

Minutes for January 8, 2025 Central Decatur Board of Education Meetings

Work Session

The Central Decatur Community School Board of Education met for a work session in the High School TAP Room 1122 on Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

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

Board members absent: Andrew Sullivan

Others in attendance: IASB School Finance Directors Mike Guanci & Jan Miller-Hook, Zach Clark, Amy Whittington, Dan Johnson, Chris Coffelt, Becky Broich and one guest.

The work session began at 7:30 p.m.

IASB School Finance Directors Mike Guanci and Jan Miller-Hook discussed school finance key concepts and reviewed District key financial information. Key financial indicators include: certified enrollment, unspent authorized budget ratio, percentage of annual spending authority, solvency ratio, percentage of revenue spent, salaries/benefits, and percentage of new money compared to collective bargaining settlement percentage, and percentage change in salaries/benefits. The District is in a strong financial position overall, but careful monitoring of the budget and future projections will be necessary due to a few different factors, namely a decline in enrollment

The work session ended at 8:44 p.m.

Regular Meeting

The Central Decatur Community School Board of Education met in regular session in the High School TAP Room 1122 on Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

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

Board members absent: Andrew Sullivan

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

Board President Swartz called the meeting to order at 8:52 p.m. No public comment was given.

CONSENSUS ITEMS AND REPORTS:

The following consent items were approved:

- The agenda for January 8, 2025.
- Minutes of the previous meetings on December 11 & 18, 2024.
- Financial reports for the following funds for December 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 January:
General Fund \$62,767.32; Activity Fund \$43,260.65; Lunch Fund \$30,834.35; Capital Projects Fund \$87,186.77; PPEL Fund \$5,973.00.
- Funds in the amount of \$347.06 will be transferred from the General Fund to the Lunch Fund. This transfer provides the Lunch Fund with 21st Century grant funds for expenses incurred.
- Two open enrollment applications that met qualifying criteria due to a change in residence were approved for a Kindergarten and sophomore student from the Clarke CSD to attend CD, beginning immediately.
- The following fundraising requests were approved: Softball – selling t-shirts; CD Junior Class – selling donuts through Lizzie Yoder and junior class members serving food at La Bota on March 4, 2025.

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

LEARNING LINK:

- Athletic/Activities & Special Education Director Zach Clark discussed the effects of declining enrollment, his projections for Central Decatur's potential classification and eligibility to play varsity 8-man football in the 2027-2028 school year, and the process and considerations involved in this transition.

ACTION ITEMS:

- The Board approved the Modified Supplemental Amount of \$121,549 + 25% local match \$40,516 for a total of \$162,065 for the 2025-2026 At-Risk/Dropout Prevention program. This amount supports portions of the following positions: Juvenile Court Liaison Officer, School Counselor, Elementary Student Support Services, and Licensed Master Social Worker. These positions monitor, support, and provide individualized and specialized interventions for at-risk students. **Motion** by Allen, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board approved to continue to share the Superintendent position with Lamoni CSD (60%-CD, 40%-L) for the 2025-26 school year. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Allen. Motion carried unanimously. All other operational/sharing positions were reviewed but will be finalized at the February board meeting.
- The Board approved the request to host a Rotary International Youth Exchange Student in 2025-26. **Motion** by Allen, second by Tharp. Motion carried with Saxton abstaining.
- Personnel:
 - The Board approved the following coach hires: Tim Casey, Head JH Girls Track and Reece Tedford, Assistant HS Boys Track. **Motion** by Saxton, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The Board accepted the resignation of Manny Atwood as Home School Assistance Program (HSAP) Coordinator. **Motion** by Allen, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
- Board Policy:
 - The Board approved the second reading of 503.08R1- Regulation for Discipline of Students Who Make Threats of Violence or Cause Incidents of Violence
 - The Board approved the following board policy updates: 102; 401.01; 401.06; 501.09; 501.09R1; 710.01R1; 701.01E1; and 710.01E2. These updates were legislative or minor changes which can be approved at one meeting. **Motion** by Allen, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- Superintendent Coffelt presented the draft 2025-2026 school calendar, which maintains the 4-day school week. Staff will have the opportunity to provide feedback via a survey, and the collected feedback and considerations will be reviewed at the February meeting with final approval of the calendar in March.
- Board Business:
 - Amy, Dan, and Chris shared highlights from the first semester regarding student and staff attendance, with ongoing efforts to monitor chronic absenteeism and improve attendance for both groups. Notably, student attendance has shown improvement this school year compared to last year.
 - Dan shared that the health class is currently focused on learning about healthy relationships. Advocates and professionals are brought in to educate students on various types of healthy relationships they may encounter and to discuss the spectrum of healthy and unhealthy behaviors in dating relationships.
 - Decatur County Hospital has been awarded \$1,488,221 through the Child Care Business Incentive Grant. This grant supports employer-led projects requiring new infrastructure to establish child care centers in their communities. The funding will address the shortage of child care for DCH employees by constructing a new center in Leon, creating 60 new child care slots, with 30 slots reserved specifically for DCH employees. Central Decatur served as a community partner for the grant application.
- Upcoming Dates:
 - a. January 28: IASB Day on the Hill
 - b. January 31: CD hosts IGHSAU Girls Regional Wrestling. School will be dismissed at 2:30 p.m.
 - c. February 12: Board of Education Work Session @ 7:30 p.m. - High School Tap Room 1122. Regular meeting will follow at 8:30 p.m.
 - d. March 12: Board of Education Work Session @ 7:30 p.m. - High School Tap Room 1122. Regular meeting will follow at 8:30 p.m.

Allen moved the meeting adjourn at 10:22 p.m. Second by Tharp.