

Minutes for December 20, 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, December 20, 2023.

Board members present: Amber Swartz, Cassy Allen, Sean Saxton, and Nick Tharp.

Board members absent: Andrew Sullivan.

Others in attendance: Alli Theisen via Google Meet, Rosa Sondag along with twelve Central Trail FFA members, Chris Coffelt, Becky Broich and three guests.

Board President Swartz called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

CONSENSUS ITEMS AND REPORTS:

The following consent items were approved:

- The agenda for December 20, 2023.
 - Minutes of the previous meeting on November 15 and December 6, 2023.
 - Financial reports for the following funds for November 2023: General, Management, Physical Plant and Equipment Levy, Capital Projects, Bond and Interest, Partial-Self Insurance Fund, Activity, Scholarship, and Lunch.
 - Summary list of bills for December:
General Fund \$101,584.49; Activity Fund \$60,893.45; Lunch Fund \$28,225.87; PPEL Fund \$2,287.00; Capital Projects Fund \$89,760.09; Bond and Interest Fund: \$40,781.11; Management Fund: \$18,776.50.
 - Funds in the amount of \$11,664.64 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 Mt Ayr CSD student to attend CD.
 - The following fundraising requests were approved: CD Rodeo – Donkey basketball game on March 21, 2024.
- Motion** to approve all items listed in Consensus Items and Reports listed above by Saxton, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.

LEARNING LINK:

- Central Trail FFA members highlighted events attended and their experiences at the 2023 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN last month. Members were able to learn about other career opportunities by touring various businesses and farms before and after the convention. From various speakers to workshops, this convention continues to be a great leadership and learning opportunity for those that attend.

ACTION ITEMS:

- District Projects/Purchases
 - Estes Construction Project Engineer Alli Theisen reviewed progress for District HVAC projects.
 - The Board approved the purchase of a 2021 Thomas Bus – 65 passenger with 23,667 miles for \$75,000. **Motion** by Saxton, second by Allen. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board reviewed and approved the Return to Learn Plan which outlines protocols to follow regarding COVID-19. Return to Learn plans are required to be reviewed every six months. **Motion** by Allen, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board approved the School Budget Review Committee application for modified supplemental amount for \$85,479 due to open enrolled out students on the October 2023 count for whom CD is required to pay tuition in the current year to the receiving district and were not on the October 2022 count (11 students). **Motion** by Saxton, second by Allen. Motion carried unanimously. This provides spending authority to the District for expenses associated with educating these students.
- Board Policy:
 - The Board approved the first reading of two new policies: Discipline of Students Who Make Threats of Violence or Cause Incidents of Violence and Reporting a Threat of Violence or Incidence of Violence. **Motion** by Allen, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The Board received a request for a dual enrolled student to walk at graduation. Board Policy 604.7-Dual Enrollment was reviewed. The Board will act on this request at the January meeting.

ACTION ITEMS CONT'D

- Personnel:
 - The Board was notified of the following resignations: Nicole Blackford, Para and Tiffany Durell, Cook.
 - The Board approved the revised Student Teaching District Agreement with Graceland University. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Saxton. Motion carried unanimously. The revision includes: If district policy allows, student teachers may be paid by the district as a para (including benefits) and/or receive a stipend from the district (for travel, living expenses, tuition, etc).

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- Board Business:
 - Board President Swartz shared her experience attending sessions at the IASB Annual Convention on November 16.
 - The Board continues to focus on staff recruitment and retention, specifically focusing on whether a 4-day school week would be an effective strategy. Members discussed considerations brought up from the joint board work session with Lamoni and Murray on December 6. The Board also reviewed School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) meeting minutes and the December staff professional development conversation regarding opportunities, challenges, and considerations relative to this structure. A date will be set in January or February for a community forum.
 - The Board reviewed operational and other sharing positions with Lamoni CSD and Green Hills AEA. Lamoni CSD is considering starting girls soccer this spring and asked if CD would be interested in sharing. The Board discussed pros and cons of adding another sport. The District will survey students to see if there is enough interest.
 - Superintendent Coffelt shared upcoming learning opportunities through IASB including the Day on the Hill, a public education advocacy event, on February 13.
- Upcoming Dates:
 - a. January 17: Board of Education Regular Meeting @ 7:30 pm - High School Library.

Allen moved the meeting adjourn at 8:56 p.m. Second by Saxton.

Amber Swartz, President

Becky Broich, Board Secretary