

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

April 16, 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 April 16, 2026. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm with a roll call attendance.

- **Members Present:** Lance Edmund, Carrie Boelens, Culley Medley, Becky Blackert, and Lindsey DeDecker
- **Members Absent:** Chad Humphrey and Jared Brewer
- **Also Present:** Jenna Bibb, Superintendent; Bob Reagan, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Heather Pine, Elementary Principal; Susan Sullivan, Board Secretary.

**Consent Agenda:**

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

- Minutes of the March 19, 2026 Transportation Committee meeting.
- Minutes of the March 19, 2026 regular meeting.
- The bills through April 16, 2026.
- Revolving Fund through March 2026.
- Treasurer's Report for March 2026.
- Grade School Activity Report and the Junior/Senior High School Activity Report for March 2026.
- FOIA Report.

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

**Personnel Consent Agenda:**

A motion was made by Mrs. DeDecker, seconded by Mrs. Blackert, to approve the personnel consent agenda. Items approved under the personnel consent agenda were:

- Employment:
  - Ryan Wexell, Volunteer Trap Shooting Club Coach
  - Wade Snook, Volunteer Trap Shooting Club Assistant Coach
- Resignation(s)/Retirement(s):
  - Dawn Higgs - Elementary Music Teacher, effective at the end of the 25-26 school year
  - Beth Gibson - Math Paraprofessional, effective April 24, 2026
  - Kelly Akers Co-Director High School Musical/Drama
- Request(s) For Leave: None

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

**Public Participation:**

There were no public comments.

**Reports:**

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

- **Preschool Screening:** Twenty screenings were conducted on March 29th and 27th, and a few more are already on the schedule for the July screening date.
- **Daddy/Daughter Dance:** A special thank you was given to the CPC for organizing a wonderful Daddy/Daughter Dance, which saw 92 girls in attendance. Additionally, Annie Wood and Melissa Sollenberger were recognized for their help on the night of the event.
- **IAR Testing:** It was reported that IAR testing was finished this week, with students taking their time and trying their best.

- **IPA Student Leadership:** Congratulations were extended to seniors Ellie Doubet and Mason Palmer, along with fifth graders Connor Storm and Adalynn Stout, for receiving the Illinois Principals Association Student Leadership Award. This honor recognizes exceptional leadership, strong character, a positive attitude, and a commitment to making a difference in the school and community. These students were celebrated for leading by example each day and for the impact they continue to make at Cambridge CUSD 227.
- **Book Blast:** The Book Blast book drive was launched to provide students with new, age-appropriate books and to help build home libraries. It was noted that 100% of every dollar contributed goes directly toward books and educational supplies for students and staff. This literacy program has raised between \$12,000 and \$15,000 each year, with approximately 1,000 to 1,200 books sent home with students before summer break. The community was invited to contribute to the program by Sunday, April 25th, 2026.
- **Kindergarten Roundup:** The school is excited to welcome kindergarten students for the 2026-2027 school year. A "Signing Day" for the Class of 2039 is scheduled to take place on April 16, 2026.

Mr. Reagan, Junior/Senior High School Principal, shared the following report:

- **Testing and Academics:** Junior High students finished IAR testing, while high school students completed the Pre ACT 9 Secure, ACT Secure (10), and the ACT. Appreciation was expressed to the staff for their flexibility and guidance throughout the testing window. Additionally, thank you was extended to the Cambridge Methodist Church for hosting the ACT administration and to the CPC for providing snacks.
- **Student Recognition and Honors:** Emily Downing was officially recognized as one of only 26 athletes in the state named to the Academic All-State Team. Seniors Ellie Doubet and Mason Palmer were honored at the IPA Leadership Awards breakfast. Furthermore, Addison Wisecup represented CHS at the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy in Carlinville, IL.
- **Extracurricular Activities and Clubs:** The 8th-grade field trip to Springfield and the Lincoln Museum was reported as a success. In the Cambridge Viking Trap Shooting Club, Max Baum was congratulated for scoring a perfect round of 25 out of 25. The Cambridge FFA Alumni have Draw Down tickets available.
- **Music News:** The "Sound of Music" production was a great success. At the IESA solo and ensemble contest, the JH band and choir earned numerous Division I and II ratings. A sixth-grade mixed instrument quartet consisting of Harper Kane, Karmen Moore, Gunner Snook, and Temperance Wells was selected as "best of the day". Six high school students—Carly Dale, Brooke McCoy, Nicole Legate, Brodin Palmer, Austin Woodbury, and Evan Akers—were selected for the Bradley University Honor Band. Upcoming events include the JH Lincoln Trail Conference band festival on April 22nd and MusArt on April 27th.
- **FFA Updates:** The annual FFA banquet showcased member accomplishments and introduced the new officer team. Middle school students attended the spring conference at Sauk Valley Community College and competed in the CDE Rally at Kewanee High School. The greenhouse is celebrating its tenth year, with the opening weekend scheduled for April 25th and 26th. Students also found success in Parliamentary Procedure and Conduct of Chapter Meetings LDEs, placing 6th and 3rd at the District 1 contest.
- **FFA Community Outreach:** Over 100 members attended a line dancing night focused on safety awareness, held in partnership with Geneseo FFA and local emergency departments. FFA officers also presented an ag literacy lesson on pollinators to 1st–5th grade students, which concluded with students making "pollinator bombs". Finally, nine students—Mason, Jolene, Courtney, Emily, Ryleigh, Livvy, Corben, Ella, and Ruby—represented the chapter at the state awards day.

Superintendent Jenna Bibb shared the following report:

- **Meetings and Boards:** At the Henry-Stark Executive Board Meeting, it was reported that Wings Academy continues to be on schedule. Raises were approved for non-CBA employees.
- **District Leadership Team (DLT) Update:** Recent activities include gathering feedback on professional development to plan for next year and conducting administrative check-ins with new

teachers to evaluate the onboarding process. Additionally, the draft for the Non-Certified Handbook is now complete.

- **Facilities and Committees:** A Facility Audit was conducted over Spring Break, and findings are currently being compiled. The Building Committee will meet in May once Omni shares its findings. Furthermore, a meeting with the Policy Committee will be scheduled to review the latest PRESS Policy Update.
- **E-Learning Plan:** It was noted that the district's E-Learning Plan must be renewed every three years and is set to expire this fall. After an informal discussion, Mrs. Bibb will conduct a survey of families and staff to gain feedback for recommended changes before the plan is reviewed for renewal.
- **June Board Meeting and Retreat:** After discussion, the Board is tentatively planning a summer retreat for June 1<sup>st</sup>. This retreat may be held in conjunction with a workshop won by Mrs. Boelens through the IASB.
- **Insurance Premiums:** The district is currently working on health insurance quotes. The current carrier proposed a significant increase, so the district is working with agents to gather lower quotes for the Insurance Committee to review.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Mrs. Pine and Mrs. Miller will be celebrated at the ISBE Those Who Excel Awards Banquet. Mrs. Pine earned an Award of Meritorious Service for School Administrators, and Mrs. Miller earned the Award of Excellence for Student Support Personnel.
- **Financial and Expenditure Update:** An update was provided on fund expenditures as the fiscal year is 75% complete:

#### **Unfinished Business:**

The Board reviewed a proposal for two new buses, equipped with air conditioning, to be procured through two lease purchases. The plan includes paying off the more expensive bus in early fall following the TIF payment, and paying off the second bus in the next fiscal year to avoid a long-term lease. A motion was made by Mr. Medley, seconded by Mr. Edmund, to approve the bus purchases as presented. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Blackert, DeDecker, Edmund, Boelens, Medley. Nay: None. Motion carried.

#### **New Business:**

The Board discussed the list of 2026 graduates, contingent upon students meeting all graduation requirements. Discussion was held regarding a speaker and assistance with passing out diplomas. The Board will not have a speaker, allowing the focus to be on the students. Mrs. Blackert will assist in passing out diplomas. A motion was made by Mrs. DeDecker, seconded by Mrs. Blackert, to approve the list of 2026 graduates, dependent upon meeting requirements. Motion carried 5-0.

The Board reviewed requests from two students for early graduation for the 2026-2027 school year. A motion was made by Mrs. Blackert, seconded by Mrs. DeDecker to approve the early graduates as requested. Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Bibb presented a tentative amended budget for FY26 due to the timing between the scheduled May and June meetings. It will be placed on display at the Unit Office starting tomorrow and a Public Hearing will be held at the beginning of the May meeting. A motion was made by Mrs. Boelens, seconded by Mr. Medley, to approve the tentative amended budget for FY26. A roll call vote was held. Aye: DeDecker, Edmund, Boelens, Medley, Blackert. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the annual agreement for the FY27 IESA membership. A motion was made by Mrs. Boelens, seconded by Mrs. DeDecker, to approve the IESA membership for 2026-2027. The motion carried 5-0.

The Board discussed a transfer of up to \$500,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Education Fund to maintain a positive balance while waiting for June property taxes. These funds will be moved back in June. A motion was made by Mr. Medley, seconded by Mrs. Blackert, to approve the transfer of up to \$500,000 from Working Cash to the Education Fund. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Edmund, Boelens, Medley, Blackert, DeDecker. Nay: None. Motion carried.

**Executive Session**

At 7:48 pm, a motion was made by Mrs. Boelens, seconded by Mr. Medley, 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: Boelens, Medley, Blackert, DeDecker, Edmund. Nay: None. Motion carried.

At 9:00 pm, a motion was made by Mrs. Boelens, seconded by Mr. Medley to exit executive session. Motion carried 5-0.

**Action Items Resulting From Closed Session**

Mr. Medley made a motion to approve the non-certified and administrative raises for FY27 as presented. Mr. Edmund seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Medley, Blackert, DeDecker, Edmund Boelens. Nay: None. Motion carried.

At 9:02 pm, a motion was made by Mrs. Boelens, seconded by Mrs. Blackert, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

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President

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Secretary