

Minutes for April 22, 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 Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

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

Board members absent: None

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

Board President Swartz called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

- Cayle Buckingham provided information regarding the Therapy Dog Program. A few community members expressed support for the SRO position with one community member expressing concern regarding performing arts scheduling and other calendar conflicts.
- The public hearing for the proposed 2026-2027 certified budget was held. No written or public comment was given.

CONSENSUS ITEMS AND REPORTS:

The following consent items were approved:

- The agenda for April 22, 2026.
- Minutes of the previous meetings on March 23, 2026.
- Financial reports for the following funds for March 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 April:
General Fund \$72,556.58; Activity Fund \$18,417.10; Lunch Fund \$25,059.07; Scholarship Fund \$1,200.00; Capital Projects Fund \$49,906.83; PPEL Fund \$3,256.76; Bond and Interest Fund \$363,412.50.
- Open enrollment applications to attend CD beginning the 2026-27 school year for two Kindergarten students, one from Clarke CSD and one from Lamoni CSD.
- Senior trip to Branson, Mo April 27-29, 2026. There were no fundraising requests.

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

LEARNING LINK:

- Secondary Principal Dan Johnson highlighted the goals and objectives identified in the District Career and Academic Plan (DCAP), reviewing the opportunities and actions to ensure students have explored and identified post-secondary pathways, including enrolling in post-secondary education, employment, or enlistment. Students start this plan in eighth grade using Xello college and career readiness software and continue to review it through their senior year. House File 316 expanded career exploration to grades five-seven.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Personnel:
 - The Board accepted the resignation from Curtis Boothe as Head HS Boys Basketball Coach with expressed appreciation for 20+ years of coaching boys and girls basketball. **Motion** by Saxton, second by Frank. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The Board approved the hire of Bryan Mojica as Assistant JH Baseball Coach. **Motion** by Allen, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - The Board approved to share softball with Lamoni CSD at Lamoni for the summer of 2026. **Motion** by Saxton, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Sheriff Chris Lane shared community survey results regarding the SRO program. The Board approved continuing to share the School Resource Officer position with Decatur County/City of Leon. **Motion** by Allen, second by Saxton. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Classified notifications: Resignations with expressed appreciation - Charlotte Rippey as a Paraprofessional effective the end of the school year and John Rippey as the Activities/Weekend Custodian effective September 6, 2026.

ACTION ITEMS CONT'D

- Budget:
 - The budget guarantee is a mechanism that is designed to respond to declining enrollment, allowing districts to receive an increase of 1% over the prior year's Regular Program District Cost. The board adopted the following resolution in order to receive the scale down or 101% budget guarantee. Resolution: RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Central Decatur Community School District, will levy property tax for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa.
 - The Board adopted the 2026-2027 school budget with a tax rate of \$12.78 per \$1,000 taxable valuation. Approval of budget guarantee resolution and the 2026-2027 school budget: **Motion** by Allen, second by Saxton. Motion carried unanimously. Roll call vote: Ayes: Allen, Swartz, Tharp, Frank, and Saxton. Nays: None.
- District Projects/Purchases:
 - Superintendent Coffelt shared highlights from the April 8 District Facility Community Task Force meeting and the April 22 community meeting. The Board will hold a work session in May to review next steps. No action was taken.
- The board approved Class of 2026 students for graduation, pending successful completion of all district graduation requirements. **Motion** by Allen, second by Frank. Motion carried unanimously. Students have missed one day due to inclement weather. The 2025-2026 calendar was developed with a 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 Frank, second by Allen. Motion carried unanimously.
- The following Southwestern Community College (SWCC) Educational Services Contracts were approved:
 - Summer 2026: Health Science Pre-Nursing, Carpentry & Building Trades, and Applied Engineering Technology.
 - 2026-2027: Health Sciences, Welding Career Academy, Carpentry and Building Trades, Automotive Repair, Computer Networking, Applied Engineering Technology and Arts and Sciences courses. **Motion** by Saxton, second by Frank. Motion carried unanimously.
- The first reading for board policy 409.03, including regulations and exhibits, to define year as a rolling 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee takes FMLA leave. **Motion** by Allen, second by Frank. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- Board Business:
 - Superintendent Coffelt shared the latest School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) legislative update.
- Upcoming Dates:
 - a. May 5: National Teacher Appreciation Day
 - b. May 4-8: Staff recognition Week
 - c. May: Board Appreciation Month
 - d. May 13: Regular Meeting @ 7:30 p.m. – High School Tap Room 1122.
 - e. May 17: 2026 Graduation @ 1 p.m.
 - f. June 15: Regular Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. – High School TAP Room 1122.

Frank moved the meeting adjourn at 9:19 p.m. Second by Allen.

Amber Swartz, President

Becky Broich, Board Secretary