



# County Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Tuesday, October 8, 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=zFqQ-pCyEBc>*

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

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

Also present: Keane Hudson, Tom Kitson, and Mike Koppien (Board Members), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney), Jeremy Englund (Administrator), Alice Henkel (Zoning Administrator), 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.

III. Public Attendees

Greg Gates (Director, Reagan Mass Transit District).

A. *Reagan Mass Transit Report*

Greg walked the committee through the report that he submitted from the Reagan Mass Transit District. This report will be attached to the minutes and included in the October County Board agenda packet.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting - (September 10, 2024)

Minutes from the September 10, 2024, County Services Committee Meeting were accepted as presented without modification.

V. Transportation/Solid Waste

A. *Monthly Report*

Dave Anderson was not able to attend the meeting but submitted a detailed report from the Highway Department and Solid Waste Management for the committee members. This report will be attached to a copy of the minutes and included in the October County Board agenda packet.

B. *Highway Department*

No actions items were submitted for the October meeting.

C. *Solid Waste Management*

No actions items were submitted for the October meeting.

VI. Assessor's Office - GIS Department

A. *Assessor's Office*

1. Monthly Report

Jennifer Boyd was not able to attend the meeting but submitted a detailed report for the members. This report will be attached to the minutes and included in the October County Board agenda packet.

B. *GIS Department (Geographic Information System)*

1. Monthly Report

Sami Elarifi was not able to attend the meeting but submitted a detailed report from GIS for the committee members. This report will be attached to the minutes and included in the October County Board agenda packet.

VII. County Board

Highlights of Jeremy Englund's report include:

- Contractors are currently working on the roof over the Old Courthouse North entrance because water continues to leak into the space below causing damage.
- He reported that a tree service worked for several days at the Old Courthouse. Two trees needed to be cut down and others were trimmed back.
- The Finance Committee will be presenting the proposed Levy and Budget Ordinances later in the week.

VIII. County Clerk and Recorder's Office

A. *Monthly Report*

Nancy Peterson walked the committee through the report that she submitted for the committee members. She highlighted the process for processing mail in ballots along with all the other responsibilities in the Election Department associated with the upcoming election. The report will be attached to the minutes and included in the October 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 for the committee members. This report will be attached to the minutes and included in the October 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 for the committee members. The report will be attached to the minutes and included in the October County Board agenda packet.

XI. Veterans Assistance

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 October County Board agenda packet.

Jared Yater gave a compliance report to the committee regarding the progress being made in cleaning up the accumulation of junk vehicles in the County and the removal of junk, trash, and debris from County properties. Highlights of Jared's report include:

- He has received two (2) additional complaints for junk property since the September meeting.
- He continues to follow up on existing complaints in Nachusa and Woodland Shores.
- Two complaints will be followed up with a citation.
- A property on route 30 has come into compliance after many years.
- He continues to follow up with permit inspections.
- Paperwork has been drawn up for six (6) additional junk car titles and two (2) additional junk cars have been removed. At least 20 vehicles have been removed since he started.

*B. Petitions Going To the Zoning Board of Appeals*

1. Petition No. 24-P-1631 by Sanjay Desai, who is in process of purchasing a portion of certain real property currently identified as PIN 11-16-31-100-015.

**Motion** to move the resolution for petition no. 24-P-1631 to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the October County Board agenda. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Ali Huss. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice. vote.

2. Petition No. 24-P-1632 by Jeffrey A. Lewis as owner of certain real property identified as PIN 07-02-17-252-015.

**Motion** to move the resolution for petition no. 24-P-1632 to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the October County Board agenda. **Moved** by Ali Huss. **Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice. vote.

3. Petition No. 24-P-1633 by Anthony and Lisa Winstead as owners of certain real property identified as PIN 12-14-17-300-001.

**Motion** to move the resolution for petition no. 24-P-1633 to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the October County Board agenda. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Ali Huss. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice. vote.

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

1. Petition No. 24-P-1628 by Jacob Lytle and Emma Lytle, as owners of certain real property known as PIN 14-09-05-300-012.

**Motion** to move the resolution for petition no. 24-P-1628 to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the October County Board agenda. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Katie White. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice. vote.

D. **Petitions Going To the Planning Commission**

There were no petitions going to the Planning Commission.

E. **Petitions Coming From the Planning Commission**

There were no petitions coming from the Planning Commission.

XIII. **Unfinished Business**

There were no items under Unfinished Business.

XIV. **New Business**

There were no items under New Business.

XV. **Executive Session**

There was no request for an Executive Session.

XVI. **Adjournment**

**Motion** to adjourn at 9:28 a.m. **Moved** by Ali Huss. **Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

The next County Services Committee Meeting is scheduled for  
9:00 a.m., on Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Respectfully submitted by:  
Becky Brenner - Board Secretary

Lee County Highway Department  
Report to the County Services Committee – October 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 - *Completed*
- County Aggregate - *Completed*
- Dust Palliative – *Completed*
- County Shoulder Stone (Furnish and Place, Various Locations) - *Completed*
- May Twp. HMA – *Completed*
- East Grove Twp. HMA – *Completed*
- Wyoming Twp. HMA – *Completed*
- 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.) – *Completed*
- Indian Head/Van Petten Road HMA – *To begin Mid-October*

**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.

**Board Action Items:**

- None

**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.



**MONTHLY ASSESSMENT OFFICE REPORT**  
**October 8, 2024 – County Services Committee**

- ❖ The Assessment Office's top priority currently is to wrap up 2024 assessment work to be ready for publication. Some of the items we are working on are:
  - The overall revaluation of land and buildings for the quadrennial reassessment townships (S. Dixon, Marion, E. Grove, Harmon and Nelson)
  - Valuing new construction of commercial buildings, which there is a significant increase due to the new development south of Dixon.
  - Completing valuation of wind projects. There has been some communication issues and a delay getting the required information and documentation. Alice in the Zoning Office has been collaborating with me and been very helpful in communicating with the wind companies.
  - I was able to provide some preliminary estimates of new construction for the county's levy preparation based on permits recorded and estimates of completion dates on some of the larger projects.
- ❖ All Assessment Office and GIS Staff participated in a Laredo training webinar. Laredo is the software provided by the Clerk and Recorder's office where deeds and sales transfers are stored. This webinar was very helpful in learning how to navigate the new web-based Laredo application. We appreciate the Clerk and Recorder's Office making this program available to us and their support in getting us set up for the new application.
- ❖ I attended a one-day Legal Symposium in Naperville September 24<sup>th</sup> which provided educational sessions for both assessors and attorneys. Some of the sessions I attended included an informational panel session by Property Tax Appeal Board Administrative Judges; an instructional session about important court decisions for assessors to know, an informational session on Certificates of Error, as presentation about the valuation of data centers and a presentation about sovereign citizens and tax deniers.
- ❖ GIS Tech, Logan Griswald has been dealing with a catastrophic computer crash in the last couple of weeks. Logan had one of the oldest computers in our office and we had slated to replace it this year but had not taken action yet. Thank you to the IT Department for the time spent trying to revive Logan's old computer and their fast response getting the new one ordered and installed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Boyd, CIAO  
Chief County Assessment Officer/GIS Supervisor



**Monthly GIS Department Report**  
**October 3, 2024**

The GIS Department has been working on:

- Processing parcel splits and combination requests for July and August 2024.
- Maintaining and updating land use, zoning, and other GIS layers.
- Updating and uploading the NG911 and 911 GIS layers to public safety mapping systems.
- Coordinating with the zoning department and 911 center to assign new addresses to properties.
- Configuring a damage assessment dashboard and agricultural parcel analysis solution.
- Handled number of scanning and printing tasks.
- Attended the 2024 MWUG Motorola Conference in Schaumburg with Lee County 911 Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sami Elarifi  
GIS Coordinator



**COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER**  
**REPORT FOR OCTOBER COMMITTEE MEETING**

Election Department Updates:

- **GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 5, 2024**
- The first day to mail out Ballots was September 26<sup>th</sup> and last day is October 31<sup>st</sup>. We have mailed 2232 Ballots out as of Friday the 4<sup>th</sup>.
- We have had 461 Ballots returned so far as of Friday the 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Early Voting started Thursday September 26<sup>th</sup> here in the courthouse from 8:15 to 4:15 p.m. Traffic has been very steady with 576 early voters as of Friday the 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 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. My office is still receiving post cards back.
- Election Judge Class was moved to the Dixon Historic Theatre because of the situation with the elevators in this courthouse. Turnout was good approximately 125 people showed up. Huge shout out to Jeremy for putting that together at the last minute. We moved the location on Monday and the class was held on Tuesday. Going forward we will not be holding the classes in the Old Courthouse anymore—this is two Election Cycles we have had to move the class because of the elevator.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Petersen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nancy" being more prominent than the last name "Petersen".

Nancy Petersen  
Lee County Clerk & Recorder





*IT Department*  
*Paul Gorski, IT Director*  
[www.leecountyil.com](http://www.leecountyil.com)

October 8, 2024  
IT Board Report – October 2024

1. Our primary focus currently is wrapping up the technology prep for the new court room in New Courts. My department's technology deployment should be completed by October 11.
2. IT office move - My office has been moved from 1<sup>st</sup> floor Old Courts to 2<sup>nd</sup> basement New Courts. I thank Eric Englund and his team for the renovation of my new space.
3. We continue to deploy new computers, replacing older computers based on a regular replacement cycle plan.
4. Current IT projects include:
  - New Courts – Continuing to deploy new computers in New Courts.
  - 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](mailto:pgorski@countyoflee.org)



## Report to County Services Committee of Lee County

October 8, 2024 | 9:00 AM

### 1) RIDERSHIP DATA (July 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024)

	July, 2024	August, 2024	September, 2024	FY 25 Trend	FY 24, Actual
RIDES	7,441	7,764	7,433	90,620	93,342
SERVICE HOURS	2,154	2,335	3,271	31,076	28,422
MILES OF SERVICE	57,930	65,924	67,403	759,388	773,681
FUEL COST	\$19,273.32	\$25,535.40	\$19,289.85	\$268,852.32	\$244,756.75

### 2) DEVELOPMENTS

#### a) Reagan Mass Transit District Open House

- i) On Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 6:00 PM, Reagan MTD will be hosting an Open House at its facility at 210 E Progress Drive, Dixon. Public is welcome

#### b) Bidding Opportunities

- i) A Request for Proposals (RFP), for Information Technology Services (IT).
  - (1) Review process of the submissions has been completed. An IT firm has been chosen. Awaiting pre-award concurrence from IDOT.
  - (2) The chosen IT Firm will have a three-year contract with two (2) additional one-year options.
- ii) A Request for Proposals (RFP) for Auditing Services.
  - (1) Internal review process has been completed. An auditing firm has been chosen. Awaiting pre-award concurrence from IDOT
  - (2) This will be a three (3) year contract with two (2) additional one-year options.
- iii) RMTD has an initial draft of a Request for Proposals for two (2) (possibly three) Ford Transit type vehicles. This RFP will allow for the use of REBUILD 1 funding.
- iv) 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.

#### c) Architectural/Engineering Firm / Oregon facility construction

- i) Pre-bid Concurrence paperwork will be submitted to Illinois Department of Transportation, which 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.
- iii) This project is part of RMTD application under REBUILD 1

#### d) Feasibility Studies: Dixon and Rochelle

- i) RLS and Associates is completing Final Reports for the Feasibility Studies for Dixon and Rochelle.
- ii) RLS has given presentations to Dixon City Council, Lee County Board and Rochelle City Council

#### e) Transit Desert Grant / IDOT State Planning and Research

- i) Finalizing agreement with chosen entity to lead the Transit Desert study, which is tentatively scheduled to get underway in November, 2024.
- ii) A two-year contract with the State Planning and Research Program of IDOT is for two years for a contractual amount of \$243,594.
- iii) 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

#### f) 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

**g) Hydrogen Fuel Feasibility Study**

- i) RMTD has been awarded funding from the State Planning and Research Program of IDOT for a total of \$300,000 to assess the feasibility of using hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and hydrogen fuel in rural Illinois.
- ii) RMTD has submitted required paperwork for developing the executed contract with SPR/IDOT. Hope to have an executed contract by November.
- iii) Once a contract has been executed, RMTD will broadcast a Request for Proposals for a Project Lead for the initiative.

**h) Budget/Contracts for FY 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)**

- (1) RMTD has executed all three (3) of its contracts for FY 2025.
- (2) Contractual amounts for State Fiscal Year 2025 are as follows:
  - (a) 5311 Contract: \$283,450
  - (b) DOAP Contract: \$1,867,008
  - (c) 5311F Contract (I-88 and I-39): \$2,029,606

**i) Vehicle Procurement**

- (1) Pending transfer of two (2) buses from an area non-profit.
- (2) Pending transfer of two (2) 5310 vehicles from local non-profit here in Dixon.
- (3) RMTD received was awarded 6 vehicles (2 minivans, 4 light duty buses) via IDOT's 2022 CVP Application. Delivery in 2025.
- (4) 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.

## **2) OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL RELATED DEVELOPMENTS**

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

- i) Application includes construction of additional administrative space at Dixon Transit Center

**b) 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 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) Notice of State Award being processed by IDOT
- (2) 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) IDOT announced that RMTD 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) spaces for buses
  - (2) Add another bay onto the existing mechanical building
  - (3) Purchase service vehicles including one for maintenance

## Regional Office of Education Report

October 2024

### School Safety Committee

The Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents recently created a state level school safety committee that will meet every other month to talk about supports that we can provide to our school districts. The committee members will be representatives from multiple Regional Offices of Education. Christopher Tennyson will be one of the Committee Chairs due to his experience as a former school Resource Officer and certification as a Behavioral Threat Assessment Team Trainer. The committee has created their mission and vision statements along with their initial areas of focus which are listed below.

**Vision:** Prepared, secure, and resilient Illinois schools, ready to protect its students and staff from all natural, technological, and human threats.

**Mission Statement:** Through collaboration, coordination, and communication, the IARSS will work with K-12 schools to research, develop, and implement interdisciplinary, multijurisdictional programs and services to protect our students, educators, and communities current and emerging natural, technological, and human-caused threats and risks.

**Focus Areas:** Behavioral Threat Assessment, Hardening of Facilities, Standard Response Protocols, First Responder/School District Communication, Other Non-Illinois Homeland Security Advisory Council Initiatives

### 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.

- Special thank you to our friend, Nora at Nora Kate Paints for her beautiful murals in our Office of Professional Learning and Educational Services!
- 100 educators and administrators joined ROE 47 and the Illinois Elevating Special Educators Network for our third annual summit specifically designed to meet the needs of special educators as we launch the 2024-2025 school year. The Summit provided special education professionals opportunities to come together to learn, share, grow, and connect. Summit activities will included a keynote from Cathleen Beachboard, an award-winning educator, best-selling author, and leading expert on raising psychological hope in schools. Special educators were also able to choose break out 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.
- The third annual Pathway Playground will welcome over 1,000 Lee, Ogle, Whiteside 8th grade students to Sauk Valley College on Friday, October 18th. Our Pathways Team is still looking for area businesses to participate and provide a hands on activity for our students on that day. Help us to grow our area workforce and inspire a student on this engaging day!



**Be a part of the day!**

- Register to have a booth to share your career with the students
- Provide a hands-on experience for the students to engage with you and the staff to learn more about your careers
- Be ready to answer questions about your career
- Use the QR code below to register!

**Who we are looking for!**

We are seeking businesses from our three counties to participate in the following career clusters:

- Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology, and Trades
- Business and Finance
- Human and Public Services
- Health Sciences and Technology
- Information and Technology
- Arts and Communication

**Register**

**SCAN ME**



OR

**CLICK HERE**

<https://forms.gle/UVBxRMBGqTEF4SA15>

**The Impact**

"It is great to be part of an event that focuses on intriguing the minds of the youth. Raynor believes it is crucial to educate the youth about the jobs and trades in their local community and how they will play a role in the future development of it." Brent Reuter

**What is it?**

The Pathway Playground is an exciting annual regional event for Lee, Ogle, & Whiteside County 8th grade students. The day promotes career exploration and engagement with community organizations and businesses through hands-on experience where students engage in small activities to build their interests in various career fields. The goal is to showcase the careers our area has to offer, to build social capital for adolescents in their community, and to provide guidance for students in their future endeavors.





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

- To date, ROE 47 has 142 partners on its IRIS referral platform. There have been 2788 referrals and 1556 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.
- 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)
- Forty parents and caregivers joined us on zoom for an evening with author Karen Young as she presented "Raising Brave Hearts: Tools for Beating Anxiety & Building Confidence". Karen shared practical strategies to understand and manage anxiety, improve performance, and foster resilience in children.
- Through the community partnership work that has been done in the ROE 47 area and our stakeholders expressing the need for middle school age students after school programming, ROE 47 has applied for and was awarded an after school program grant. The program opened to 6th - 8th grade students enrolled at



Challand Middle School in Sterling on September 23, 2024. The program is hosted at the new Elevate Youth Center in Sterling and provided in partnership with Sterling Township and the Sterling-Rock Falls YMCA.

- 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 <https://mailchi.mp/2cde621b466f/family-sign-up>
- ROE 47 is partnering with Nicklaus Construction to provide holiday meals for families. Please see details in the flier below.



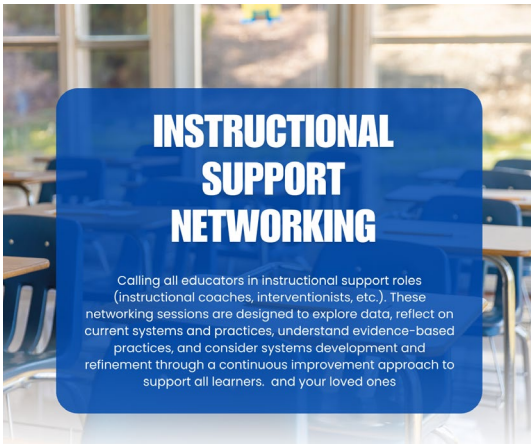
### Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Social Media

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



### 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**

**REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47**  
2214 E. 4th Street, Suite B | Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495

[www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org) | [#regionaleduc47](#) | [@ROE47IL](#) | [#ROE47IL](#)



### ILLINOIS ELEVATING SPECIAL EDUCATORS


Presents our 2024-2025  
Special Education Professional Learning Opportunities

Visit [ROE47.ORG](http://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 to 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 Carmen 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**

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

More information coming soon!

Please reach out to:  
**Shauna Dinges** at [sdinges@iesenetwork.org](mailto:sdinges@iesenetwork.org) or **Kelly Marcum** at [kmarcum@iesenetwork.org](mailto:kmarcum@iesenetwork.org)

The contents of this flyer were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #0032A00004. However, these 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 Caffery.

# TEACHER TOOLS NETWORKING

Join us for an hour of professional development and networking! Connect with fellow teachers from across the region to share ideas, strategies, and resources. Learn from ROE staff and gain valuable insights to enhance your teaching practice. Let's learn and grow together!



## Session Dates:

October 2  
December 4  
February 5  
April 2

**Time:** 3:30-4:30 PM

**Location:** Virtual



# BUILDING RESILIENCE IN OUR CHILDREN

## SEL CAPACITY BUILDERS

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 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 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-Boake at gheimerdingerboake@roe47.org with any questions.

## 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 microbits 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 microbit 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](http://www.roe47.org)  
Space is limited in K-5 and 6-12 programs.

Please contact Anji Garza ([agarza@roe47.org](mailto:agarza@roe47.org)) with questions or for more information.

## REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47

2214 E 4th Street, Suite B | Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495

[www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org) | [@roe47](https://www.facebook.com/roe47) | [@roe47](https://www.instagram.com/roe47) | [@roe47](https://www.linkedin.com/company/roe47)

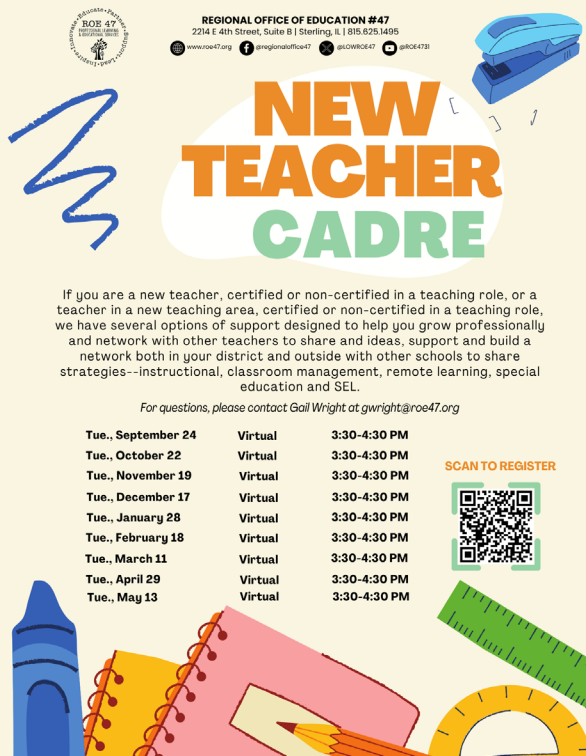
# NEW TEACHER CADRE

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](mailto: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





Illinois Elevating Special Educators  
Presents:



## Empowering Special Education: AI and Tech Tools for Effective Teaching

This professional development workshop will delve into the ultimate AI and technology tools designed specifically for special education. Educators will explore innovative resources to enhance personalized learning, improve student engagement, and streamline classroom management. Join us to unlock the potential of technology in creating inclusive and supportive learning environments! We are thrilled to present an extraordinary event featuring three remarkable speakers who will share their insights, experiences, and expertise. This is an opportunity to learn from the best and gain valuable knowledge that can inspire and empower you.

Friday, December 6, 2024  
8:30-2:30  
Check in begins at 8:00  
Sauk Valley Community College

Visit  
[ROE47.org](http://ROE47.org)  
to sign up!



Please register by  
February 3, 2025



Ben Sonderoth

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, #H323A200014. 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 Caffey

## COUNSELOR & SOCIAL WORKER NETWORKING



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



### 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



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47  
2214 E 4th Street, Suite B | Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495



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[regionoffice47](https://www.facebook.com/regionoffice47)



[@ROE47IL](https://twitter.com/ROE47IL)

[@ROE47IL](https://www.instagram.com/ROE47IL)

## BEHAVIOR LEARNING SERIES

Office of Special Education Programs  
U.S. Department of Education

From the beginning of the year, your choices impact student behavior. In this series, reflect on your current practices, relate learned strategies into your context, and better understand behaviors beyond your classroom systems.

**AUGUST 2024 - MARCH 2025**

3:45 PM - 5:00 PM

1.25 PD Hours

Online via ZOOM

[www.iesenetwork.org](http://www.iesenetwork.org)

[info@iesenetwork.org](mailto:info@iesenetwork.org)

(217) 893-3219

★ **BUILD STRONG  
CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT**  
August 29, 2024

★ **EMOTIONAL  
INTELLIGENCE: THE KEY TO  
BEHAVIORAL SUPPORT**  
September 26, 2024

★ **FUNCTIONS OF BEHAVIOR  
& FUNCTION-BASED  
STRATEGIES**  
October 17, 2024

★ **COLLECT BEHAVIOR DATA  
TO INFORM NEXT STEPS**  
November 7, 2024

★ **HOW TO BE PROACTIVE  
WITH CRISIS**  
February 6, 2025

★ **RESTORATIVE PRACTICES:  
MAKE LONG TERM IMPACT**  
March 6, 2025



REGISTER NOW

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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](http://ROE47.org)  
to sign up!

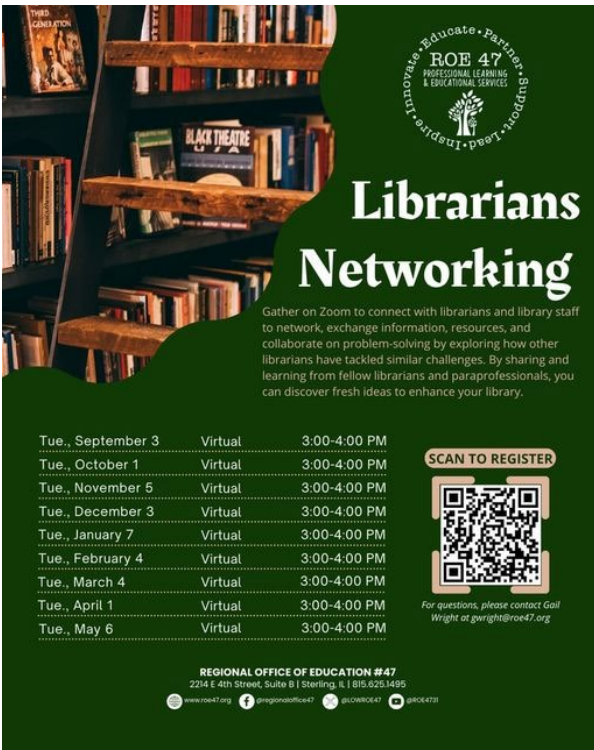
Please register by  
February 3, 2025

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, #H323A200014. 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 Caffey



**Librarians Networking**

Gather on Zoom to connect with librarians and library staff to network, exchange information, resources, and collaborate on problem-solving by exploring how other librarians have tackled similar challenges. By sharing and learning from fellow librarians and paraprofessionals, you can discover fresh ideas to enhance your library.

Tue., September 3	Virtual	3:00-4:00 PM
Tue., October 1	Virtual	3:00-4:00 PM
Tue., November 5	Virtual	3:00-4:00 PM
Tue., December 3	Virtual	3:00-4:00 PM
Tue., January 7	Virtual	3:00-4:00 PM
Tue., February 4	Virtual	3:00-4:00 PM
Tue., March 4	Virtual	3:00-4:00 PM
Tue., April 1	Virtual	3:00-4:00 PM
Tue., May 6	Virtual	3:00-4:00 PM

**SCAN TO REGISTER**

For questions, please contact Gail Wright at [gwright@roe47.org](mailto:gwright@roe47.org)

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[www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org) [regionoffice47](https://www.facebook.com/regionoffice47) [@roec47](https://www.instagram.com/roec47) [@roe47](https://www.linkedin.com/company/roe47)

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

### September 2024 Participants - 374

#### Tuesday, September 3

Librarians & School Library Media Specialist Networking Session @ 3:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday, September 4

Preschool Family Support Specialist Networking Session @ 9:00 am

#### Thursday, September 5

School Counselors & Social Workers Networking Session @ ROE 47  
Strengthening Young People Against Anxiety @ 3:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday, September 10

Pathway Quarterly Cohort Networking @ 3:15 p.m.

#### Wednesday, September 11

IT Pathway Networking @ 2:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday, September 17

LETRS Training @ 3:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 18**

**Deanery School Improvement Networking Session @ Newman Catholic High School**

**Thursday, September 19**

**Administrator Networking Session @ SVCC**

**Friday, September 20**

**Special Ed Summit @ SVCC**

**Tuesday, September 24**

**Math for ALL Cohort @ ROE #47**

**New Teacher Cadre @ 3:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, September 25**

**Librarians Networking Session @ ROE #47**

**Thursday, September 26**

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

**Friday, September 27**

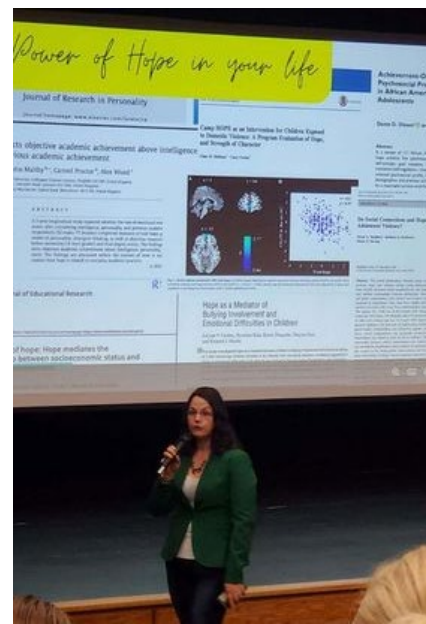
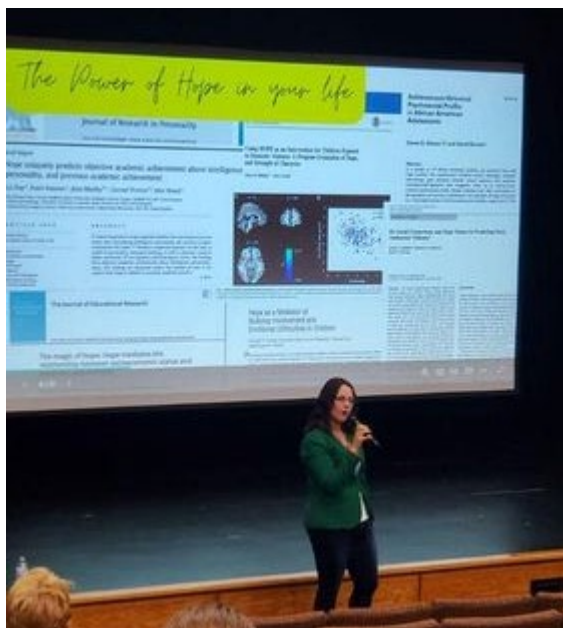
**Computer Science Teacher Leadership Program (K-5) @ SVCC**

**Transitional English Fall Networking @ SVCC**

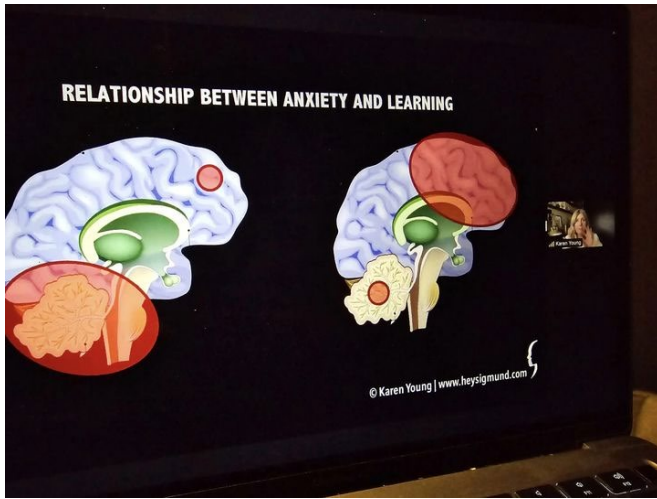
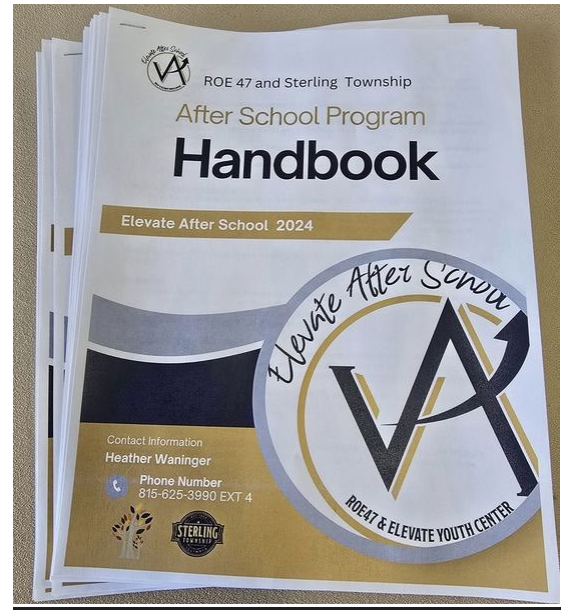
**Monday, September 30**

**SEL Capacity Builders @ SVCC**

**September 2024 in Photos:**









Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: NEXUS



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION 47

## ***HOW WE SUPPORT YOUR DISTRICT***

Nexus Program

Nexus Program - October 2024

**87**

Families Supported

**126**

Children Supported

**34**

McKinney Vinto

**277**

Goals Met

**1,269**

Family Contacts





REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION 47

## ***HOW WE SUPPORT YOUR DISTRICT***

Attendance Program

Attendance Support Program - October 2024

**55**

Families Supported

**109**

Children Supported

**2**

McKinney Vinto

**47**

Goals Met

**1,322**

Family Contacts

**Parents as Teachers First Years**

September has been a busy month for our staff. We have continued enrolling families and began enrolling prenatal moms in our ENRICH collaboration with Northwestern School of Medicine. This study focuses on improving the pregnant participants' cardiovascular health and birth outcomes. Each enrolled participant receives a nice package of resources from the grant project, including a blood pressure monitor, scale, Fitbit, and various items for their newborn promoting optimal health and wellness. So far we have 2 enrolled and several more in process.

At the end of the month, staff participated in a training on Mental Health First Aid provided by the University of Illinois Extension and Sinnissippi Centers. This helpful training provided staff with warning signs and suggestions for early intervention when working with families who may be experiencing mental health or substance use challenges. During the training, the facilitators mentioned that Sinnissippi Centers has a peer counselor who will provide free Narcan training and supplies to staff or anyone else who may be interested. We are exploring offering that to our home visiting program partners and also possibly a session for our program participants.

## **Education Outreach Program**

The Education Outreach Program has classes underway and is ready for the Fall season and the changes it may bring. For many of our students, they begin to experience changes in their lives as well.

We currently have 87 active students either seeking GED prep class work or job search assistance after earning their diploma. We have a number of our students pregnant or experiencing life as a new parent, many seeking part-time employment, and others preparing for post-secondary or trade school programs. Our individuals in Follow-Up have already secured unsubsidized employment or are looking to advance skills required to obtain a career.

Also on October 1st, the Education Outreach Program earned our first graduate for the 2024-2025 school year! Kaci was enrolled in on August 7th and by October 1st earned her Illinois High School Diploma. Congratulations Kaci!

## **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**

## October

As we approach the close of the first quarter of school, we are thrilled to report that it has been an exceptionally successful start. Our students have embraced the opportunities presented to them, and the atmosphere on campus is one of growth, collaboration, and enthusiasm. The first quarter is drawing to a close on October 15th, and we're proud of the strides we've made thus far.

This quarter has also marked the continued expansion of new and exciting events and clubs, all aimed at promoting student growth and engagement. In addition to our well-established Phoenix Leadership Council, which has already made a significant impact, we are excited to announce the launch of a new reading club. This initiative not only encourages a love of reading but also offers students the chance to earn professional development hours within their home district—another great step in fostering both personal and academic growth.

We've been actively pushing for more student involvement in the community, and one exciting event on the horizon is our upcoming field trip to Selmi's Pumpkin Patch at the end of the month. This event will provide students with a fun and enriching off-campus experience, reinforcing the importance of community connection.

As we look forward to October, we are eager to continue this momentum into the rest of the fall season. The quarter may be ending soon, but we are just getting started with the exciting opportunities ahead!

We are thrilled about what's to come as we wrap up the quarter and look forward to new milestones in the coming months.



## **MONTHLY ZONING AND PLANNING REPORT**

October 8, 2024 – County Services Committee

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

1. Petition No. 24-P-1628 by Jacob Lytle and Emma Lytle, as owners of certain real property known as PIN 14-09-05-300-012, located along Illinois Route 38, approximately one-quarter (¼) mile west of Robbins Road, in Nachusa Township, Lee County, Illinois, filed a Petition for Map Amendment with the Lee County Zoning Office requesting that the zoning map for the Property be amended from R-2, Single Family Residential District, to Ag-1, Rural/Agricultural District for the purpose of raising and keeping livestock and/or farm animals. The parcel is currently zoned R-2, Single Family Residential District and is approximately 1.41 acres in size.

This petition was heard on October 3, 2024. Following the public hearing, the Zoning Board of Appeals voted unanimously to recommend approval of this petition to the County Board.

### **ACTIONS GOING TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS –**

1. Petition No. 24-P-1631 by Sanjay Desai, who is in process of purchasing a portion of certain real property currently identified as PIN 11-16-31-100-015 and commonly known as 670 U.S. Route 52, Amboy, Illinois, located on the north side of U.S. Route 52, approximately 750 feet east of Searls Road and approximately 215 feet west of LaMoille Road, in Lee Center Township, Lee County, Illinois, filed a Petition for Map Amendment with the Lee County Zoning Office requesting that the zoning map for property be amended from Ag-1, Rural/Agricultural District, to C-3, General Business District for the purpose of constructing and operating a restaurant/tearoom, with indoor/outdoor amusement including, but not limited to an electric go kart track, arcade, mini golf and/or golf simulation, bowling and/or laser tag.
2. 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. The parcel is 0.92 acres in size.
3. Petition No. 24-P-1633 by Anthony and Lisa Winstead as owners of certain real property identified as PIN 12-14-17-300-001 and commonly known as 741 Sterling Road, Dixon, Illinois, located on the south side of Sterling Road, approximately one-third of a mile east of Pump Factory Road and one-half mile west of Dutch Road, in Marion Township, Lee County, Illinois, filed a Petition for Map Amendment with the Lee County Zoning Office requesting that the zoning map for the property be amended from R-2, Single Family Residential District, to Ag-1,



Rural/Agricultural District for the purpose of raising, harvesting, consuming and selling chickens, eggs, hogs and vegetables. The parcel is 2 acres in size.

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

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

#### **OTHER ACTIONS FROM THE ZONING OFFICE**

Last month, Deputy Zoning Administrator Laura Mangrum and I were invited to speak at the Legislative Breakfast hosted by the Lee County Farm Bureau. We discussed agricultural permits; clarified the proposed ordinance that would have allowed chickens in the R-2 district and its lack of impact on Agricultural Districts; discussed the junk and junk vehicle program in Agricultural Districts and the exclusion of farm machinery; updates on wind and solar in Lee County; and the impacts of the floodplain ordinance on the Agricultural Districts.

Wiggins Solar, LLC has submitted its application for a building permit for a 2 MW community solar project, to be sited on approximately 19 acres.

The Zoning Office recently collected the annual letter of credit administration fee from the Big Sky Wind project in the amount of \$7,018.00.

The South Dixon Solar project, a 500 MW utility solar farm, is nearing the three-year mark to be substantially underway. They have recently submitted a request for determination of substantially underway which I will be reviewing based on previous determinations of substantially underway.

I recently sent out to all County Board Members a recap of the wind and solar projects in Lee County. Currently, Lee County wind farms are producing approximately 650 MW of renewable energy. On the solar side, Lee County is currently producing 2 MW of renewable energy, has 4 MW near the completion of construction, and approximately 2,015 MW under special use permit that have not yet obtained building permits.

On October 1 and 2, 2024, Mrs. Mangrum and I attended the Illinois Renewable Energy Conference in Normal, Illinois (I attended on October 1 and Laura attended on October 2). In 2023, 85% of Illinois' renewable energy generation came from wind power. Illinois ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation for wind production at 7,900 MW (just over 8% of this total comes from Lee County). Illinois' best wind energy resources are found in the northern one-third of the State. In 2023, approximately 13% of Illinois' renewable energy came from solar power (utility, community and residential). Approximately three-fifths of the State's solar generation came from utility solar facilities.

During the month of September 2024, the Zoning Office processed sixty-four (64) building permits. Permit fees in the amount of \$4,790.23 were collected.