

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 15, 2026, 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 January 15, 2026. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited. President Edmund called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with a roll call attendance.

- **Members Present:** Lance Edmund, Chad Humphrey, Carrie Boelens, Jared Brewer, and Becky Blackert
- **Members Absent:** Culley Medley
- **Also Present:** Jenna Bibb, Superintendent; Bob Reagan, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Heather Pine, Elementary Principal; and members of the public.

Consent Agenda:

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

- Minutes of the December 18, 2025 regular meeting.
- The bills through January 15, 2026.
- Revolving Fund through December 2025.
- Treasurer's Report for December 2025.
- Grade School Activity Report and the Junior/Senior High School Activity Report for December 2025.
- FOIA Report.

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

Public Participation:

There were no public comments.

Reports:

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

- **Staffing Updates:** Brandy Swanson has been hired as the new AIM coordinator. Appreciation was expressed to Tera Hicks and Lisa Brackett from the ROE for their assistance in overseeing the program during the first semester.
- **Community Philanthropy:** Mrs. Cantwell's class successfully raised \$716.62 for the Cambridge Food Pantry. These funds were collected from donations received during the elementary Christmas concerts.
- **Upcoming School Events:** The Cambridge Parents Club (CPC) is scheduled to bring back the school carnival on February 7th from 4:00–7:00 pm.
- **Cambridge Academic Foundation Gala:** The Foundation will host a mystery play and gala titled "Murder at the Mall: The Class Reunion" on Saturday, February 28, at the Midland Golf Club in Kewanee.
 - The event features a play written by Tom Akers and includes a live auction, silent auction, and a 50/50 raffle.
 - Doors open at 5:30 pm, with food available for purchase until 6:15 pm and the show beginning at 6:30 pm.
 - Tickets are priced at \$25 until January 30th and \$30 thereafter.

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

- **First Semester Honor Roll:** The report provided a comparison of student academic achievement between last year and this year:
 - **Junior High High Honors:** Decreased from 13% last year to 10% this year.

- **Junior High Honor Roll:** Increased from 26% last year to 39% this year.
- **Senior High High Honors:** Increased from 23% last year to 24% this year.
- **Senior High Honor Roll:** Increased from 25% last year to 27% this year.
- **School Musical:** This year's musical production will be "The Sound of Music".
- **Cambridge Chess Club:** The club officially commenced its meetings on Wednesday.
- **Guest Speaker:** Poet Aubrey Baines visited the school to speak with students regarding participation in the Poetry Out Loud Program.
- **Trap Shooting Club:** Tucker Taber, CHS junior, requested that the Board approve a Trap Shooting Club for the spring season. He gave information about expenses, grant opportunities, competitions, and other logistics. Mr. Finch and Mr. Strand provided additional information.

Both principals shared highlights from the 2024-2025 Illinois Report Card.

- **State Designations:** All three schools in the district—Cambridge Community Grade School, Cambridge Junior High School, and Cambridge High School—received a "Commendable" designation. A Commendable school is defined as having overall performance not in the top 10% of schools, but with no targeted student groups performing at or below the lowest-performing 5% of schools.
- **District Performance Snapshots:** The district saw improvements in several key areas for the 2024-2025 period:
 - The graduation rate increased to 93.5%.
 - Chronic absenteeism dropped to 8.7%.
 - IAR/ISA Proficiency rates were reported at 65.4% for ELA, 51.7% for Math, and 74% for Science.
 - The "Freshman on Track" rate reached 96.2%.

Mrs. Bibb, Superintendent, shared the following:

- **Meetings & Recognition:** Approved personnel changes and reviewed the Gorenz Annual Financial Report at the Henry-Stark Executive Board meeting. Anderson Taylor (CES fifth grader) presented on the Cambridge Natural History Museum to the Rotary Club.
- **RISE Network Grant Opportunity:** She participated in a meeting regarding the RISE Network grant for distance learning technology. This network offers synchronous/asynchronous classes and dual credit opportunities.
- **Community Feedback:** The District received a request to consider live streaming and feedback regarding tax levy transparency and the need for specific cost-reduction targets.
- **Facilities & HR:** Omni began a second-opinion Facility Review, with an in-depth visit scheduled for Spring Break. The HR Sub-Committee is developing plans for new staff induction, leadership operations teams, and recognition programs.
- **Board Updates:** A temporary volunteer is needed for the Board Policy Committee to review the latest PRESS issue. The IASB "Collective Bargaining" meeting is set for March 3, 2026.
- **Financials:** Most funds are within expected limits at the fiscal year's 50% mark. The Education fund is at 54.3%, while Transportation is at 70.3% due to early-year bus leases and purchases.

Correspondence:

Mr. Edmund read the following letters of correspondence:

- Request for Maternity Leave – Emily Ashby.
- Resignation as Assistant Girls Track Coach – Rhonda Blakey Anderson.

A motion was made by Mrs. Boelens, seconded by Mrs. Blackert, to approve the maternity leave and accept the resignation. Motion carried 5-0.

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

Mrs. Bibb shared current projections for next year’s finances and presented plans for cost savings measures. After a lengthy discussion, the administration will gather information on specific scenarios and present options when the Board reconvenes at a Committee of the Whole meeting. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Mrs. Boelens, seconded by Mr. Brewer to keep closed the executive minutes through December 2025. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey seconded by Mrs. Boelens, to approve the following employments:

- Raina Gully - Assistant Track and Field Coach
- Kaci Anderson - Bus Monitor

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

Executive Session

At 8:08 pm, a motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mrs. Boelens to enter 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.

At 8:55 pm, a motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mrs. Boelens, to exit executive session.

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

At 8:57 pm, a motion was made by Mrs. Boelens, seconded by Mr. Edmund, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

President

Secretary