



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, December 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

#### Superintendent's Report:

1. Hope Squad: Students Hailey Rios and Audrey Arwood, with Angela Breese, MS Counselor, shared an overview of the CMMHS Hope Squad. This peer-led group of forty students has the mission of educating others about mental health. They are trained in identifying cues in fellow students that might indicate someone may be struggling with mental health issues, and can pass names to the Student Support Staff for further assistance. While the Hope Squad has been in existence, 137 students have been identified and helped. The group is proud of their "Bryce Buckets" program, which are personalized gifts to be shared with someone having a rough day or facing a tough situation. The key piece of the Bryce Bucket is a handwritten note of support from one Hope Squad student offering encouragement to the recipient. The students nominate certain staff members as "ambassadors", identified people in the building who are easy to talk to and build relationships with. Hope Week, held in April, includes spirit days, special treats, and themed assemblies. In an effort to extend the group's reach, the students have visited the elementary buildings this year, engaging with CME students by creating worry monsters, and crafting ornaments while talking with CMUE students.
2. Fall All-State/All-Conference Student Athlete Recognition: Athletic Director Kris Kolbe introduced Fall Sport Coaches and key players from those teams to share highlights and achievements from this season. Central Montcalm had 22 players recognized as All-Conference or Honorable Mention for Fall 2025.
  - a. Gary Buchholz – Varsity Girls Golf
  - b. Taryn Muilenberg – Varsity Volleyball
  - c. Michelle Hoffman – Varsity Boys and Girls Cross Country
  - d. Scott Cripe – Varsity Football
3. Department Spotlight: A reception was held before the Board of Education meeting in appreciation of our Clerical staff, Technology staff, iLearn/Alternative Education staff, and Adult Education staff. Employees in attendance included Clerical: Michelle Leak-Rensland – Central Office, Rachelle Scytke – Central Office, Holly Guilford – CME, Katelyn Clementz – CMLC, Kris Baney – Transportation; Technology: Jennifer Shinabargar – Technology Coordinator; iLearn: Tim Sebald – Teacher/Virtual Mentor; Adult Education: Cindy Shick – Director, Nancy Knowlton – Child Care, Kim Bell – Instructor, Sheri LeFebre – Jail Assistant, Erica Christensen – Instructor, Marlee Christensen – Child Care.
4. Hornet Highlights:



- a. CME: Shannon Bowen, Principal, shared the elementary students enjoyed visits by the Hope Squad and by HS Foreign Exchange students in the past weeks. The K-2 students will present Holiday Concerts on Tuesday, December 16. The students have earned a Pajama Day on Friday for following behavior expectations. PE Teacher Brianna Raymond has started a Tik-Tok channel, on which she shared some adaptive jump-rope equipment (broken jump-rope with pickleballs as weights) she made for a student who uses a wheelchair. The Equip Company saw the video, and sent Bri some of the commercial jump-rope adaptive equipment (short weighted ropes) to use with these students free of charge.
  - b. CMUE: Abigail LaVictor, Principal, said her students also enjoyed the Hope Squad visit. Some students gave up recess time to create ornaments and talk with the teens. The students have earned 40,000 Hornet High 5s, and were rewarded with a cookie decorating party. They continue to master multiplication facts, and some fifth graders are moving to memorizing division facts as well. The teachers are participating in Learning Labs to develop effective strategies to instruct children in math concepts. Winter benchmark testing is almost complete. The teachers will break down the data in January to address student needs.
  - c. CMMHS: Jeff Wernette, Principal, echoed excitement over the accomplishments of the Fall Athletes. He enjoyed the reactions of Hope Squad members after they returned from visiting the elementary students. Choir and Band Concerts are being held tonight, December 15. The fall play, *The Odyssey*, was well received by the community. The students enjoyed a wrestling assembly coordinated with Greenville High School, which included music, lights, smoke, and the talented CMMHS wrestlers.
5. Single Audit Update: At the time of our Audit Presentation in October, Maner Costerian was still waiting on Final Compliance Supplement Guidelines from the Federal Government for the Single Audit. No changes were made from last year in those guidelines, so the Single Audit information stands as presented.

Previous Concerns: Superintendent McLaughlin, Mr. Simpson, and Mr. Bowen met with the parents who spoke at the Board Meeting last month. The team answered questions from the parents and shared some possible future activities involving anti-bullying information to be shared with students.

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

Motion by Hansen-Hopkins, supported by Bowen, to accept and approve the following minutes as submitted: Regular Meeting minutes of November 17, 2025, Board Workshop Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2025. By roll call vote, those in favor 6, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Bowen, supported by Lund, to accept and approve the Finance Report for the period ended November 30, 2025. By roll call vote, those in favor 6, opposed 0. Motion carried.



Motion by Hansen-Hopkins, supported by Wakefield, to ratify the payment of bills for November 2025 for the amount of \$1,233,844.29. By roll call vote, those in favor 6, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Motion by Hansen-Hopkins, supported by Bowen, to rescind NEOLA Policy 7541, Electronic Data Processing Disaster Recovery Plan (to be replaced by po8300). By roll call vote, those in favor 6, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Bowen, supported by Wakefield, to approve NEOLA Policy 6220, Budget Preparation, with the following wording: "The Board shall ensure that adequate funds are reserved for the General Fund to maintain a secure financial position whereby the fund equity shall not fall below **twenty** percent (**20%**)." (This policy may be set aside by Resolution of the Board.) By roll call vote, those in favor 6, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Hansen-Hopkins, supported by Bowen, to approve the following NEOLA Board Policy updates as presented:

- a. po0144.1 Compensation
- b. po1220 Employment of Superintendent
- c. po2210 Curriculum Development – Approved Courses
- d. po2412 Homebound Instruction Program
- e. po4162 Controlled Substance and Alcohol Policy for Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers and other Employees who Perform Safety-Sensitive Functions
- f. po5120 Assignment within District
- g. po5517.01 Bullying toward Students
- h. po7540.02 Digital Content and Accessibility
- i. po8300 Continuity of Organizational Operation Plan
- j. po8305 Information Security

By roll call vote, those in favor 6, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Lund, supported by Wakefield, to adopt School Board Norms – Operating Agreement (Revised). By roll call vote, those in favor 6, opposed 0. Motion carried.

President Simpson addressed the consent agenda.

1. To accept the resignation of Holly Bellinger as GSRP Associate Teacher at CMLC, effective November 24, 2025 (revised date)
2. To accept the resignation of Jason Dickinson as Paraprofessional at CMMHS, effective December 5, 2025
3. To accept the separation of Kyleigh Parks as Paraprofessional at CMMHS, effective November 26, 2025
4. To accept the resignation of Brigitte DeHate as Middle School Student Council Advisor, effective December 5, 2025



5. To accept the resignation of Brigitte DeHate as Paraprofessional at CMMHS, effective December 11, 2025
6. To accept the resignation of Brittany Szombati as Teacher at CMMHS, effective December 19, 2025
7. To accept the resignation of Brittany Szombati as Assistant Varsity Volleyball Coach, Schedule B, effective December 19, 2025
8. To hire Sarah Flint as Paraprofessional at CME, effective November 25, 2025, contingent upon criminal background and unprofessional background checks

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

New Business: None at this time.

President Simpson opened the floor to public comment on non-agenda items. Cindy Shick, Director of Adult Education, appreciates the support and recognition of the Adult Education program by the district, both tonight and throughout the school year. Her staff was honored to be invited to the meeting this evening.

Motion by Lund, supported by Bowen, to enter a closed session at 8:13 p.m. for the following topic 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), facilitated by Tricia Murphy-Alderman, MASB. By roll call vote, those in favor 6, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Lund, supported by Bowen, to end the closed session at 10:02 p.m. By roll call vote, those in favor 6, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Hansen-Hopkins, supported by Lund, to accept the 2025 annual evaluation of Amanda McLaughlin, Superintendent of Central Montcalm Public School, with an overall rating of Effective (highest category).

Domains:	Governance & Board Relations (20%)	2.83/3.00
	Community Relations (15%)	3.00/3.00
	Staff Relations (15%)	2.57/3.00
	Business & Finance (20%)	2.60/3.00
	Instructional Leadership (30%)	2.77/3.00
	Overall Score	<b>2.84/3.00</b>

By roll call vote, those in favor 6, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Bowen, supported by Lund, to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:04 p.m. By roll call vote, those in favor 6, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jamie Hansen-Hopkins  
Board Secretary