



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, August 17, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Brennan Bowen, Elizabeth Buskirk, Jamie Hansen-Hopkins, Lisa Lund, Bill Simpson, Rob Train, Betty Wakefield; Absent: None.

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

Superintendent's Report:

1. Back to School Bash: Over 100 families were in attendance. Activities included hot dogs, haircuts, face painting and assorted giveaways. The Board of Education hosted a table with information about the upcoming millage vote on November 3. Special thanks to Sue Kearney for organizing, and to custodians and food service for their support during and after the event.
2. Hornet Highlights
 - a. CMMHS: Principal Jeff Wernette discussed the professional development activities for back to school, including safety review, program review, and time for departmental curriculum work. Assistant Principal Ed Beickman commented the new secretaries at the MS/HS office are settling in.
 - b. CMUE: Principal Abigail LaVictor introduced behavior specialist Katie Johnston and recently promoted head paraprofessional Millie King. Her staff had time to enjoy lunch together during professional development after discussing PBIS, MTSS, and safety review. The building welcomes the new ISD staff in the EI program.
 - c. CME: Principal Shannon Bowen introduced paraprofessionals Kylee Flowers and Kaylynn Hustin, and speech therapist Michelle Medler. Her staff also reviewed safety protocols, MTSS and PBIS programs for professional development.
3. Back to School Breakfast for all staff will be held tomorrow morning, 8/18/26, at 8:30 in the MS cafeteria.
4. New Teacher Training: Assistant Superintendent Charity Stephens worked with 7 new teaching staff members last week for two days. One highlight of the training was a bus tour of the district. Theme for the training: "Don't let anyone steal your JOY!"
5. RISE training has started for staff. The first cohort to be trained includes key staff involved with student behavior.

Board Communication/Committee Reports:

1. Finance – The committee met on August 13 and reviewed the financial statements. The End of Year financial reports are not quite complete. One of the district's biggest expenses in the last year was the purchase of 2 used buses. Next meeting: Thursday, September 17 – 4:00 pm in the Superintendent's Office.
2. Facilities – No report. Next meeting: Wednesday, September 2 – 4:00 pm in the Superintendent's Office.
3. Board Development – The committee is reviewing sample MASB plans covering the topic of Board Member Orientation. Next meeting: Friday, August 28 – 8:00 am in the Superintendent's Office.
4. DCIT – No meetings this month. Train will attend in September.
5. Ad-Hoc Millage Education: The committee reviewed a draft communications plan and related timeline for publications. Thrun has reviewed and revised the recommended talking points. Communications will include social media, mailings, newspaper and newsletter articles, and in-person meetings. Next meeting: Tuesday, September 8 – 7:30 am in the Superintendent's Office.
6. MCSBA – All County Board meeting will be held on September 28 at MCC. 6:00 Tour the new student housing. 6:30 Dinner. 7:00 Presentation: School Vouchers, Property Tax Reform, and Other Hot Topics in Lansing. Michelle will collect RSVPs before September 17.



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 July 20, 2026
2. To file the Finance Report for period ended July 31, 2026
3. To file the roster of General Fund and debt retirement bills for July, 2026
4. To accept the resignation of Madison Cusack, CME Paraprofessional, effective July 21, 2026
5. To accept the resignation of Amy Kosten, CME Paraprofessional, effective August 10, 2026
6. To transfer Terrie Weston to Building Secretary at CMLC/CME, effective August 3, 2026
7. To employ Kimberly DeBolt as CME Teacher Mentor, effective August 3, 2026
8. To employ Timothy Cummings as Science Teacher at CMMHS, effective August 10, 2026, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
9. To employ Jane Jordan as School/Family Liaison at CME, effective August 3, 2026, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
10. To employ Thomas Torok as Substitute Teacher/Teacher at CMUE, effective August 10, 2026, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
11. To approve a partially unpaid 8-week medical leave for Gabrielle Webb, starting about October 5, 2026

Motion by Hansen-Hopkins, supported by Train, to approve the consent agenda. Those in favor 7, opposed 0.
Motion carried.

New Business: None at this time.

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

Motion by Lund, supported by Buskirk, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:19 p.m. Those in favor 7, opposed 0.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Hansen-Hopkins
Board Secretary