



# County Services Committee Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Feb 13, 2024 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

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

Also present: Keane Hudson, Tom Kitson, and Bob Olson (Board Members), Dave Anderson (County Engineer/Highway Department), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney)(9:23-9:50), Jennifer Boyd (Assessor), Jeremy Englund (Administrator), Greg Gates (LOTS), Paul Gorski (IT Director), Alice Henkel (Zoning Administrator), Jeff Hilden (Facilities Director), Nancy Petersen (County Clerk and Recorder), Chris Tennyson (Regional Office of Education Superintendent), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) all attended in person.

## III. Public Attendees

No members of the public were in attendance.

## IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting - (December 12, 2023)

Minutes from the December 12, 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 report that he submitted. The full report will be attached to a copy of the minutes and included in the February County Board agenda packet.

### B. *Highway Department*

#### 1. Agreement for County Engineer's Salary

**Motion** to move the Agreement for the County Engineer's Salary to the Finance Committee for consideration. **Moved** by Katie White. **Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### 2. Resolution Reappointing County Engineer

**Motion** to move the Resolution Reappointing the County Engineer to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the February County Board agenda. **Moved** by Ron Gascoigne. **Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. Resolution for Salary of the County Engineer  
**Motion** to move the Resolution regarding the Salary for the County Engineer to the Finance Committee for consideration. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Katie White. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. February Bid Results  
 Dave Anderson explained that the Highway Department held a project bid letting on Friday, February 9, 2024. He went on to explain that there had been a tie that occurred for the Lee Center Township HMA (Wedging) project between Martin and Universal TIE. The awarding authority (Highway Department) and IDOT will use a "game of chance" to determine which company will be awarded the project. This will take place later in the week and both contractors are welcome to attend. The results below reflect the final totals awarded after the tie breaker.

SECTION NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOW BIDDER	BID PRICE
24-XX000-00-GM	Township Seal Coat	All Low Bidders	n/a
24-XX000-01-GM	Township/County Crack Seal	SKC Construction	\$30,747.00
24-00000-00-GM	County Seal Coat	Helm Civil	\$108,383.75
24-00000-02-GM	County Patch Mix	All Bidders	n/a
24-00000-04-GM	Pipe Culverts (Stock)	All Bidders	n/a
24-01000-00-GM	Alto Twp HMA (Wedging)	Martin and Company	\$54,000.15
24-04000-00-GM	Bradford Twp. HMA (Wedging)	Universal Asphalt	\$46,798.32
24-11000-00-GM	Lee Center Twp. HMA (Wedging)	Universal Asphalt	\$54,537.52
24-19000-00-GM	Sublette Twp. HMA (Wedging)	Martin and Company	\$70,481.69

**Motion** to award the bids, as presented to the committee, subject to the Highway Commissioner concurrence, as applicable, and IDOT review. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Ron Gascoigne. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

- C. Solid Waste Management  
 No additional information was provided for Solid Waste Management outside of the information provided in the monthly report.

#### VI. Assessor's Office - GIS Department

##### A. *Assessor's Office*

1. Monthly Report  
 Jennifer Boyd walked the committee through the report that she submitted for the Assessor's Office. The full reports will be attached to the minutes and included in the February County Board agenda packet.

##### B. *GIS Department (Geographic Information System)*

1. Monthly Report  
 Sami Elarifi was not able to attend the meeting. Jennifer Boyd walked the committee through the GIS report. The full reports will be attached to the minutes and included in the February County Board agenda packet.

VII. County Board

Jeremy Englund walked the committee through an opportunity presented by the Illinois Soybean Association in partnership with Benton Institute for Broadband & Society, University of IL Extension, IL State University, IL Office of Broadband, and University of Illinois Broadband Lab. Following the success of Broadband Breakthrough in five counties, the IL Soybean Association is expanding its support for this ag-focused community engagement and broadband planning program. Broadband Breakthrough is a four-month guided self-help program where community teams gather critical information, set priorities, and create partnerships with broadband providers. All rural counties are eligible to apply. Ten rural counties will be selected to participate with fall and winter cohorts of five communities each. At the conclusion of the project ten counties will receive a proportional share of funds to create broadband networks. Jeremy explained that the project would be a heavy task and would require a sixteen-week commitment from County wide members.

VIII. County Clerk and Recorder's Office

A. Monthly Report

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

IX. IT Department (Information Technology)

A. Monthly Report

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

X. LOTS (Lee-Ogle Transportation System)

A. Monthly Report

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

XI. ROE (Regional Office of Education #47)

A. Monthly Report

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

XII. Veterans Assistance

There was no report from Veterans Assistance.

XIII. Zoning / Planning

A. *Monthly Report*

Alice Henkel walked the committee through the report that she submitted. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the February County Board agenda packet.

B. *Petitions Going To the Zoning Board of Appeals - 2 Petitions*

1. Petition No. 24-P-1621 by Pulse Solar II, LLC, regarding PIN 16-01-35-400-009, located in Palmyra Township.

**Motion** to move Petition 24-P-1621 to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the February County Board agenda. **Moved** by Dean Freil.

**Second** by Reed Akre. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. Petition No. 24-P-1622, by David and Lisa Dewey, regarding PIN 16-07-01-203-006, located in Palmyra Township.

**Motion** to move Petition 24-P-1622 to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the February County Board agenda. **Moved** by Ali Huss.

**Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. Petitions Coming From the Zoning Board of Appeals - None

D. Petitions Going To the Planning Commission - None

E. Petitions Coming From the Planning Commission - None

F. Resolution: Battery Energy Storage Systems Moratorium Extension

**Motion** to move the Battery Energy Storage Systems Moratorium Extension Resolution to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the February County Board agenda. **Moved** by Katie White. **Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

XIV. Unfinished Business

There were no items under Unfinished Business.

XV. New Business

A. Transportation Ordinances - Topic for Discussion Only

Jack Skrogstad reported that LOTS will be transitioning to the Reagan Mass Transit Authority later in the year, so he is encouraging the review of the current transportation ordinances. Jeremy Englund explained that a focus group would be formed to craft the changes necessary to meet the changing needs.

XVI. Executive Session

There was no request for an Executive Session.

XVII. Adjournment

**Motion** to adjourn at 9:50 a.m. **Moved** by Ron Gascoigne. **Second** by Ali Huss. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

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

Respectfully submitted by:  
Becky Brenner - Board Secretary

Lee County Highway Department  
Report to the County Services Committee – FEBRUARY 2024

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

**Status of Current Projects**

- Bid Letting on 2/9/2024, bid tabulations are attached.

**Other:**

- In addition to assembling projects for bidding, the engineering staff will continue inspection of approximately 75 bridges this month to comply with the Federal Highway Administration's National Bridge Inspection Standards.
- County Roads now have reduced weight limits due to the spring thaw in accordance with section 625 ILCS 5/15-316 (a) of the Illinois Compiled Statutes. Reduced weight restrictions will be lifted when ground conditions improve.

**Board Action Items:**

- Agreement with IDOT for County Engineer's Salary
- Resolution Reappointing County Engineer.
- MFT Appropriation Resolution for County Engineer's Salary
- Award Bids listed on attached Bid Tabulation

**Solid Waste**

Electronics collection is closed for the season and will reopen again in April. The contract is in place with Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations for recycling E-waste in 2024.

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



**MONTHLY ASSESSMENT OFFICE REPORT**  
**February 13, 2024 – County Services Committee**

- ❖ The Illinois Department of Revenue Tentative Abstract was sent in December. This reporting tracks parcel counts, property classes and assessed values in townships. IDOR requires this information to decide if any additional multipliers should be added to assessments.
  - Lee County assessments were determined to be **at 33.33 percent** of market value for 2020, 2021, and 2022, therefore a tentative equalization factor of 1.0000 (0% additional multiplier from the state) was issued.
  - I would like to recognize all the Assessment and GIS staff for their dedication in reviewing, assessing and fairly distributing the tax burden. For the three-year average to hit the bullseye of 33 1/3 is validation that our office is doing our job right!
  - In the past 10 years assessments levels have always been in range to receive the 1.0 equalization factor, but it had never hit the 33.33% target exactly. (Ranges from 33.15 to 33.73).
- ❖ The Board of Review met this month to review the 77 docketed appeals. Proposed Change Notices were mailed Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - The hearing dates are scheduled for February 16<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon and February 21<sup>st</sup> in the morning.
  - I have been in contact with Head Bailiff, Ed Stewart and he is working on having extra coverage in the building during hearing times.
- ❖ Once hearings are complete, we will be able to wrap up 2023 assessments, complete our final abstract to the state and roll the files to the Clerk's Office for the next step of the tax cycle in which Extensions takes over applying tax rates, etc.
- ❖ Our annual Assessors Instructional Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 3:30 pm. At this time the appointed and elected township assessors will receive their annual instructions, task lists and assessment books for the year.
- ❖ Assessment Office staff have already begun reviewing parcels for the quadrennial reassessment townships for 2024. Those townships will be East Grove, Hamilton, Marion, South Dixon, Harmon and Nelson.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Boyd, CIAO  
Chief County Assessment Officer/  
GIS Supervisor



**Monthly GIS Department Report**  
**February 9, 2024**

The GIS Department has been working on:

- Processing parcel spits and combination requests by interpreting the property's legal description and surveys and maintaining the genealogy for each parcel.
- Maintaining and updating land use, zoning, and other GIS layers.
- Calculating the annual contribution for new parcels as per the Split Drainage Listing Report provided by the clerk's office.
- Creating a dashboard web app for the Lee County Emergency Management Agency.
- Updating the Eagle View Connect Explorer services and configuring the layer's appearance.
- Responding to several GIS data and map printing requests.
- Maintaining and updating the 911 Flex map with the most recent information provided by the 911 Center.
- Implementing the new RapidSOS Premium mapping solution with the 911 Center for effective and enhanced emergency situational awareness.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sami Elarifi  
GIS Coordinator



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

February 8<sup>th</sup> was the first day for early voting. Early voting is located in my Election Department on the first floor of the Olds Courts Building from 8:15 to 4:15. We are open the Saturday before election day which is March 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to Noon.

Our annual election judge class is being held on February 14<sup>th</sup> at the Holloway Center starting at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. We decided to move the class to the Holloway Center because of the potential work being done on the elevator. We are always looking for Election Judges so if you know someone that would be a good fit please have them reach out to my election office.

**Primary is March 19, 2024.**

Economic Interest Forms went in the mail on Tuesday February the 6<sup>th</sup>. If for some reason you did not receive one see my office on the first floor. The deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup> to have them filed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Petersen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nancy" and last name "Petersen" clearly distinguishable.

Nancy Petersen  
Lee County Clerk & Recorder





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

January 31, 2024

## IT Board Report

### 1. Current IT projects include:

- LEC – Body Cam project – updating WIFI and network to support new body cams.
- LEC – Installing new word processing software on tablets (order in, expected soon)
- LEC – Office moves and rearrangements
- General - Upgrading certain data file servers in Old and New Courts.
- Treasurer – assisted temporary relocation of Treasurer's office during office renovation.
- Highway – wrapping up two new computer installations.

### 2. Upcoming projects include:

- New Courts - Coordinating IT upgrades to New Courts 4<sup>th</sup> room build outs with Courts staff, SAO and Maintenance.
- LEC - Assisting with LEC security camera PC software upgrades, due April-May 2024
- General - Organizing Cybersecurity response team and response team plan.
- General - Planning new computer rollouts to various county departments.
- New Courts – Court Grant projects - We're hoping all of the court grant monies will be approved, so we're preparing for that, trying complete other projects in advance to free up resources to work on these related projects when approved.

Let me know if you have any other 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 Board

February 13, 2024 | 9:00 AM

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

	November, 2023	December, 2023	January, 2024	Total for Period
RIDES	8,061	6,592	6,972	21,625
SERVICE HOURS	2,787	2,114	2,152	7,053
MILES OF SERVICE	69,291	54,154	57,606	181,051
FUEL COST	\$17,960.25	\$15,321.67	\$14,705.47	\$47,987.39

### 2) RIDERSHIP – CREST FOODS

Calendar Year	In-Town	Out of Town	Revenue
CY 2023 (Jan. 1 – December 31, 2023)	304 rides	4,654 rides	\$26,205
CY 2022 (Jan. 1 – December 31, 2022)	344 rides	4,610 rides	\$26,043

### 3) DEVELOPMENTS

#### a) Budget/Contracts for FY 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

- (1) IDOT has opened the portal for developing FY 2025 contracts.
  - (2) The Downstate Operating Assistance Program (DOAP) Grant has a proposed 20% increase in funding from IDOT
  - (3) Contractual amounts for State Fiscal Year 2025 are as follows:
    - (a) 5311 Contract: \$283,450
    - (b) 5311F Contract (I-88): \$1,100,000 \*
    - (c) 5311F Contract (I-39): \$929,606 \*
    - (d) DOAP Contract: \$1,867,008
- \*These are being combined into a single contract by IDOT

#### b) Rural Winnebago County Transit Services

- i) The Winnebago County Board is continuing to work toward the launch of rural public transportation services on July 1, 2024.
  - (a) An Intergovernmental Agreement with Winnebago County is being completed to formalize the provision of transportation services.
  - (b) The formal request from Winnebago County for three (3) vehicles to be used in that county will be made in the coming weeks.
  - (c) The contractual budget proposed by IDOT for this new service is as follows:
    - (i) 5311 Contract: \$188,804
    - (ii) DOAP Contract: \$708,728

#### c) Reagan Mass Transit District

- i) The Definitive Agreement, which outlines the transition of assets to RMTD, has been reviewed by the Lee County State's Attorney's Office and currently in the hands of IDOT Administrative team for any final changes.
  - (1) The Definitive Agreement will be presented to the Lee County Board and Ogle County Board for their consideration.

#### d) Vehicle Procurement

- (1) Lee County / LOTS received word last week from IDOT that its 2022 CVP Application was awarded 6 of the 10 proposed vehicles. Great news!
  - (a) The vehicles, which will likely come in 2025, include two (2) minivans and four (4) light duty buses. Total value of these vehicles is more than \$600,000.
- (2) 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
- (3) 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.

- (4) 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.
- e) **Feasibility Studies: Dixon and Rochelle**
  - i) Work has started with RLS and Associates on Feasibility Studies for Dixon and Rochelle.
    - (1) RLS will be in town this week (February 12-14<sup>th</sup>) to meet and talk with stakeholders
    - (2) The feasibility studies will consider the potential of creating fixed routes for the cities.
    - (3) The studies will run concurrently and both be completed by end of August, 2024.
    - (4) The feasibility Studies will include a technical assistance committee, review of existing data, key stakeholder interviews and public surveys.
- f) **LOTS Awarded Funding to Complete SPR Funding on Transportation Needs**
  - i) A contract between Lee County and State Planning and Research of IDOT has been executed for this two-year project with a budget of \$243,594.
  - ii) This project will look at the general “transportation needs” of residents in Lee and Ogle Counties.
  - iii) LOTS will partner with NIU’s Center on Governmental Studies on this SPR grant.
    - (1) Initial meeting with NIU was held last Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.
- g) **Hydrogen Fuel Feasibility Study**
  - i) In partnership with the University of Illinois (Urbana/Champaign), LOTS is continuing to assess potential partnerships for a study that will assess the feasibility of using hydrogen fuel cell vehicles in its rural operation along with the potential for production of the alternative fuel.
    - (1) The University of Illinois has expressed interest in this project as has other entities.
- h) **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. This project is part of LOTS application under REBUILD Round 1
- i) **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

#### 4) 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

February 2024

### School Crisis Management

Chris Tennyson and Josh Knuth recently attended the trainer course from the “I Love U Guys Foundation”. The “I Love U Guys” Foundation was started in 2006 by Ellen and John-Michael Keyes following a school shooting that took the life of their daughter, Emily. On that day Emily sent two text messages... One to her mother, Ellen, "I love u guys. K" and to her father, John-Michael, "I love you guys." Ellen and John-Michael have now worked hard to create a standard response protocol for school districts and law enforcement agencies to use in the event of emergencies. The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) provides consistent, clear, shared language and actions among all students, staff and first responders for all hazards. It is action based, and allows organizations, first responders, students, and parents to share a specific vocabulary for quick and coordinated action. It also acts as a tool for training which develops the muscle memory necessary to respond appropriately in moments of crisis. Chris and Josh will now be able to work with our school districts on improving their crisis plans and provide this training for districts that would like to move to this model.

### 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

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

- A full schedule of Professional Learning is available on our website: [www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)
- A provider survey was deployed in January 2024 in order to collect current screening and program enrollment data for early childhood programming in Lee, Ogle & Whiteside counties. This data is being used to better understand program opening and needs within each community. Data collected includes: Number of student slots, Number of students on waiting list, number of screenings completed, referrals made to Head Start, cycle of program monitoring, and feedback on how coordinated intake can help with the program waiting list. The Early Childhood Capacity Builder has also visited 2 school district Preschool for All programs to work with teachers and administrators to prepare for monitoring visits.
- ROE 47 Early Childhood team, ROE 47 Pathways team, Sauk Valley Community College and Head Start are continuing conversations related to support for incumbent workforce and future educators who may need additional support and networking to promote persistence and degree/credential completion.
- ROE 47 School Improvement team staff members are working intensively with six districts on continuous school improvement.
- The office of Professional Learning & Educational Services deployed and Educator needs assessment survey in January 2024 to assess and better understand trauma, social emotional and other professional learning needs in the Lee, Ogle, Whiteside county service area. The survey includes questions related to To date, the survey has 148 responses, which will be shared with staff and Community Partnership Advisory group members.
- Watch for community and educator training related to trauma 101, as well as Youth Mental Health First Aid. This training is part of our IDPH Trauma grant.
- Upcoming and ongoing professional learning opportunities through our office includes: Librarians Networking, School Counselor & Social Worker Networking, Social Studies training, Targeted Improvement to Meet the Needs of Diverse Learners (Special Education), monthly networking for special education teachers, 2 cohorts of Developing Special Education Leaders, Transformational Leadership Academy, new teacher cadre, quarterly administrator meetings, quarterly pathway implementation sessions, and more!

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

- Approximately 100 high school freshmen have been nominated to participate in our first Student Leadership Summit at the McCormick Event Center on March 15, 2024
- Family Educators and the Coordinated Intake Specialist 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 FY24, from July 1 - January 1, 2024, the office has hosted or participated in community events that facilitated parent-child interaction and heightened awareness of EC opportunities, including:
  - Back to School Bash (125 participants)
  - Paw Paw Back to School Bash (100 participants)
  - Taste of Fiesta (Sterling) (500 participants)
  - Prophetstown BlockFest (11 children)
  - Ogle County Baby Shower (75 families)
  - Lee County Baby Shower (8 families)
  - Trunk or Treat - Sterling (October 25): 500 children
  - Trunk or Treat - Dixon (October 25): 475 children
  - Build A Pet Clubhouse - November 4: 31 children
  - PLT Preschool Parent Education Event - November 6: 27 parents
  - Polo Christmas - December 2: 190 children
  - Sterling Sites & Sounds - December 1: 450 children
  - Blockfest (Sterling Public Schools Early Childhood): 18 families
  - Blockfest (Oregon) - January 20: 12 families, 25 children
  - Virtual Baby Shower - January 24: 8 expectant mothers; 9 community organizations
  - Empowered Parents Session 1 - January 22: 15 caregivers
- Our family educators have been trained in facilitating Parent Cafes. These will begin virtually in April 2024.
- Letters have been sent to businesses, agencies, and community organizations in Lee, Ogle & Whiteside counties seeking donations to support our School Supply Closet, Christmas basket support, family events, and events for students
- Blockfest, Mindful Trails and Slumberkins resources are available for check out to schools and agencies
- Looking for volunteer opportunities? Our family educators are seeking volunteers to help in assembling approximately 1,000 community outreach bags each month. Outreach bags are distributed to ROE 47 schools and families and contain an activity, information
- The next Community Partnership Advisory meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 23rd from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at Sauk Valley College. School districts, community agencies, and government officials are welcome to attend.

- 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>
- The Family Educator also developed and deployed a family survey in January 2024 to assess and better understand family needs in the Lee, Ogle, Whiteside county service area. The survey includes questions related to mental health, community resources, early childhood programming, family support systems, and parent/family needs. To date, the survey has 45 responses.
- Over 1,000 community outreach bags have been distributed to area preschools, food banks, and shelters. Outreach bags include a personal care item, information on family events and community resources, community agencies, a parent-child activity card, and an activity for parents and children to do together.
- The Family Education & Engagement Specialist is hosting an “Empowered Parenting” series - a three-part series designed for parents of all ages and in all stages. Sessions will address behaviors, emotional regulation, and strategies parents can use at home.

#### **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!




## Upcoming Events

ROE 47's Spring Book Study

### WHOLE CHILD, WHOLE LIFE

10 Ways to Help Kids Live, Learn & Thrive  
by Stephanie Malia Krauss




- Runs virtually for 8 weeks
- Asynchronous Google Classroom work
- 3 zoom check-ins
- 19 PD Hours
- Feb. 19th - April 19th
- Registration Fee \$25
- Fee includes a copy of the book.
- REGISTER by February 9th

In a world that seems to grow more unpredictable and challenging by the day, how can we increase learning and joy for children while offering them much-needed support?

Providing essential information, practical advice, stories, and time-tested strategies to help kids live and learn, **Whole Child, Whole Life** is required reading for anyone who is working with, caring for, or raising young people.

**REGISTER NOW**

This PD opportunity is being supported by the ROE 47 Illinois Department of Public Health Grant.



### Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Series

As teachers, we understand that our students have diverse needs and each has their own unique mix of strengths and areas for growth. Join us as we dig deeper to explore and discuss how to identify and predict barriers to engagement, representation, action & expression through the Universal Design for Learning (UDL). This training will be provided by Novak Education and is targeted to help **all teachers** meet the needs of **all students** in the general education classroom.

**1 DEC**

**Diving Deeper into UDL**

8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Examine the UDL guidelines in more depth & experiment with what they look like in practice.

**2 FEB**

**Putting UDL into Practice**

8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Learn how to proactively incorporate voice, choice, & scaffolds into goals, methods, materials & assessments to help learners overcome barriers.

Bring your technology device to get access to the shared resources

**SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

ROOM 1K04  
173 IL Rte. 2  
Dixon, IL 61021

**REGISTER BY NOVEMBER 27, 2023 AT ROE47.ORG**  
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE REACH OUT TO SHAUNA DINGES AT SDINGES@SENENETWORK.ORG

**IDEAL WORK**  
Illinois Department of Education  
U.S. Department of Education

\*The content of this flyer was developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. #00223000014 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 Coffey.

### MARCH 1 8:30-1:30



Tettlen's Grain  
1684 Nachusa Rd.  
Dixon

### cultivating connections in agriculture

#### What to Expect

A successful secondary agriculture program requires more than a classroom. Dive in to the world of agriculture education, careers, and leadership development with high school agriculture teachers, current students, and local success stories - men and women who experienced the breadth of agriculture education and the FFA organization. Consider this a review or an introduction to Illinois' well-established agriculture education family.

#### Details

Check-in 8 a.m. Program begins 8:30 a.m.  
Refreshments & lunch provided  
CPDs offered  
Open to admin, counselors, school board, FFA alumni  
Questions? Contact the committee:

- John Heiser, District 1 FCAE Program Advisor: jheiser@lged.org
- Katie Pratt, Lee Co. AITC coordinator: alic.lee@bcomcast.net
- Stacey Dinges, Pathways Navigator, ROE #47: sdinges@roe47.org
- Ashleigh Erbes, Lee Co. Farm Bureau manager: lee@bcomcast.net

**RSVP & Register by Feb. 22. Scan Code**




### EMPOWERED PARENT SERIES

*"A 3-part series designed for parenting all ages and in all stages."*

#### About:

The Empowered Parenting Series is a three-part series designed for parents of all ages and in all stages. We will be addressing behaviors, assisting your child with emotional regulation, and gaining a new toolbox full of strategies for your home.

#### Dates:

Monday, January 22 from 7-8 PM  
Monday, February 12 from 7-8 PM  
Monday, March 18 from 7-8 PM

#### Where:

Online Zoom Event  
Zoom link will be sent after you register.

#### REGISTER TODAY!

Participants who register and participate in all sessions will have the opportunity to win a gift card.

*Scan to Register*

or text (815) 764-1194



For more information,  
Email: gheimerdingerbaake@roe47.org







# FAMILY FUN DAY

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

**SATURDAY**

FEB 10

**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)


# CALLING ALL FAMILIES!

## Family Survey



### YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

Your thoughts, experiences, and perspectives are invaluable, and we want to hear them! Our Family Survey is your chance to contribute to positive change, create a stronger community, and enhance the well-being of your loved ones.



**Scan the QR code to complete the survey.**



As a token of our appreciation, participants will have an opportunity to win a gift card for completing the survey.


For more information, contact [gheimerdingerbaake@roe47.org](mailto:gheimerdingerbaake@roe47.org) or (815) 625-1495

**SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

**KEYNOTE:**  
Stephanie Mallia Krauss  
Author of *Whole Child, Whole Life 10 Ways to Help Kids Learn, Live, & Thrive*.  
Working at "the intersection of education, youth development, workforce development, and human services," Krauss with help educators establish a common language for discussing broad concepts such as equity and whole child as it relates to college/career readiness, identify barriers/solutions to student success and engagement, and develop implementation strategies that classroom/districts can use that will foster students' trajectory of success.

**FOLLOW UP PRESENTER:**  
Shavina Baker  
DEI Educator for the Illinois P-20 Network.  
Baker has held a variety of roles in education and business in Illinois. Her presentation will focus on identifying inequities, how educators can use UDL as template for "implementing strategies that promote and develop a culture that supports diversity, equity, and inclusion."

## 2024 VIRTUAL PATHWAYS COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS SUMMIT



Join Sauk Valley Community College's  
**PASS Initiative & Regional Office of Education #47**

### Redefining College & Career Readiness Through the Whole Child & Equity Lens

**Friday, February 9**  
**Virtual Connection • 8:30-12:00pm**




Please join us on February 9 as we work to build success for students and employees in the Sauk Valley Area

To register, visit [roe47.org](http://roe47.org) and select the PL Workshops tab  
Zoom link provided a week before the Summit

Please register by February 2

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

All participants will receive a copy of one of the books authored by the keynote, Stephanie Mallia Krauss.






A series designed for **ALL EDUCATORS!**


# Empowered Educators


<p><b>WORKSHOP 1</b> 1/17/24 What you need to know about supporting children of trauma!</p>	<p><b>WORKSHOP 2</b> 2/21/24 Educating children with a trauma-focused lens. Part 1</p>	<p><b>WORKSHOP 3</b> 3/20/24 Educating children with a trauma-focused lens. Part 2</p>
<p><b>WORKSHOP 4</b> 4/17/24 Educating children with a trauma-focused lens and the impact of YOU.</p>	<p><b>WORKSHOP 5</b> 5/15/24 Classroom Wrap Up: The 10 things to take with you.</p>	

ALL WORKSHOPS TAKE PLACE ON ZOOM FROM 3:30-4:30 PM




*Scan to Register*






6TH ANNUAL  
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING SUMMIT


## *Building a Community* OF BELONGING




Calling all educators, counselors, administrators, and anyone passionate about empowering children and youth! Dive into a transformative Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Summit, designed to equip you with the tools and strategies to build vibrant, inclusive communities within your schools.


*Dr. Alonzo Kelly*  
Keynote Speaker


 **MARCH 14, 2024**

 **8:30AM - 3:00PM**

 **SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Scan QR Code to register.*






**REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47**  
2214 E 4th Street, Suite 8 | Sterling, IL | 815.65.1495

[www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)
[@regionoffice47](https://www.facebook.com/regionoffice47)
[@LOWR47](https://www.instagram.com/LOWR47)
[@ROE4731](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCB0K4731)

## Illinois Literacy Plan Roundtable

Wednesday, February 7th  
8:30 -11:30 a.m.



Join us as we review the new vision for literacy in the state of Illinois!

**2024**  
ILLINOIS  
COMPREHENSIVE  
LITERACY  
PLAN

This session is geared for administrators, curriculum directors, and instructional coaches.  
To register, visit [www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)

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

Check out ALL of our opportunities [HERE](#)  
February & March 2024 Schedule of Events

2/2/2024	<a href="#">Practical Strategies for Implementing UDL</a>
2/6/2024 - 4/9/2024	<a href="#">Targeted Improvement to Meet the Need of Diverse Learners</a>
2/7/2024	<a href="#">Literacy Plan Roundtable</a>
2/9/2024	<a href="#">Virtual Pathways for College &amp; Career Readiness Summit</a>
2/14/2024	<a href="#">Special Educators Cohort</a>
2/15/2024	<a href="#">Developing a School Wide Trauma-Responsive Action Plan</a>
2/19/2024 - 4-19/2024	<a href="#">Whole Child, Whole Life (Spring Book Study)</a>
2/20/2024 - 4/24/2024	<a href="#">New Teacher Cadre</a>
3/13/2024	<a href="#">Special Educators Cohort</a>

3/14/2024

[SEL Summit](#)

### **December 2023 Participants - 158**

Friday, December 1

Diving Deeper into UDL @ SVCC

Transitional ELA Summit @ 8:30 a.m.

Monday, December 4

New Teacher Cadre @ 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 5

Targeted Improvement to Meet the Need of Diverse Learners @ ROE #47

Tuesday, December 12

LETRS Cohort @ ROE #47

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

LETRS Training @ 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 14

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

### **January 2024 Participants - 89**

Wednesday, January 10

Special Educators Cohort @ 3:30 pm

Thursday, January 11

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

Tuesday, January 16

New Teacher Cadre @ 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 17

School Counselors & Social Workers Networking Session @ ROE 47

Empowered Educators Series @ 3:30 pm

Friday, January 19

Exploring EdTech Summit @ SVCC

Wednesday, January 24

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

Thursday, January 25

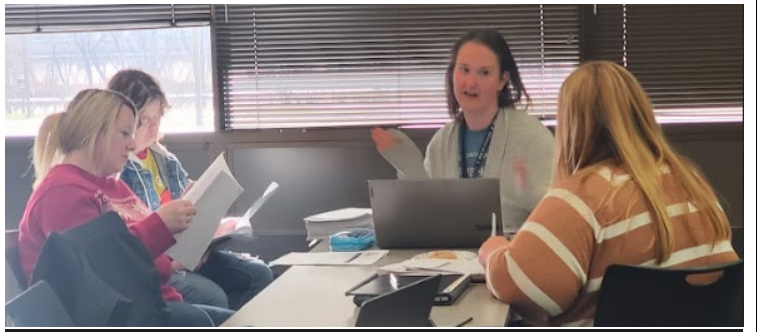
Superintendent Networking Session @ ROE #47



## December & January in Photos:







## Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: NEXUS

### ***Rock Falls couple will feed 32 families on Christmas Day***

*Devon Nicklaus and Emily Juist will deliver lasagna with a side of holiday cheer*

*By Charlene Bielema*

*December 25, 2023 at 5:15 am CST*

**ROCK FALLS** – *Devon Nicklaus had one thought last month after he cooked and delivered Thanksgiving meals to brighten 15 families' holiday.*

*Do it again. Only this time, bigger.*

*And he didn't want to wait a whole year. Instead, he and his girlfriend Emily Juist pushed forward with plans for a Christmas Day menu.*

*On Monday, they will feed 32 families a holiday meal that includes lasagna and a loaf of bread, and deliver hot cocoa mix kits and Christmas cookie decorating kits alongside the food to give families something fun to do together. The couple spent Monday night at the Greater Sterling Development Corp.'s Kitchen Incubator of Northwest Illinois, prepping all the Christmas Day lasagnas.*

*"Everyone worked together. I was pleased with how everything turned out. It was flawless," Nicklaus said of the November event. "As soon as Thanksgiving was over I knew it was needed and we needed to do more."*

*Their thoughts have not only turned to Christmas but to the future. Nicklaus said plans are in the works to create a not-for-profit organization and to make and deliver meals each Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.*

*Nicklaus said planning the dinners has been a community effort as people have stepped forward to donate needed items. The Sauk Valley Food Bank donated the meat and sauce for the lasagna. Maria's Pizza in Dixon gave him loaves of bread to go with the lasagna.*

*Michelle Sanders of the Regional Office of Education connected Nicklaus, through the NEXUS program, with families who could use the extra help on the holiday. Nicklaus said he expected to help 50 families on Christmas Day; on Tuesday the number was at 32 families. He said employees with the Rock Falls branch of Sterling Federal Bank, where Juist is branch manager, also have assisted the couple.*

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

Over the last 4 months the Attendance and Nexus teams have been working to expand their data collection systems (Airtable) to build a more comprehensive system that will allow for better reports, time-tracking, family goal, and family information tracking. This system will streamline the case worker's time and reporting for State Reports.

## Parents as Teachers First Years

December and January have been challenging months for home visits. In December, our families were struggling with many illnesses and weather issues in January greatly impacted our ability to be out and about. Fortunately, the pandemic brought about virtual home visits which has made keeping in contact with families when we can't do in-person visits much easier. Even when schools were closed, if our office was open we were able to complete visits virtually!

December also brought our annual holiday party which we held jointly with our Education Outreach Program "C Side" partners (referencing that our entry door address is Suite C). It was fun to plan an event for such a large age range and it was fun to see show the EOP students what types of activities we plan for our youngest children and show what they are learning. Several of the EOP students also participated in the children's activities with their young children.

In January, we began offering Open Play days twice a month. PAT and EOP families are invited to come into our PAT lending library space during the open play time and take advantage of the books and toys and art and craft materials that we have available. We wanted to offer parents a place they could take their children for some one-on-one time where they could drop in for a while and play with some different materials, and then go home when they were done. So far we have had just one family take advantage of the opportunity, but they played together for an hour and had lots of fun!

## Education Outreach Program

In December, Parents As Teachers and EOP had the opportunity to host a Holiday Party with activities for individuals we serve. We were able to witness our students and their children interact and our students and students spend quality time together! We are so appreciative of our space we share with PAT and excited for the many more opportunities ahead.



After multiple days of class cancellations, we have to recognize something we are especially thankful for. Togetherness: Both staff and students alike have noticed the difference that working together has made. EOP uses two online study resources, Aztec Software and i-

Pathways, to help students study from home if needed. Although many of our students prefer 1-on-1 tutoring, we appreciate our online resources as an alternative option.

The conflicts of winter did not slow down our students with EOP. We have had 2 new Graduates, **Congratulations to Zak and Wraith!** We have multiple students advancing in their post secondary education with one Welding certification earned and two new Welding enrollments, a Dean's List recognition for our Multi-Craft student, and CNA classes for another! Lastly, our new student enrollment is ramping up as well and we are now introducing 9 new students to class in February with more to come. EOP has 69 active students, 21 in follow-up seeking employment or career growth, and 6 new intakes eager to enroll.

## **McKinney Vento Homeless Program**

The cooler temperatures have caused an increase in housing concerns. Thanks for the additional ARP funding resources, we have been able to help some of our families with housing issues, auto repairs, and such. Stability in the home environment is key to educational success. FAFSA is now open. This is a program geared towards helping students moving onto post secondary education. A high school diploma is vital, but we all know that more is needed for overall success in our student's lives.

## **Regional Center for Change**

The month of January has been unusual, to say the least, at C4C! The weather has been a major factor, and we had 4 snow/cold days in the month, along with 3 E-learning days. The inconsistent weather and boiler repairs caused our staff and students to unite! We have hopefully made it through this cold stretch, and the boiler is back in action. Teachers, paraprofessionals, and counselors have done an amazing job assisting students during E-Learning.

Theme for the Month of January: "Attendance Matters"

To emphasize the importance of attendance and allow our students to SHOW they are leaders, we will reward all students who can maintain 80% attendance or better for the month of January with a special award at the end of the month.

We have seen an uptick in referrals to start the second semester, and our current enrollment is 61 students. We have 8 openings in our Options program and 5 openings in our Safe School. We had 4 students graduate high school at the semester, and 1 8th grade completed the requirements for junior high. Way to go, C4C!





## **MONTHLY ZONING AND PLANNING REPORT**

February 13, 2024 – County Services Committee

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

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

1. Petition No. 24-P-1621 by Pulse Solar II, LLC, regarding PIN 16-01-35-400-009, located in Palmyra Township. The parcel is currently zoned Ag-1, Rural/Agricultural District. Petitioner is requesting a Special Use Permit for the purpose of a 5 MW Commercial Solar Energy Facility (community solar).
2. Petition No. 24-P-1622, by David and Lisa Dewey, regarding PIN 16-07-01-203-006, located in Palmyra Township. The parcel is currently zoned R-2, Single Family Residential District. Petitioners are requesting to amend the zoning map for this PIN to R-1, Rural Residential District for the purpose of raising goats and chickens.

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

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

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

On January 16, 2024, Zoning Petition No. 23-P-1617 by Steward Creek Solar, LLC was continued to February 20, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Presentation of evidence will begin that evening. The second night of hearing will occur on February 28, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. It is likely that a third evening will be necessary to complete the hearing; however, that date is yet to be determined.

The Zoning Department has continued to work with County Administrator Jeremy Englund and LOTS Executive Director Greg Gates on a grant application that would assist the County with the adoption of building codes. We successfully submitted our application by the January 15, 2024 deadline. Illinois Emergency Management Agency has received our application and is currently compiling all the state BRIC applications and preparing final submission to FEMA.

Last month, I attended the POWERGEN conference in New Orleans, LA, from January 22<sup>nd</sup> to January 25<sup>th</sup>. I thoroughly enjoy having the opportunity to check out the latest trends in energy



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

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[www.leecountyil.com](http://www.leecountyil.com)

production. This year, the major trends are hydrogen and nuclear production. I will continue to research these areas to prepare the County for any such development that may occur in the future.

During the month of January 2024, the Zoning Office processed five (5) building permits (4 residential solar permits, 1 building permit for a single-family residence), and permit fees in the amount of \$681.48 were collected.