

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
November 19, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Cambridge Elementary Classroom #21
312 South West Street
Cambridge, Illinois 61238

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

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Mr. Humphrey called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm with a roll call attendance. Members present were Chad Humphrey, Lance Edmund, Dianne Jeffries, Carrie Boelens, Jarret Schmoll, and Culley Medley, Also present were Jenna Bibb, Superintendent and Heather Pine, Elementary Principal.

Kim Moriarity arrived at 7:02 pm.

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

1. Minutes of the October 17, 2024 meeting, both open and closed,
2. The bills through November 21, 2024,
3. Revolving Fund through October 2024,
4. Treasurer's Report for October 2024,
5. Grade School Activity Report and the Junior/Senior High School Activity Report for October 2024,
6. Approve the First Reading of the Enclosed Policies.

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

Report from Board of Education on Meetings Attended

Mrs. Bibb reported on the Henry-Stark Executive Committee, which met recently to approve a new director and assistant director. The Governing Board is scheduled to meet on Thursday, November 21, 2024 to approve both positions.

Administrative Reports:

Mrs. Pine, Elementary Principal, shared:

- School Improvement Goals Update:
 - During our early-out sessions, teachers have been focusing on the i-Ready math curriculum. Through a series of collaborative meetings, we are working on vertical alignment to ensure the curriculum is implemented consistently and confidently across the building. These sessions have provided valuable opportunities for teachers to share successful strategies, address challenges, and identify areas for improvement. Our vertical alignment efforts will conclude after our final professional development session with the i-Ready coaches during February's in-service day.
 - The Instructional Leadership Team has been working hard to implement the vocabulary strategy we began last year across all grade levels. Next, we will begin analyzing our IAR data from last spring, with a focus on student growth data.
- Updates on Recent and Upcoming Activities:
 - Conferences were successful, with 97.3% attendance.
 - The first Cambridge Parents Club (CPC) meeting was on Monday the 18th. They are excited to explore how the CPC can create more opportunities for students, staff, and community.
 - Congratulations to Scarlett Huston for winning the WQAD coloring contest. In addition to winning a prize of her own, she earned a \$50 Amazon gift card for the school to use! Scarlett will get to decide how to spend the money within our school.

- CES celebrated World Kindness Week from November 12th to 15th. Students were encouraged to perform random acts of kindness throughout the week. Those who were "caught" being kind earned stickers to place on a shared poster. Once the heart on the poster was filled, the students were rewarded with a silly dress-up day and a dance party during lunch!
- Caring Hearts is a program that provides assistance to families in our school district with Christmas gifts. If your family would like to help sponsor a family, child, or purchase a gift, please contact the elementary school office for more information.
- Our Shop with a Cop night will be held on Friday, December 6th. This year, the program will give 11 students the opportunity to shop with member of our police department, wrap presents, and have pizza. This is such a rewarding evening for all involved.
- Christmas Concerts are coming. Save the dates. Concerts will be held at Cambridge High School and will be live streamed on Facebook.

Mrs. Bibb shared the written report from Mr. Reagan, Jr. High/High School Principal:

- Congratulations to Ashtin Staley for earning the designation of Illinois State Scholar! Recipients represent the top 10% of high school students for outstanding academic achievement based on class rank, GPA, and test scores.
- Congratulations to the junior high speech team. All members won first place finishes at the LTC tournament!!!
- Thank you to the Ladies in the Kitchen for a wonderful Thanksgiving meal served to all the students last Thursday. Also, thanks to Mrs. Bibb for serving the pumpkin bars!
- NHS hosted a blood drive in October. Organized by the new sponsor Jessica Akers.
- We held our first 'Vision Board Day'. Students who display their Vision Boards on their lockers are entered into a random raffle and they win goodies if their locker is chosen.
- Mrs. Leander and her PE classes raised money for Alex Lemonade Stand for cancer research. They raised \$670!
- Mrs. Little's Food Classes had a halloween foods contest. Teachers and staff judged the groups based on their festive displays, theme and taste.
- Staff members have been having fun with a few events lately. Last month we went to a hockey game, this month was a pottery painting night, book club has moved on to their next book for this quarter, birthday breakfasts continue, Secret Staff members are having fun surprising their person, and we have had some fun undercover dress up days (shhhhh)!
- Music News:
 - Fall Play - Sherlock Holmes
 - HS LTC Choir Festival was held at Abington High School in October.
 - Junior High ILMEA contest was also held earlier this month
- Counseling News:
 - ASVAB was given to the seniors on Nov. 1 followed by interpretation of scores.
 - Gray Matters - World Kindness Day, Gray Matters passed out KIND granola bars to students during lunch and made a banner for the hallway to remind students they are valued.
 - Gray Matters - Held a Movie Night in the library as a special school event for some Halloween fun!
 - Mrs. Miller took a group of students to Western Illinois University for a Future Teacher Conference. This helped our students meet one of the components of the Education College and Career Pathway Endorsement.
 - Junior High girls group started up again this year. Sponsors from Braveheart work with our students on making positive life choices. Many students volunteer to be members of the group.
 - Junior High Student council members are filling bags for Backpack Blessings again this year. A great school and community service project.
- FFA News:
 - Greenhands won section 3 Agronomy CDE and 2nd in the quizbowl.
 - The Varsity team placed second in the agronomy section contest.

- We are partnering with Culver's for a fundraiser this week. Some of our members and alumni are helping out with the event.
- FFA National Convention Awards:
 - National Chapter Award in Growing Leaders: The Cambridge FFA won this award for their "Día de la Agricultura" program. The program used agriculture storybooks to teach Spanish vocabulary to elementary students.
 - National Chapter Award in Building Communities: The Cambridge FFA was a top ten finalist based on their community mural project.
 - National Chapter Award in Strengthening Agriculture: The Cambridge Middle FFA Chapter was a top ten finalist in this category based on their "Touch-A-Tractor" literacy event.
 - Middle School Model of Excellence Award: The Cambridge Middle FFA Chapter placed in the top three for this award.
 - High School Model of Excellence Award: The Cambridge FFA Chapter placed in the top three for this award.
 - 2024 Premier Chapter: The Cambridge FFA of Illinois was named the 2024 Illinois Premier Chapter this summer at the State FFA Convention.
 - Maxwell Baum and Hunter Wexell placed 9th in the Nation in the Agriscience Fair.
- Sports News:
 - Congratulations to the HS Girls Cross Country Team for finishing 13 in state! Three time medalist Emly Downing finished 14th and Jana VandeKemp beat her PR by 30 seconds!
 - Congratulations to the Ridgewood Spartan Football team for finishing in the Quarterfinals game. Amazing season!
 - Congratulations to the Vikings Girls basketball team for 7th and 8th grade advancing to the LTC final game. 7th grade girls finished FIRST and 8th grade girls finished second place.

Mrs. Bibb, Superintendent, reported on recent meetings and trainings that she attended and the following updates:

- At a November DLT meeting, the team reviewed the list of items and a timeline with due dates to organize their work and identified four projects to start our work with a leader and team members for each. They have a December meeting scheduled to share progress updates.
- She shared an update on some high school building projects that are underway, including a leaking condensate tank and a broken window.
- Lastly, she shared an expenditure update by funds now that we are 33% 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:

Sharon Usan from Engie joined the meeting remotely to present information about Engie's model for facility modernization as well as their no cost facility audit. Mrs. Jeffries made a motion to approve the No Cost Agreement with Engie. Mr. Medley seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Mrs. Pine and Mrs. Bibb shared an overview of the 2023-2024 Cambridge CUSD #227 report cards. Each of our schools received a "Commendable" designation. Mrs. Boelens made a motion to accept the Illinois School Report Card for 2023-2024. Mr. Edmund seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Mrs. Bibb shared an overview of the Fiscal Year 2024 audit from Gorenz and Associates. She pointed out the overall Financial Profile Designation of Recognition with a score of 3.90. The District has 194 days of cash on hand. The estimated Operated Expense Per Pupil was \$13,389.10 and the Per Capital Tuition Charge was \$9,402.26. Mrs. Boelens made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 audit as presented. Mr. Medley seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Edmund, Jeffries, Boelens, Moriarity, Schmoll, Medley, Humphrey. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bibb shared proposed updates to the Risk Management Plan, incorporating inspection costs that can be paid out of the Tort fund. Mrs. Jeffries made a motion to approve the updated Cambridge Risk Management Plan. Mr. Edmund seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Jeffries, Boelens, Moriarity, Schmoll, Medley, Humphrey, Edmund. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Jeffries made a motion to allow Cambridge CUSD #227 to apply for the FY25 School Maintenance Grant. Mrs. Boelens seconded the motion. Mrs. Bibb shared that the plan for this year's School Maintenance Grant application will be to use Fund 90 – Health, Life, Safety funds to pay for required items on the Ten-Year Health Life Safety inspection. Motion carried 7-0.

Mrs. Bibb gave a presentation of the preliminary Tax Levy. Per the county clerk, the district has been given an estimated 2.46% increase in the EAV to use in creating our tax levy. Mrs. Bibb shared historical trend data on the EAV and tax rates by fund, tax rate limitations, and tax rates for neighboring and comparable districts. Mrs. Bibb presented a tentative levy that represented an overall decrease in the total tax rate from 5.0597 to 5.0577 and an increase in the proposed levy of 7.4%. With a decrease in bonds and interest, the overall proposed increase is 3.97%. Mrs. Boelens made a motion to approve the preliminary Tax Levy and to set a Truth in Taxation hearing to be held on December 19, 2024 at 7:00 pm. Mr. Medley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Humphrey made a motion to approve Culley Medley as the Board Delegate for the Joint Annual Conference Assembly. Mrs. Boelens seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Mrs. Moriarity made a motion to approve Mackenzie Brown as Unit Office Secretary and Danyelle Cantrell as JH Volleyball Coach. Mr. Edmund seconded the motion and the motion passed with a roll call vote. Aye: Boelens, Moriarity, Schmoll, Medley, Humphrey, Edmund, Jeffries. Nay: None.

Executive Session:

The Board did not hold executive session.

At 8:21 pm, Mr. Humphrey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Edmund seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

President

Secretary