

REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
January 16, 2025, 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 January 16, 2025.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Mr. Edmund called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with a roll call attendance. Members present were Lance Edmund, Dianne Jeffries, Culley Medley, and Jarrett Schmoll. Also present were Jenna Bibb, Superintendent; Heather Pine, Elementary Principal; Bob Reagan, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Susan Sullivan, Unit Office Secretary/Bookkeeper; and community members Becky Blackert and Mitch Vincent.

Carrie Boelens arrived at 7:02 pm.

**Consent Agenda:**

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

1. Minutes of the December 19, 2024 meeting,
2. The bills through January 16, 2025,
3. Revolving Fund through December 2024,
4. Treasurer's Report for December 2024,
5. Grade School Activity Report and the Junior/Senior High School Activity Report for December 2024,
6. Approve the First Reading of the Enclosed Policies.

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

**Report from Board of Education on Meetings Attended**

None.

**Administrative Reports:**

Mrs. Pine, Elementary Principal, shared information about:

- The elementary school improvement team will be meeting next week to dive into our math and ELA district assessments, as well as state assessment data
- The elementary school kicked off our Kids Heart Challenge on January 10th. To donate, contact a Cambridge elementary student. The goal is to raise \$8,000.
- The Cambridge Parents Club is up and running! They have selected officers and they have the daddy/daughter dance as their first family event in February. In addition to the daddy/daughter dance, they will be organizing a mother/son night, teacher appreciation events, and a fun run during the summer months. The CPC will increase parental involvement and family activities.
- Tickets are available for the CAF's Dueling Pianos event on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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

- Honor Roll certificates will be passed out tomorrow. This year, 7% of Junior High students received High Honors compared to 13% last year. 32% of Junior High students were on the Honor Roll compared to 26% last year. For High School students, 21% made High Honors compared to 23% last year and 28% made the Honor Roll compared to 25% last year.
- This year's musical will be 'Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory'
- NHS is kicking off their Comfort and Care Drive
- FFA is offering a Snowmobile safety course next Monday.
- He also shared AIWood coaching updates.

Mrs Bibb, Superintendent, shared the following updates including:

- The Henry-Stark Executive Board approved the purchase of a new building up to \$350,000 that will be renovated to house a high-needs autism program. This program will bring “home” to the cooperative a large portion of our students attending High Road in the Quad Cities.
- On the new Ag Building, windows are being installed. Drywall has been delivered. The building should be enclosed, with the drywall ceilings hung, by January 23rd . We are in the midst of our Buy-a-Brick fundraising drive and would appreciate people sharing our Facebook post. We have flyers and order forms available in the Unit Office.
- During the admin team’s monthly District Office Transformation meeting, the focus was the Human Resources System. Topics included improving efficiency and effectiveness in the areas of recruiting, hiring, and retaining quality staff.
- District Leadership Team (DLT) Update:
  - The Non-Certified Market Evaluation survey is in progress with a due date of January 17th . Next steps are identifying salary gaps and develop recommendations for adjustments.
  - The Engie On-Site Visit was held January 13th.
- Grant Opportunities:
  - The District has applied for the Property Tax Relief Grant through ISBE. Usually, districts with our demographics do not get funding.
  - We have a student whose family is a Corn Belt Energy customer and she shared their education grant application. We have submitted a grant for approximately \$1,000 of items for the Animal Wet Lab.
  - This week, we were awarded a Big Bluestem Wind Community Grant for a dog washing station for our Animal Science Wet Lab.
- Miscellaneous Items:
  - Traditionally, the Board approved Gorenz as our auditor in January. Gorenz does not send out engagement letters until all work is complete for the year, which will be April or May due to the federal single audit.
  - We are working on preparing the Prairie State Insurance Cooperative Renewal information. We can approve the renewal once we receive our rates.
  - We are gathering information on our bus leases to prepare for next year.
  - The ROE has received a request for an Annexation/Detachment for properties between our District and Galva. Mrs. Bibb will attend the hearing with the Regional Board of School Trustees on January 27th.
  - Mrs. Bibb received a FOIA request from The Illinois Retired Teachers Association for the names and email addresses of our retirees for this year and submitted the requested information.
- Lastly, she shared an expenditure update by funds now that we are 50% through the fiscal year.

#### **Correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

#### **Public Participation:**

Mitch Vincent addressed the Board as a follow-up from his prior visit. He requested information about the policy Mrs. Bibb referenced when corresponding with him about the 10 Commandments donation offer. He also requested to know if the policy was mandated or not and what would happen if the District did not follow the law. Mr. Vincent requested that the Board of Education review our policies and lead the way in having the 10 Commandments and the Bible in our schools.

#### **Old Business:**

The Board of Education discussed three different options to use as superintendent evaluation tools. After discussion, Board members prefer the tool from IASB and plan to complete together in closed session next month. No action was taken.

**New Business:**

The Board completed the semi-annual review of executive session minutes from July through December 2024. Mrs. Boelens made a motion to keep the minutes closed. Mrs. Jeffries seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Bibb shared information about Vision 2030, a blueprint for K-12 public education that was led by IASA, IPA, and IASB, among other organizations. It is centered around three goals, each including ideals and policy recommendations. The three focus areas are Future Focused Learning, Shared Accountability, and Predictable Funding. After discussion, Mrs. Jeffries made a motion to approve a first reading of a resolution in support of Vision 2030. Mr. Medley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**Executive Session:**

Mrs. Jeffries made a motion to move to executive session. Mrs. Boelens seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Aye: Edmund, Jeffries, Boelens, Medley, Schmoll. Nay: None. Motion carried.

At 7:38 pm, the Board moved to 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.

At 8:12 pm, Mr. Medley made a motion to return to open session. Mr. Edmund seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

At 8:12 pm, Mrs. Jeffries made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Boelens seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

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President

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Secretary