REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 21, 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 May 21, 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, Chad Humphrey, Carrie Boelens, Culley Medley, Jared Brewer, Becky Blackert, and Lindsey DeDecker
- **Members Absent:** None
- **Also Present:** Jenna Bibb, Superintendent; Bob Reagan, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Heather Pine, Elementary Principal; and Ervin Bochmann, Parent.

Public Hearing: Fiscal Year 2026 Amended Budget
Mr. Edmund opened a public hearing on the proposed Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2026. Mrs. Gave an overview of the FY26 Amended Budget. An opportunity was provided for public comments. Seeing no comments, a motion was made by Mrs. Boelens, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, to adjourn the public hearing. Motion carried 7-0.

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

- Minutes of the April 16, 2026 regular meeting and May 18, 2026 committee meeting,
- The bills through May 21, 2026,
- Revolving Fund through April 2026,
- Treasurer's Report for April 2026,
- Grade School Activity Report and the Junior/Senior High School Activity Report for April 2026,
- Approval of Resolution Authorizing Board President and Superintendent to review June 2026 Bills Payable and Payroll and approve payment in place of the June Regular Board Meeting, and
- FOIA Report.

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

Personnel Consent Agenda:
A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, to approve the personnel consent agenda items as listed:

- Employment:
  - Nate Simenec - Building & Grounds Maintenance
  - Sheri Root – Summer Worker
  - Lucas Kessinger – Summer Worker
  - Owen Anderson – Summer Worker
- Resignation(s)/Retirement(s):
  - Jennifer Thomas - Junior High Track Coach
  - Seth Spivey - Junior High Baseball Coach
- Request(s) For Leave: None
- Extra Duty List for 2026-2027

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

Public Participation:

An opportunity for public comment was provided in accordance with Board Policy. Mr. Ervin Bochmann addressed the Board, requesting an IESA wrestling cooperative with Orion.

Reports:
Building Committee: Mr. Edmund and the rest of the building committee shared an overview of Monday night's Building Committee meeting. The facility review will be discussed in more detail at June's Board Retreat.

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

- **Career Day and Community Involvement:** For the April House meeting, Annie Wood and the Drakan house organized a career day where students rotated to listen to various professionals. Appreciation was extended to MedForce Aeromedical Transport, Peterson's Disposal Service, Henry County Police Department, Tucker's Mowing, Tom Akers, Stephanie Taylor, and Christi Reed for volunteering their time.
- **Fundraisers and School Spirit:** The St. Jude Quarter Sale took place during the week of May 4th, raising a total of $1,000, while students and staff enjoyed participating in dress-up days. The Book Blast fundraiser successfully raised $13,790, which resulted in every child going home with at least three books, and many receiving ten.
- **Field Day and Student Activities:** Another successful Field Day was recorded, with special thanks to Miss S. for planning the event. The 2nd-grade students hosted a historical wax museum event, researching historical figures and delivering speeches to the community. Additionally, the 5th-grade class, with assistance from a few high school students, performed their play "Once Upon a Pirate Tale," with gratitude extended to Dawn Higgs and Kelly Akers for directing the opportunity.
- **Student Recognition and Rewards:** At the May House meeting, the Libertas House was named the House Winner of the Year after winning a close race by a margin of 48 tickets. K-5 students celebrated hitting their February Kids Heart Challenge WOW goal of $8,562.69 with a reward afternoon of fun at College Square Park. Through a partnership with the Cambridge Masonic Lodge for the Bikes for Books program, elementary students read over 1,000 books in three weeks. Two students will be awarded a new bike and helmet from B & B Lawn Equipment on Friday.

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

- **Celebrating Seniors and Next Steps:** A total of 33 seniors were proudly graduated last Sunday, with congratulations extended to the Class of 2026. Senior Honors Night was highlighted as a wonderful success that showcased the hard work and achievements of the graduating class. Additionally, two senior girls were recognized on KWQC for their appointments to the U.S. Navy Academy and the U.S. Air Force Academy. The official induction ceremony for the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) was held, welcoming 10 seniors into the society.
- **Incoming Students and School Spirit:** Freshman Orientation saw a fantastic turnout, with most incoming families in attendance to kick off the high school journey. Three students visited Geneseo High School to tour their building trades facility ahead of attending the program next school year. Planning for next year's Homecoming has begun following a joint meeting between CHS and AHS, featuring the theme "The Spartans Are Taking You to Rio!"
- **Academic and Community Partnerships:** The 7th-grade class traveled to JA Finance Park, gaining real-world skills in managing finances and building budgets. Representatives met with Black Hawk College (BHC) to discuss dual credit offerings to benefit students' future college careers. Black Hawk East (BHE) also visited to assist Mrs. Miller with the new online registration system, noting that CHS is proud to serve as a select pilot school testing the streamlined system.
- **Class Highlights and Staff Appreciation:** Mrs. Leander's and Mr. Spivey's PE classes enjoyed a bowling trip to Geneseo, where students had to calculate and keep score by hand. Deep gratitude was expressed to the CPC for showering the teachers with love and appreciation.
- **Track and Field Achievements:** Recognition was given to the High School Track and Field State Qualifiers: Ellie Doubet (Discus), Emily Downing (800m and 1600m), Jana Vande Kemp (3200m), and the 4x8 relay team of Jolene Blackert, Jana Vande Kemp, Hannah Ames, and

Emily Downing. For the Junior High Boys, Miles Taylor secured 2nd place in the 1600m and 14th place in the 800m. For the Junior High Girls, Leah VandeKemp competed in the 800m; the Sprint Medley Relay team of Haiyden Berthoud, Meredith Secymore, Leah VandeKemp, and Ruby Beam took 4th place, and the same group secured 6th place in the 4x4 relay.

- **Music News:** The high school hosted the Junior High LTC band festival, held Jazz Night at the park, and scheduled a Memorial Day Concert for 10:00 AM.
- **FFA Updates and Successes:** The annual plant sale at the Greenhouse was completed successfully. The FFA chapter hosted a Petting Zoo to run alongside the Grade School Field Day. Hunter Wexell and Max Baum competed at the State Ag Mechanics CDE, with Hunter placing 12th in Ag Power and Max placing 14th in Welding. The school hosted 100 area FFA members at the Section 3 FFA Banquet, where Jolene Blackert and Mason Palmer retired as Section President and Treasurer, and Livvy Edmund was elected Section 3 Vice President for the upcoming year. The Livestock Evaluation team placed 8th at the state contest hosted by Illinois State, featuring a 9th-place individual finish by Hunter Wexell. Finally, Ellie Doubet was selected as a top 10 chapter president in the state and will be honored at the state FFA convention.

Superintendent Jenna Bibb shared the following report:

- **Meetings and Legislative Updates:** Superintendent Bibb attended the IASA Blackhawk Region Meeting, which included legislative updates and funding predictions regarding Evidence-Based Funding and Mandated Categoricals from IASA president Dr. Brent Clark.
- **Board Retreat Notice:** A reminder was given that the regular June meeting is canceled, and a June Board Retreat will be held to set goals and district direction on June 1, 2026, at 5:00 pm.
- **Athletic Admissions Proposals:** Following discussions with the AlWood administration, a proposal was introduced to increase athletic admissions in the fall. Updated official rates will be brought to the board for action in July. The proposed admission structure includes: Junior High at $4 for adults / $3 for students; High School at $5 for adults / $3 for students; annual Family Passes at $100; and free admission for Senior Citizens. Partnering schools will honor each other's passes, and each school will retain the revenue from its own pass sales.
- **Financial and Expenditure Update**: An update was provided on fund expenditures as the fiscal year is 83% complete:

Unfinished Business:
A motion was made by Mr. Medley, seconded by Mrs. Blackert, to approve the FY26 Amended Budget as presented. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Medley, Brewer, Blackert, DeDecker, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens. Nay: None. Motion carried.

New Business:
Mrs. Bibb recommended a student lunch fee increase of $0.10 next year to ensure compliance with Federal lunch and breakfast program requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Medley, and seconded by Mrs. Boelens, to approve increasing lunch fees for the 2026-2027 school year to $2.95 at CES and $3.20 at CHS. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Brewer, Blackert, DeDecker, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens, Medley. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the final school calendar, noting that the only modifications made involved the implementation of e-learning days. A motion was made by Mrs. Boelens, and seconded by Mrs. Blackert, to approve the final 2025-2026 school calendar for submission to the ROE. Motion carried 7-0.

The Board held a preliminary planning discussion regarding attendance at the annual Triple I Conference scheduled for November 20-22. Board members reviewed housing preferences and registration logistics ahead of the June 1st opening date. Mrs. Bibb will send out information on schedules and speakers, and the Board will decide at the July meeting. No official action was taken.
The Board reviewed an engagement letter from longstanding auditor Gorenz and Associates to provide audit services for FY26 at a cost not to exceed $17,980. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, and seconded by Mrs. DeDecker, to approve the engagement of Gorenz and Associates. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Blackert, DeDecker, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens, Medley, Brewer. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the necessity of submitting a proposition to voters regarding the election of board members at large without residence restrictions, pursuant to School Code 105 ILCS 5/10-10.5, due to a vacant rural position in the last election. A motion was made by Mr. Edmund, and seconded by Mr. Brewer, to adopt the Resolution for an At-Large Election to be placed on the November ballot. A roll call vote was held. Aye: DeDecker, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens, Medley, Brewer, Blackert. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bibb presented the feedback compiled from the district's E-Learning surveys. The feedback was generally positive, so Board members are comfortable moving forward with renewing the E-Learning Plan. The Board will hold a public hearing in July and adopt the E-Learning plan for submission to the ROE. No official action was taken.

Mrs. Bibb shared this year’s health insurance options and employee contribution rates for health insurance plans. A motion was made by Mrs. Blackert, and seconded by Mrs. DeDecker, to approve the FY27 health insurance renewals. A roll call vote was held. Aye: DeDecker, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens, Medley, Brewer, Blackert. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed cooperative rates for the upcoming fiscal year, noting a 4% increase in Worker's Compensation rates and a 2% increase in Property/Casualty rates driven by inflationary costs and regional storm losses. A motion was made by Mrs. Blackert, and seconded by Mr. Medley, to approve the FY27 membership in the Prairie State Insurance Cooperative. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens, Medley, Brewer, Blackert, DeDecker. Nay: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, and seconded by Mr. Medley, to approve the annual transfer of accumulated interest from the Working Cash Fund to the Education Fund by June 30, 2026. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Humphrey, Boelens, Medley, Brewer, Blackert, DeDecker, Edmund. Nay: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. DeDecker, and seconded by Mr. Medley, to approve the transfer of up to $500,000 from the Education Fund back to the Working Cash Fund by June 30, 2026, to return funds previously borrowed in anticipation of property tax distributions. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Boelens, Medley, Brewer, Blackert, DeDecker, Edmund, Humphrey. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Executive Session
At 8:27 pm, a motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, 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: Medley, Brewer, Blackert, DeDecker, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens. Nay: None. Motion carried.

At 8:42 pm, a motion was made by Mrs. Boelens, seconded by Mr. Medley to exit executive session. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Brewer, Blackert, DeDecker, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens, Medley. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Action Items Resulting From Closed Session
A motion was made by Mr. Edmund and seconded by Mr. Brewer, to approve a four-year administrative principal contract for Robert Reagan. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Blackert, DeDecker, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens, Medley, Brewer. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the wrestling cooperative request. Mrs. Bibb will gather additional information regarding the request and the Board will discuss at July’s meeting.

At 9:04 pm, a motion was made by Mr. Medley, seconded by Mrs. DeDecker, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

President

Secretary