

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
August 20, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
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 August 20, 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, Jared Brewer, and Becky Blackert
- **Members Absent:** Culley Medley and Lindsey DeDecker
- **Also Present:** Jenna Bibb, Superintendent; Bob Reagan, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Heather Pine, Elementary Principal; Susan Sullivan, Board Secretary, and a teacher.

PUBLIC HEARING: E-Learning Hearing:

The hearing was called to order. Mrs. Bibb shared an overview of the E-Learning Plan 2026-2029.

Mr. Medley arrived at 7:01 pm.

Public Participation:

There were no public comments.

At 7:02 pm, the hearing was adjourned.

Consent Agenda:

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

- Minutes of the July 16, 2026 regular meeting
- The bills through August 20, 2026
- Revolving Fund through July 2026
- Treasurer's Report for July 2026
- Grade School Activity Report and the Junior/Senior High School Activity Report for July 2026
- FOIA Report

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

Personnel Consent Agenda:

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

- Resignation(s)/Retirement(s): None
- Employment:
 - Lucas Kessinger: Volunteer High School Football Coach, pending certification
 - Craig Roberson: Volunteer Junior High Baseball Coach
 - Gavin Franks: Junior High Football Coach
- Request(s) For Leave: None

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

Public Participation:

There were no public comments.

Reports:

Elementary School Principal Heather Pine shared the following report:

- **New Staff and Position Changes:** Three new staff members were welcomed to the school community:
 - Faith Houk - Dishwasher
 - Nate Simenec - District Building and Grounds
 - Cassie Hanson - Henry-Stark Special Education CoordinatorAdditionally, three staff members moved into new assignments:
 - Chris Allen - District Music Teacher
 - Natalie Wilson - 4th Grade
 - Morgan Wirt - 1st Grade
- **#GoTime Commitments:** Teachers and staff gathered to establish five core "#GoTime" commitments aimed at fostering a shared "WE" mentality:
 1. Choosing positivity by maintaining positive attitudes and reflecting on responses to challenges.
 2. Being present and connected to ensure colleagues feel seen, valued, and included.
 3. Treating everyone with respect through thoughtful and positive communication.
 4. Remaining flexible, open-minded, and respectful of different approaches.
 5. Being fully present in the moment and focusing on immediate responsibilities.
- **Enrollment Numbers:** The starting enrollment numbers for the school year were presented:
 - Preschool: 39
 - Kindergarten: 19
 - 1st Grade: 20
 - 2nd Grade: 18
 - 3rd Grade: 25
 - 4th Grade: 31
 - 5th Grade: 25

Jr/Sr High School Principal Robert Reagan shared the following report:

- **Dual Credit Orientation:** WIU dual credit students will be joining Mrs. Miller at the Moline campus for their orientation.
- **Summer Work Acknowledgment:** A special thanks was extended to summer workers Nate Simenec, Lance White, Sheri Root, Lucas Kessinger, Justin Nimrick, and Mr. Steider for all their summer work and additions to the enhancements of the building, both inside and out.
- **School Events:** "Meet the Spartans" Football and Volleyball events were held in Cambridge. Football was held last Friday and Volleyball was held this evening.
- **Orientation and Open House:** Unpack Your Backpack Night and 6th Grade Orientation had a great showing. Thanks were given to Dawn Conway, Lance Edmund, and Lindsey DeDecker for helping serve hot dogs at the Open House.
- **Schedule Adjustments:** The bell schedule was changed slightly starting today to minimize students missing last period for sporting events. The Enrichment (study hall) period was moved to the end of the day and lunch periods were reduced from 3 to 2.
- **Sports Participation Numbers:** The numbers for sports programs were reported as follows:
 - HS Cross Country: 17
 - Golf: 12
 - Volleyball: 27
 - Cheerleading: 13
 - Football (Grades 9–12): 27
 - Junior High Cross Country: 13
 - Junior High Baseball: 23
 - Junior High Softball: 24

Mrs. DeDecker arrived at 7:23 pm.

Superintendent Jenna Bibb shared the following report:

- **Board Goals:** Mrs. Bibb shared a proposed goal for the Programs/Services Goal area to focus on supporting well-rounded student opportunities by strengthening the athletic cooperative, elevating extracurricular programs, and increasing parent involvement. The remaining goals focus on examining curriculum needs, fostering transparent communication, increasing operational efficiency, and creating a long-term facilities and funding plan with community input.
- **Blackhawk Region Meeting:** Announced that the IASB Blackhawk Division Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23rd in Keweenaw, with registration available upon request.
- **Opening of School:** Reported a successful start to the school year following two days of staff professional development. The district focus for 2026–2027 is "#GoTime: Focus, Collaborate, Impact," which includes developing Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), promoting a "WE" culture, and enhancing instructional strategies.
- **Tentative Budget Updates:** Shared new financial updates, including an estimated \$30,000 in new Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) tier funding and an expected \$20,000 increase in Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT). Preliminary transportation reimbursement is lower due to TIF fund usage, though expenses are anticipated to decrease through cost-sharing with Galva.
- **Cost Savings Measures:** Outlined operational cost reductions, including switching alarm monitoring for an annual savings of \$4,500. The district also moved to self-owned equipment for door access and camera monitoring, saving significantly on hardware costs. Bids are currently being gathered for a new copier lease expected to save around \$500 monthly while eliminating overage fees.
- **Facility Upgrade Updates & Financial Options:** As a follow-up to last month's presentation by Omni, Mrs. Bibb shared possible tax rates for different bond amounts. She shared current financial information, including School Facility Sales Tax records and Tax Rates. Three potential paths were presented: proceeding with a referendum for large-scale renovations, completing priorities within current bond capacity without a referendum, or establishing a prioritized plan funded through existing resources and bonds as the tax rate permits.
- **Historical Evidence-Based Funding:** Mrs. Bibb shared historic EBF data.

Unfinished Business:

A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Edmund, to approve the 2026-2029 E-Learning Plan. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Boelens, seconded by Mrs. DeDecker, to approve the Policy Updates: Issue 121 (Policies 2:200, 2:220, 2:250, 2:260, 2:265, 4:40, 4:165, 5:30, 5:50, 5:250, 5:330, 6:50, 6:65, 6:100, 6:145, 6:170, 6:180, 7:20, 7:50, 7:100, 7:185, 7:220, 7:230, 7:240, 7:260, 7:280, 7:300, 8:90) and 7:240 - Second Reading. Motion carried 7-0.

Mrs. Bibb shared the estimated cost of a middle school wrestling cooperative with Orion School District. After discussion, the Board is not interested in moving forward with a cooperative at this time. No action was taken.

New Business:

A motion was made by Mrs. Boelens, seconded by Mr. Medley, to certify that the IDOT Serious Safety Hazard Still Exists, #227-96-1. Motion carried 7-0.

A discussion was held regarding the Feasibility Study Grant. Mrs. Bibb is going to do more research on the process and total cost of a study and report back at the September meeting. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Mrs. DeDecker, seconded by Mrs. Boelens, to approve the recommendation to keep closed the Executive Minutes from January 2026 until July 2026. Motion carried 7-0.

Executive Session

At 8:22 pm, a motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mrs. Blackert, 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 8:43 pm, a motion was made by Mrs. Boelens, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, 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. Brewer, seconded by Mrs. Boelens, to move Danyelle Cantrell to an Instructional Aide. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Blackert, DeDecker, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens, Medley, Brewer. Nay: None. Motion carried.

At 8:49 pm, a motion was made by Mr. Mr. Medley, seconded by Mrs. Blackert,, to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote was held: Aye: DeDecker, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens, Medley, Brewer, Blackert. Nay: None. Motion carried.

President

Secretary