

## Minutes for February 17, 2021 Central Decatur Board of Education Meeting

The Central Decatur Community School Board of Education met in regular session in the High School Library and via Google Hangout on Wednesday, February 17, 2021.

As a result of the Governor's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency, the Board is allowed to limit the number of people present at an in-person meeting location as long as the Board provides a means for the public to participate by telephone or electronically. Therefore, for the duration of the public health disaster emergency, the Central Decatur Community School District Board of Directors will not conduct meetings which will be accessible by the public in person. The Board will instead conduct meetings electronically and make those meetings accessible to the public through Google Hangout. A phone number will be provided with each meeting agenda, which will be posted on the District's website.

Board members present: Amber Swartz, Cayle Buckingham, Cassy Allen, and Jolene Petty. Andrew Sullivan joined the meeting virtually at 7:21 pm.

Board members absent: None

Others in attendance were: Dave Daughton, Amy Whittington, Rudy Evertsen, Chris Coffelt, Becky Broich, and one guest. Annie Nickell and Tricia Applegate joined the meeting virtually.

Board President Swartz called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

### CONSENSUS ITEMS AND REPORTS:

The following consent items were approved:

- The agenda for February 17, 2021.
- Minutes of the previous meetings on January 20, 2020.
- Financial reports for the following funds for January: General, Management, Physical Plant and Equipment Levy, Capital Projects, Debt Service, Activity, Scholarship, and Lunch.  
Summary list of bills: General Fund \$86,111.99    Activity Fund \$10,344.18    Lunch Fund \$30,511.98  
PPEL Fund \$3,391.00    Capital Projects Fund \$45,991.67
- Funds in the amount of \$8,700.06 will be transferred from the general fund to the lunch fund. This transfer provides the lunch fund with a portion of the federal COVID-19 funding (Education Stabilization Fund-Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund – ESSER) for COVID-19 expenses incurred in January and February 2021.
- There were no open enrollment applications.
- The following fundraising requests were approved: Boys' Basketball – Serving chicken dinners with Cater 2 U, Thelma Saxton and Dance Team – T-Shirt Sponsorships.

**Motion** to approve all items listed in Consensus Items and Reports by Allen, second by Buckingham.

### ACTION ITEMS:

- Dave Daughton, Rural School Advocates of Iowa (RSAI) representative, reviewed the RSAI membership benefits and discussed current legislative issues including but not limited to: a State Supplemental Assistance (SSA) increase and the Governor's Omnibus Bill.
  - After review and discussion, the board approved the following resolution:  
WHEREAS, the Iowa Legislature is considering enacting SF 159, a scholarship fund for the purpose of enacting educational savings accounts or vouchers, expanded open enrollment leading to segregation and expanded tax credits and,

WHEREAS, the Central Decatur Community School District Board of Directors has determined that the Iowa Legislature should not enact any type of legislation of any kind, for any student, and should continue to promote and fully invest taxpayer resources in Iowa's public schools, who are barred by law from discriminating against any student and who are held to standards set forth by both federal and state government. Public schools are provided oversight by locally elected school boards and by the state of Iowa. Public schools must adhere to strict state testing requirements and ensure equitable success and outcomes for each learner regardless of income, race, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, or disability. Nonpublic schools are not held to the same public accountability standards. Iowa taxpayers deserve to know how their public funds are being used. School choice already exists in Iowa in the form of open enrollment, enrollment in private online institutions, and tuition tax credits.

### ACTION ITEMS cont'd

WHEREAS, the Central Decatur Community School District Board of Directors believes that Iowa public schools provide a strong educational experience for all students, the overwhelming majority of students attend public schools in Iowa, and families choose to remain in Iowa due to quality public school systems, we denounce any attempt to divert public funds from chronically underfunded, highly accountable public schools to private institutions that lack accountability and are not subject to rigorous academic scrutiny or financial oversight by publically elected school boards.

**Motion** by Buckingham, second by Allen. Motion carried unanimously.

- Teachers, Annie Nickell and Tricia Applegate talked about the progress made for the first semester with students that are learning in a virtual format through Edgenuity. Tricia and Annie email and hold weekly Google Meets with students and parents and call as needed. Student achievement results were highlighted and supports discussed. The board also reviewed the latest Governor's proclamation and CDC guidance.
- Personnel:
  - The board accepted the following resignations: Angela Johnson, Middle School Girls' Track Coach; Chelsey Sinclair, Head High School Volleyball Coach; and Bonnie Clark, Head Middle School Volleyball Coach. **Motion** by Allen, second by Petty. Motion carried unanimously.
  - The board approved the hire of Maggie Lindsey as Middle School Girls' Track Coach. **Motion** by Petty, second by Allen. Motion carried unanimously. The board was informed of the hire of Nicole Beavers as custodian at South Elementary.
  - The board approved the resignation, with appreciation, effective the end of the school year and participation in the Early Retirement Incentive Plan for Juliette Kline, Special Education Director and Middle/High School At-Risk Coordinator. **Motion** by Allen, second by Sullivan. Motion carried unanimously.
  - The board approved to extend the Employee Assistance Program through June 2021. This extension provides a renewal contract that aligns with our fiscal year beginning July 1. **Motion** by Petty, second by Allen. Motion carried unanimously.
- The board approved the request to host a Rotary Youth Exchange Student in 2021-22. **Motion** by Petty, second by Buckingham. Motion carried unanimously.
- The board approved the second reading of changes to board policies: 205-Elections of Board Members and 207-Board Officers. **Motion** by Buckingham, second by Allen. Motion carried unanimously.

### INFORMATION ITEMS:

- The board reviewed fiscal facts and considerations in developing the 2021-2022 certified budget.
- The board reviewed the draft copy and reviewed staff feedback for development of the 2021-22 school calendar.
- The board discussed primary areas of focus for the March board meeting.
- Upcoming Dates:
  - a. Regular Meeting: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. – High School Library/Google Hangout.
  - b. Special Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. - High School Library/Google Hangout.Budget Public Hearing will be held at the beginning of the meeting.
- The board decided that the public could attend meetings in person, beginning with the March meeting. There will be a limit that will be determined as well as enforcement of safety protocols. **Motion** by Petty, second by Buckingham. Motion carried unanimously.

Buckingham moved the meeting be adjourned at 9:39 p.m. Second by Allen.

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Amber Swartz, President

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Becky Broich, Board Secretary