

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

October 16, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Cambridge Agriculture Complex Conference Room\*

***The location of the Regular Board of Education meeting has been changed from Cambridge Elementary School to the Cambridge Agriculture Complex Conference Room.***

300 South West Street  
Cambridge, Illinois 61238

The Cambridge Community Unit School District #227 Board of Education met for a regularly scheduled meeting on October 16, 2025.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Mr. Edmund called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with a roll call attendance. Members present were Lance Edmund, Chad Humphrey, Dianne Jeffries, Jared Brewer, and Becky Blackert. Also present at the meeting were Jenna Bibb, Superintendent; Bob Reagan, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Heather Pine, Elementary Principal; and guest, Mitch Vincent.

**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 September 18, 2025 meeting,
- b. The bills through October 16, 2025,
- c. Revolving Fund through September 2025,
- d. Treasurer's Report for September 2025,
- e. Grade School Activity Report and the Junior/Senior High School Activity Report for September,
- f. FOIA Report.

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

Mrs. Boelens arrived at 7:02 pm.

**Public Participation:**

Mr. Vincent asked for an update on the policy regarding his request to display the 10 Commandment plaque. Mrs. Bibb shared that the policy committee reviewed the policy and made a recommendation to make no changes to the policy which was voted on in September. Mr. Vincent shared that he would display the plaque at the Youth Center until things changed.

**Committee Reports:**

Cambridge Academic Foundation – The October meeting was canceled, but the annual fundraiser will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at Midland Golf Course.

**Administrative Reports:**

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

- The Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) and Building Leadership Team (BLT) met to brainstorm ideas to strengthen the school. She expressed appreciation for the teachers participating on each committee.
- Many teachers participated in Rock Your School on October 3rd, creating engaging, out-of-the-box classroom experiences for students.
- The elementary school celebrated National School Lunch Week with a "Taste the World" theme, serving popular dishes from Mexico, Germany, Italy, and China.
- The school is challenging students, staff, and families to go "Screen Free" from October 20-26, with a goal for families to unplug and reconnect.

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

- Homecoming was a success! Special thanks to Mrs. Miller and SALT for all the effort and work to put it all together! Class games were a lot of fun with the mattress relay as a highlight!
- On Monday, September 29 Trooper Jason Wilson with the Illinois State police presented to the fall semester drivers ed class. Trooper Wilson covered do's and don'ts of a traffic stop with students. He shared personal experiences of he and his colleagues and the presentation was very informative and engaging.
- Congratulations to all those who helped us with our T-Mobile Sweepstakes, although we made a valiant effort, we came up short. Hopefully, next year!
- The senior class monthly meeting was held with our ISAC rep helping students create their FAFSA IDs. Following this ISAC remained for the morning as she and Mrs. Miller worked with students on applications and scholarships for National Application Month.
- We hosted a FAFSA completion night with representatives from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and Black Hawk College providing assistance for families maneuvering the financial aid process for the first time.
- 12 of our juniors elected to take the PSAT/NMSQT this week as part of the National Merit Scholarship program.
- Congratulations to our rotary students of the quarter were Addie Little for High School and Kellyn Wiles for Junior High.
- The freshmen took a trip to the Henry County Fairgrounds to take part in the "Share the Road" event sponsored by the Henry County Farm Bureau. They rotated through many different stations and heard from members about seatbelt safety, mental health, train track safety, farm safety on the roads, and more.
- FCA sponsored "See You at the Pole" before school with a short worship service for students and staff.
- JH students enjoyed a concert by the music group, Cecilia.
- The Gray Matters Collective sponsored a mental health awareness night at a recent volleyball match with Wethersfield. We had a great turn out for everyone to "Glow Through the Gray."
- The National Honor Society is hosting a blood drive coming up November 13th from 7:30AM-11:30AM in the HS gym. Contact Mrs. Akers for an appointment to donate.
- Our book fair is also coming soon! Be sure to check it out during Parent Teacher Conferences.
- Picture day ran smoothly with our new company. We had some fun advertising with staff pictures from grade school and high school displayed!
- This week is National School Lunch week and our cooks had some fun with decorations and foods related to the theme of 'Taste the World - Your School Lunch Passport'
- The senior class attended a career fair at Kewanee High School. They had the opportunity to interact with a large variety of employers and college and military recruiters.
- **FFA:**
  - The FFA sponsored Serve 180 last Monday where members volunteered throughout the community.
  - Harvest Cookout
  - Job Interview, Ag Ed, Ag Sales CDE
  - Section 3 Land Use
  - State Land Use
  - Fright for the Fight this weekend!
  - Farm Safety Display at the Ridgewood Pharmacy - tick safety
  - FFA and Gray Matters hosting Miles for Minds 5K Run and Walk November 22nd. Register now to participate or volunteer.
- **Music:**
  - Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to participate in the District 2 Illinois Music Educators Choral Festival at Augustana College on Nov. 8 - Skyler Cantrell, Adi Wexell, Sophia Nimrick, Carly Dale and Stone Johnson.
  - Fall Play is November 1 and 2.
- **Sports:**
  - Congratulations to Emily Downing for winning the LTC Cross Country Meet.

- Congratulations to Miles Taylor for winning the Sections Meet. State qualifiers are Miles Taylor, Josiah Hoste, Corben Stand, Ruby Beam, Leah Vande Kemp
- Congratulations to the Boys golf team, they are the 1A regional champs!
- Congratulations to Terry Anderson on his hall of fame induction at the homecoming halftime.

Mrs. Bibb, Superintendent, shared the following:

- The ROE Superintendent Meeting covered Reduction in Force (RIF), an overview of a cooperative for building and maintenance supplies, and state updates.
- Henry-Stark Special Education District is holding the bid opening for Wings Academy on Monday and is hoping to begin construction on or around November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Preliminary audit results have been received and are positive, with the full Annual Financial Report (AFR) expected for presentation at the November meeting.
- The district is continuing the Professional Development Plan ("Just Learn It.") focused on the instructional framework, with this week's session concentrating on Setting Clear Learning Goals.
- The Expenditure Update shows the district is within expected spending limits for the Ed fund, Building, IMRF, and Tort funds, but over budget in the Transportation fund due to lease payments and the bus purchase in July.

**Correspondence:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Mrs. Pine and Mr. Reagan presented the school improvement plans for the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Bibb shared proposed district goals that included an instructional goal, a human resources goal, a facilities goal, and a finance goal. After discussion and a minor adjustment, Mr. Brewer made a motion to accept the school and district goals. Mrs. Boelens seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mrs. Boelens, to approve the Resolution to Regulate Expense Reimbursements with a \$2,500 limit, as recommended by the Policy Committee. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Boelens, Jeffries, Brewer, Blackert, Edmund, Humphrey. Nay: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jeffries, seconded by Mrs. Blackert, to approve the Fall and Winter Diesel Fuel Contract with Gold Star FS for the period of October 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026, at a diesel rate of \$3.22 per gallon and a gasoline rate of \$2.73 per gallon. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Jeffries, Brewer, Blackert, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens. Nay: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Boelens, seconded by Mrs. Jeffries, to approve Mrs. Blackert as the Board Delegate for the Joint Annual Conference Assembly. Motion carried 6-0.

Mrs. Bibb led a discussion regarding the FY25 Tax Levy. The discussion covered potential level funding from the state/federal government and noted that the greatest means to generate new revenue to pay for increasing costs is through the levy. She presented historic information on the EAV, levy dollars received, and tax rate. If the estimated EAV is accurate, the Education Fund would receive an increase of \$59,474, which is approximately \$72,000 short of covering the salaries and benefits increases outlined in the Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2026-2027. The Board preferred to discuss the levy as a whole instead of through the Finance Committee and requested that Mrs. Bibb bring three options to the November meeting, along with information on the taxpayer impact. No action was taken.

A discussion was held regarding a request to review official pay rates. The proposal included increasing pay for Junior High (JH) football to \$90, JH Volleyball (VB) to \$85, and JH Softball to \$140 per official per contest, which is estimated to increase the cost by \$1,130 annually. In addition to official costs, the Board discussed gate costs and requested that Mr. Reagan research gate costs of area schools, including the possibility of annual passes. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mrs. Blackert, to approve the employment of Jordan Ball as Varsity Baseball Coach. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Brewer, Blackert, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens, Jeffries. Nay: None. Motion carried.

**Executive Session:** None.

At 8:18 pm, Mrs. Boelens made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Jeffries seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

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President

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Secretary