Central Montcalm Public School
Board of Education
Minutes of September 15, 2025 Regular Meeting

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, September 15, 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 Lingeman, supported by Hansen-Hopkins, to approve the agenda as presented. Those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Superintendent's Report:

1. MAISD Superintendent Katie Flynn: Supt. Flynn provided an overview of MAISD programs and services, which are provided to students of both public and non-public schools up to the age of 26 (if under special education programs). She has been working for MAISD since January 2025 in the Superintendent role. The ISD Board of Education will soon review and approve development of a five-part strategic plan for our ISD, which will then be shared with the local districts.
2. Department Spotlight: A reception was held before the Board of Education meeting honoring our Custodial, Grounds, and Maintenance workers. Over 50 staff members contributed comments celebrating this team and the daily hard work undertaken by the crew to keep our buildings and grounds looking great. Custodial/Maintenance team members in attendance included Shannon Buskirk, Phil Kava, Tina Vroman, Chuck Stephens, Heather Reid, Ray Transeau, and Director of Facilities & Grounds Tony Brace.
3. Retirement: Ken Crane will be retiring from Central Montcalm as of September 30, 2025. Ken has been teaching for 30 years. During his time at CMPS, he worked in our Middle School Math Department and has coached various sports. Due to other commitments, he was unable to attend the meeting this evening. Thank you, Mr. Crane!
4. MCSBA – Countywide Meeting on September 22, 2025 at Seiter Center in Greenville.
5. Hornet Highlights:
    a. CMMHS: Jeff Wernette, Principal, shared information about upcoming Homecoming events including the home varsity football game against Morley-Stanwood. The MS/HS staff is incorporating DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) every Thursday as part of SWARM, and is working to create MGC (Moments of Genuine Connection) with each student. Welcome gift bags were handed out by peer coaches to our new middle school students.

b. CMUE: Abigail LaVictor, Principal, was pleased to report the upper elementary has earned a Hat Day as a reward for 5000 Hornet High Fives! Scheduling a block of specials including music, art, and a read aloud session have allowed for common grade level planning time of 90 minutes on a weekly basis. Results from Fall Data Day show 82% of 5th graders were proficient in retelling quality (recalling facts or details from a leveled reading passage) when scored using the Acadience assessment.
c. CME: Shannon Bowen, Principal, explained staff members are working to build relationships with the students. Adults are teaching and reteaching expectations and procedures to be used in all areas of the school building. The building behavior thermometer is moving up as our elementary students are seen following those rules and expectations. Students are working to fill their individual punch cards to earn prizes such as Lunch with the Principal or a ride on Paws the Tiger. Fall Data Day results were promising, as NWEA scores remain consistent from the spring assessment with no demonstrated "summer slide".

Previous Concerns: None at this time.

President Simpson opened the floor to public comment on agenda items: Harvey Shick, Chief of Operations, complimented the work completed by our Custodial and Maintenance/Grounds staff.

Committee Report: Ad–Hoc Administrative Hiring - This committee met on September 8 and has the following items to share with the Board.

a. Regarding recommended changes to *Employment of Superintendent* po1220: An inquiry is being made concerning the legality of three current portions of the policy that may be unnecessary. Once clarification is received, the committee will return to the Board with a policy recommendation. No additions are currently recommended.
b. The committee also generated a list of suggested hiring practices to ensure clarity, transparency, and accessibility. The list includes reviewing the current board policy at the beginning of the hiring process, increasing community involvement in the process, having multiple rounds of interviews and site visits for the final round candidates, consistent use of the MASB portal for applications, requiring formal letters of recommendation for all candidates, increasing full board involvement in generating questions and allowable follow-up questions, creation of a rubric to guide the Board in evaluation of candidates (not to assign any numerical score to the candidates) and

determining a representative to follow up with candidates as the hiring process reaches a conclusion.

c. Regarding *Requirements for Hiring Administrator* po1521: The committee has no recommendation for formal changes. There is a recommendation to return to the practice of submitting "in writing, a proposed hiring process to the Board for approval" for any administrative vacant positions, as described in the current policy.

Annual Hearing: Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Pursuant to Policy 7540, the District annually holds a hearing to verify that the District is meeting all required components for student and staff internet safety within the District. Hearing was called to order at 7:24 pm. There were no comments. Hearing was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Motion by Wakefield, supported by Lund, to accept and approve the following minutes as submitted: Regular Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2025. Those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Lund, supported by Bowen, to accept and approve the Finance Report for the period ended August 31, 2025. Those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Lingeman, supported by Bowen, to ratify the payment of bills for August 2025 for the amount of $1,017,551.38. Those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Old Business: None at this time.

President Simpson addressed the consent agenda.

1. To employ Samantha Bolen as Paraprofessional at CMMHS, effective August 11, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
2. To employ Kyleigh Parks as Paraprofessional at CMMHS, effective July 30, 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
3. To employ Tony Esch as Sub Bus Driver, effective September 8 2025, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
4. To employ Dan Basom as 8th Grade Boys Basketball Coach, effective September 1, 2025, per Schedule B
5. To employ Kelsey Rewa as 8th Grade Girls Volleyball Coach, effective September 8, 2025, per Schedule B
6. To employ Craig Harrison as 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach, effective October 1, 2025, per Schedule B

7. To extend the leave request for Gabrielle Rewa to include September 15-19, 2025

Motion by Wakefield, supported by Lingeman, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

New Business:
Motion by Wakefield, supported by Hansen-Hopkins, to establish two goals for Superintendent Amanda McLaughlin for the time period of September 15, 2025 through December 15, 2025. Discussion: The Board considered five possible goals outlined by the Superintendent and impacts on the current district goals and mission statement. The following two goals were chosen for further implementation and development. It was acknowledged by the Board that it was not their expectation to see final completion of these goals by the end of the calendar year although they are anticipating status updates.

Goal #1: The Superintendent should work collaboratively with the Board to develop a comprehensive, five-year strategic plan for Central Montcalm involving input from multiple stakeholders. (Related to Strand/Standard D: Business & Finance)

Goal #2: The Superintendent shall enhance the overall culture of Central Montcalm Public School District by increasing a sense of belonging, improving communication, and fostering a supportive and collaborative environment among all staff members. (Related to Strand/Standard C: Staff Relations)

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 Hansen-Hopkins, supported by Lund, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:40 p.m. Those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Hansen-Hopkins
Board Secretary