

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
December 19, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Cambridge Elementary Classroom #19
312 South West Street
Cambridge, Illinois 61238

The Cambridge Community Unit School District #227 Board of Education met for the regularly scheduled meeting on December 19, 2024.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Mr. Humphrey called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with a roll call attendance. Members present were Chad Humphrey and Culley Medley. Also present were Jenna Bibb, Superintendent; Heather Pine, Elementary Principal; Bob Reagan, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Susan Sullivan, Unit Office Secretary/Bookkeeper; and players, coaches, and family members of the 2024 Junior High Ridgewood Softball team.

Carrie Boelens arrived at 7:02 pm.

Mr. Humphrey called to order the Public Hearing: Truth in Taxation. No guests wished to present information on the Tax Levy. Hearing no comments, he closed the public hearing.

Without a quorum, the Board continued with student recognition and reports.

Report from Board of Education on Meetings Attended

The Board of Education recognized the Ridgewood Spartans Junior High Softball Team. This 2024 Fall IESA JH Softball season was a record-breaking year. After falling short in the 2023 State Championship, these ladies found their muse and learned how to play as one cohesive unit to eventually win 7-2 in the Class 1A IESA State Championship. State record holders for the 1A include, 1st place for more runs scored in the tournament as a team with 30, Kora Harreld for most hits in a tournament and most hits in the championship, leading the pitching records is Cambell Casteel with having most strikeouts in a championship game with 17, most K's in the tournament with 42, and earning a spot for throwing a no-hitter with assistance from catcher, Monica Harreld. Cambell also earned 1st for most hits in a game with 4 in the 2023 season. Anna Doubet hit an over the fence homerun to put the icing on the cake for this season. Above all, we are certainly proud of their grit and willingness to trust the process of development, we are prouder to have the opportunity to have this fine group of well-rounded young women representing our district and cooperative. Congratulations on an outstanding season and we look forward to seeing how this success continues in high school.

Report from Board of Education on Meetings Attended

Mrs. Boelens reported on the Henry-Stark Governing Board. Henry-Stark is in the process of potentially acquiring a building that will house students currently placed in private facilities for intensive needs. This will allow students to stay in our local communities and be more cost-effective for member districts.

Administrative Reports:

Mrs. Pine, Elementary Principal, shared information about:

- 1st Grade Thanksgiving Play - Our 1st graders performed their annual Thanksgiving Play. A big thanks to Mrs. Reed and Mrs. Johnson for all of their hard work!
- Shop with a Cop - On December 6th we took 11 students to Kewanee for our Shop with a Cop event! It was another great year with lots of memories made. I am so grateful for Josh Anderson and the Henry County Sheriff's Department for their willingness to continue with this program each year.
- Biz Town - On Friday, December 13th our 5th graders traveled to BizTown in Moline. BizTown is a simulated town that creates a learning experience for students to operate banks, manage restaurants, run businesses, and vote. Students can make meaningful connections between their classroom learning and real-world applications.

- Caring Hearts - We wrapped up our Caring Hearts program for the 2024 Christmas season on Tuesday. We had 20 families with almost 50 students we helped this year. A huge thank you to our Cambridge Churches, the Osco Church, and many individuals in the community who took Caring Hearts tags. Thank you Farm and Fleet for their generous toy donations and to Gary Snitchler for his time and effort helping coordinate the toys. It's truly magical to walk into a room filled with clothing and toys and witness the incredible generosity of our community. This program wouldn't be possible without their support.
- Cambridge Academic Foundation - Save the date for February 22nd! Elementary school teachers are currently hard at work with the students to make one-of-a-kind projects that will be up for auction!

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

- Students of the quarters are Jack Brown for High School and Levi Hixson for Junior High.
- High school PE classes shared their day with the Army National Guard. The Guard brought in an inflatable challenge for our students. Many of our HS students attended the Building Futures Career Expo at the QCC Expo Center. It featured unions and contractors with hands-on experience for students in a variety of trades.
- Mrs. Leander attended the Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance annual conference where she learned about updates for PE and Health, explored new ideas in the curriculum, and networked with other teachers as a member of state committees.
- Student and Community Activities:
 - SALT sponsored Finals Fun Week dress up days for the school with Twin Day, Dress like a Teacher (or Student for teachers), Santa Day, Pajama Day, and Ugly Sweater Day. During Santa Day, the teachers did their underground dress-up as Grinch Day.
 - SALT members posted a display in our runway of what brings JOY for students during the holidays.
 - SALT members sponsored a 50/50 drawing at the basketball game and collected donations, raising \$350 for the Dylan Swanson family who suffered a devastating fire to their home recently.
 - SALT members volunteered to help decorate the trees on the boulevard for the Village of Cambridge.
- Staff Updates:
 - Staff members enjoyed our first annual Dips-Giving for Thanksgiving, their annual Christmas party with dinner and a euchre tournament at the BlackRidge, and their quarterly Book Club meeting to discuss their selection.
 - Underground dress up days (Shhhh) have been fun! Beach Day was a big hit and then "anything but a cup!"
- Music Updates:
 - The elementary, Junior High, and High School choirs sang carols for Christmas on the Square.
 - Carly Dale has been selected to participate in the Illinois Music Educators Junior Mixed Chorus that will be performing at the IMEC conference in January.
- FFA Updates:
 - Trent Taber won the Region 4 NAEE Outstanding Agriculture Teacher National Finalist, honored at the awards ceremony during convention in Texas.
 - Wreaths for Warriors and assembly was held last Friday.
 - Poinsettia and wreath sales display at the Cambridge on the Square.
 - Buy a Brick program has been launched to support our Ag Complex project.
 - Five of our outstanding Junior FFA members attended the Illinois FFA BUILD (building unity in leadership development) conference at Illinois State University. Coffee and Careers was held in the Ag room. We invited many area colleges and trades as well as community members to attend.
- Counselor News:
 - Mrs. Miller and Mr. Reagan attended a conference at WIU to learn more about a build-your-own counseling program.

- Mrs. Miller attended the Illinois School Counselor Association annual conference where she attended a variety of sessions and networked with counselors across the state learning about legislative updates and gathered resources for academic, career, and social emotional areas of counseling.
- Mrs. Miller was chosen as a member of the BHC Ag Advisory Council to provide input on college programs and curriculum. She recently was successful in advocating for area high school programs to retain the HORT certificate option. She was also recently chosen for the Rural Education Pathway Pilot program for Western Illinois to assist other schools in a build your own Education program and to assist with pathway development.

Mrs Bibb, Superintendent, shared the following updates including:

- A new ISBE department called Rural School District Support and an upcoming Listening Tour for an assessment and accountability redesign.
- Information about how e-rate funding may be in jeopardy after the fund was ruled unconstitutional in the circuit court based on tax delegation authority.
- The Ag Complex has a roof! The project continues to be on track for a late Spring completion. We have launched the Buy-a-Brick program and have purchases trickling in. We continue to receive donations and plan to send letters after the first of the year thanking donors with their tax donation letters.
- Members of the admin team were able to attend a few quality sessions from Triple I and share some ideas at our admin meetings since. I learned more about Board Policies, including logistical tips, compliance items, and philosophical pieces. We all attended technology sessions and have some to-do items around communication, technology, and AI.
- At the Prairie State Insurance Cooperative Mid-Year Meeting, we received an overview of the state of our cooperative, which is growing and has healthy balances. The cooperative works to identify areas of loss and incorporate proactive pieces to mitigate loss. One of those is purchasing water sensors to identify water leaks in highly-prone areas.
- The Vision 2030 blueprint for excellence in K-12 public education was developed through an engagement effort that included input from more than 1,000 stakeholders statewide and was led by the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA), Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), Illinois Principals Association (IPA), Illinois Association of School Business Officials (Illinois ASBO) and Illinois Association of Regional School Superintendents (IARSS). Details can be found at illinoisvision2030.com.
- The required Post-Issuance Compliance Report has been completed for our July 2024 bond.
- At our December DLT meeting, all subcommittees gave updates on their projects. Updates:
 - Our Non-Certified Market Evaluation survey is complete and ready to send out. Kathy Marshall, Regional Superintendent of Schools, was interested in collaborating, so we added some questions and will send out to the regional superintendents after January 1st.
 - We have a variety of surveys ready to send out to internal and external staff to gather information about staffing levels, pay, and retention. We have a plan to stagger those surveys to not overwhelm the recipients.
 - We held our Facility Audit kick-off meeting and will hold an on-site meeting in January.
- Lastly, she shared an expenditure update by funds now that we are 42% through the fiscal year.

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

Public Participation:

There was no public participation.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

New Business:

Mrs. Bibb shared an update on the audited fund balances and the past three years of expenditures in the three operating funds. The report did not change significantly from the unaudited numbers.

Board members agreed to discuss the superintendent evaluation tool until more board members are present.

Mrs. Moriarity arrived at 7:45 pm, making a quorum.

Consent Agenda:

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

1. Minutes of the November 19, 2024 meeting,
2. The bills through December 19, 2024,
3. Revolving Fund through November 2024,
4. Treasurer's Report for November 2024,
5. Grade School Activity Report and the Junior/Senior High School Activity Report for November 2024,
6. Approve the Second Reading of the Enclosed Policies.

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

New Business Continued:

Mr. Humphrey read the following resolution: "Resolution (i) transferring funds from the school facility occupation tax fund to the bond and interest fund and (ii) abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2024 to pay debt service on the General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2017A, of the District." Mrs. Moriarity made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Humphrey seconded the motion. This resolution allows the District to transfer \$96,350.00 of Facility Sales Tax proceeds from Fund 60 to Fund 30 to pay for the Alternative Revenue Bond instead of levying for the funds. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Moriarity, Boelens, Medley, Humphrey. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bibb recommended that the District seek a levy of \$3,730,900 plus a levy for bonds and interest of \$239,358 for a total of \$3,970,258. Mrs. Boelens made a motion to adopt the 2024 Tax Levy as presented and direct the superintendent to submit the certificate of levy to the county clerk. Mr. Medley seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Boelens, Medley, Humphrey, Moriarity. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bibb shared a list of items that are obsolete, not in use, and have been replaced with newer, safer items. These items include welders, a maroon van, and miscellaneous tools. Items will be sold or donated. Mrs. Boelens made a motion to dispose of the listed building contents. Mr. Medley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Executive Session:

The Board did not hold executive session.

At 7:50 pm, Mrs. Boelens made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Medley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

President

Secretary