



The Board Workshop 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, December 1, 2025 at 5:02 pm.

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

Absent: None

Motion by Hansen-Hopkins, supported by Wakefield, to add “Approve 31aa Resolution” to the agenda. Those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Hansen-Hopkins, supported by Bowen, to approve the agenda as revised. Those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Discussion Topics:

31aa: Superintendent McLaughlin gave a brief history of 31aa funding and explained the differences with this year’s 31aa funding.

- If funding is accepted, any mass casualty event would result in an in-depth investigation and would waive any attorney/client privileges for the district.
- There is a court case pending concerning the legality of the legislation. The court decision is expected by 12/19/2025.
- The district must opt in before the December 4 deadline.
- The district may still opt out by December 30.
- If the proposed resolution is approved, Mandy will opt in for the district and monitor the court decision. Any information will be brought back to the Board for further discussion if necessary.

Motion by Hansen-Hopkins, supported by Lingeman, to approve the 31aa Resolution for Opt-In Subject to Rescission.

**WHEREAS:**

1. Public Act 15 of 2025 amends State School Aid Act Section 31aa, MCL 388.1631aa, to allocate funding for fiscal year 2025/2026 to support school safety and student mental health initiatives, as well as to provide certain competitive grant funding (“31aa Funding”); and
2. To receive 31aa Funding, the District must agree to receive the funding in the form and manner established by the Michigan Department of Education (“MDE”) and either formally opt in or seek a competitive grant; and
3. As a condition of receiving either type of 31aa Funding, the District must agree in advance that, in the event of a “mass casualty event,” as defined in MCL 388.1631aa: (1) the District will be subject to and comply with a comprehensive investigation following such an event, and (2) the District will waive any privilege that may otherwise protect related information from disclosure; and
4. Litigation challenging the legality and enforceability of the privilege-waiver requirement is currently pending; and
5. The opt-in deadline for 31aa Funding is currently December 4, 2025, at 11:59 p.m., and it may be subject to further extension (the “Opt-In Deadline”); and
6. The litigation parties have stipulated that a district may later rescind its opt in by providing notice to MDE no later than December 30, 2025, at 11:59 p.m., as may be subject to further extension (the “Rescission Deadline”), in the form and manner established by MDE; and
7. The Board has been fully advised of the legal and practical implications of the privilege-waiver requirement, including its potential effect on attorney-client privilege and other applicable privileges; and
8. The Board desires to preserve the District’s eligibility for 31aa Funding while avoiding any present waiver of privilege and while allowing time for the courts to determine the legality and enforceability of the privilege-waiver requirement.



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools, or designee, to submit the District's opt-in form to MDE on or before the Opt-In Deadline, solely for the purpose of preserving the District's eligibility for 31aa Funding, and only on a conditional basis, as provided in this Resolution. Submission of the opt-in form shall not constitute a present waiver of the attorney-client privilege or any other privilege.

2. The District's conditional opt in shall be automatically rescinded without further action of the Board, unless, on or before the Rescission Deadline: (a) the Legislature removes, substantively amends, or otherwise eliminates the privilege-waiver requirement such that acceptance of 31aa Funding would not require waiver of attorney-client privilege or any other applicable privilege; or (b) a court of competent jurisdiction rules that the privilege-waiver requirement is unlawful, unenforceable, or otherwise not applicable to the District. If neither (a) nor (b) occurs by the Rescission Deadline, the Superintendent of Schools, or designee, shall notify MDE, in the form and manner required by MDE and no later than the Rescission Deadline, that the District's opt in is rescinded.

3. If the privilege-waiver requirement remains in effect and enforceable as of the Rescission Deadline, the Superintendent of Schools, or designee, shall have no authority or obligation to accept 31aa Funding.

4. Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed as a waiver of attorney-client privilege or any other applicable privilege.

5. The District's participation in the opt-in or rescission process shall not be construed as a waiver of the Board's or District's right to challenge the legality or enforceability of any condition imposed by MCL 388.1631aa or related administrative guidance.

6. If, after the Rescission Deadline, the privilege-waiver requirement is removed, amended, or invalidated, the Board may take further action as it deems appropriate to pursue 31aa Funding consistent with applicable law.

7. This Resolution does not apply to any "mass casualty event" occurring prior to the Opt-In Deadline.

8. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this Resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Norms of Collaboration: On the agenda for conversation and suggestions.

- Final Reading and approval will occur at December 15 regular meeting.
- Suggested addition to #3: Trustees will contact the Superintendent if unable to attend any scheduled meeting. After discussion, Lisa will add this point to the draft document.

Organizational Meeting Planning: Bill, Betty and Lisa attended this MASB workshop last month.

- Key points shared with the Board include:
  - Guidelines for planning our January meeting when officers are elected and committees are established.
  - MASB suggests a pre-meeting workshop to work out details.
    - Share information about officer positions.
    - Possibly need updated officer roles and responsibilities.
    - Share dates of upcoming bonds and/or elections.
  - The Board should establish a meeting calendar including regular meetings and board workshops, as well as regular/annual tasks to attend to at each meeting (audit, budget revision, annual reports).
  - Set members of committees and the approved use/tasks of those committees.
    - Lisa read a list of suggested committees: Finance, Curriculum, Personnel and Policy, Board Development, Facilities and Transportation.
    - May need to redefine committee roles.
    - Mandy's mentor recommends 3 committees: Facilities and Finance, Personnel and Policy, Curriculum.



- Strategic planning can help drive committees and working together for a defined purpose.
- Suggestion of Safety and Security committee.
- DCIT Representative role was discussed.
- Monthly reporting from representatives and committees could be added to regular agenda.
- Trustees can use a script and/or motion outline.
- Set expectations for public comments and presentations in advance to guide audience members.
- Trustees should participate in Professional Development opportunities, especially covering topics such as Open Meetings Act, Robert's Rules/parliamentary procedure and leadership experiences.
- Trustees should review district policies and procedures.

Around the Table – Questions and Comments: None at this time.

Response to Previous Concerns: Administrators drafted a letter to send to the parents who spoke at the 11/17 Board Meeting. Our legal team says the Board should not be discussing student matters in public due to FERPA privacy rights. The Board may revise our public comment announcement and form to clarify expectations.

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

Motion by Lund, supported by Wakefield, to move into Closed Session at 6:48 p.m. for the following topics allowable under Section 8 of the Open Meetings Act:

- To discuss the annual evaluation of Amanda McLaughlin, Superintendent, at the employee's request (8.1.a).
- To discuss School Security, material exempt for disclosure by state and federal statute (8.1.k).

Those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Lund, supported by Hansen-Hopkins, to end the Closed Session at 7:24 p.m. Those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Lund, supported by Bowen, to adjourn the Board Workshop at 7:25 pm. Those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jamie Hansen-Hopkins  
Secretary