



The Regular meeting of the Central Montcalm Public School Board of Education was called to order by President Bill Simpson in the High School Student Learning Center on Monday, July 21, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Bill Simpson, Jamie Hansen-Hopkins, Brennan Bowen, Betty Wakefield, Lisa Lund, Jim Lingeman, Rob Train

Absent: none

A moment of silence was observed in honor of Steve Lacy, who passed away earlier this month. Steve was a long-time volunteer for our Cross-Country teams and assistant coach for Varsity Track.

Superintendent's Report:

1. Recognition of Teachers on Alternative Paths to Certification: Central Montcalm has several teachers who are working on earning teacher certification or additional endorsements through alternative pathways. They are completing coursework in addition to teaching full-time. Administration would like to recognize their commitment and hard work.
 - a. Shannon Behrend, GSRP Lead Teacher: Early Childhood Education with Michigan Education Workforce Initiative through Olivet University.
 - b. Amber Beechler, 1st Grade Teacher: BS in Early Childhood Education through Grand Canyon University.
 - c. Scott Cripe, HS Teacher and Football Coach: Educational Specialist Curriculum and Instruction, Physical Education Endorsement with Teachers of Tomorrow and American College of Education. Scott was able to benefit from the Grow Your Own grant received from the State of Michigan to earn his PE endorsement.
 - d. Ashley Hillson, K-2 Music Teacher: PK-3 General Education and K-12 Music with Michigan Teachers of Tomorrow.
 - e. Joshua Hosko, 3rd Grade Teacher: 3-5 Upper Elementary General Education with Professional Innovators in Teaching.
 - f. Ashleigh Braman, former Paraprofessional and current permanent Substitute Teacher: Elementary Education with a Special Education endorsement with Teachers of Tomorrow. Ashleigh is also using funding from the Grow Your Own grant.
 - g. Amber Jones, GSRP Lead Teacher: Adding a Special Education degree with Teachers of Tomorrow, utilizing the Grow Your Own grant.
 - h. Nate Winters-Horton, 5th Grade Teacher, JV Baseball Coach, and Junior Class Advisor: Elementary Education with Talent Together through Ferris State University.
 - i. Stephanie Finney, GSRP Lead Teacher: Early Childhood Education with Michigan Education Workforce Initiative through Baker College.
2. Back to School Bash - August 12, 2025, 5:30-7:30 pm, Middle School Gymnasium: Sue Kearney is organizing the event, which has a different purpose than an Open House. The Bash will highlight community resources and school-based services and is geared toward all students aged preschool – 12th grade. Activities will include a hot dog cookout, visits with the local Queens and their courts, free haircuts from local stylists, vision screening through the Central Montcalm Lions Club and other community support organizations. They are encouraging the vendors to provide goodies for the students to collect as they move through the stations. The Bash was provided donations to cover costs, including a \$2000 grant from the Central Montcalm Community



Foundation and a \$500 grant from Central Montcalm Lions Club. They will be advertising this event in the Central Issue and on Facebook.

3. Board Workshop: August 26, 2025, 5:30 pm at Central Office
4. All Staff Back to School Breakfast: August 19, 2025, 8:30 am in the Middle School Cafeteria
5. Hornet Highlights:
 - a. Jeff Wernette, CMMHS Principal, introduced the new CMMHS Assistant Principal, Ed Beickman.
 - b. Athletic Accolades from the Daily News: Braelyn Bunting – DN Softball Player of the Year; Ashley Choponis and Kyah Hoffman – DN Co-Runners of the Year; Emmett Lingeman – DN Baseball Player of the Year and All-State Baseball honors. These achievements will be recognized in the next Central Issue.
 - c. MI-STEM Scholarships: Jenny Train recently received a scholarship for science training through MI-STEM (Michigan Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). She spent a week learning through the eyes of a student using a student-driven, teacher-led platform. These Next Gen standards focus instruction on Inquiry Learning and Questioning, and are a big change from traditional teaching methods she learned in her teacher preparation classes. Zachary Parkin received a scholarship for math training and will share his experiences at a later Board Meeting.
6. Child Care: Central Montcalm will offer Before and After School child care for Preschool – 5th Grade students at the Central Montcalm Learning Center location in Stanton. This is possible through a partnership with YMCA. CM employees will receive a 25% discount on rates. Financial aid options will be available to families. Rates and registration should be available later this week.

Previous Concerns: None at this time.

President Simpson opened the floor to public comment on agenda items: None at this time.

Motion by Lingeman, supported by Bowen, to accept and approve the following minutes as submitted: Regular Meeting and Budget Hearing minutes of June 16, 2025. By roll call vote, those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Lund, supported by Hansen-Hopkins, to accept and approve the Finance Report for the period ended June 30, 2025. By roll call vote, those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Bowen, supported by Wakefield, to ratify the payment of bills for June 2025 for the amount of \$1,732,477.41. By roll call vote, those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Motion by Hansen-Hopkins, supported by Bowen, to approve the following Board Policy updates as presented:

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| a. po131.1 | Bylaws and Policies |
| b. po2340 | Field Trips and other District-Sponsored Trips |
| c. po3144 | Administrative Compensation |
| d. po4430 | Leaves of Absence |
| e. po5320 | Immunization |



- f. po5330 Use of Medications
- g. po5330.01 Epinephrine Auto-Injectors
- h. po5350 Student Health, Well-Being, and Suicide Prevention
- i. po5460 Graduation Requirements
- j. po6320 Purchasing
- k. po8320 Personnel Files
- l. po8510 Wellness

By roll call vote, those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Lund, supported by Wakefield to rescind the following board policy due to the approved and updated policy po2340 in the last motion.

- a. po8640 Transportation for Field and other District-Sponsored Trips

By roll call vote, those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

President Simpson addressed the consent agenda.

1. To accept the resignation of Fred Barr, Bus Driver, effective June 17, 2025
2. To accept the resignation of Shelisa Barr, Bus Driver, effective June 30, 2025
3. To accept the resignation of Dannah Gager, CME Speech-Language Pathologist, effective May 30, 2025
4. To accept the resignation of Harrison Myers, CMMHS Teacher, effective July 10, 2025
5. To accept the resignation of Jennifer Blosssey, CMUE Teacher, effective July 11, 2025
6. To accept the resignation of Shannon Jurden, Central Office Secretary, effective August 29, 2025
7. To employ Edward Beickman as Assistant Principal at CMMHS, effective July 1, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
8. To employ Nicole Black as Speech-Language Pathologist at CMMHS and CME, effective August 11, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
9. To employ Laura Schubert as Speech-Language Pathologist at CME, effective August 11, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
10. To employ Jeremiah Comden as Social Studies Teacher at CMMHS, effective August 11, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
11. To employ Hannah (Willmore) Tissue as 5th Grade Teacher at CMUE, effective August 11, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
12. To approve a partially unpaid leave of absence for Gabrielle Rewa, beginning August 18, 2025 for up to four weeks

Motion by Lingeman, supported by Lund, to approve the consent agenda as presented. By roll call vote, those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

New Business:

Discussion – Hiring Policy: Train suggested implementing a written policy for superintendent and administrator hiring. He would like a committee to review the current policies and procedures, and make a recommendation for future hiring situations. Simpson would like a committee to review the process recently completed for the Superintendent search to find positives and future improvements. Bowen asked if the same committee could complete both tasks. It was mutually agreed one committee could



handle everything. Simpson asked for volunteers for the (ad-hoc) Administrative Hiring Committee: Train, Lingeman, Hansen-Hopkins.

Discussion – Landscaping: Train suggested we reduce the footage of lawn area we are maintaining in the district for both ecological and financial reasons. He would like to investigate grants to cover consulting with a landscape expert and additional grants for implementing any landscape changes the Board would approve. Train cited a program called “Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Principles” that may be beneficial to all school campuses. The USDA and/or local Conservation District may be resources for funding and information. We no longer have a Facilities committee at the Board level. Questions were asked concerning any existing Facilities or Landscaping Master Plan for the district. Harvey Shick, Director of Operations, will be asked to investigate funding and any existing Master Plans.

Discussion – Term Limits for Board Members: Train suggested implementing a Term Limit policy for Board Members. This may also include a review of Board Member responsibilities and expectations. This topic will be addressed at an upcoming Board Workshop.

Motion by Wakefield, supported by Lingeman, to approve the parent and student handbooks for the 2025-2026 school year.

- a. Central Montcalm Public Schools Elementary Handbook
- b. Central Montcalm Middle-High School Student-Parent Handbook

By roll call vote, those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Hansen-Hopkins, supported by Bowen, to recognize the following individuals who have met the requirements to be granted tenure at Central Montcalm Public School.

- a. Brianna Collins-Raymond
- b. Shelby McIntyre

By roll call vote, those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

President Simpson opened the floor to public comment on non-agenda items. There were no comments.

Motion by Lund, supported by Bowen, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:45 p.m. By roll call vote, those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Hansen-Hopkins
Board Secretary