Hartsburg-Emden Community Unit School District #21
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, February 18, 2026 7:00 pm

The regular meeting of the Hartsburg-Emden Community Unit School District #21 Board of Education was held Wednesday, February 18, 2026 in the Superintendent's Office

Call to order

President Aper called the meeting to order at 7:00

Roll Call
On roll call, the following board members answered present: Aper, Cecil, Ballance, Cross, Doolin, Wright and Sherwood.
Others present: Joe Yurko, Ashley Tetter-Rowden and Lauren DeJarnette

Consent agenda

A motion was made by Cecil and seconded by Doolin to approve the consent agenda, including payment of bills and approval of minutes. Roll Call: Aper, yes; Sherwood, yes; Cecil, yes; Wright, yes; Doolin, yes; Cross, yes and Ballance, yes.

Opportunity for citizens/visitors to speak

Matt Koch, of Koch Consultants addressed the board

Jenn Hayes addressed the board

Executive session

At 7:25pm a motion was made by Cross and seconded by Cecil to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. Roll Call: Cross, yes; Wright, yes; Aper, yes; Doolin, yes; Cecil, yes; Sherwood, yes; and Ballance, yes. Motion 7-0

Return to open session

At 9:00pm a motion was made by Cecil and seconded by Sherwood to return to Open Session. Roll Call: Cross, yes; Sherwood, yes; Aper, yes; Cecil, yes; Doolin, yes; Ballance, yes; and Wright, yes. Motion 7-0

Superintendent's report
***Roof Update*:** Materials have been ordered and will let the board know when there will be a start date.
Annual Audit Updates*:** Joe wanted to thank Erika for her hard work and Lori Lessen as well. Couple things to tighten up, the goal is to get it right, and the hiccups will be fixed. ***Board goal Setting Work: Brooke had sent a note curious as to what next steps will be w/moving forward in having conversations w/staff members; Joe

can print something up and send it to Dirk to review. Tossing the idea of some board members going to the teacher's meetings, teachers bringing items for board members, why not go to them?

Principal's Report

GS-Completed Book Blast @ 64%; last Friday was Valentine's Day parties; 3 kids were selected for stepping up to show their characters; 5th graders ran the events to help the 100th day for other students; District 50 in Washington, IL help with Eureka curriculum to only help with teachers but students as well.

JH/HS-attendance has struggled due to children have been sick; State testing will be coming up shortly for JH students

Action Items

Approve 2026-2027 Joint Agreement Resolution with Lincolnland Technical Education Center

A motion was made by Cecil and seconded by Ballance. Roll Call: Sherwood, yes; Ballance, yes; Wright, yes; Aper, yes; Cross, yes; Doolin, yes; Cecil, yes; and Doolin, yes. Motion 7-0

Adjourn

At 9:33pm a motion was made by Cecil and seconded by Sherwood. 7 yea, and 0 no.