

Minutes for May 13, 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, May 13, 2026.

Board members present: Sean Saxton and Nick Tharp. Jo Frank via phone until joining in person at 7:44. Cassy Allen joined the meeting at 8:07 and Amber Swartz at 8:16.

Board members absent: None

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

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. As both the Board President and Vice President were delayed, Saxton moved for Tharp to serve as President Pro Tem and conduct the meeting until the arrival of the Board President or Vice President. Second by Frank. Motion carried unanimously.

No public comment was given.

CONSENSUS ITEMS AND REPORTS:

The following consent items were approved:

- The agenda for May 13, 2026.
- Minutes of the previous meetings on April 22, 2026.
- Financial reports for the following funds for April 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 May:
General Fund \$128,686.27; Activity Fund \$26,766.26; Lunch Fund \$26,438.13; Capital Projects Fund \$49,906.70; PPEL Fund \$3,211.67.
- There were no open enrollment applications.
- There were no fundraising or field trip requests.

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

LEARNING LINK:

- Members of the Behavior Intervention and Support Team (BIST) Vision Team provided an overview of the BIST program. The program is designed to help students develop emotional awareness and positive coping skills to support safe, productive, and nonviolent behavior both inside and outside the classroom. Key components of the program include proactive and preventative strategies that help students learn self-regulation and behavior reset skills, teacher consistency through common language and expectations, and emotional mastery skills that help students problem-solve and maintain emotional control. Staff participate in quarterly professional development as well as work with an external consultant to support consistent implementation of the program.

ACTION ITEMS:

- District Facilities/Projects/Purchases:
 - The Board approved the purchase of portable goal posts needed for the shortened field used in 8-man football. The low quote was submitted by BSN Sports. **Motion** by Allen, second by Frank. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Superintendent Coffelt reviewed recommendations from the District Facility Task Force regarding the size and scope of a potential facility project and future community referendum. The general consensus of the task force was to construct a new addition connecting South Elementary to North Elementary to create a single-campus setting, along with renovations to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) area and additional improvements to the junior high/high school facilities. Proposed next steps and a tentative project timeline were also shared. A June work session is planned. The formal facilities task force recommendation will be reviewed at the June Board meeting.
- Secondary Principal Johnson reviewed the application submitted to the Iowa Department of Education to establish an online academy, "CD RED Way Learning Academy", providing a flexible learning option for students in grades 7-12. The Board approved the application. **Motion** by Saxton, second by Frank. Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS CONT'D

- Personnel:
The Board approved the following:
 - Resignation from Tim Casey as elementary classroom teacher and coach.
 - Hire of BreAnn Rhodes as special education teacher.
 - Continue sharing the Business Communications position with Martendsdale St. Marys for 2026-2027.
 - Lane change request from Colby Wilken to move from BA to BA+12 for the 2026-2027 school year.
Motion by Allen, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Summer School Staff:
 - Summer school Coordinators: Tracy Martin – Elementary and Micheala Lane – Middle School
 - Tricia Applegate – High School Credit Recovery Teacher, Carlee Hamilton, Jenny Jones, Torie Martz, Lisa Jackson, Beth Hall, Brandi Boyd, Carter Wilken, Jessica Muller, Dorota Bear, Gabriel Novoa, Colby Wilken, Robin Bear, Macy Hamilton, and Kinslee Hiebing**Motion** by Saxton, second by Tharp. Motion carried unanimously.
- The second 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 was approved. **Motion** by Frank, second by Allen. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- Board Business:
 - Superintendent Coffelt recognized Staff Appreciation Week and thanked Nicole Martz for her outstanding work coordinating meals, treats, and activities for staff throughout the week. Superintendent Coffelt also expressed appreciation to the Board members for their continued leadership, service, and commitment to the District.
 - The following staff members were recognized as National Honor Society Teachers of the Year: Justine Buckingham, Nurse and Health Occupations Academy Teacher, and Steve Schmidt, Secondary Physical Education Teacher.
 - Superintendent Coffelt shared that the 2026 legislative session has concluded and the District will now begin reviewing and analyzing the legislative changes impacting schools.
 - The Board continued discussion regarding the Therapy Dog Program. Related board policies are expected to be reviewed during the June and July meetings.
 - Superintendent Coffelt discussed the possibility of establishing a student board representative position for the 2026–2027 school year.
- Upcoming Dates:
 - a. May: Board Recognition Month
 - b. May 17: 2026 Graduation @ 1 p.m.
 - c. June 1: Board Work Session @ 5:00 pm – High School TAP Room 1122
 - d. June 9: IASB Summit on Student Success, FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny
 - e. June 11: Regular Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. – High School TAP Room 1122
 - f. July 13: Regular Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. – High School TAP Room 1122
 - g. August 10: Regular Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. – High School TAP Room 1122

Allen moved the meeting adjourn at 9:55 p.m. Second by Frank.

Amber Swartz, President

Becky Broich, Board Secretary