



The Special meeting of the Central Montcalm Public School Board of Education was called to order by President Bill Simpson in the CMMHS Student Learning Center on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

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

Motion by Lund, supported by Bowen, to approve the agenda as presented. By roll call vote, those in favor 6, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Organizational Meeting Discussion:

- Sample Agenda: Trustees reviewed agenda items. Lund suggested adding “Appoint Asst. Secretary and Asst. Treasurer” to action items. The Board could name the business manager and the administrative assistant to the superintendent as assistants to the Board of Education to conduct basic daily business related to the Board’s responsibilities. General agreement to suggestion.
- Officer Elections – Officer Roles: Trustees reviewed the procedure of electing a temporary chairperson who will preside over the election of a president. The new president will preside over the remaining officer elections. Discussion continued to see interest from trustees in the 4 officer positions.
  - Simpson would like to step down as president. He would recommend Bowen for nomination as president. He would be willing to serve as VP and train Bowen in the president role.
  - Hansen-Hopkins is willing to continue as secretary.
  - Lund is willing to help a new person learn the treasurer role.
  - Train is interested in treasurer.
- Committees for 2026: Lund suggested 3 committees of Finance (budget, special expenditures), Facilities (work with Harvey Shick to develop the Facilities portion of the strategic plan, look at long term goals for upkeep and use of buildings and property), and Board Development (investigate topics for Board training, share professional development opportunities for trustees). General agreement to suggestion. Trustees were asked about interest in participating on the suggested committees.
  - Bowen feels committees should report monthly during Board meetings.
  - Simpson would like Harvey to attend all workshops and provide updates.
  - Train would like to see a committee to break down and explain test scores, curriculum updates, and new terminology to help the trustees understand some of the information presented. Superintendent McLaughlin asked if the Board would like a



quick tutorial each month about how to interpret data from a featured presentation, such as SWIS or Special Education. General agreement to tutorial idea.

- Bowen would like a new acronym sheet to help remember the different programs and jargon (BIF, SWIS, MTSS).
- Mrs. McLaughlin will reference MASB for committee descriptors for the above categories to share with the group to help generate motion language.
- Hansen-Hopkins feels this group can develop some healthy committees for the coming year. After the strategic plan is in place, the need for certain committees may shift and the Board can reevaluate which groups are needed.
- DCIT (District Continuous Improvement Team): Hansen-Hopkins has been attending DCIT meetings (held at the HS, 3:30 – 5:00 on regular Board Meeting nights).
  - Train wondered how much input a board member would contribute to these meetings, and was it of any value to have someone attend.
  - McLaughlin indicated the person can ask questions and join in the conversation to help understand the data produced during these work sessions.
  - Hansen-Hopkins feels the value is reversed – the board member can observe these teachers in action outside of the classroom and hear the conversations generated as they evaluate the data each month. She feels it would be informational and educational for each board member to take a turn to attend these monthly meetings.
- MCSBA (Montcalm County School Board Association): Lund has been our representative. They have two Zoom meetings each year to plan the County Wide School Board Training. One person can handle the job.
  - Point of order: The resolution submitted to MCSBA must list a representative and an alternate. Trustees will need to name 2 individuals.
  - Lund enjoys this assignment, but will step aside if someone else would like to explore the role.
- Meeting Dates for 2026: The Board reviewed the tentative dates for 2026 meetings.
  - Regular meetings: The December 21 date occurs during Winter Break. Consensus to move the December meeting to 12/14/2026.
  - Workshops: Wakefield has a conflict with workshops on the first Monday of the month. General Agreement to move the workshops forward to Wednesday.
  - This page will be updated before the 1/19 meeting.
- BOE Annual Calendar: The Board would like a regular report on different topics. Those topics could be added to this calendar.
  - Request to add a list of upcoming school events which board members could attend to the monthly information packet. This could include concerts, sports, plays, fundraisers, and other school activities to support.



- Lund wondered if trustees should sign up for events so administration would know a board member would be attending.
- Discussion of other ways to observe building activities: attend an assembly/activity, ride a bus route, do a walk-through with Mandy.

Around the Table:

- Strategic Plan: All employees and board members were sent a survey in reference to our vision and mission statement awareness as the next step in strategic planning. This data will be reviewed to decide if either statement needs to be updated. Train wondered about gathering data from the community. A link could be advertised in Central Issue, on Facebook, and possibly the electronic sign. Postcards could be considered to increase awareness of the survey.
- 31aa: No new updates on the legislation. The court case will be on the docket in February. Mrs. McLaughlin will attend legislative update sessions to gather any information available. She would be willing to draft a group letter for trustees to sign if the Board is interested.

President Simpson opened the floor to public comment. Aaron Tabor stated concerns about student behavior investigation procedures he believes are being used at CMMHS.

Motion by Lund, supported by Wakefield, to adjourn the Special meeting at 6:54 pm. Those in favor 6, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jamie Hansen-Hopkins  
Secretary