

RESCHEDULED BOARD MEETING
April 21, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Cambridge Elementary Classroom #19
312 South West Street
Cambridge, Illinois 61238

The Cambridge Community Unit School District #227 Board of Education met for a rescheduled meeting on April 21, 2025.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Mr. Humphrey called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm with a roll call attendance. Members present were Chad Humphrey, Culley Medley, Carrie Boelens, and Becky Blackert. Also present were Jenna Bibb, Superintendent; Bob Reagan, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; and Susan Sullivan, Board Secretary.

Mrs. Boelens made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2025 meeting. Mr. Medley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Board Reorganization Agenda

Mr. Humphrey read the results from the April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election. To serve an unexpired 2-year term, there were no candidates. To serve a full 4-year term from Cambridge Township 15N Range 3E, there were no candidates. To serve a full 4-year term from the remaining congressional townships, Jared Brewer received 108 votes and Culley Medley received 94 votes. Chad Humphrey received 15 votes as a write-in candidate a full 4-year term for Cambridge Township 15N Range 3E.

Mr. Humphrey announced vacancies for a Board Position in the Rural Districts and a Board Position in the Cambridge Districts.

Newly elected Board members Jared Brewer and Chad Humphrey took the Oath of Office.

Public Participation:

Without a quorum, the Board moved to Public Participation. There were no comments, but Mr. Humphrey read an invitation from Christine Wexell, Cambridge Ambulance Coordinator, and Chris Brown, Cambridge Fire Chief, to Board members to participate in Operation Prom on May 1st.

Administrative Reports:

Mrs. Pine, Elementary Principal, shared a written report:

- School Improvement Goals:
 - The ILT (Instructional Leadership Team) has been hard at work analyzing student data to identify a key area for growth. After reviewing both IAR and Aimsweb data, they have determined that implementing a schoolwide read-aloud strategy will help support literacy development in both literary texts (fiction, narratives, poetry) and informational texts (nonfiction, technical texts).
 - The ILT will present this initiative to the staff during the next early-out on May 2nd, and plans to launch the strategy schoolwide beginning next fall. Some of the benefits of incorporating regular read-alouds into the classroom include: Modeling Fluent Reading, Vocabulary Development, Improved Comprehension Skills, Building a Love of Reading, Introducing Complex Content, Modeling and Navigating Text Features, Building Background Knowledge, and Encouraging Critical Thinking and Questioning
- IAR Testing IAR testing was last week. Students did a great job and they have been looking forward to seeing test scores.
- CES had a great turnout for our parent night with Trooper Wilson. It was an eye opening presentation on online safety. Annie Wood and CPC members also shared some information from the book the Anxious Generation.

Mr. Reagan, Jr/Sr High Principal, shared the following:

- Thank you to the Cambridge Methodist Church for allowing us to use the church for administering the ACT again this year. Thank you to CPC for providing snacks.
- They have finished IAR testing at the JH. To celebrate, they took the students up to the community center and park to relax and have some fun.
- Officer Wilson spoke with high school students last Tuesday. He spoke about online safety with the freshmen and sophomores.
- A group of high school students attended the Build My Future event at the QCC Expo center for hands-on experience with trades and health care careers. Several students also competed in competitions for CNA, Welding, Construction, Electricity, and CPR.
- Kerigan Lewis and Owen Anderson were honored at the IPA Leadership Awards breakfast.
- Dual credit is going strong. Meetings have been held with BHC and WIU to continue our partnerships.
- Staff members wrapped up their Secret Staff and revealed themselves for the last quarter gift giving. They have also continued to have fun with undercover dress up days with crazy socks, pirate day, and dress like a student.
- Congratulations to the March Cannedness winner, Mrs. Nelson's class. SALT sponsored the can drive with a March Madness style bracket to establish the winner and donated items to the food bank.
- Trooper Wilson spoke to parents about keeping their child safe online. Members of SALT and the JH Student Council provided babysitting.
- On Saturday, April 5th, the JH students participated in the IESA Solo and Ensemble contest. Mr. Reagan shared the many awards that students received.
- The JH/HS Concert Band and Jazz Band participated in the IHSA Organizational Contest on April 11th at Kewanee High School. The Concert Band earned a Division II rating and the jazz band earned a division I rating. The points earned from these ratings combined with the points from the high school students' showing at IHSA solo and ensemble contest in March has placed our music department in 8th place with all the participating class D schools in Illinois!
- Mr. Reagan shared a list of the many students earning FFA honors. Congratulations to our STATE QUALIFYING Parliamentary Procedure and Conduct of Chapter Meetings teams. Congratulations to our Horticulture CDE and Ag Mechanics CDE teams on a successful day at the Section 3 contest at Black Hawk East. Congratulations to our newly elected chapter officers that will be inducted at our Chapter FFA Banquet on April 12th.
- Last week, eight wonderful 2nd semester 8th graders attended the FFA middle school leadership conference Salk Valley Community College! They learned valuable skills to bring back to our FFA chapter and school!
- Three chapter officers spent the day advocating for Illinois Agriculture at our state's capitol! They met with some great FFA supporters, Representative Travis Weaver, Dan Swanson, and Norrine Hammond!

Mrs. Bibb, Superintendent, shared the following:

- The Henry-Stark Executive Board received an update on the Kewanee building project which is currently undergoing asbestos abatement.
- The Ag Complex continues to make progress. Metal casework has arrived. The project is on schedule. There are challenges with the site work, which will be shared later in the meeting.
- All three administrators attended the ROE Meeting on legislative updates. There was a preview of relevant upcoming legislation to watch, current issues, and reminders of required new mandates.
- District Leadership Team (DLT) Update:
 - Goal #1: **Curriculum & Instruction** - *Encourage academic success by providing quality course offerings.*
 - The CES ILT (Instructional Leadership Team) and CHS SIT (School Improvement Team) held a follow-up meeting about the district-wide instructional framework. They have created a survey for staff to share input on professional development needs for next school year.
 - Goal #2: **Human Resources** - *Retain and recruit quality staff equipped to enhance student learning.*

- The Staffing Evaluation is underway. Initial findings indicate the need for more support for student behavior such as counselor, behavior intervention specialist, and special education paraprofessionals. Teachers also report a need for more instructional aides.
 - The Staff Retention team shared their findings. Many were related to items that are contractual, which they will share with the next bargaining team. Administration will review the other suggestions to see what items are feasible.
- Goal #3: ***Building & Grounds - Identify and address necessary facility upgrades to support and enhance student learning.***
 - The Building Committee held the initial Engle Facility Audit meeting.
 - The DLT has created a survey for parents/community/staff survey to gauge priority areas and ways we might gain support from the community. They would like to share on social media and normal communication channels. They are working on the best way to gather information from those who are not reached in those channels.
- Miscellaneous Items:
 - At the August Board meeting, the Board discussed and approved the IDOT Serious Safety Hazard. At that time, the Board recommended that we review if the safety hazard still exists for the Grade School, neither school, or both. Mrs. Bibb has reviewed the original application and updated traffic volume numbers and shared an update. At this point, we will continue to use the original application.
 - Mr. Reagan, Mrs. Pine, and Mrs. Bibb were invited to share their school improvement journeys at a Lead ED all-partner meeting this week. Mr. Reagan and Mrs. Bibb were a part of the original grant from 2017 and Mrs. Pine joined the third round when she became principal. They also spotlighted the team's work in the District Office Transformation.
 - Mrs. Bibb shared the need to pass the resolution for a referendum for an at-large election following the recent vacancies on the ballot. It was determined that we will discuss that resolution prior to the next election.
 - On April 23rd, Mrs. Bibb is meeting with Brad Toone, insurance broker, to go over options for next year. After that initial meeting, she will schedule a meeting with the Insurance Committee.
 - We have received ten FOIA requests this month.
 - Lastly, she shared an expenditure update by funds now that we are 75% through the fiscal year.

Mrs. Jeffries arrived at 7:12 pm, making a quorum.

Mr. Humphrey made a motion to elect Mrs. Bibb as President Pro Tem. Mrs. Boelens seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Edmund was nominated for the office of President by Mr. Humphrey. No other nominations were made. Mr. Edmund was elected by a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Humphrey was nominated for the office of Vice-President by Mrs. Jeffries. No other nominations were made. Mr. Humphrey was elected by a 4-0 vote.

Mrs. Boelens was nominated for the office of Secretary by Mrs. Jeffries. No other nominations were made. Mrs. Boelens was elected by a 4-0 vote.

Mrs. Boelens made a motion to establish Regular Board Meetings at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of the month, with exceptions noted, as listed below:

Monday, June 23, 2025 (date change)

No July Meeting

August 21, 2025

September 18, 2025

October 16, 2025
Monday, November 17, 2025
December 18, 2025
January 15, 2026
February 19, 2026
March 19, 2026
April 16, 2026
May 21, 2026
June 18, 2026

Meetings will be held in Room #19 of Cambridge Elementary School until August, 2025 when they will be moved to the Conference Room of the Agriculture Complex at Cambridge High School. Mr. Brewer seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mrs. Boelens, to approve the consent agenda. Items approved under the consent agenda were:

- a. The bills through April 17, 2025,
- b. Revolving Fund through March 2025,
- c. Treasurer's Report for March 2025,
- d. Grade School Activity Report and the Junior/Senior High School Activity Report for March 2025.

A roll call vote was held. Aye: Humphrey, Jeffries, Boelens, Brewer. Nay: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Boelens, seconded by Mr. Humphrey to approve Becky Blackert to fill the vacant board position. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Jeffries, Boelens, Brewer, Humphrey. Nay: None. Motion carried. A motion was made by Mrs. Jeffries, seconded by Mrs. Boelens to approve Culley Medley to fill the vacant board position. A roll call vote was held Aye: Boelens, Brewer, Humphrey, Jeffries. Nay: None. Motion carried. Mr. Humphrey administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Medley and Mrs. Blackert.

Committee Reports:

Mr. Humphrey shared an update from the Ridgewood Coop Council meeting that was held on April 1, 2025. He shared a coaching update and information about the shot clock requirement that is coming for high school basketball. Once the requirement is in place, there will be no home games at Cambridge High School until the gym is updated with a shot clock.

Mr. Medley shared a report from the Building Committee Meeting that was held on April 3, 2025. At that meeting, the Building Committee heard the initial Engie Report. The team had recommendations for updates that were cosmetic, safety-related, and infrastructure-related. Engie is going to be doing follow-ups with pipes and roofs before reconvening on May 6, 2025. Mr. Medley shared information about other projects that Engie has completed, including renovations at ROWVA.

Mr. Medley also shared a report from the Transportation Committee that was also held on April 3, 2025. The Committee discussed purchasing versus leasing buses to replace the two buses coming off lease this year which will be discussed during action items.

The Henry-Stark Governing Board has not met since the last meeting.

New Business:

After discussion, Mrs. Jeffries made a motion to approve the purchase of 2 used buses up to \$70,000 each. Mrs. Boelens seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Humphrey, Jeffries, Boelens, Medley, Brewer, Blackert. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The current Board Committees include Finance, Transportation, Building, Policy, Negotiations, and Co-op Council with two members each. There is also one representative for the Henry-Stark Governing Board and the Cambridge Academic Foundation. Mr. Medley made a motion to approve Committees as follows:

Finance: Dianne Jeffries, Becky Blackert

Transportation: Lance Edmund, Culley Medley
Building: Lance Edmund, Culley Medley, Becky Blackert
Policy: Carrie Boelens, Dianne Jeffries
Negotiations: Carrie Boelens, Jared Brewer, Lance Edmund
Coop Council: Chad Humphrey, Lance Edmund
Henry-Stark Governing Board: Carrie Boelens
Cambridge Academic Foundation: Becky Blackert

Mrs. Boelens seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

The Board was presented with the list of 2025 Cambridge High School Graduates dependent upon meeting the requirements for Graduation. Mr. Reagan also asked if anyone was interested in speaking at graduation. Board members were requested to contact Mr. Reagan if interested. Mrs. Jeffries made a motion to approve the list. Mr. Brewer seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Mrs. Jeffries made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Consolidated District Plan. Mr. Medley seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Mrs. Bibb shared information about the administrative meeting to discuss special education needs for next school year. As a result of that meeting, the recent staffing survey, and the frequent turnover in social workers at Cambridge, the administration is requesting approval to request an additional 3 days of social work from Henry-Stark Special Education District at a total cost of \$24,000. After discussion, the topic was tabled until the May meeting.

Mrs. Jeffries made a motion to approve an Activity Fund for Gray Matters Collective. Mr. Brewer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Jeffries, Boelens, Medley, Brewer, Blackert. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bibb shared information about conversations with Henry County and the Village of Cambridge about asphaltting the road following the site work at the Agriculture Complex. Each entity had challenges that limited their ability to complete the project this summer. After discussion, Mrs. Jeffries made a motion to approve the concrete bid by Centennial at a cost of \$154,000. Mr. Medley seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Boelens, Medley, Brewer, Blackert, Humphrey, Jeffries. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Executive Session:

Mr. Humphrey made a motion at 8:39 pm to move to executive session for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, student discipline, or to fill a vacancy. Mrs. Boelens seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Brewer, Blackert, Humphrey, Jeffries, Boelens, Medley. Nay: None. Motion carried.

At 9:30 pm, Mrs. Jeffries made a motion to return to open session. Mr. Brewer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Blackert, Boelens, Brewer, Jeffries, Humphrey, Medley. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Jeffries made a motion to approve Lexi Hoste as a volunteer at Cambridge Elementary School. Mr. Humphrey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Boelens, Brewer, Jeffries, Humphrey, Medley, Blackert. Nay: None. Motion carried.

At 9:32 pm, Mr. Brewer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Humphrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

President

Secretary