

Minutes for February 21, 2024 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, February 21, 2024.

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

Board members absent: Andrew Sullivan.

Others in attendance: Alli Theisen via Google Meet, Mark Patience, Justine Buckingham, Amy Whittington, Chris Coffelt, Becky Broich and two guests.

Board President Swartz called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

CONSENSUS ITEMS AND REPORTS:

The following consent items were approved:

- The agenda for February 21, 2024.
- Minutes of the previous meeting on January 17, 2024.
- Financial reports for the following funds for January 2024: 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 February:
General Fund \$386,035.69; Activity Fund \$23,911.22; Lunch Fund \$24,898.46; PPEL Fund \$8,283.00; Capital Projects Fund \$119,530.97; Management Fund: \$896.00; Scholarship Fund: \$2,709.22.
- Funds in the amount of \$10,738.75 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.
- Funds in the amount of \$150,000.00 will be transferred from the general fund to the capital projects fund. This transfer provides ESSER III funds for the approved HVAC upgrades project.
- Three open enrollment applications were approved to attend CD: One Murray CSD student and two Clarke CSD students.
- There were no fundraising requests.

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

LEARNING LINK:

- Justine Buckingham talked about our Healthcare Education for Rural Opportunities (HERO) apprenticeship program, which provides different pathways into the healthcare industry for our students. Directors were able to tour Justine's classroom and view the equipment purchased with the grant to give students hands on experience, as well as learn more about student opportunities in the registered apprenticeship.

ACTION ITEMS:

- District Projects/Purchases
 - Estes Construction Project Engineer Alli Theisen reviewed progress for District HVAC projects. The only items remaining are a few warranty item corrections. The Board approved the bid package allowance reconciliation with a credit of \$1,472 and the final pay application and retainage payment for L.A. Fulton. **Motion** by Allen, second by Saxton. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The Board approved Travis Mechanical to replace the water heaters that service North Elementary. **Motion** by Saxton, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Technology Director Mark Patience reviewed costs for security cameras and door access control systems. The Board approved submitting the application for use of the School Safety Improvement Funds for this project. **Motion** by Allen, second by Saxton. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Districts are mandated to use a career planning software system to help students in grades eight-twelve with career exploration and planning, including their course schedules. The Board approved the purchase of Xello college and career readiness software. **Motion** by Saxton, second by Allen. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The Board reviewed the timeline and process for establishing next year's budget and set March 27, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. in the MS/HS library for the first public hearing. **Motion** by Allen, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Superintendent Coffelt is putting together a list of projects and costs for district facility and maintenance needs for the Board to review next month.

ACTION ITEMS CONT'D

- The Board approved to continue the following operational sharing positions with Lamoni CSD, Green Hills AEA, and City of Leon for the 2024-2025 school year: HR Director (50%-CD, 50%-L); Transportation Director (80%-CD, 20%-L); Social Worker (40%-CD, 60%-AEA); and School Resource Officer (City of Leon). Other shared positions approved to continue: Technology Director (50%-CD, 50%-L) and Librarian with Green Hills AEA. **Motion** by Saxton, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board approved the first reading of the following policies: 503.08-503.08R1-Discipline for Threats of Violence; 502.07-Student Substance Use; 605.06-605.06R1-Internet – Appropriate Use; 605.08-605.08R1-Artificial Intelligence (New policy); 701.01-701.04, 703.01-Various finance practices; 713-713R1-Responsible Technology Use & Social Networking. **Motion** by Allen, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
- Personnel:
 - The Board was accepted the following resignations: Alexa Mendenhall, Elementary Teacher; Oscar Ortiz, 5-12 Band Teacher; and Curtis Boothe, Assistant Football Coach. **Motion** by Allen, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The Board approved the hire of Levi Dugger, 5-12 Band Teacher. **Motion** by Allen, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The Board approved the hire of Melanie Puck, Head Junior High Softball Coach. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Saxton. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The Board approved the Resolution Establishing an Education Assistance Plan for Teacher participants. The plan provides educational benefits under Section 127 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. **Motion** by Saxton, second by Allen. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The Board was notified of the following classified staff positions: Jennifer Foltz has been hired as a cook and Cathy Cooper has resigned as a para.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- Board Business:
 - The Board continues to focus on staff recruitment and retention. Dan, Amy, and Chris reviewed the community forum that was held February 12 to discuss a school calendar with a 4-day school week as a potential option for the 2024-2025 school year. The Board reviewed parent survey responses that have been collected so far. Another community forum will be held March 4, 2024 at 5:30 pm. A public hearing for the 2024-2025 school calendar will be held on March 27, 2024.
 - Superintendent Coffelt shared the Rural School Advocates of Iowa's (RSAI) latest legislative update.
 - Superintendent Coffelt reviewed the number of days students and staff have missed due to inclement weather and plans for staff to make up those contract days. The Board will decide if any of the days for students will need to be made up at the March 27th board meeting.
 - The fiscal year 2022 audit was shared with the board.
- Upcoming Dates:
 - a. March 27, 2024: Board of Education Regular Meeting @ 7:30 pm - High School Library.
 - b. April 24, 2024: Board of Education Regular Meeting @ 7:30 pm – High School Library.

Saxton moved the meeting adjourn at 9:44 p.m. Second by Allen.

Amber Swartz, President

Becky Broich, Board Secretary