

Minutes for May 19, 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, May 19, 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 limit the number of people present to fifteen. Masks and social distancing are required. Others can attend electronically through Google Meet. 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, Andrew Sullivan, and Jolene Petty.

Board members absent: None

Others in attendance in person or electronically were: Amy Whittington, Rudy Evertsen, Chris Coffelt, Becky Broich, and two guests.

Board President Swartz called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

The public hearing on the proposed 2020-2021 school budget amendment was held. No written or public comment was given or received.

CONSENSUS ITEMS AND REPORTS:

The following consent items were approved:

- The agenda for May 19, 2021.
- Minutes of the previous meetings on April 21 and May 5, 2021.
- Financial reports for the following funds for February: General, Management, Physical Plant and Equipment Levy, Capital Projects, Debt Service, Activity, Scholarship, and Lunch. Summary list of bills:
General Fund \$71,865.22; Activity Fund \$33,008.95; Lunch Fund \$36,953.28;
PEEL Fund \$15,478.88; Capital Projects Fund \$42,125.00; Bond & Interest Fund: \$439,512.50.
- Funds in the amount of \$4,500.16 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 II – ESSER II) for COVID-19 expenses incurred.
- There were no open enrollment applications.
- The fundraising request for the Cardinal Dance Team for an overnight event.
Motion to approve all items listed in Consensus Items and Reports by Buckingham, second by Allen.

LEARNING LINK:

- Summer School Coordinator Chelsey Sinclair talked about the elementary summer learning activities in June. Summer school focus will be math and reading and will be held from 8:00 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday from June 7 through July 2. Secondary Principal Rudy Evertsen talked about credit recovery and SWCC course options available this summer for middle/high school students.

ACTION ITEMS:

- The board approved amending the 2020-2021 budget to increase estimated expenditures in the areas of Instruction, Non-instructional Programs, and Total Other Expenditures to allot for any extra COVID-19 related expenses. **Motion** by Sullivan, second by Petty. Motion carried unanimously.
- The board reviewed the latest public health and CDC guidance. A work session to develop a budget for ESSER funds will be held in June. No action was necessary.
- The board reflected on the ICAT Facility Needs Assessment that was shared last month and will continue to review at the work session in June. Superintendent Coffelt informed the board that the purchase of ten new heat pumps for the middle/high school utilizing ESSER funds was approved by the Department of Education. Installation will begin at the end of the month. No action was necessary.
- The board approved the hire of Ashly Green as High School Football Cheer Sponsor beginning August 2021. **Motion** by Allen, second by Sullivan. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- Board President Amber Swartz read the following to provide recognition to our staff for Staff Appreciation Week: May 3-7 was Staff Appreciation Week. Established by the National PTA back in 1984, it is a time to honor the individuals who lend their passion and skills to educating our children.

To be honest, given what we have all experienced, we should call this Staff Appreciation Year. As our schools adapted to keep students and staff safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff turned 100 years of education upside-down in order to support their students no matter what.

Whether in the classroom or online, Central Decatur Staff have been a constant presence for students during a time that has been filled with uncertainty for all of us. Our staff provided learning in person, remotely and online, in large part to provide a sense of normalcy and connection for their students. And through it all, they dealt with COVID-19, from illnesses in their own and students' families, to concern for their own health and well-being.

There has been a lot of talk over the past year about essential workers. Central Decatur Community School Staff showed themselves, time and again, how essential they have been to our students and our community. We cannot let the end of this week mark the end of our appreciation.

- Superintendent Coffelt recognized the board with the following statement:
The 2021 theme for Board Appreciation is "School Boards: Leading Through Uncharted Waters."

Over the past year, leadership at the board table has come with challenges and decisions no one could have anticipated. School boards have made tough choices that impact the health and safety of students, staff and the school community, while continuing to prioritize student achievement and educational equity.

In a normal year, as unpaid volunteers, you work diligently to ensure our schools provide the best education possible for Central Decatur's future citizens. In 2020, you've persevered and led through uncharted waters to make critical decisions without even a map to navigate these challenges.

- Board members viewed highlights of the new District Website which is planned to go live Friday, May 28.
- Upcoming IASB training webinars were shared with the board including sessions for the new Iowa Standards for School Leaders.
- Upcoming Dates:
 - a. Work Session: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 – 7:15 p.m. – High School Library/Google Meet. Regular Meeting directly following the work session.
 - b. Work Session: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. – High School Library/Google Meet.

Buckingham moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:27 p.m. Second by Allen.

Amber Swartz, President

Becky Broich, Board Secretary