

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

November 17, 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 November 17, 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, Carrie Boelens, Dianne Jeffries, Culley Medley, Jared Brewer, and Becky Blackert. Also present at the meeting were Jenna Bibb, Superintendent; Bob Reagan, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; and Heather Pine, Elementary Principal.

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. Minutes of the October 16, 2025 regular meeting.
- b. Minutes of the October 27, 2025 committee meeting.
- c. The bills through November 17, 2025.
- d. Revolving Fund through October 2025.
- e. Treasurer's Report for October 2025.
- f. Grade School Activity Report and the Junior/Senior High School Activity Report for October.
- g. FOIA Report.

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

Public Participation:

There were no public comments.

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Blackert shared an update from the Cambridge Academic Foundation. They are in the midst of gala planning, which is scheduled for February 28th. They also need to recruit new members.

Mrs. Jeffries shared an update from the recent Policy Committee that met on October 27, 2025. They reviewed the PRESS Issue 119 update. In addition to reviewing the policies, the committee also discussed implementing a regular policy review schedule to proactively ensure that policies are up to date and aligned with practice.

Administrative Reports:

Mrs. Pine, Elementary Principal, shared the following report for Cambridge Elementary at the November School Board Meeting:

- **School Improvement Goals:** Teachers have analyzed our fall Aimsweb benchmark data to set goals for the school year, identifying strengths, areas for growth, and school-wide trends. The Instructional Leadership Team has met multiple times to examine school data and determine a student learning problem to address. This year, they are focusing on math due to low student/school growth. They plan to increase students' effort and motivation by creating engaging challenges, and are closely examining the Operations and Algebraic Thinking domains to identify and address possible gaps in fact fluency.
- **Fire Prevention:** Mrs. Pine shared a big thank you to the Cambridge Fire Protection District for teaching our students about fire safety. The community is truly fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteer firefighters who go above and beyond for the community!

- **Parent Teacher Conferences:** Cambridge Elementary School had another strong year of conferences with 93.6% parent attendance!
- **Caring Hearts and Shop with Cop:** Caring Hearts is a program that provides assistance to families in the school district with Christmas gifts. If your family would like to help sponsor a family, child, or purchase a gift, please contact the elementary school office for more information. Shop with a Cop night will be held on Friday, December 5th. This year, the program will give 12 students the opportunity to shop with member of our police department, wrap presents, and have pizza. This is such a rewarding evening for all involved.
- **Christmas Concerts:** Mrs. Pine shared details about the upcoming Christmas Concerts. The school will once again host three separate concerts:
 - December 10th: Pre-K and Kindergarten Concert at 6:00 PM; 1st and 2nd Grade Concert at 7:00 PM.
 - December 11th: 3rd-5th Grade Concert at 6:00 PM. All concerts will take place at Cambridge High School, and the school is making plans to live stream the performances on Facebook.

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

- **School Activities:**
 - The National Honor Society (NHS) hosted a blood drive last week with many volunteers participating.
 - The ASVAB test was administered to seniors and juniors on November 6. Starting next year, only juniors and those entering the military will take the test. Representatives are scheduled to return to provide an interpretation of the scores.
 - This year's Book Fair was a great success. Mrs. Jewett set up shop in the library, at parent-teacher conferences, and at the school play.
- **Community Involvement:**
 - The school is finishing up its Food Drive. Various student organizations collaborated to collect donation items. The students successfully put together over 60 meal kits.
- **Music News:**
 - The following students were selected to participate in the Monmouth College Honor Band on October 30th: Austin Woodbury, Brooke McCoy, Addie Stone, Jack Gibson, and Mylee Fry.
 - The school play was a success.
 - The Veterans Concert was held on November 6th, featuring participation from students in the high school, junior high, and elementary school.
 - Elementary through High School choirs will be singing for "Christmas on the Square" on Saturday, December 6th.
 - The Junior High/High School Christmas Concert is scheduled for Friday, December 12th at 7 PM.
- **Counseling News:**
 - Mrs. Miller took a group of students to Western Illinois University for a Future Teacher Conference. This activity helped students meet one of the components of the Education College and Career Pathway Endorsement.
 - A group of students also participated in the Manufacturing and Trades Showcase in Galesburg.
 - Mrs. Miller was invited to be a guest lecturer at WIU to counseling interns.
 - Mrs. Wood and Abi Carpenter, the social worker, are conducting "drop-in" visits at the junior high to present Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons.
 - **Congratulations:** Annie Wood was named a 2025 Illinois School Counselor of the Year Honoree. She received the award at the ISCA Conference last Friday.
- **FFA:**
 - The Agricultural Sales Team placed 7th out of 43 teams at the National FFA Convention and received a gold ranking.
 - The Middle School FFA members were named the national winners after being National Finalists for Model of Excellence.

- **Sports**

- Meet the Spartans" was held last Saturday night at AHS.
- **Congratulations:** The High School Girls Cross Country Team finished 11th in state.
- Four-time medalist Emly Downing finished 9th.
- Jana Vande Kemp earned All-State for the second straight year with a 20th-place finish.
- Good luck was wished to the 7th and 8th-grade Vikings Girls Basketball team, who are playing in the LTC tournament tonight!

- **Winter Sports Coaches**

- **Varsity Girls Basketball:** Luke Leander , Zoie Wall , Raina Gully
- **Varsity Boys Basketball:** Tom Morarity , Keegan Brown , Kyle Schipper
- **Junior High Boys Basketball:** Josh Gibson , Travis Galle
- **Junior High Volleyball:** Danyelle Cantrell , Amanda Bennett
- **Junior High Cheer:** Haliegh Mulvaney

Mrs. Bibb, Superintendent, shared the following:

- The ROE Superintendent Meeting covered Strategic and Facilities Planning.
- The Henry-Stark Special Education District approved a bid for construction on Wings Academy. They held their pre-construction meeting and are planning on beginning work next Wednesday.
- The district is continuing the Professional Development Plan ("Just Learn It.") focused on the instructional framework, with this week's session concentrating on Feedback.
- The District Leadership Team (DLT) met last week to work on the four Board goals. They plan to meet again on December 2nd to solidify an implementation plan.
- Mrs. Bibb shared enrollment trends and enrollment forecasting.
- She shared a preview that next month, the Board will approve a resolution to abate the tax levied for the 2017 Alternative Revenue Bonds. The District will use Sales Tax Revenue to pay the principal and interest annually. Next year, that amount will be \$104,600.
- 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:

Mr. Edmund read a letter from Mrs. Jeffries resigning from the Board of Education effective December 31, 2025. Several board members expressed their appreciation for her twenty years of service.

Old Business:

Mrs. Bibb shared three options for tax rates with different levels of Tort funding, as requested at the last month's meeting. She also shared potential tax increases for a \$150,000 house. After much discussion, Mrs. Jeffries made a motion to approve the third tentative levy option with an estimated tax rate of 5.2677, representing a 9.37% increase. Mr. Medley seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held: Aye: Boelens, Jeffries, Medley, Brewer, Blackert, Edmund, Humphrey. Nay: None. Motion carried. Mrs. Bibb will post the Truth in Taxation notices in preparation for the Truth in Taxation hearing at 7:00 pm at the December 18th Board Meeting.

To maximize the Tort Levy, particularly out of the Education Fund, Mrs. Bibb researched other school districts and their salary allowances to the Tort Fund. She recommended that the Board add 10% of the salaries for Counselors, Coaches/Sponsors, and Special Education Teachers to maximize funds moving out of the Education Fund. The Board will vote on any changes at the December meeting.

New Business:

Hearing no questions about the PRESS Policy Review: Issue 119, a motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mrs. Jeffries to accept this as a first reading of the enclosed policies. Motion carried 7-0.

Mrs. Bibb shared the following highlights from the Fiscal Year 2025 Audit:

- **Financial Profile Score:** 3.9 out of 4.0 (Recognition)

- Based on long-term debt outstanding
- **Long-Term Debt:** 27.06% of allowable debt limit
- **Cash on Hand:** 207.92 days
- **Operating Funds** - surplus of \$40,858 for the year
- **Combined Fund Balances:** \$3,384,335
- **Economic Interest Statement** - one not filed
- **Auditor Recommendation:** permanent transfer to cover anticipated shortfall in Education Fund

A motion was made by Mrs. Boelens, seconded by Mrs. Blackert to accept the Fiscal Year 2025 audit as presented. A roll call vote was held: Aye: Jeffries, Medley, Brewer, Blackert, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens
Nay: None. Motion carried.

The administration shared a brief overview of the 2024-2025 report card. It was noted that each of the schools had received a "Commendable" designation. Mr. Medley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to accept the Illinois School Report Card for 2024-2025 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Mrs. Jeffries made a motion to approve the application of the FY26 School Maintenance Grant. Mrs. Blackert seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Medley, seconded by Mr. Edmund to approve the employments listed:

- Cameron Stiles – Seasonal Maintenance.
- Cole Franks – Volunteer Weight Room Supervisor.
- Jenna Franks – Volunteer Weight Room Supervisor.

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

Executive Session

At 8:30 pm, a motion was made by Mr. Medley, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, to enter 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. A roll call vote was held: Aye: Brewer, Blackert, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens, Jeffries, Medley. Nay: None. Motion carried.

At 8:41 pm, a motion was made by Mrs. Jeffries, seconded by Mr. Medley, to exit executive session. A roll call vote was held: Aye: Blackert, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens, Jeffries, Medley, Brewer. Nay: None. Motion carried.

A discussion was held about the random drug testing policy. No action was taken.

At 8:51 pm, Mrs. Boelens made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Brewer seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

President

Secretary