

Minutes for March 27, 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, March 27, 2024.

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

Board members absent: None.

Others in attendance: Zach Mendenhall, Amy Whittington, Dan Johnson, Chris Coffelt, Becky Broich and eight guests.

Board President Swartz called the meeting to order at 7:47 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

- The public hearing for the proposed 2024-2025 school calendar was held. Zach Mendenhall shared his perspective relative to the benefits of a five-day week calendar structure.

CONSENSUS ITEMS AND REPORTS:

The following consent items were approved:

- The agenda for March 27, 2024.
- Minutes of the previous meeting on February 21, 2024.
- Financial reports for the following funds for February 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 March:
General Fund \$106,054.02; Activity Fund \$14,780.55; Lunch Fund \$32,512.22; PPEL Fund \$793.00; Capital Projects Fund \$200,293.09; Management Fund: \$15,395.50.
- Funds in the amount of \$6,465.77 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 from a Clarke CSD student was approved to attend CD next year.
- There were no fundraising requests. Director Allen provided an update for the Rodeo Club Donkey Basketball fundraiser.

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

ACTION ITEMS:

- Superintendent Coffelt and Principals Whittington and Johnson reviewed work to date, considerations/research, and survey results from staff, parent/community members, the School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) and students. Overall, the general consensus supports the calendar structure of a four-day week for 2024-2025. After discussion, the Board approved the four-day week school calendar for 2024-2025. **Motion** by Sullivan, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
- Students have missed six days due to inclement weather. The 2023-2024 calendar was developed with a significant number of hours above the required minimum of 1,080. The board approved to waive the missed hours for all students PK-12. **Motion** by Sullivan, second by Allen. Motion carried unanimously.
- District Projects/Purchases
 - The Board approved the renewal of the Natural Gas Program Participation Agreement for 2024-25 with the Iowa Local Government Risk Pool Commission. This agreement helps the District mitigate budget risks associated with winter heating and other natural gas consumption. **Motion** by Allen, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The application for the School Safety Improvement Grant application has been submitted and is waiting for state review.
 - The Board approved the purchase of Motorola radios as another level of security for a unified District response. **Motion** by Saxton, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The District has received grant funds for a softball batting cage/system. The best location for the batting cage is where the storage shed by the softball field is located. The cost to tear down & relocate the shed is too costly. The Board approved the sale of the old storage shed by the softball field. The District will look at options for a new storage shed by the Livestock Facility. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Allen. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Superintendent Coffelt talked about ongoing development of the District Strategic Facilities Plan. A future work session will be planned to identify priorities and allocate resources.

ACTION ITEMS CONT'D

- The Board set Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. in the MS/HS library for the FY25 certified budget public hearing. **Motion** by Sullivan, second by Saxton. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Iowa Department of Public Health has revised their COVID guidance, eliminating the need to quarantine. The Board approved this revision to the District Return to Learn plan. **Motion** by Sullivan, second by Saxton. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board approved the following sharing positions:
 - 2024 Baseball season with Lamoni CSD. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Allen. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Continuing athletic sharing for 2024-2025 with Lamoni CSD including boys and girls wrestling (hosted by CD), bowling (hosted by Lamoni), and eSports (hosted by CD). **Motion** by Allen, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Continued sharing for 2024-2025 with Green Hills AEA for E-rate services. **Motion** by Saxton, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Lamoni CSD has adjusted the 2024-2025 sharing percentage for the HR Director from 50% to 20%.
- The Board approved the Senior Trip request to Lake of the Ozarks on April 22-24. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Allen. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board approved renewing Tharp Lawn Care LLC for the 2024 mowing season at a rate of \$550 per complete mowing. **Motion** by Saxton, second by Allen. Motion carried with Tharp abstaining.
- The Board approved the second 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; 505.08-Parent and Family Engagement District-Wide Policy. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Allen. Motion carried unanimously.
- Personnel:
 - The Board accepted the following resignations: Carrie Coulson, Secondary Math Teacher; Emily Schnoor, Kindergarten; Bailey Gwinn, Head VB Coach; Cindee O'Dell, Wrestling Cheerleading Sponsor; Marcia Roberts, Custodian; and Mary Wells, Cook. **Motion** by Allen, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The Board approved the following hires: Alex Ymir, Special Education Teacher; Maizee Lindsey, Preschool Teacher; and Mindy Hamilton, Summer School Coordinator. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Allen. Motion carried unanimously.
The Board approved the following coach hires: Tim Casey, Asst HS Boys Track; Ashley Dittmer, Asst JH Girls Track; Tracy Andrews, Asst JH Boys Track; Trish Thomas, Asst JH Softball; Carlee Hamilton and Kylee Rockhold, Asst HS Softball; Colby Wilken, Head JH Football; Bonnie Clark, Head JH Boys Track; Shane Akers, Head HS Baseball; and Carter and Colby Wilken, Co-Head JH Baseball. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Allen. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The Board was notified of Rick Rhum as Activity Bus Driver for shared soccer with Lamoni CSD.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- Board Business:
 - Superintendent Coffelt shared the latest legislative update including the Governor signing the AEA reform bill into law which includes a 2.5% increase to SSA and establishing a minimum teacher salary of \$47,500.
- Upcoming Dates:
 - a. April 24, 2024: Board of Education Regular Meeting @ 7:30 pm – High School Library.

Sullivan moved the meeting adjourn at 9:35 p.m. Second by Tharp.