

Minutes for February 9, 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, February 9, 2026.

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

Board members absent: Cassy Allen

Others in attendance: Zach Clark, Chris Coffelt, Becky Broich, and one guest. Dan Johnson joined via Google Meet.

Board President Swartz called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. No public comment was given.

CONSENSUS ITEMS AND REPORTS:

The following consent items were approved:

- The agenda for February 9, 2026.
- Minutes of the previous meetings on January 12, 2026.
- Financial reports for the following funds for January 2026: 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 \$376,962.01; Activity Fund \$34,747.48; Lunch Fund \$23,156.16; Capital Projects Fund \$49,906.83; PPEL Fund \$468.00; Scholarship Fund \$1,950.00
- There were no open enrollment requests.
- Fundraising requests: Class of 2026 – Senior work auction; Girls Basketball - Sell cutting boards w/CD logo engraved; and Class of 2027 – Sell donuts.

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

LEARNING LINK:

- Athletic/Activities Director Zach Clark provided an update on winter sports and upcoming spring activities, noting that track and golf will begin in March. He reported that Lamoni has withdrawn from the baseball sharing agreement due to having enough players to field their own team. It remains uncertain whether CD will have sufficient players to field a team independently. Options are being reviewed to determine what best supports are available for this season. Mr. Clark also reviewed football options for next season, with survey results indicating support for suspending the varsity season and playing 8-player JV for one season. The Board also discussed the importance, process and cost for resurfacing the track.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Superintendent Coffelt shared highlights from the February 5 District Facility Community Task Force meeting. He noted the meeting was positive, providing an opportunity to review facility needs and increase understanding of school finance. The committee will ultimately develop a recommendation for the Board regarding the size and scope of a potential facility project and community referendum. He also discussed communication options for a bond referendum to help engage and inform the community. No action was taken.
- The District has had the Instructional Support Levy (ISL) since 2008 and it continues to be needed as costs increase and state funding remains insufficient. The current levy expires June 2027 with a renewal extending the program through 2033. The Board adopted the Resolution to Consider Continued Participation in the Instructional Support Program with a public hearing set for March 23, 2026. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Frank. Motion carried unanimously.
- Personnel:
 - Misti Hearron has submitted her resignation as North Elementary Office Manager.
 - The Board discussed the information they would like to review in order to determine whether to continue the shared School Resource Officer (SRO) position with the Decatur County Sheriff's Office.

ACTION ITEMS CONT'D

- Board Policy:
 - The Board approved the second reading of board policy 606.03R1-Animals in the Classroom – Guidelines for the Use of Professional Therapy Dogs. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Saxton. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The Board determined that therapy dog services will be paused until additional information on the benefits is reviewed at the March 23, 2026 meeting. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Frank. Motion carried 3-1 with Saxton opposing.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- Superintendent Coffelt shared the staff survey results for the draft 2026-2027 school calendar. Next year's school calendar will be approved at the March meeting.
- Board Business:
 - SBO Broich shared the fiscal year 2027 certified budget timeline which maps out the public hearings necessary in March and April 2026.
 - The proposal from TrustCentric Consulting that was presented last month will be revisited at a later time.
 - Principal Johnson is developing the online school application with a goal to have the application submitted to the Iowa Department of Education by May.
 - Superintendent Coffelt shared a branding proposal to develop custom brand marks and guidelines aligned with the District's vision.
- Upcoming Dates:
 - a. March 23, 2026: Proposed Property Tax Public Hearing @ 6:00 pm – High School TAP Room 1122
 - b. March 23, 2026: Regular Meeting @ 6:05 pm – High School TAP Room 1122
 - c. April 22, 2026: Regular Meeting @ 7:30 pm – High School TAP Room 1122
 - d. May 13, 2026: Regular Meeting @ 7:30 pm – High School TAP Room 1122

Saxton moved the meeting adjourn at 7:54 p.m. Second by Tharp.

Amber Swartz, President

Becky Broich, Board Secretary