

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 17, 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 September 17, 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, Jared Brewer, Becky Blackert, and Lindsey DeDecker
- **Members Absent:** Chad Humphrey
- **Also Present:** Jenna Bibb, Superintendent; Bob Reagan, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Heather Pine, Elementary Principal; Susan Sullivan, Board Secretary; and teachers Amelia Vincent and Renae Leander.

PUBLIC HEARING – Budget Hearing:

The hearing was called to order. Mrs. Bibb shared an overview of the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget.

Mr. Humphrey arrived at 7:10 pm.

Public Participation:

Renae Leander asked about the breakdown of expenses for the Transportation Fund. Mrs. Bibb noted she would follow up directly with Mrs. Leander regarding the transportation breakdown.

At 7:18 pm, the hearing was adjourned.

Consent Agenda:

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

1. Minutes of the August 20, 2026 regular meeting
2. Minutes of the August 25, 2026 committee meeting
3. Minutes of the September 4, 2026 committee meeting
4. The bills through September 17, 2026
5. Revolving Fund through August 2026
6. Treasurer's Report for August 2026
7. Grade School Activity Report and the Junior/Senior High School Activity Report for August 2026
8. PRESS Board Policy Review: Issue 122 (Policies 2:230, 4:175, 5:40, 5:70, 5:110, 5:140, 5:240, 6:70, 6:80, 6:190, 7:30, 7:80, 7:130, 7:330, 8:10, 8:70) - First Reading
9. 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 Mrs. DeDecker, seconded by Mrs. Boelens, to approve the personnel consent agenda. Items approved under the personnel consent agenda were:

- Resignation(s)/Retirement(s):
 - Alice Ford - Retirement, effective February 1, 2027
- Employment:
 - Sheri Root - Part-Time Custodian
 - Justin Nimrick - Part-Time Custodian
 - Chase Owen - Part-Time Custodian
 - Jack Gibson - Part-Time Custodian
 - Jessica Trout - JV Volleyball Coach
- Request(s) For Leave: None

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

Public Participation:

There were no public comments.

Reports:

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

- **Peer Supports:** The start of the new school year presented a difficult transition for several younger and older students struggling with morning drop-offs. To assist with this transition, Mrs. Wood arranged for selected older students—who were also experiencing transition difficulties—to greet younger students at the door each morning. This initiative provided older students with a positive purpose and leadership role, successfully resolving arrival struggles and tears within a few days. Appreciation was extended to Mrs. Wood for originating the idea.
- **Preschool Family Night:** A successful turn-out was reported for the first Preschool Family Night held at the park, with 24 families joining and close to 100 individuals enjoying a free dinner and social time. The event provided students an opportunity to play with peers while parents observed interactions and connected with other families. Recognition was given to Miss Kaitlyn, Ms. Holly, and Ms. Danyelle for their hard work.
- **Safety Day:** Mrs. Pine shared that the building conducted its first-ever "Safety Day," allowing students and staff to practice all required annual safety drills in a single day. Drills completed included a fire drill, tornado drill, bus evacuation drill, and active threat drill (Run. Hide. Fight.). Holding the drills on the same day allowed teachers to lead meaningful discussions regarding rules and expectations for each scenario.
- **Leadership Teams:** Updates were provided on the work of two building leadership groups:
 - Building Leadership Team: Focused on school culture and climate, staff morale and professional growth, family and community engagement, operations, student voice and leadership, and recognition. Appreciation was expressed to Chad Hamerlinck, Kiah Stone, Laura VanHyfte, and Ashley Galle for their leadership.
 - Instructional Leadership Team: Focused on school improvement, data analysis, student learning needs, and identifying ways to support student achievement. Recognition was given to Jessica Carlson, Ashley Galle, Kelly Akers, Amelia Vincent, and Chris Bulens for reviewing data to strengthen instruction.
- **Cambridge Parents Club (CPC):** CPC began the school year by providing a back-to-school yogurt bar for staff. An interest survey was recently shared with families to gather feedback on activity preferences and involvement opportunities to help guide future planning.

After the report, Mrs. DeDecker asked about the process for preschool class assignments. Mrs. Pine and Mrs. Bibb shared information about the process.

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

- **School Activities:** Physical Education classes participated in the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb to honor the FDNY by climbing steps representing the 110 stories of the World Trade Center. A video of the event posted by Coach Leander has received over 11,000 views. Additionally, Driver Education students attended the "Share the Road" field trip held at the Fair Grounds. Juniors enrolled in WIU dual credit courses attended an orientation day on campus in Macomb, where they learned to navigate their student portals and toured the campus.
- **Staff & Community Recognition:** Appreciation was extended to the Osco Church for providing Dilly Bars to teachers and staff earlier in the school year. Additionally, the Student Advisory and Leadership Team (SALT) kicked off its year with a planning cookout hosted at Mrs. Miller's home.
- **Fine Arts:** Auditions were completed for the fall play, "Did Someone Say Murder?", which will be performed on November 13–14 under the direction of Ms. Sunny Letterle in her local directing debut. The marching band performed in the Atkinson Heritage Days, Orion Fall Festival, and East Moline Labor Day parades. Fundraising efforts are currently underway with a Popcorn and Coffee fundraiser, as well as a Cookie Dough fundraiser starting at the end of September. Four students also attended the ILMEA audition preparation workshop at Monmouth College.
- **FFA:** FFA members attended the Black Hawk East Greenhand and Discovery Conference. The chapter is also launching a new community safety event titled "Toy Tractors, Safety Factors," designed to advertise important farm safety information to students in grades K–8.

- **Homecoming 2026:** Details were provided for Homecoming week under the theme "Spartans Take You to Rio." Theme and daily student activities were presented.

Superintendent Jenna Bibb shared the following report:

- **Meetings Attended:** Updates were provided on recent administrative meetings.
 - **ROE Superintendent Meeting:** Information was shared regarding a presentation by ISBE Financial Consultant Tim Seymore on cash handling and internal controls. ROE and legislative updates were covered, and it was noted that Cambridge is scheduled for an onsite compliance visit this school year.
 - **Henry-Stark Executive Board Meeting:** It was reported that Wings Academy officially opened and is fully staffed with 26 students enrolled, with a groundbreaking ceremony planned following the completion of the building's exterior.
- **Enrollment Trends:** Enrollment figures continue to trend downward in line with regional birth rate and population shifts. 6th-day enrollment totals for the 2026–2027 school year show 182 elementary students, 225 Jr./Sr. High students, and a district total of 407 students.
- **Upcoming Elections:** Board members were reminded that petition circulation for the April Consolidated Election began on August 25th, with filing open from November 16–23, 2026. Terms ending in 2027 include Lance Edmund, Carrie Boelens, Culley Medley, Becky Blackert, and Lindsey DeDecker. A one-pager regarding the November referendum question was distributed for board feedback prior to public release.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Homecoming festivities – Week of September 21st
 - Blackhawk Division Meeting – September 23rd
 - IASA Conference – September 30th-October 2nd
 - Health Life Safety Inspections – October 2nd

After the report, Mr. Humphrey asked if there was any discussion about enrollment trends at this month's superintendent meeting. Mrs. Bibb shared that only one school reported positive enrollment trends.

Mrs. Boelens, representative of the Policy Committee, shared the following report:

- The Policy Committee met with Mrs. Bibb, Mr. Reagan, Candy Snook, School Nurse, and Lisa Miller, School Counselor, to gather more information on the Extracurricular Drug Testing Policy and PE Exemption Policy. After discussion, the committee came to the following decisions:
 - They are not in favor of exemptions for grades 6- 8.
 - For grades 9-10 exemptions, the committee doesn't recommend any changes, but wants the school to continue promoting PE and healthy choices across the curriculum.
- After discussion about the Drug Testing Policy, committee members did not recommend any changes to the policy, but requested that the District look into other testing options. After Mrs. Snook's research, they recommended continuing the current practice as it is the most cost-effective.
- PRESS Policy Issue 122 recommendations were shared in written form with the Board.

Following the report, Mrs. DeDecker raised questions regarding the general application of the PE Exemption Policy and standardizing the approval process across qualifying activities.

Mr. Medley, representative of the Building Committee, shared the following report:

- The Committee met two weeks ago with administrators. During the meeting, they discussed the level of commitment each member was willing to make in the potential building renovation referendum for spring. After discussion, the committee recommends creating a 10-Year Facility Plan and adding it to the Annual Board Goals.

After the report, there was considerable discussion about the future and how to best address buildings in need of attention, declining enrollment, and funding challenges. There was also discussion on whether consolidation should be a consideration. There was no action taken and the Board plans to move forward with a 10-year Facility Plan.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

A motion was made by Mrs. Boelens, seconded by Mrs. Blackert, to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 Cambridge CUSD #227 Budget as presented. Mrs. Bibb will post and forward copies as required by statute. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Medley, Brewer, Blackert, DeDecker, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens. Nay: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. DeDecker, seconded by Mr. Medley, to approve Ord. #26-09 Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Cambridge to reimburse the district \$15,000 for the Varsity Locker Room lockers. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Brewer, Blackert, DeDecker, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens, Medley. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The annual itemized salary and benefit compensation report for all teachers and administrators was presented to the Board of Education. This report is generated from the state's Employee Identification System and will be sent to the Regional Office of Education and posted on the school district website by October 1st. Mrs. Bibb noted that this is a report of last year's final numbers. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mrs. Blackert, to approve the Early Graduation Request as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Executive Session

None.

At 8:08 pm, a motion was made by Mr. Medley, seconded by Mrs. Boelens, to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Blackert, DeDecker, Edmund, Humphrey, Boelens, Medley, Brewer. Nay: None. Motion carried.

President

Secretary