

Minutes for March 23, 2026 Central Decatur Board of Education Meeting

The Central Decatur Community School Board of Education met in regular session in the High School Library on Monday, March 23, 2026.

Board members present: Nick Tharp, Cassy Allen, and Jo Frank. Amber Swartz and Sean Saxton joined virtually.

Board members absent: None

Others in attendance: Amy Whittington, Dan Johnson, Chris Coffelt, and four guests.

Board President Swartz called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m. Board Vice-President Allen assumed control of the meeting upon arriving in person, as Board President Swartz was participating virtually.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

- The public hearing for the proposed 2026-2027 school calendar was held. No written or public comment was given.
- The public hearing for the proposed instructional support levy resolution was held. No written or public comment was given.
- A community member discussed the Therapy Dog Program.

CONSENSUS ITEMS AND REPORTS:

The following consent items were approved:

- The agenda for March 23, 2026.
- Minutes of the previous meeting on February 9, 2026.
- Financial reports for the following funds for February 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 March:
General Fund \$189,779.38; Activity Fund \$29,970.17; Lunch Fund \$23,652.04; Capital Projects Fund \$49,906.83; PPEL Fund \$468.00; Management Fund \$9,119.75.
- The following open enrollment applications to attend CD were approved: Two students from Clarke CSD, one from Lamoni CSD, three students from Mormon Trail CSD, and one student from Wayne CSD.
2025-26 - One student from Lamoni (Kindergarten) and one student from Mormon Trail CSD (12th grade).
The Board approved to waive the first 90-days of transfer eligibility to participate in varsity contests and competitions for two students, one to Clarke CSD effective the end of the 2025-2026 school year, and one to Mt Ayr CSD for the 2026-2027 school year.
- There were no fundraising requests.

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

ACTION ITEMS:

- Personnel:
 - The Board accepted the following resignations: Brent Muller, Director of Maintenance; Crystal Locke, Secondary Math; and Matt Kruzich, Secondary Special Education. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Swartz. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The Board approved the hire of Chalin Dassau as Assistant JH Boys Track Coach and the Memorandum of Understanding with Green Hills AEA for 2026-2027 services and supports. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Swartz. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The Board approved to share baseball with Lamoni CSD at Lamoni for the summer of 2026. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Frank. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The decision to continue sharing the School Resource Officer position with Decatur County was tabled. **Motion** by Frank, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - After discussion about the Therapy Dog Program at CD, Frank made the **motion** that the therapy dog complete training and pass the public access test prior to requesting a return to school. Second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Classified notifications: Resignation by Reyna Gutierrez, Custodian. Hire of Tina Washburn as North Elementary Office Manager.

ACTION ITEMS CONT'D

- District Projects/Purchases:
 - The Board approved the renewal of the Natural Gas Program Participation Agreement for 2026-27 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 Tharp, second by Swartz. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The Board approved the replacement of the HVAC system for the main kitchen in the JH/HS by Travis Mechanical & Controls. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Swartz. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The Board approved the necessary resurfacing of the track to extend the life of the track through Midwest Track. **Motion** by Swartz, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Superintendent Coffelt shared highlights from the March 5 District Facility Community Task Force meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 6 and will include a tour of South Elementary. The outcome of the meeting will be a recommendation from the committee to the Board for the size and scope of any potential construction project.
- The Board adopted the Resolution to Continue Participation in the Instructional Support Program. **Motion** by Swartz, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board approved the 2026-2027 Calendar. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Frank. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board approved renewal of Christensen Mowing Service and Midwest Dust Solutions with no increase of cost for the 2026 season. **Motion** by Frank, second by Swartz. Motion carried with Tharp abstaining.
- The Board approved the board policy updates for polices: 202.02; 406.05; 406.06; 407.05; 501.15; 802.02. These updates were legislative or minor changes which can be approved at one meeting. **Motion** by Tharp, second by Frank. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- Board Business:
 - Superintendent Coffelt shared the latest School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) legislative update.
 - Congrats to DBO Specialist Nicole Martz and the entire Nutrition Department for successfully completing the Iowa Department of Education district nutrition audit.
 - CD will host Leadership Iowa on April 9, which will provide the opportunity to highlight our CTE programs.
 - The IHSAA has awarded CD the opportunity to host the state qualifying track meet May 2026.
 - Five CD staff will attend the NIET 2026 National Conference on Education on April 1 and 2. This conference supports district work to develop teacher leaders, enhance classroom instruction and more positively impact student learning.
- Upcoming Dates:
 - a. April 6: Facility Committee Meeting @ 5:30 pm – South Elementary
 - b. April 22: Board of Education Regular Meeting @ 7:30 p.m. – High School Library.
 - c. May 13: Regular Meeting @ 7:30 p.m. – High School Tap Room 1122.
 - d. June 8: Regular Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. – High School TAP Room 1122.

Tharp moved the meeting adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Second by Frank.

The Board entered into exempt session under Iowa Code Chapter 20.17(3) for collective bargaining strategy.

Amber Swartz, President

Becky Broich, Board Secretary