



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, August 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: none

Motion by Bowen, supported by Wakefield, to amend the agenda with the following:

- a. Under Old Business, add Term Limits for Board Members
- b. Under Old Business, add Sustainable Landscaping

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

Superintendent's Report:

1. Introduction of new staff:
 - a. CME – Nicole Black, Speech Pathologist; Laura Schubert, Speech Pathologist, Holly Byington, 1st Grade Teacher; Hannah Thomas, 2nd Grade Teacher; Paraprofessionals Madison Moran, Vikki Pomeroy, and Emily Rodenhouse; Student Teachers Liberty Devereaux and Brielle Collins; Social Work Intern Krista Courser
 - b. CMUE – Dana McGinty, Special Education; Jennifer Denman, 4th Grade Teacher; Hannah Tissue, 5th Grade Teacher; Paraprofessionals Melissa Case-Mumby, Stephanie Cook, and Grace Ritchey; Custodians Chuck Stephens and Tom Ford
 - c. CMMHS – Linsey Christensen, Special Education; Jeremiah Comden, MS Social Studies; Sydney Stauffer, HS Science; Kelsey Rewa – MS Science; Paraprofessionals Heather Ridgell, Samantha Bolen, and Kylie Parks; Student Teachers Grace Wertz and Gavin Stevens
 - d. Bus Garage – Drivers Patrick Mann, Jackie Hancock, and Sue Denton
 - e. Food Service – Cook's Helpers Stephanie Eady and Jamie Decker
 - f. Central Office – Rachelle Andersen, Central Office Secretary
2. Back to School Bash Recap with Sue Kearney: 128 adults and 214 children attended the Bash for Central Montcalm on August 12. This event highlighted the family services and resources available in Montcalm County. 34 vendors participated. This included 7 hairstylists who provided 54 haircuts in 2 hours, and Central Montcalm Lions Club who conducted 30 vision screenings and suggested 3 referrals for further testing. Several community and staff members volunteered time to help make the evening a success. Special thanks to the Custodial Staff who assisted with set up and escaped balloon recovery. This event was possible due to grants from Central Montcalm Community Foundation (\$2000) and Central Montcalm Lions Club (\$500).
3. Hornet Highlights:
 - a. MI-STEM Scholarships: Zachary Parkin received a scholarship for math training and attended a session titled "Amped with Algebra". This learning strategy uses business concepts to instruct abstract mathematical concepts using hands on curriculum as



students design, produce, and sell a product. Zachary is hopeful to attend a related seminar in the near future titled “Geometry in Construction”.

- b. Connect the Work Educators Cooperative: Assistant Superintendent Charity Stephens shared information about a new partnership with Montcalm Community College focused on Career Connections. This program spans kindergarten to post-secondary students, and highlights a common vocabulary and language to discuss work. Students get to know and understand their strengths and interests, guiding them to find a connection to lessons and activities at school. The first learning opportunity will be on September 17, and will involve CMPS teachers inviting representatives into their classrooms to model key points of this program.
4. All Staff Back to School Breakfast: August 19, 2025, 8:30 am in the Middle School Cafeteria
5. MCSBA – Countywide Meeting on September 22, 2025 at Seiter Center in Greenville.

Previous Concerns: None at this time.

President Simpson opened the floor to public comment on agenda items: Sheena Sanders, HS Spanish Teacher, spoke on her consent agenda request for an unpaid leave for a Cultural Immersion Trip. She agreed to present highlights of her experience at a future meeting.

Committee Reports:

1. Ad-Hoc Administrative Hiring: This committee met on August 6. They reviewed the current board policy on hiring a superintendent and shared points from the recent process. They have started generating a list of recommendations for use in future superintendent searches. They have also started a review of the policy regarding the hire of other administrators. The group feels they could provide more complete feedback and recommendations if given more time. The committee established 3 goals for the work:
 - a. Continue review and make recommendations regarding Board Policy po1220: Employment of Superintendent. The focus would be not to overhaul the entire policy, but to make any needed updates.
 - b. Continue evaluation and reflection of the superintendent hiring process to make recommendations for the record. The recommendations are meant to provide some guidance for future trustees but not change the parameters as presented in the written policy.
 - c. Continue review and make recommendations regarding Board Policy po1521: Requirements for Hiring Administrator.

This work could continue at the committee level or could be addressed by the Board as a whole at an upcoming workshop session. Any recommendations resulting in a change in policy would need to be voted on by the entire board.

Motion by Lund, supported by Train, to have the Ad-Hoc Administrative Hiring committee continue work in drafting recommendations to be presented to the entire board. By roll call vote, those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.



Motion by Wakefield, supported by Lingeman, to accept and approve the following minutes as submitted: Regular Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2025. By roll call vote, those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Bowen, supported by Hansen-Hopkins, to accept and approve the Finance Report for the period ended July 31, 2025. By roll call vote, those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Lund, supported by Bowen, to ratify the payment of bills for July 2025 for the amount of \$980,588.78. By roll call vote, those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Motion by Train, supported by Lingeman, that term limits be established by the Board and no trustee be allowed to serve more than 3 consecutive terms. Discussion: Information was shared by several members. Train had documents listing reasons to establish term limits for non-profit boards. Hansen-Hopkins discussed that providing professional development to established board members can have a positive impact on student outcomes and can foster more effective decision making by the board. Simpson spoke with Brad Basanik, MASB Legal Counsel, who advised that it is illegal to impose term limits on a school board in the State of Michigan. Kirstin Millard is sending supporting documentation to the Board soon. Due to this information, the motion was declared dead.

Motion by Train, supported by Lingeman, to pursue possible grants for a sustainable landscape design plan for all campuses to minimize labor and maintenance costs and be good stewards of the environment. Discussion: Simpson had approached Harvey Shick, Director of Operations, to investigate current landscape details and possible future plans. Shick shared that having a design plan would be key. In addition to designing and installing any new features, the landscaping would need to be maintained. This labor would fall to the grounds and maintenance crew. It currently takes 18 minutes to mow the front area of the High School Campus. Would the focus be wildflowers? Walking path gardens? Self-sustainable trees or arbor groves? Most gardens would be labor intensive. Discussion at the July meeting mentioned 40% reduction in maintained and mowed areas. Train agreed that may have been a lofty suggested goal and the district may need to start smaller. In recent facilities studies, landscaping was not included as a factor. Landscaping and sustainable plans for our grounds could be developed as part of a larger District Strategic Plan. Lund felt a fair approach would include a strategic plan addressing all areas: structures, equipment, furniture, and landscaping. It could be worthwhile to investigate a partnership with the MCC Master Gardeners. Bowen cautioned that some plans created by landscape designers are not feasible to construct and maintain on school property. Simpson mentioned concern about spending money on landscaping when state funding has yet to be decided for the 2025-2026 school year. Instruction should be the priority for funds.

By roll call vote, those in favor: Train, Lingeman; opposed: Bowen, Wakefield, Simpson, Lund, Hansen-Hopkins. Motion fails, 5-2.



President Simpson addressed the consent agenda.

1. To accept the revised resignation of Shannon Jurden, Central Office Secretary, with an updated effective date of August 14, 2025
2. To accept the resignation of Austin Sargent, CMMHS Teacher, effective July 21, 2025
3. To accept the resignation of Betsy Reed, Regular Route Bus Driver (willing to sub drive), effective July 29, 2025
4. To accept the resignation of Mackenzie Kohn, CME Paraprofessional, effective July 31, 2025
5. To accept the resignation of Waverly Brokaw, CME Paraprofessional, effective August 1, 2025
6. To accept the resignation of Alicia Harris, CMUE Paraprofessional, effective August 15, 2025
7. To promote Deb Woodard to Assistant Cook for CMHS, effective August 12, 2025
8. To employ Holly Byington as 1st Grade Teacher at CME, effective August 11, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
9. To employ Rachelle Andersen as Central Office Assistant, effective July 30, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
10. To employ Susan Denton as Bus Driver, effective August 5, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
11. To employ Jackie Hancock as Bus Driver, effective August 5, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
12. To employ Stephanie Eady as Cook's Helper at CME, effective August 11, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
13. To employ Jamie Decker as Cook's Helper at CMHS, effective August 11, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
14. To employ Madison Moran as CME Paraprofessional, effective August 11, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
15. To employ Vikki Pomeroy as CME Paraprofessional, effective August 11, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
16. To employ Emily Rodenhouse as CME Paraprofessional, effective August 11, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
17. To employ Melissa Case-Mumby as CMUE Paraprofessional, effective August 11, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
18. To employ Stephanie Cook as CMUE Paraprofessional, effective August 11, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
19. To employ Grace Ritchey as CMUE Paraprofessional, effective August 11, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
20. To employ Heather Ridgell as CMMS Paraprofessional, effective August 11, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
21. To employ Thomas Ford as 4-hour Custodian at CMUE, effective August 18, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks



22. To employ Charles Stephens as 4-hour Custodian at CMUE, effective August 18, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
23. To approve an unpaid leave of absence for Sheena Sanders, beginning October 20, 2025 for up to 10 days

Discussion: Concern of informality of some resignations with little notice. Bowen suggested possible explanation of expectations to new staff, including proper procedures and professionalism.

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

New Business: None at this time.

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

Motion by Hansen-Hopkins, supported by Wakefield, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:02 p.m. By roll call vote, those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Hansen-Hopkins
Board Secretary