Central Montcalm Public School
Board of Education
Minutes of September 21, 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, September 21, 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 Lund, supported by Wakefield, to approve the agenda as presented. Those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Superintendent's Report:

1. Hornet Highlights: Principals and Directors introduced new staff in their departments.
    a. CME: Principal Shannon Bowen shared her students are meeting PBIS goals. They have earned popsicles and tattoos as school rewards. Lunch with the Principal is also available for students who save tokens.
    b. CMUE: Principal Abigail LaVictor shared her students are also earning Hornet High 5s and have met building goals to earn Hat Day. They are very close to earning a Directed Drawing activity. The students participated in a building fundraiser and earned a glow dance. Since they met the fundraising goal, select students will get to cover staff members with silly string. A review of DCIT data shows a decrease in behavior referrals from this time last year.
    c. CMMHS: Principal Jeff Wernette feels his staff and students are having a good start to the year. Students enjoyed Homecoming festivities including spirit days, the football game, and homecoming dance. The building continues using the RIASEC framework and students have completed an informational survey. Teachers are expected to include RIASEC in lessons for each course to increase student familiarity with the terminology. The building will celebrate "Dolly Parton Day" on September 25 (9-2-5). All proceeds from popcorn sales and any donations will be sent to support the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Assistant Principal Ed Beickman commented students are setting learning goals in SWARM classes, and weekly grade checks are part of Learning Lab activities. Sixth grade teachers are sending emails to parents on a regular basis to increase communication between school and home. More grades will join this program soon.
2. Reminder: MCSBA Countywide meeting will be held on September 28, 2026 at MCC, including a tour of the new student housing and a presentation on Hot Topics in Education.
3. Strategic Plan and Goals Update: A committee of staff and community members established the goals in the current Strategic Plan. The DCIT team has been tasked with creating action plans to accomplish each goal. They have focused on the first three goals at this time. The other goals will be tackled in the coming months.
    a. Communication and Transparency: The district is moving to a Central Montcalm Facebook page instead of individual building pages. Individual sports pages will remain active, as not all parents need to follow all activities. They are also looking to create a community text group to share information with those individuals not connected to the district through Final Forms or not following Facebook. A communications plan will be developed to determine what should be communicated, to whom, by whom, how often, and through what channels.

   b. Quality Education: After-school tutoring will be offered. Staff are also considering life-skills instruction including home economics, household maintenance and budgeting.
   c. Student Well Being: Information will be shared with parents and community concerning current data on bullying and other behaviors. This will include instruction on the definition of bullying and concrete examples of what is and what is not bullying behavior.
4. Children's Internet Protection Act: A hearing for CIPA is on the agenda tonight. This legislation requires K-12 schools and libraries to protect children while online. Key points include:
   a. Internet filters: Central Montcalm uses Lightspeed.
   b. Safety policies: CM has Board Policy 7540.
   c. Educate students about appropriate online behavior: Our use of the Google platform limits student communication with outside emails and servers.
   d. Public notice of an annual hearing to review policy.

Board Communication/Committee Reports:

1. Finance – There are 3 recommendations on the agenda tonight.
2. Facilities – Work is in progress.
3. Board Development – The committee met on August 28 and continues work on Board Member Orientation. They hope to share an outline at the Board Workshop. Next meeting: Friday, October 1, 7:15 am in the Superintendent's Office.
4. DCIT – Mr. Train was unable to attend. Mr. Bowen will join the meeting in October.
5. Ad-Hoc Millage Education: The committee met September 8. They reviewed a flier and a schedule for communication/mailings. Wording has been submitted for legal review. Next meeting will be October 6, at 4:00 pm in the Superintendent's Office.
6. Bowen: He visited GSRP as part of a meeting with the superintendent. Charity, Mandy, and Bert Wittkopp are sharing administrative duties at CMLC so someone is available on days students are present. He also enjoys seeing administrators interact with current and past students at the football games.

Response to Previous Concerns: None at this time.

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

CIPA Hearing: President Bowen opened the hearing at 7:24 pm. There were no public comments and the hearing was closed at 7:25 pm.

President Bowen addressed the consent agenda.

1. To file the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2026
2. To file the Finance Report for period ended August 31, 2026
3. To file the roster of General Fund and debt retirement bills for August, 2026 totaling $1,283,500.66
4. To accept the resignation of Michelle Hoffman as Varsity Girls Track Coach effective July 1, 2026
5. To employ Jeannette Szpieg as Academic/Career Navigator at Adult Education, effective August 24, 2026, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
6. To employ Jason Dickinson as Paraprofessional at CMMHS, effective August 12, 2026, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks

7. To employ Makayla Peterman as Paraprofessional at CME, effective August 17, 2026, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
8. To employ Michelle York as Paraprofessional at CMUE, effective August 17, 2026, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
9. To employ Jodie Hansen as Cook's Helper at CMHS, effective August 18, 2026, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
10. To employ Andrea Sigsby as Regular Route Driver at Transportation, effective August 24, 2026, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
11. To employ Catherine Nichols as Substitute Van Driver at Transportation, effective August 19, 2026, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
12. To employ Brenda Ford as Substitute Secretary/Substitute Paraprofessional at CMMHS, effective August 17, 2026, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
13. To employ Alayna Kooistra as Substitute Paraprofessional at CMUE, effective August 31, 2026, contingent on criminal and unprofessional background checks
14. To employ Amy Main as Freshman Class Advisor – Class of 2030, per Schedule B, effective August 6, 2026
15. To employ Tyler Lussier as Assistant JV/Varsity Football Coach, per Schedule B, effective August 7, 2026
16. To employ Marty James as Assistant JV/Varsity Football Coach, per Schedule B, effective August 6, 2026
17. To approve a partially unpaid 6-week medical leave for Gabrielle Rewa, starting about September 1, 2026

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

New Business:
Motion by Buskirk, supported by Wakefield, to approve the following finance committee recommendations:

1. Sarah Owens Consulting: $69,529 - grant-funded. This is year-long professional development on a trauma-informed system model, RISE.
2. Fiber burial: This is 90% funded by the Universal Service Administrative Company. The invoice is for $480,751.07, but our portion is $48,075.11. We will pay our portion, and USAC will pay their portion directly, even though the invoice reflects the full amount.
3. Playground equipment for CM Learning Center: $87,175.70. This is 100% funded from the USDA Congressional Appropriations.

By roll call vote, those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Wakefield, supported by Train, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. Those in favor 7, opposed 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Hansen-Hopkins
Board Secretary