Central Montcalm Public School
Board of Education
Minutes of October 19, 2026 Regular Meeting

The Regular meeting of the Central Montcalm Public School Board of Education was called to order by President Brennan Bowen in the High School Student Learning Center on Monday, October 19, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Brennan Bowen, Elizabeth Buskirk, Lisa Lund, Bill Simpson, Rob Train, Betty Wakefield; Absent: Jamie Hansen-Hopkins.

Motion by Wakefield, supported by Train, to approve the agenda with the change of moving the Audit Presentation to the beginning of the meeting. Those in favor 6, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Presentation: Annual Audit, by Sherrie Blankenship, Maner Costerisan. Tricia Root and Jessica Aldridge, MAISD, were also present. Our district received an overall Unmodified Opinion (clean audit) rating, including no significant weaknesses or deficiencies for internal controls. For a third year, the district has a healthy fund balance of approximately 33%. There is an ongoing surplus in our Food Service budget and we will need to continue our spend-down plan for reducing that balance. In comparing our original budget (June 2025) with the final budget (June 2026), the changes were about 2%. This demonstrates good planning and use of spending by the district.

Superintendent's Report:

1. Hornet Highlights:
    a. CME: Principal Shannon Bowen discussed the Safety Day events hosted at CME and ELC, including firetrucks, police cars and ambulances. Children could touch the vehicles and talk to these community helpers about their careers. The Bucket Fillers are continuing presentations this year. The PTO has held two fundraisers involving selling Anderson Orchard donut certificates and Busy Bee's shirts featuring "Class of 20xx" logos. Parent-teacher conferences will be held this week. Students continue to collect punch cards and are working toward the next school-wide goal of Hornet water bottles.
    b. CMUE: Principal Abigail LaVictor reported on the building fundraiser reward of a glow dance and silly string event. CMUE also hosted Firefighter Safety presentations. The Special Education students attended "Sunny Days Camp" on campus where the state police had learning stations involving community helpers. Parent-teacher conferences will be on Wednesday. The 4th grade took a field trip to Sleepy Hollow State Park. As part of the event, each student received a family pass to any state park in the United States.
    c. CMMHS: Principal Jeff Wernette shared that October is College Month at CMMHS, and several state universities have banners hanging in the Learning Center. Middle School and High School Special Education students also participated in the "Sunny Days Camp", and enjoyed learning about K-9 units and the DNR career paths. Mrs. Train is hosting a drone presentation on Wednesday, linking online gaming skills to other careers through RIASEC. The High School Band took 1st place at the Rockford Invitational last weekend. The HOPE Squad is visiting the elementary buildings. Audrey

Arwood was a regional finalist for Girls' Golf, taking 22nd place in State competition. Daily video announcements are being created by the HS Media class.

d. Transportation: This is School Bus Safety Week. Police are following our buses this week in an effort to reduce the number of red-light runners passing the buses while loading and unloading students.

2. Presentation: Dalton Brown, a student in Mrs. Oswald's Problem Solving class, presented a proposal to trustees to install a vending machine in the MS end of the CMMHS building. Another student in the same class, Jase Zimmerman, presented a proposal to create an outdoor classroom space. The students had prepared detailed planning of the ideas and answered questions from the Board.
3. Superintendent McLaughlin spoke on 31aa funding available for School Safety and Mental Health. The district will be applying for Mental Health funds, as there are no stipulations tied to those monies. The Board will need to vote next month to opt in to the School Safety funding. Language concerning Mass Casualty events have been clarified since last year.

Board Communication/Committee Reports:

1. Finance – The committee received a preview of the audit finding on October 15.
2. Facilities – Borings are done. The committee set the next meeting for Tuesday, October 27 at 7:30 am in the Superintendent's office.
3. Board Development – Over the last year, this committee has created a list of professional development resources available on the Google drive. They invited MASB to present to the Board about Open Meetings Act and Parliamentary Procedure, based on results of the board survey. They also used information from the survey to develop the Board Orientation Notebook, up for approval later in the meeting.
4. DCIT – Mr. Bowen join the meeting in October. He spoke of the interesting discussions and interactions between staff. There are many acronyms to learn and understand to participate in these meetings.
5. Ad-Hoc Millage Education: Key dates have been announced for early voting and mail-in voting. Postcards have been mailed and distributed to businesses in the community.
6. MCSBA: Many members attended the September 28 Legislative Update. Central Montcalm has been asked to host the next training on April 26, 2027. The committee is looking at topics for presentation; please send any ideas to Lisa Lund.
7. Bowen: He reminded trustees that they can join Mandy on Building Walk-Throughs. Call Central Office to confirm a time with her.
8. Coffee with the Superintendent – Thursday, October 22 from 8:00-10:00 am at Crossroads Diner.

Response to Previous Concerns: None at this time.

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

President Bowen addressed the consent agenda.

1. To file the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2026
2. To file the Board Workshop Minutes of October 7, 2026

3. To file the Finance Report for the period ended September 30, 2026
4. To file the roster of General Fund and debt retirement bills for September 2026 totaling $1,043,087.41
5. To accept the resignation of Deborah Woodard as HS Assistant Cook at Food Service effective October 16, 2026
6. To extend the unpaid medical leave for Gabrielle Rewa through October 23, 2026

Motion by Buskirk, supported by Wakefield, to approve the consent agenda. Those in favor 6, opposed 0. Motion carried.

New Business:
Motion by Buskirk, supported by Wakefield, to approve the Board Orientation Notebook. The committee was thanked for their thorough work. It will be a living document, and other pieces can be added as needed. Trustees have been provided a paper copy, and will receive a digital version to access accompanying document links. By roll call vote, those in favor 6, opposed 0. Motion carried.

President Bowen opened the floor to public comment on non-agenda items: Lisa Lund added that matching funds have been offered for RIASEC training and materials by an MCC alumni, Blaine Jones. He will be visiting our schools next month.

Motion by Wakefield, supported by Simpson, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:02 pm. Those in favor 6, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Simpson
Acting Board Secretary