

SUMMER BOARD RETREAT
June 23, 2025, 5:00 pm
Cambridge High School Library
300 South West Street
Cambridge, Illinois 61238

The Cambridge Community Unit School District #227 Board of Education met on June 23, 2025 at 5:00 pm at the Cambridge High School Library. Members present were Lance Edmund, Chad Humphrey, Carrie Boelens, Culley Medley, Dianne Jeffries, Becky Blackert, and Jared Brewer. Also present were Jenna Bibb, Superintendent; Bob Reagan, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; and Heather Pine, Elementary Principal.

Superintendent Jenna Bibb presented an overview of the 2024-2025 District Leadership Team Plan. She and the principals shared proposed next steps and solicited feedback from Board members.

Principal Bob Reagan led the Board on a tour of the remodeled weight room and Agriculture Complex construction project. Following that, Mrs. Bibb shared results from the Facility Audit and community facility survey. Board members gave feedback on facility project priorities.

At approximately 7:00 pm, the Board adjourned the retreat for the regularly scheduled meeting.

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING
RATIONALE
June 23, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Cambridge High School Library
300 South West Street
Cambridge, Illinois 61238

The Cambridge Community Unit School District #227 Board of Education met for a rescheduled meeting on June 23, 2025.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Mr. Edmund called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm with a roll call attendance. Members present were Lance Edmund, Chad Humphrey, Carrie Boelens, Culley Medley, Dianne Jeffries, Jared Brewer, and Becky Blackert. Also present were Jenna Bibb, Superintendent; Bob Reagan, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Heather Pine, Elementary Principal; Susan Sullivan, Board Secretary; and a community member.

PUBLIC HEARING: FY25 Amended Budget

Mr. Edmund opened a public hearing on the proposed Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2025. Seeing no public comments, Mr. Edmund closed the public hearing.

Consent Agenda:

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

- a. Minutes of the May 15, 2025 meeting,
- b. The bills through June 23, 2025,
- c. Revolving Fund through May 2025,
- d. Treasurer's Report for May 2025,
- e. Grade School Activity Report and the Junior/Senior High School Activity Report for May 2025,
- f. Approval of Resolution Authorizing Board President and Superintendent to review July 2025 Bills Payable and Payroll and approve payment in lieu of July Regular Board Meeting, and
- g. Approval to begin preparing 2025-2026 Budget.

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

Public Participation:

There were no visitor comments.

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Boelens and Mrs. Bibb shared updates from the Henry-Stark Governing and Executive Boards on the new building for Wings Academy. It is projected to cost \$6-7 million and is expected to be completed by August 2026.

Administrative Reports:

Mrs. Pine, Elementary Principal, shared the following report:

- **Wax Museum** 2nd grade students performed their Wax Museum skits on May 15th. The students put in so much work for this event. A big thanks goes to Mr. Hamerlinck and Mrs. Stone for providing the students with this opportunity.
- **Bikes for Books:** Cambridge Elementary partnered with the Cambridge Masonic Lodge to promote academic success through a positive recognition reading program at the end of the school year. The program is simple. For every book a child reads, their name will go into a drawing for a chance to win a bike. They split the competition into two categories, grades K-2 and grades 3-5. The Cambridge Masonic Lodge sponsored the 3-5 competition and Cambridge Elementary sponsored the K-2 competition. Congratulations to Liam Glidden and Alena Hoste for winning a brand new helmet and bike!
- **Krenari House Winner of the Year:** Congratulations to the black house, Sforzo, for winning the Krenari House Winner of the Year! It was a close call this year with Sforzo only winning by 15 points.
- **Reluctant Dragon:** 4th and 5th graders did an amazing job in their play, The Reluctant Dragon! A big thanks to Mrs. Higgs and Mrs. Akers for volunteering their time to help make the play a success. We appreciate all you do to support our students!
- **Cirque Amongus:** What an incredible day! A huge thank you to Sem and Chuck, our amazing Cirque Amongus leaders, and to all the volunteers who helped make everything run so smoothly. Thanks to everybody's efforts, students stepped out of their comfort zones, tried new acts with confidence, and created lasting memories. The laughter and smiles from both students and adults were truly priceless. It was an incredible day that brought our school community together in the best way possible.
- **Christi Reed:** Congratulations to Christi Reed on her retirement after a remarkable career in elementary education. Her dedication, compassion, and impact on students and colleagues alike have left a lasting legacy. We want to thank her for her years of service and wish her all the best in this new chapter.
- **Summer Cleaning:** Our summer cleaning is well underway, and Scott and his crew are doing a great job! Mrs. Pine would also like to acknowledge Justin Nimrick for his hard work in keeping our grounds looking great this summer

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

- Graduation went well. We would like to thank all of those in attendance for supporting our graduating seniors. We graduated 29 seniors this year.
- Jr High Honors Assembly was held May 23. It was a day to honor those students for volunteerism, citizenship, athleticism and academic performance. Many parents, grandparents, relatives and friends were in attendance.
- Retirement Luncheon was May 23 at the high school. We had two retirees from the Jr/Sr high school, Mrs. Lora Fielding and Mrs. Sharon Hulin. We thank them for their many years of service to our students and community.
- Congratulations to the Cambridge FFA Chapter - for being receiving the "Growing Leaders NATIONAL Chapter Award." There are over 1,027,273 FFA members in the United States and 9,235 FFA Chapters.

Mrs. Bibb, Superintendent, shared the following:

- The Henry-Stark Executive Board heard a presentation from the architect of a preliminary overview of the building project. They plan on going out for bid in September and having 8-9 months of construction. They are still planning on the total project being less than \$7 million..
- The Ag Complex continues to make progress. There have been some challenges with drain clean outs and piping and those will be addressed before the road work continues.
- Mr. Reagan, Mrs. Pine, and Mrs. Bibb met with Dara Carr to share the District's tentative Professional Development Plan developed with our Joint Instructional Leadership Team. They have drafted a schedule with a nice balance of district-wide and content-specific professional development opportunities.
- Mr. Reagan, Mrs. Bibb, and Mrs. Pine also met with Duane Stevens and Stephen Martell from the Henry-Stark Health Department and Kathy Marshall, Regional Superintendent to hear information about a possible partnership to secure a school-based mental health therapist. The partnership would be split with 60% of the cost coming from the partner schools and the estimate for Cambridge would be \$28,000-\$30,000. After discussion, the District would like to implement and evaluate the success of the additional social work support already scheduled for next year.
- The District had a great end to the school year with the circus, awards ceremonies, graduation, and a retirement celebration! Mrs. Bibb gave a huge shout-out to our two principals for making it through an exhausting May while making it look easy!
- They will start next school year with New Teacher Orientation on August 7th. They will hold Teacher Institute Days on August 12th and 13th, Back to School Night on August 12th, and the first day of student attendance on August 14th.
- The 104th General Assembly has concluded. Some highlights that impact Cambridge are:
 - Passage of a \$55.2 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2026, including \$307 million in new funding for EBF, which is \$43 million short of the \$350 million increase that is required by statute. The \$43 million that was cut came from the Property Tax Relief Grant, not EBF funding.
 - Mandated Categoricals (MCATs are the reimbursements for transportation and special education costs) were level budgeted, which means that the proration will be decreased due to increased claim costs.
 - Tier 2 pension "fix" was not included, but \$75 million was budgeted to a newly created Social Security Wage Base Reserve Fund to address potential Social Security "safe harbor" shortfalls.
 - A full list of bills that have passed can be reviewed through the bill tracker tool that is available on the IASA/IASBO websites.
- She shared a recommendation to hold the ribbon cutting and open house in conjunction with our August Open House/Back to School Night and requested feedback. Board members shared that they would like to have a separate night, possibly in conjunction with the FFA Drawdown event in order to make it a more special event. The building will also be open during Open House/Back to School Night. Mrs. Bibb will monitor the completion and work to secure a ribbon cutting date.
- Lastly, she shared an expenditure update by funds now that we are 92% through the fiscal year.

Correspondence:

Mr. Edmund read the following letters of correspondence. Mr. Brewer made a motion to accept the items of correspondence. Mrs. Blackert seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

- a. Sharon Hulin – Letter of Retirement
- b. Tiffany Hilton – Bus Driver resignation
- c. Terry Anderson – Baseball Coach resignation

Old Business:

Mrs. Bibb shared an overview of changes to the Amended Budget that include adjustments to offset the capital expense addition to the Transportation Fund. There were also two additional items added to the budget to pay for the interest and fees for the Alternative Revenue Bond out of Fund 30. Mrs. Boelens made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Amended Budget. Mrs. Jeffries seconded the motion. A

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

New Business:

There is weight room equipment and ag shop equipment that is outdated and unneeded. Stenzel's Auction House will auction off and donate the proceeds for two old anvils, but most of the equipment will be scrapped. Mrs. Jeffries made a motion to authorize disposal of these building contents. Mr. Humphrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Mrs. Bibb shared substitute pay rates in the region. To remain competitive with local districts, she recommended increasing the daily rate to \$125, with long-term pay as 1/180th of the first-year teaching pay. Mr. Humphrey made a motion to increase the daily substitute rate as presented. Mr. Medley seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Jeffries, Medley, Brewer, Blackert, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens. Nay: None. Motion carried.

To allow 30 days between the August and September Board meetings for the Tentative Budget to be on display, Mrs. Bibb recommended moving the August Board Meeting to August 14th. Mrs. Boelens made a motion to approve August 14th for the August Board Meeting. Mrs. Jeffries seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Mrs. Jeffries made a motion to approve the transfer of accumulated interest from the Working Cash Fund to the Education Fund. Mrs. Blackert seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Medley, Brewer, Blackert, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens, Jeffries. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Humphrey made a motion to approve the following employees:

1. Seth Spivey – Athletic Director
2. Raina Gully. JH Girls Basketball, Volunteer Assistant Girls Basketball
3. Kyle Schipper - Head Varsity Boys Track
4. Mike Lewis - HS Assistant Football
5. Travis Kane - HS Boys Volunteer Assistant Basketball
6. Gannon Greenman - HS Boys Volunteer Assistant Basketball
7. Keegan Brown - HS Boys Assistant Basketball
8. Ciara Clark – HS Assistant Volleyball Coach
9. Andrea Dalton – Bus Driver

Mr. Brewer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Brewer, Blackert, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens, Jeffries, Medley. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Executive Session:

Mrs. Jeffries made a motion at 7:49 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, or student discipline. Mrs. Boelens seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Brewer, Blackert, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens, Jeffries, Medley. Nay: None. Motion carried.

At approximately 8:25 pm, Mr. Medley made a motion to return to open session. Mrs. Jeffries seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens, Jeffries, Medley, Brewer, Blackert. Nay: None. Motion carried.

At 8:25 pm, Mr. Medley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Blackert seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

President

Secretary