

Minutes for March 22, 2023 Central Decatur Board of Education Meeting

The Central Decatur Community School Board of Education met in regular session in the High School Library on Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

Board members present: Amber Swartz, Sean Saxton, Nick Tharp, and Cassy Allen. Andrew Sullivan joined the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Board members absent: None

Others in attendance: Amy Whittington, Mark Huppert, Chris Coffelt, Becky Broich and two guests.

Board President Swartz called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

CONSENSUS ITEMS AND REPORTS:

The following consent items were approved:

- The agenda for March 22, 2023.
- Minutes of the previous meetings on February 22 and March 15, 2023.
- Summary list of bills for March :
General Fund \$80,027.87; Activity Fund \$20,906.19; Lunch Fund \$37,312.98; PPEL Fund \$793.00; Capital Projects Fund \$168,841.52; Management Fund \$19,975.25.
- Funds in the amount of \$6,431.54 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 (American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief –ESSER III) for COVID-19 expenses incurred.
- One open enrollment application was approved for a Chariton CSD student to attend CD beginning this month.
- The following fundraising request was approved: CD Weight Room – Digital Discount Cards.

Motion to approve all items listed in Consensus Items and Reports listed above by Allen, second by Saxton. Motion carried unanimously.

LEARNING LINK:

- Elementary Highlights – Elementary Principal Amy Whittington
 - This is the first year for Junior Kindergarten as a structure to provide intensive academic and transitional supports for students, which is being taught by Bailey Gwinn. Principal Whittington reviewed enrollment, instructional focus, and initial results of students in this program. Principal Whittington also shared that there is an increase of students in preschool with an individualized education program (IEP) with needs for early childhood language and large motor development, which seems to be a nationwide trend.
 - This is the second year of Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) professional development. LETRS teaches skills needed to master the fundamentals of reading and writing instruction including - phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension for grades PK-6.
 - The District had been fortunate enough to have the 21st Century Grant for the last ten years which ended last year. This grant made the Cardinal Muscle Program possible. Cardinal Muscle is an important program that provides before, after, and summer school for elementary students. Thankfully, ESSER III-Learning Loss funds have allowed the program to continue. The District will reapply for the 21st Century Grant later this year.

ACTION ITEMS:

- District Projects/Purchases:
 - Superintendent Coffelt reviewed the quotes with the Board for the replacement of the JH/HS gym floor due to the frozen pipe/water damage that happened in December. After discussion, the Board approved Phillips Floors for installation of the new gym floor for the JH/HS. **Motion** by Saxton, second by Allen. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The Board approved the purchase of an additional competition wrestling mat from Resilite. Funding for this purchase comes from Central Decatur Booster Club and athletic advertising revenue. A grant application has also been submitted to SCICF. **Motion** by Allen, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Superintendent Coffelt shared the District Security Assessment including identified needs to help determine the use of the federal school safety improvement funds.

ACTION ITEMS CONT'D:

- The Board approved continued sharing of bowling (hosted by Lamoni), boys wrestling with Lamoni (hosted by CD), and Southern Tier Wrestling (girls) with Lamoni, Mount Ayr, and Wayne (hosted by CD) for the 2023-2024 school year. The Board will review the number of athletes interested in each of the athletic programs prior to the start of the season. **Motion** by Allen, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board approved the 2023-2024 budget publication which establishes the district property tax rate at \$12.43 per \$1,000 taxable valuation. A public hearing for the FY24 Budget will be held April 19. The budget is expected to be approved at this meeting. **Motion** by Sullivan, second by Saxton. Motion carried unanimously.
- Two bids were received for the 2023 mowing season – Tharp Lawn Care and Christensen Mowing Service. Both bids were for the same amount of \$500 per complete mowing service. The Board approved Tharp Lawn Care for the 2023 mowing season. **Motion** by Saxton, second by Allen. Motion carried with Tharp abstaining.
- The Board approved the Senior Trip request to Kansas City, Missouri April 25-27, 2023. **Motion** by Allen, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
- Personnel:
 - The Board approved the following:
 - Resignations:
 - Lacey Johnson, Kindergarten Teacher; Ben Stoner, Physical Education Teacher; Becky Andrews, Academic Sponsor; Ashley Dittmer, Assistant JH Volleyball; Cierra Fountain, Drama Sponsor; Emily Layton, Fall and Winter Flag Corps Sponsor. **Motion** by Allen, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Hires:
 - 2022-2023: Alex Burnette, Spring e-Sports and Melanie Puck, Assistant JH Softball.
 - 2023-2024: Ashton Trullinger, Elementary SPED Teacher; Ashley Dittmer, Head JH Volleyball; Stephanie Drees, Basketball Cheer Sponsor; and Emily Layton, Drama Sponsor. **Motion** by Saxton, second by Sullivan. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Lane Changes for the 2023-2024 school year, pending review of supporting documentation:
 - From BA to BA+12: Heather Boswell, Cassie Havlik, and Debbie Morgan.
 - From BA+12 to BA+24: Bailey Cornett
 - From MA to MA+12: Laci Erke. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Saxton. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board approved the first reading of the following board policies: 701.05 – Fiscal Management; Regulation 701.05R1 – Fiscal Management – Financial Metrics; 705.01 – Purchasing – Bidding; and 705.01R2 – Purchasing – Bidding – Using Federal Funds in Procurement Contracts. **Motion** by Saxton, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- After reviewing staff feedback for the 2023-24 school calendar draft, a few minor revisions were made and reviewed by the Board. A public hearing will be held and the calendar will be approved at the April meeting.
- Last year the Board approved the purchase of Kajeet SmartBus Wi-Fi to be installed on ten buses with one year of internet service made possible by grant funding from the Emergency Connectivity Fund. Technology Director Mark Huppert reviewed usage data for this school year.
- Upcoming Dates:
 - a. Regular Meeting: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 – 7:30 p.m. – High School Library

Allen moved the meeting adjourn at 9:18 p.m. Second by Sullivan.

Amber Swartz, President

Becky Broich, Board Secretary