akre. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. Petition No. 23-P-1619 by Petitioner Crest Foods Co., Inc., regarding PIN 03-04-29-100-007, located in Ashton Township.

**Motion** to move Petition 23-P-1619 to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the November County Board agenda. **Moved** by Katie White. **Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

D. *Petitions Going to the Planning Commission - None*

E. *Petitions Coming From the Planning Commission - None*

XIV. Unfinished Business

There were no items under Unfinished business.

XV. New Business

A. *Lee County Tent Code Discussion*

The committee briefly discussed the tent code topic. Alice Henkel explained that Connie Blosser Emery's request for a tent staking code brought forth earlier in the meeting would require the County to adopt building codes. Adopting building codes is currently being considered by the County but would prove to be a lengthy process. Alice went on to explain that at this point, the incident would be deemed a civil matter.

XVI. Executive Session

There was no request for an Executive Session.

XVII. Adjournment

**Motion** to adjourn at 9:39 a.m. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Katie White. **Motion** carried unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Becky Brenner - Board Secretary

Lee County Highway Department  
Report to the County Services Committee – NOVEMBER 2023

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

**Status of Current Projects**

2023 Construction projects are complete.

**Other:**

**Board Action Items:**

- *Engineering agreement for a township bridge design*  
This agreement allows for the expenditure of Township Bridge Funds to design a bridge on Pipeline Road for Bradford Township
  
- *Annual MFT Maintenance Appropriation Resolution for 2024*  
This resolution appropriates Motor Fuel Tax funds for the basic materials and general maintenance work for 2024. This must be in place by the first of the year in order to expend MFT funds for road salt, as an example.

**Solid Waste**

Electronics collection is closed for the season and will reopen again in April.



**MONTHLY ASSESSMENT OFFICE REPORT**  
**November 13, 2023 – County Services Committee**

I am attending the annual Illinois Association of County Officials conference in Bloomington-Normal Monday through Wednesday this week and will not be able to attend the County Services Meeting. Please see my report below and feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

The assessment office has finalized assessment changes for the quadrennial reassessment of District 4, which is the eastern six townships: Alto, Reynolds, Viola, Willow Creek, Brooklyn and Wyoming. Also changes for any new construction, demolition or omitted property for the remainder of the county have been updated.

Township factors have been calculated and the files will be turned over today to Mail Services and the newspapers to prepare for publication. As discussed at last month's County Services meeting, we are looking at higher factors than in recent years to meet our statutorily required assessment of one third of the fair market value of properties. This is a multiplier that if not done at that county level, the state will step in and put on for us, so it benefits the county and taxpayers for the assessment office to due its due diligence in assessing and factoring with equity.

The target publication and mailing date of Change of Assessment Notices is November 22, 2023. Notices are mailed to all quadrennial reassessment township parcels and any other parcel that has had a change to their assessment other than the township factor applied. Property owners will have 30 days from the notice date to file an appeal to the Board of Review if they do not agree with the reassessment. We encourage all taxpayers to reach out to their township assessor or our office with questions.

The new GIS web portal on the new server launched Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. The main page looks a bit different but public users should not have any problems. They will be automatically redirected to the new portal. A HUGE shout out to Sami Elarifi, GIS Coordinator and Virginia at Cloudpoint who we contracted with. They have put so much into rebuilding this server from the ground up so we can avoid further major breakdowns in the future. Thank you, Sami and Virginia!

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Boyd, CIAO  
Chief County Assessment Officer/  
GIS Supervisor



**GIS Department Report**  
**November 9, 2023**

- I attended the Illinois GIS Association (ILGISA) Annual Conference 2023 in Lisle.
- Completed fire district wall maps with the ESN boundaries and address locations requested by the West Brooklyn and Harmon fire departments.
- The 911 Flex Map address points were updated with the most recent information provided by the 911 Center.
- Processed the monthly property splits and combinations and updated the land use and zoning data.
- The testing and quality assurance of the new ArcGIS Enterprise system have been completed, and the new portal is ready to go live.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sami Elarifi  
GIS Coordinator



**COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER**  
REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> COMMITTEE MEETING

Open Enrollment for Insurance has started and will continue until November 15<sup>th</sup>. This is the one time of year that anyone on the county's insurance can add or drop anyone from insurance.

I need to stress to all departments that when one of your employees retires or resigns Penny Needs to know to remove this person from the county insurance/life insurance programs.

September 5<sup>th</sup> was the first day to circulate petitions for established party candidates seeking nomination. The Election office has packets available for pick up, or you can find the petition forms online at SBE website. **The first day you can file is Monday November 27th. Last day to file is Monday December 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**General Primary is March 19, 2024. General Election is November 5, 2024.** Lee County Board 10 Seats up for election. 2 Seats in District 1 (Koppien and Gascoigne) Signature requirements Are: a minimum of 14 signatures. 3 in District 2 (White, Mimini, and Akre) will need a minimum of 14 signatures, 4 in District 3 (Hudson, Naylor, Wilson, and Pearson) -will need a minimum of 11 signatures, and 2 in District 4 (Freil and Skrogstad) will need a minimum of 14 signatures.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Petersen".

Nancy Petersen  
Lee County Clerk & Recorder





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

November 10, 2023

## IT Board Report

1. Cybersecurity training is ongoing. We're only at 56% completion right now, so the IT team is reaching out to users answer any questions they have and to assist in completing the training.
2. IT has completed the reconfiguration of Old Courts and New Courts Wi-Fi that should make Wi-Fi connections faster and more reliable in these buildings.
3. Jonathan Henrikson is continuing to assist our Circuit Clerk's office and our Full Court Enterprise vendor on required system updates and patches to the court management system.
4. Justin Carr has been working with LEC staff on workstation relocations, and in addition, deploying new computers to new and existing staff in other county departments.
5. IT is assisting officials in New Courts with research and quotes related to an upcoming court technology grant application.
6. The IT staff congratulates Sami Elarifi and Jennifer Boyd on the successful deployment of the new GIS system. Sami worked extremely hard to make this deployment a success and deserves a round of applause for his efforts.
7. We have other items on our to-do list, contact me with questions.

Thank you.

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



**Report to County Services Committee of Lee County Board**  
November 13, 2023 | 9:00 AM

**1) ROLLING 3-MONTH RIDE DATA FOR SFY 2024**

|                         | <b>August, 2023</b> | <b>September, 2023</b> | <b>October, 2023</b> | <b>Total for Period</b> |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>RIDES</b>            | <b>7,254</b>        | <b>8,217</b>           | <b>8,713</b>         | <b>24,184</b>           |
| <b>SERVICE HOURS</b>    | <b>2,179</b>        | <b>2,522</b>           | <b>2,704</b>         | <b>7,405</b>            |
| <b>MILES OF SERVICE</b> | <b>63,372</b>       | <b>64,587</b>          | <b>72,976</b>        | <b>200,935</b>          |
| <b>FUEL COST</b>        | <b>\$20,510.12</b>  | <b>\$19,444.60</b>     | <b>\$19,112.29</b>   | <b>\$59,607.01</b>      |

**2) DEVELOPMENTS**

**a) Reagan Mass Transit District**

- i) Chief Counsel (Attorney) for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has completed its review of the Definitive Agreement, which outlines the transition of assets to RMTD.
  - (1) The Definitive Agreement will now be presented to the Lee County Board and Ogle County Board for their consideration.
  - (2) State’s Attorneys for Lee and Ogle Counties have already reviewed and given consent to the content.

**b) Rural Winnebago County Transit Services**

- i) The Winnebago County Board approved a resolution in September to move forward with the development of public transportation services in rural Winnebago County.
  - (a) The next step in the process is to complete an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Winnebago County for the provision of transportation services.
  - (b) Services would begin in the rural portion of the County on July 1, 2024.

**c) Hydrogen Fuel Feasibility Study**

- i) In partnership with the University of Illinois (Urbana/Champaign), LOTS has submitted a feasibility study proposal to the Illinois Center for Transportation to assess the potential use of hydrogen (and its local production) in public transportation vehicles.
  - (1) This 18-month proposal is requesting \$360,000 to consider the use (and production) of hydrogen in rural public transportation vehicles.
  - (2) This application is similar to the application submitted to the Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Grant program of the Build America program from the US DOT.
    - (a) Award announcements for this funding are expected by December.

**d) City of Rochelle Feasibility Study / Technical Assistance Grant (Awarded) from IDOT**

- i) Lee County / LOTS is awaiting Pre-Award Concurrence from IDOT to officially award RLS and Associates the contract to complete the Rochelle Feasibility Study.
  - (1) The expected timeframe for completion of this Technical Assistance/Feasibility Study 6-9 months with completion anticipated by summer of 2024.
  - (2) Focus of the Feasibility Study is to consider the development of a fixed route for public transportation in the City of Rochelle.

**e) City of Dixon Feasibility Study / Technical Assistance Grant (Awarded) from IDOT**

- i) Lee County / LOTS is awaiting Pre-Award Concurrence from IDOT to officially award RLS and Associates the contract to complete the Dixon Feasibility Study.
  - (1) The expected timeframe for completion of this Technical Assistance/Feasibility Study 6-9 months with completion anticipated by summer of 2024.
  - (2) Focus of the Feasibility Study is to consider the development of a fixed route for public transportation in the City of Dixon.

- f) LOTS Awarded Funding to Complete SPR Funding on Transportation Needs**
- i) In September, LOTS/Lee County received word from IDOT/State Planning and Research of funding it has been awarded \$243,594 to complete a two-year study on transportation needs of residents of Lee and Ogle Counties.
- (1) LOTS will partner with Northern Illinois University's Center on Governmental Studies to complete this study.
- g) Budget/Contracts for FY 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)**
- (1) Executed contracts for State Fiscal Year 2024 are as follows:
- (2) Contractual amounts for FY 2024 are as follows:
- (a) 5311 Contract: \$282,700 \*
- (b) 5311F Contract (I-88): \$1,100,000 \*
- (c) 5311F Contract (I-39): \$929,606 \*
- (d) DOAP Contract: \$1,555,840
- \*These are being combined into a single contract by IDOT
- h) Vehicle Procurement**
- (1) LOTS collaboration with IDOT on a federal proposal to the Low/No Emission Grants.
- (a) LOTS will procure two (2) electric buses via this proposal
- (2) LOTS has submitted the order for two (2) electric vehicles to the Michigan Department of Transportation. IDOT promoted this relationship, as it does not currently have electric vehicles on its state vehicle contract, although they will likely add EVs in the near future.
- (3) LOTS will also likely be the recipient of several "standard" fuel vehicles via a second federal grant – Buses and Bus Facilities – that IDOT wrote and were awarded funding for.
- i) Architectural/Engineering Firm / Oregon facility construction**
- i) Pre-award concurrence has been received from IDOT. Larson and Darby, an architectural firm out of Rockford, has been secured for the A&E process.
- ii) Architectural and Engineering firm has provided us with a 90% complete design of the Oregon facility.
- iii) This project is part of LOTS application under REBUILD Round 1
- j) Architectural/Engineering Firm / Addition to Dixon Facility**
- i) An architectural and engineering firm – Willett Hoffman – was selected for the addition project on to the Reagan Transit Center.
- ii) Project includes development of new offices at Reagan Transit Center and secured file room/storage room. Geothermal and Solar technologies will be incorporated into complex
- iii) This project is part of LOTS application under REBUILD Round 2

### 3) OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

- a) Capital Funding / REBUILD Round 1**
- i) Application includes Construction of new Oregon location
- ii) Furnishings and equipment for Oregon facility
- iii) Implementation of video surveillance cameras into 17 of LOTS' buses and minivans (completed)
- iv) Three (3) new buses (Ford transit type vehicles)
- b) Capital Funding / REBUILD Round 2**
- (1) Notice of State Award being processed by IDOT
- (2) LOTS Proposal will allow for the following:
- (a) Two electric vehicles for use in the LOTS 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
- c) Capital REBUILD Round 3**
- i) IDOT announced that Lee County/LOTS will receive \$62,500 for the purchase of 2 service vehicles
- ii) The original proposal included the following:
- (1) Add 72-feet onto the existing bus barn at Reagan Transit Center,
- (a) This will provide for an additional twelve (12) slots for buses
- (2) Add another bay onto the existing mechanical building
- (3) Purchase service vehicles including one for maintenance



## Regional Office of Education Report

November 2023

### Ribbon Cutting and County Board Member Open House

I am excited to let everyone know that we are now fully moved into our new office location and totally unpacked. We are members of the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce and they have scheduled a Ribbon Cutting for our new office on Wednesday November 29th at 3:00 PM. We also will have an open house from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the same time and I would like to invite all our county board members to stop by for a tour. We could not be in our new home without the support of all of you and hope you can find some time to come and take a tour!

### Professional Learning & Educational Services

|  |
|--|
| <b>Current Programs - Office of Professional Learning &amp; Educational Services</b> |
| Induction & Mentoring  |
| Community Partnership 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            |

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

**Professional Learning**

- Summative designations and SPP data is available to all of our schools and districts on the Illinois Interactive Report Card. Our team will be busy assisting with data analysis & interpretation and school improvement planning.
- A full schedule of Professional Learning is available on our website: [www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)
- Our first in person LETRS training occurred in October 2023!! Lexia LETRS® stands for: Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling. LETRS is a professional learning course for instructors of reading, spelling, and related language skills. It provides educators with in-depth knowledge and tools that they can use with any reading program. Over 85 educators from Lee, Ogle & Whiteside counties are enrolled in this 2-year cohort.
- Over 1,100 8th grade students attended the ROE 47/SVCC Pathway Playground at Sauk Valley College on Friday, October 20, 2023. Students had the opportunity to engage with over 70 Lee, Ogle & Whiteside county businesses in hands-on career exploration activities.

**Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Community Outreach**

- Team members continue to facilitate 2-3 community outreach events per month. Our next scheduled event is Blockfest in Prophetstown on September 30th.
- The 2nd annual Pathway Playground will be held Friday, October 20 at Sauk Valley Community College. Our team is still looking for business, industry, and community agencies to participate!

**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!

## Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: In the News

Sauk Valley Media - Shaw Local  
October 20 at 3:32 PM · 🌐

Nearly 1,000 eighth-graders from 14 school districts explored everything from embalming to engineering Friday, Oct. 20, 2023 during the Regional Office of Educa... [See more](#)



SHAWLOCAL.COM

**Photos: Eighth-graders explore embalming and engineering**

Nearly 1,000 eighth-graders from 14 school districts explored everything from embalmi...

Sauk Valley Media - Shaw Local  
4d · 🌐

The sheer size of the event surprised me, nearly 1,000 students snaking their way through the halls of SVCC, stopping by to visit a number of possible career pa... [See more](#)



SHAWLOCAL.COM

**Shutter to Think: Career exploration at SVCC highlights potential paths**

The sheer size of the event surprised me, nearly 1,000 students snaking their way throu...



AROUNDPTOWN.COM

**Pathway Playground offers career exploration day for area eighth-grade students | AroundPtown.com**

# Pathway Playground offers career exploration day for area eighth-grade students

By Sarah Ford, AP Staff Writer

Regional Office of Education #47 of Lee, Ogle and Whiteside Counties hosted its annual Pathway Playground on Friday, Oct. 20 at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon.

The event, now in its second year, was planned and organized by the ROE #47 Pathways team as a way to give eighth-grade students the opportunity to interact with businesses from Lee, Ogle and Whiteside counties.

More than a thousand students from Prophetstown-Lyndon-Tampico, Morrison, Rock Falls, River Bend, Byron, Amboy and Polo Middle Schools, Forreston Junior High, and Challand, Montmorency, and East Coloma schools attended the career exploration event to learn from experts in the field. The engaging event inspired students to think about their futures and align their interests with possible career paths.

Representatives from more than 70 businesses and industries set up shop for the day to provide insights into the work they do. Students were able to explore a variety of career opportunities through hands-on activities and discussions with professionals before heading back to school with bags full of goodies, products and brochures.

Students discovered career opportunities in manufacturing, engineering, technology, construction, trades, education, health care, meteorology, spa and salon, agriculture, criminal justice, law enforcement, funeral services, aviation and more. Representatives included Birkey's Farm Store, University of Illinois Extension 4-H, and Sterling Police Department's community service dog Brinkley, who was content with all the petting and attention.

Among the many activities offered were meteorology and green screens with WQAD, taking headshots of each other with Nicole Olinger Photography, learning how to install windows on garage doors with Raynor, and learning about law enforcement and healthcare careers. The Lee and Ogle County health departments provided information on public health careers and tested students' knowledge on vaping, smoking, and how to distinguish candy from drugs. Law-Jones Funeral Home had a skeletal "Jones' Bones" for examination.

"The Pathways Playground is a wonderful opportunity for students, teachers and businesses to connect and build partnerships to increase career exploration at the middle school level," said Chanda McDonnell of ROE #47's Pathways program. "This career exploration day plants the seed for area eighth-grade students of the careers available to them in their own backyard."



# Upcoming Events

## SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- KEYNOTE:** Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping the educational landscape for English teachers, paving the way for more engaging and efficient classroom experiences. Discover how AI can revolutionize your teaching methods and streamline your daily tasks. Explore AI's role in personalized learning, content creation, instant feedback, content generation, lesson adaptations, and real-time assessments.
- BREAKOUTS:** Break out sessions include:
  - What you need to know about portability
  - Placement
  - Implementing Transitional English
  - State resources to support transitional English implementation
  - Leveraging your Local Advisory Panel
  - What are we preparing students for?
  - Cultural responsiveness and text selection

## 2023 VIRTUAL SUMMIT FOR TRANSITIONAL ELA

**Keynote: Ben Sondgeroth, Illinois LTC**  
**Harnessing the Power of AI in the English Classroom**

All High School English teachers, administrators and counselors, post-secondary English Faculty, Local Advisory Panel members should plan to join Sauk Valley Community College's PASS Initiative and Regional Office of Education #47

**Friday, December 1**  
**Virtual Connection**  
 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Register by November 24 @ [roe47.org](http://roe47.org) and select the Professional Development tab. Zoom link provided to registered participants the week of the Summit

Questions? Please contact Janis Jones: [janis.a.jones@svcc.edu](mailto:janis.a.jones@svcc.edu) • 815.499.1944





### ILLINOIS ELEVATING SPECIAL EDUCATORS NETWORK

PRESENTS OUR 2023-2024 SPECIAL EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Visit [ROE47.ORG](http://roe47.org) to register for these FREE learning opportunities

Contact: Shauna Diaper at [sdiaiper@iesenetwork.org](mailto:sdiaiper@iesenetwork.org) or Kelly Marcum at [kmarcum@iesenetwork.org](mailto:kmarcum@iesenetwork.org)



#### Community of Practice (Cohort)

Teachers: Join us as we explore a variety of topics in education while networking with other educators in the area.

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| September 13 | Starting Strong with Organizational Strategies |
| October 11   | Stabilizing Situations Through De-Escalation   |
| November 8   | TBD  |
| December 13  | TBD  |
| January 10   | TBD  |
| February 14  | TBD  |
| March 13     | TBD  |
| April 10     | TBD  |

**\*\*To be determined based on teacher requests. Please join us from 3:30-4:30 on Zoom.**

#### 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.

December 5  
February 6  
April 9

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

#### 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.

| YEAR ONE    |         |
|-------------|---------|
| November 16 | March 5 |
| January 16  | May 7   |

YEAR TWO - For those that participated last year, we will continue our work with developing special education leaders.

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| November 14 | February 27 |
| January 9   | April 1     |

Please join us at Sauk Valley Community College for either of these opportunities 8:30-2:30

#### Quarterly Professional Development

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

Sept. 29 Special Education Summit  
 Dec. 1 Diving Deeper into UDL\*  
 Feb. 2 Putting UDL into Practice Workshop\*

\*ALL Educators Welcome! Come learn how to improve instructional strategies for ALL learners in your classroom. Brainstorm ways to overcome barriers to increase student learning and engagement.

Join us at Sauk Valley Community College 8:30-3:00

#### Special Education Summit

September 29, 2023

[REGISTER](#) 

Brought to you by the IESE Network in partnership with OSEP and ISBE. The contents of this presentation were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #Y13023. 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, Jennifer Guffey.



## FAMILY FUN DAY

COME AND ENJOY SOME FAMILY FUN AT BUILD-A-PET CLUBHOUSE!

SATURDAY NOV 4 2-4 PM Admission FREE

**Activities**

- Active Play
- Play Stations
- Sensory Play
- Toddler Area
- Game Room for 8 yrs +

**Build-A-Pet Clubhouse**  
 502 1st Ave, Sterling, IL

RSVP by Scanning the QR Code or Text (815) 764-1194



More Information [gheimerdingerbaake@roe47.org](mailto:gheimerdingerbaake@roe47.org)

## November 17

8:30 am - 3:00 pm  
 Sauk Valley Community College

# Early Childhood Summit

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)



**ALLISON MCDONALD**  
 FOUNDER OF NO TIME FOR FLASH CARDS



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

Check out ALL of our opportunities [HERE](#)

### November & December Schedule of Events

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>NOVEMBER</b>         |  |
| 11/8/2023               | <a href="#">Communities of Practice (Special Educators Cohort)</a>                       |
| 11/15/2023              | <a href="#">School Counselors &amp; Social Workers Networking Session</a>                |
| 11/16/2023 - 8/7/2024   | <a href="#">Developing Leadership in Special Education (Year One)</a>                    |
| 11/17/2023              | <a href="#">Early Childhood Summit: Play-Based Learning in STEM, Literacy &amp; Math</a> |
| 11/28/20223 - 4/18/2024 | <a href="#">Continuous School Improvement Workshop</a>                                   |
| 11/29/2023              | <a href="#">Social Science Quarterly Networking Session</a>                              |
| <b>DECEMBER</b>         |  |
| 12/1/2023               | <a href="#">2nd Annual Transitional English Summit</a>                                   |
| 12/1/2023               | <a href="#">Diving Deeper into UDL</a>   |
| 12/5/2023 - 4/9/2024    | <a href="#">Targeted Improvement to Meet the Need of Diverse Learners</a>                |
| 12/13/2023              | <a href="#">Communities of Practice (Special Educators Cohort)</a>                       |
| 12/19/2023              | <a href="#">Interventionists Teaching and Learning Networking Session</a>                |

### October Participants - 151

#### Tuesday, October 3

Ed Pathways Cohort 4 @ 3:15 p.m.

#### Thursday, October 5

Superintendent Networking Session @ ROE #47

Librarians Networking Session @ 2:30 pm

#### Tuesday, October 10

Team Based Challenge Training @ 3:15 p.m.

#### Wednesday, October 11

Special Educators Community of Practice Cohort @ 3:30 pm

Thursday, October 12

Health Sciences (Pathways) Networking Session @ 3:15 pm

Tuesday, October 17

LETRS Training @ ROE #47

Thursday, October 19

Developing a School Wide Trauma Action Plan @ SVCC

Tuesday, October 24

Interventionists @ ROE #47

Wednesday, October 25

Serving Students in Foster Care and Students Experiencing Homelessness @ Highland College

Serving Students in Foster Care and Students Experiencing Homelessness @ ROE #47

Friday, October 27

Transitional Math Fall Networking Session @ SVCC

Monday, October 30

LETRS Check-In @ 3:30 pm

**October in Photos**







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

For Nexus, we are working with 87 families this school year. With the work our team has done with the families we are working with, we have been able to help our families reach over 175 goals this school year. Unfortunately, this year, we don't have the funds to provide the same types of Thanksgiving and Christmas supports we have been able to. We are exploring ways to gather additional funds to provide those supports in the future, but this year, we will be supporting on a smaller scale and trying to get families referred to other programs.

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

Our Attendance Team has been busy meeting with our students and families this school year; we have worked with over 200 students. We are working heavily with our staff and the schools to correctly identify which students and families are genuinely truant and which students and families simply need some additional supports to address absenteeism. We see that parents are facing so many challenges and need support. They often will turn to the schools for that supports, but often, school districts may need more resources to work with those parents directly. That is what is great about our Nexus and Attendance Programs working together in partnership. We can address the family's needs and see if we can intervene in a more supportive manner.

## Parents as Teachers First Years

### Quality Endorsement:



We are thrilled to announce that our program has earned an endorsement as a Parents as Teachers Blue Ribbon Affiliate through the Parents as Teachers Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process (QEIP)! Blue Ribbon Affiliates are recognized as exemplary affiliates, delivering high-quality services to children and families. But we couldn't have done it without our valuable partners -- all of the families who participate in our program and graciously welcome our home visitors into their homes.

About the Parents as Teachers Quality Endorsement and Improvement

### Process:

Implementation with quality and fidelity is vital in home-visiting programs as it determines a program's effectiveness in accomplishing its original goals and intended outcomes. It also verifies that a program is being implemented as designed.

The Parents as Teachers Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process helps ensure that Parents as Teachers affiliates are achieving fidelity to the Parents as Teachers model and facilitates continuous quality improvement. Parents as Teachers affiliates are required to engage in the Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process in their fourth year of implementation and every five years after that.

Parents as Teachers' rigorous endorsement process demonstrates an affiliate's accountability and credibility to the community, its funders, elected officials, and the partner organizations with which they work. Programs that earn the Quality Endorsement are recognized by Parents as Teachers National Center as exemplary Blue Ribbon Affiliates, delivering high-quality services to children and families.

### Basic Assessment of Speech Sounds Research Project:

Also this year, our program is participating in a research project with the developers of the Ages and Stages Developmental Screening tool. The developers are researching the accuracy and usefulness of a new speech sounds production screening measure called the *Basic Assessment of Speech Sounds, Research Edition (BASS-R)*. Home visitors and parents both complete a screener on children ages 2 and above which is used to collect validity and reliability data on the BASS-R tool. Parents also have the option to complete an

additional online session with a researcher and their child. Following the submission of the tool to the research team and optional additional online session, parents are provided with a stipend as a thank-you for their participation. This is an optional assessment, but parents have been very receptive and willing to participate in this research project. What a great opportunity to be able to provide data for a future tool which may be used for early identification of potential speech difficulties!

## **Education Outreach Program**

Bring on November! We are very busy moving forward and looking to fill our classrooms. The Education Outreach Program would like to introduce a new teacher for our Oregon office, Martha Mauch. Martha comes to us with years of experience teaching upper level high school Math. She will also meet with our Dixon students that have transportation as a barrier.

The Education Outreach Program is funded and partners with our friends at the Business Employment Skills Team, INC and will begin the process of planning some leadership activities for our students. One that was a big success in the past was the Reverse Job Fair. We look forward to organizing more activities to get our students set up for success in the workforce.

Lastly, we would like to congratulate Olivia on earning her Illinois High School Diploma. Olivia plans to obtain her Realtor Licensure and is scheduled to take the exam in February when she turns 18! Olivia completed her GED testing and Career Readiness skills in just 7 months; she is a true testament to what motivation and hard work can do.

## **McKinney Vento Homeless Program**

Training has taken place to educate our districts on services and needs for Youth in Care. Mostly affected by this area are the students in the Foster Care System. This is a vulnerable population. Educational success is key to their overall success. Services and support continually are needed for providing educational supplies and resources. This is supported on a case by case situation. Proper identification is always the starting point for our program.



## Regional Center for Change



Students from C4C made their annual trip to Selmi's pumpkin patch. Students earned the reward to attend Selmi's by demonstrating the following expectations: positive behavior, completing academic coursework, and improving attendance!





Staff, too, were able to enjoy time at Selmi's! We are so fortunate to have such an amazing staff!



Our first quarter students of the month at C4C. Jaylah comes to us from Sterling High School, and Matthew is one of our few students from Eastland. Way to go, Jaylah and Matthew. You are the antithesis of our C4C motto, "Center for Change, NOT Center for Staying the Same."





All C4C staff were trained and certified in non-violent crisis prevention. A special thank you to our trainers from Bi-County Special Education Cooperative for a great training! Above is Tony Crisp, trainer, demonstrating a hold on one of our paraprofessionals, Emme Anspach.  
C4C total student enrollment = 61



**MONTHLY ZONING AND PLANNING REPORT**  
November 13, 2023 – County Services Committee

**ACTIONS COMING FROM THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

1. Petition No. 23-P-1616 by Petitioner Wiggins Solar, LLC, regarding PIN 18-08-11-400-014, located in South Dixon Township. The property is currently zoned Ag-1, Rural/Agricultural District. Petitioner is requesting a special use permit in the Ag-1 District for the purpose of a 2 MW ground-mounted solar energy system (community solar).

The ZBA unanimously passed a motion to recommend to the County Board that this petition be approved on a 3-0 vote.

2. Petition No. 23-P-1618 by Petitioner First State Bank, regarding PINs 05-17-08-302-016 and 05-17-08-302-015, located in Brooklyn Township. The properties are currently zoned C-1, Neighborhood Office and Business District. Petitioner is requesting a variance for the front yard setbacks along Johnson Street and along Second Street, pursuant to Title 10, Chapter 10, Article B, Section 1(E) of the Lee County Code.

The ZBA unanimously passed a motion to recommend to the County Board that this petition be approved on a 3-0 vote.

3. Petition No. 23-P-1619 by Petitioner Crest Foods Co., Inc., regarding PIN 03-04-29-100-007, located in Ashton Township. The property is currently zoned Ag-1, Rural/Agricultural District with a special use permit for the purpose of a cattle confinement operation. Petitioner is requesting to amend the zoning map from Ag-1, Rural/Agricultural District to I-2, General Industrial District for the purpose of food production warehousing.

The ZBA unanimously passed a motion to recommend to the County that this petition be approved on a 3-0 vote.

**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 –**

Laura Mangrum has been hired as Deputy Zoning Administrator. She will join the department on November 27, 2023.

The Zoning Office has processed 44 building permits for the month of October.

Total permit fees collected in September: \$ 10,738.37.