

Minutes for January 12, 2026 Central Decatur Board of Education Meeting

The Central Decatur Community School Board of Education met in regular session in the High School TAP Room 1122 on Monday, January 12, 2026.

Board members present: Amber Swartz, Nick Tharp, Sean Saxton, and Jo Frank.

Board members absent: Cassy Allen

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

Board President Swartz called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. No public comment was given.

CONSENSUS ITEMS AND REPORTS:

The following consent items were approved:

- The agenda for January 12, 2026.
- Minutes of the previous meetings on December 10, 2025.
- Financial reports for the following funds for December 2025: 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 \$147,601.96; Activity Fund \$75,090.22; Lunch Fund \$36,212.85; Capital Projects Fund \$49,906.83; PPEL Fund \$1,104.76
- One open enrollment application for a Mormon Trail CSD student to attend CD was approved due to a change in residence.
- There were no fundraising requests.

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

LEARNING LINK:

- Cory Scheer, Founder and CEO of TrustCentric Consulting, joined virtually to discuss the firm's strategic planning services, which support the development of a cohesive district vision, as well as the identification and effective execution of district priorities and goals.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Amy, Dan, and Chris highlighted first-semester academic progress, student engagement, attendance, and staffing trends. K–6 Fastbridge data showed varied results across grade levels, with stronger performance in upper elementary. At the secondary level, 7th grade saw slight declines in reading and math from fall to spring, while 8th grade demonstrated measurable gains in both areas. Student engagement remained strong through extended learning opportunities through the Cardinal Muscle Monday School program, which is supported by the 21st Century Grant. District-wide average student attendance was 94.53%. From the district perspective, the Board reviewed first semester staff attendance, historical enrollment trends, grade level enrollment numbers for this school year and the school district property tax rate. No action was taken.
- District Projects/Purchases:
 - The Board reviewed the master planning timeline to proceed with next steps to construct a new building, relocating South Elementary students to the North campus, along with targeted renovations at the Junior-Senior High School and North Elementary. The Board approved the Master Planning Services Proposal with Denovo. **Motion** by Saxton, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The Board discussed potential members to serve on the community facilities committee. The committee will represent the district's taxpayers and work together to review options, weighing pros and cons for facility improvements, to recommend the best long-term solution to the Board at the May board meeting.
- The Board approved the At-Risk/Dropout Plan for the 2026-2027 school year and the request to the SBRC for modified supplemental amount of \$141,500 + 25% local match \$47,167 for a total of \$188,667 for the 2026-2027 At-Risk/Dropout Prevention program. This amount supports portions of the following positions: Juvenile Court Liaison Officer, School Counselors, 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 Saxton, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS CONT'D

- The Board approved to continue sharing the following positions for 2026-2027:
 - With Lamoni CSD:
 - Superintendent (50/50). **Motion** by Saxton, second by Frank. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Transportation Director (80%-CD, 20%-L) and Technology Coordinator (50/50). **Motion** by Saxton, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - With Green Hills AEA:
 - Social Worker (40%-CD, 60%-AEA) pending any changes to the renewal agreement. **Motion** by Saxton, second by Frank. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The Board will review the following positions in February: Librarian-Green Hills AEA, Business Communications-Martensdale-St Marys, and SRO-City of Leon.
- The Board approved the request to host a Rotary International Youth Exchange Student for the 2026-27 school year. **Motion** by Frank, second by Tharp. Motion carried with Saxton abstaining.
- The Board approved the resignation and early retirement incentive plan application from Cathy Cornell with expressed appreciation for her 27 years of service to the District. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Saxton. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board approved the first reading of board policy 606.03 R1-Animals in the Classroom – Guidelines for the Use of Professional Therapy Dogs. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Frank. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- Superintendent Coffelt presented the draft 2026-2027 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:
 - Superintendent Coffelt asked the Board to consider additional topics and measures they may wish to use to assess progress this school year during the second semester.
 - Superintendent Coffelt reviewed legislative priorities for the 2026 legislative session.
 - Principal Johnson reviewed the potential development of an online school beginning next school year, discussing considerations relative to this structure.
- Upcoming Dates:
 - a. January 26, 2026: IASB Day on the Hill
 - b. February 9, 2026: Regular Meeting @ 6:00 pm – High School TAP Room 1122

Tharp moved the meeting adjourn at 8:43 p.m. Second by Frank.

Amber Swartz, President

Becky Broich, Board Secretary