

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Centralia City Schools Board of Education, District No. 135, Marion, Clinton, Jefferson and Washington Counties, Illinois, held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., in the Administration Bldg., 400 South Elm St., Centralia, IL 62801.

Members Present: Ron Johnson, Sue Williams, Mike Middleton,  
and Blake Griffin

Members Absent: Derek Harlan, Renae Bauer, and Greg Dodson

Also Present: Supt. Craig E. Clark, Christina Becker, Lisa Faught, Patty Graham,  
Jerri Gray, Michele Vaughn, Myra Johnson, Shelley Rose, Ulysses  
Dry, Brittany LaBelle, Patty Lee, Timothia Reid, Steven Stilt,  
Beth Hollenkamp, and Lance Boldt

Board President Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

MOTION #1:

It was moved by Middleton and seconded by Griffin to adjourn to closed session to discuss personnel matters relating to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance and dismissal of specific employees.

Adjourned to closed session at 6:03 p.m.

Reconvened to open session at 7:12 p.m.

MOTION #2:

It was moved by Middleton and seconded by Griffin to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes of regular meeting held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025.
2. Approval of bills for \$587,901.24
3. Approval of March payroll.
4. Approval of taking bids for the 2025-2026 school year at the May meeting for bread, food, and milk.
5. Approval of out-of-district trip:
  - a. Central Middle School Fourth Grade to Carlyle Lake for Earth Day on April 25, 2025.

MOTION #3:

It was moved by Griffin and seconded by Middleton to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS FROM EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC

### **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Calendar Committee met and adopted a calendar similar to previous years except parent teacher conferences were scheduled a week earlier.

Mr. Dodson arrived at 7:18 pm

### **CURRICULUM REPORT**

Mr. Boldt presented the Centralia Jr. High School Report which included Red Ribbon Week, a Veterans Day Assembly, Robotics Tournament, Christmas Concert, PBIS Bowling (Reward) Trip, CJHS Christmas party for staff, Brain Games, FCA, Marion County Spelling Bee, Scholar Bowl, Tigers of the month program, 8th Grade Day, Wiffle Ball game, Cross Country, Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, and Volleyball. A significant decrease in discipline referrals was noted compared to the previous school year.

### **UNEFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **MOTION #4:**

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Middleton to approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar. Motion carried.

#### **MOTION #5:**

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Griffin to schedule the Eighth Grade Graduation program for Thursday, May 22, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried.

#### **MOTION #6:**

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Middleton to accept the resignation of Leslie Wall, Centralia Junior High 6th Grade Math Teacher. Motion carried.

#### **MOTION #7:**

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Griffin to accept the resignation of Kerri Wells, Centralia Junior High School Paraprofessional. Motion carried.

#### **MOTION #8:**

It was moved by Griffin and seconded by Dodson to accept the resignation of Erica Leger, Bus Driver. Motion carried.

**MOTION #9:**

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Griffin to accept the resignation of Michael Cooley as Junior High School Yearbook Advisor at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried.

**MOTION #10:**

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Griffin to approve the hiring of Ryan Hargis as Seventh Grade Boys' Track Coach. Motion carried.

**MOTION #11:**

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Middleton to approve the hiring of Deborah Ruiz as Bus Monitor. Motion carried.

**MOTION #12:**

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Middleton to approve the hiring of Valicia Moore as Bus Monitor. Motion carried.

**MOTION #13:**

It was moved by Griffin and seconded by Middleton to approve the hiring of Shawn Dutton as Bus Monitor. Motion carried.

**MOTION #14:**

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Griffin to approve the transfer of Michelle Wangler from Third Grade Teacher to Second Grade Teacher for 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried.

**MOTION #15:**

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Middleton to approve the transfer of Emylee Sanders from Kindergarten to Sixth Grade Math Teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried.

**MOTION #16:**

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Middleton to approve the FMLA request for employee #1745. Motion carried.

**MOTION #17:**

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Middleton to approve Glass and Shuffett to perform the yearly audit at a cost not to exceed \$15,700.00. Motion carried.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Building Celebrations
2. Other

Schiller:

- Students enjoyed learning about an African American inventor in their classrooms. They studied this inventor for the month and completed a project to showcase at our Schiller Museum Night. We had a great turnout of over 127 in attendance.
- Schiller School Moral Team members joined Ms. Marshall in presenting to the school board the great happenings at Schiller School. We had a lot to brag about!
- Staff attended the Tri-County Institute where they were able to pick presenters that piqued their interest to apply to their field.
- Mama Katamwa came to visit our school and invited Schiller students to join her in her storytelling. The students were great actors and dancers! The story was wonderful with a great lesson learned.
- Spring pictures were taken after a hiccup with Lifetouch.
- The Schiller Sweep Team has started their 3rd quarter sweep for F&P testing to check students' reading fluency. We can't wait to see the growth of our students!!!
- Schiller School Superkids were celebrated on the last Thursday of the month. These super students haven't received a timeout, suspension, or bus write-up and have shown great behavior. They were treated to a fun time led by Miss Hollie and Miss Jill that included dancing with balloons and making their own bookmark.

Jordan:

- Valentine's Day was celebrated a day early on Thursday, February 13th. Faculty and staff participated in an "old fashioned" Valentine's Day exchange. This was a great team-building experience for everyone. Students participated in classroom Valentine's parties during the afternoon.
- On Friday, February 14th, all teachers and classroom paraprofessionals attended the Tri-County Institute at Centralia High School.
- Our U.S. Presidents were celebrated from Monday, February 17th, through Friday, February 21st. Activities included a "Tuesday Tribute to Washington" where students were encouraged to dress up like George Washington or any other US President, "Whatever You Are Be A Good One Wednesday" where students participated in Abraham Lincoln activities and celebrated his birthday, "Red, White, and Blue Day" where students were encouraged to wear red, white, and blue to celebrate America, and "If I Were President Day" where students discussed what they would do as the President of the United States.
- On Tuesday, February 18th, and Tuesday, February 25th, our SEL Team presented lessons on kindness. The team led a lesson on being kind to yourself and others,

exploring simple yet meaningful acts—like saying hello or holding the door for someone. Students created a colorful Kindness Chain displayed in our hallways to celebrate.

- Our “Orphans in the Classroom” program concluded on Friday, February 21st, with an all-school assembly featuring Coach Bennett and the Centralia Orphans varsity basketball team. Coach Bennett spoke to students about working hard and making good choices. Orphan players presented SEL-themed lessons to students for seven weeks. Mrs. Stroud organizes this program.
- This year's American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge goal was \$2,700, and the students barely missed meeting this goal by raising \$2,357.26. Thanks to everyone who participated. Mrs. Jourdan and Mrs. Osborne organized this fundraiser.
- Students auditioned for this year's “Jordan's Got Talent” show on Wednesday, February 26th. Students are currently rehearsing with Mr. Bland. This show will be presented on Thursday, April 24th, at our annual Title I Family Fine Arts Festival.
- On Thursday, February 27th, our monthly “Jordan Stars” assembly was held in our new gym. Students are encouraged to express and demonstrate positive behaviors daily in their classrooms and around the school to receive this recognition.
- Mrs. Becker's 2nd grade class and Mrs. Eversgerd's 2nd grade class recently completed swim lessons at the Centralia Recreation Complex. Students in Mrs. Miller's 2nd grade class and Mrs. Stroud's 2nd grade class are now participating. Mrs. Witzel's 2nd-grade class with Ms. Wysocki's and Ms. Knox's class will participate in April.
- Students who met the behavior criteria participated in our February Expectations Celebration on Friday, February 28th. February's theme was “Fancy Pants and Floats”. Students dressed up for the occasion and enjoyed ice cream floats. This event was organized by Title I teacher Mrs. J. Witzel.
- Our Sweep Team is presently administering Fountas and Pinnell testing to determine student reading levels and to show progress throughout the school year. These tests are given at the end of each quarter.
- We celebrated reading with a “Read Across America Week ” during the week of Monday, March 3rd through Friday, March 7th. Themed days included “Famous American Day” where students were encouraged to dress like a famous person and read a book about that person, “Favorite Team/Player Day” where students were asked to read a book about their favorite player or team and wear something to represent them, “Silly Outfit Day” where students were asked to read a silly story and wear silly clothing, and “Favorite Book and Color Day” where students with asked to read their favorite book and wear their favorite color.
- Meggan Heistand presented her monthly Ag in the Classroom lesson to 2nd-grade students on Thursday, March 6th. The lesson focused on chickens.
- Girls on the Run began on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. This program encourages girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through dynamic, interactive lessons and running games, culminating in a celebratory 5k run. Instructional coach, Mrs.

Laurie Miller, coaches this program. This year, 27 girls are participating in grades 3-5, which is over full capacity for the program, along with 5 returning participants who will be serving as junior coaches.

- 3rd grade students will be participating in the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) state testing in March. As an incentive, students will have a chance to get their name entered into a drawing for prizes at the end of testing. Students will earn tickets based on attendance, effort, and overall behavior during testing. We hope this will motivate students to ROCK this TEST!
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students and teachers have been busy preparing for the upcoming IAR tests, which will be administered during the week of March 17th through 21st. A “Don’t Sweat the IAR Day” will be held on Friday, March 14th, and a pep assembly featuring the CHS cheerleaders and our 3rd-grade students was held on this date.
- Mrs. Blair has been teaching art to students this semester. 3rd-grade students have been busy creating artwork based on the work of Joan Miro, who is known for his abstract paintings, sculptures, and ceramics. 2nd-grade students have been creating abstract pieces based on the artwork of Sonia Delaunay, whose compositions were directly inspired by the traditional quilts she saw during her childhood in Russia. This artwork will be displayed in art galleries at our annual Title I Family Fine Arts Festival on Thursday, April 24th.
- RtI math interventions are now being implemented by Mr. Krusinger, Mrs. Blair, and Ms. Issak. Lessons relating to specific student levels and deficiencies will be implemented daily to help students improve their math skills.
- 3rd grade students are currently participating in the “Tower of Books Challenge”. 3rd-grade teachers have challenged all six of our 3rd-grade classes to read 28,000 minutes in the next 14 school days. We hope to foster a love of reading and promote getting books into the hands of our students. Each child will need to read at least 20 minutes a night. If the goal is met, students will have a day full of exciting literacy activities and more.
- Mrs. Becker and Mrs. Witzel have started their traditional Tournament of Books to celebrate reading in their 2nd-grade classrooms
- Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Stroud have started their weekly Sci-Fri activities on Fridays to encourage a love of science. Students received a box sent from Dr. Science that included lab coats, goggles, and a scientist lanyard, along with a science experiment. The students will receive an experiment from Dr. Science weekly.

#### CMS:

- **February 1st:** Marked the first day of Black History Month. Students received a Black History fact each morning to celebrate the contributions of African-Americans to the rich history within the United States.
- **February 4th:** Sports pictures for CMS took place on this date.
- **February 7th:** Third quarter mid-term ended and students who had earned 85% or more of their PBIS points were invited to enjoy a movie and a snack for the last hour of classes.

- **February 10th:** Students participated in station rotation for R2S2 (responsibility, respect, safe, self-control). During these rotations students are reminded of the school wide expectations for appropriate behavior. Students engage in discussion with their peers about proper conduct while at school.
- **February 12th:** Spring Pictures and this is the first time that CMS has been able to host the photographer in our own cafeteria on the stage. Needless to say, we were very excited for this small feat.
- **February 13th:** Each classroom celebrated Valentine Day with a party that was full of treats and fun for all. Students exchanged Valentine's cards with one another.
- **February 13th:** School wide Spelling Bee took place with 20 students (2 per class) who were competing for one of the top two places. The winners went on to represent their school at the ROE Spelling Bee on February 18th at CJHS. Congratulations to Tior Parrot (4th grade) and Alliah Allgood (5th grade).
- **February 14th:** Tri-County Institute, today all faculty and staff traveled to CHS to participate in the professional development. Participants were able to select from a variety of sessions that are aimed at motivating students, inspiring teachers, providing new and exciting ideas, and training for CPI and de-escalation tactics.
- **February 20th:** Dental Safari treatment day (this provides an opportunity for families to have their student seen by a certified dentist on site that treats minor dental conditions).
- **February 26th:** Monthly Cub of the Month luncheon to celebrate the achievements of 12 students (6, 4th graders and 6, 5th graders) who have demonstrated exemplary behavior. Each student is allowed to invite one guest to the pizza party that takes place during the lunch period.
- **February 27th:** ROE Spelling Bee (Representing CMS, Tior Parrot (4th grade) and Alliah Allgood (5th grade).
- **February 27th:** CMS Physical Education department has been approved for a site visit by IAHPERD (Illinois Association of Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance) for application to the Blue Ribbon Program that determines whether a school will receive recognition from the State for outstanding work in the field of Physical Education. The P.E. department will select three dates in March or in April for the official visit from the state governing body.

#### CJHS:

- **February Faculty Meeting:** On February 12, teachers and paraprofessionals met in their grade levels, as Mr. Boldt & Mrs. Hollenkamp were away at a training. Teachers met to select the January Tigers of the Month. They also discussed effective ways to raise expectations for E-Learning assignments & handbook revisions for 2025-2026.

- Pep Assembly: Mrs. Simmons-Young, Mr. Cook, & Mr. Boldt organized a pep assembly on February 13 to energize the school prior to the boys' basketball game at Rend Lake College against Waterloo.
- Teacher Institute: CJHS teachers attended the Tri-County Teachers' Conference at Centralia High School on February 14.
- 8 th Grade Career Conference: CJHS 8 th graders attended the Career Conference at Kaskaskia College on February 21.
- Third Fire Drill: CJHS students completed their third & final fire drill of the school year on February 26. Students & staff were evacuated quickly and efficiently.
- Spelling Bee: Cayden Higgins & Nova Richeson represented CJHS in the Marion County Spelling Bee Competition, held at the CJHS Library on February 27.
- Tigers of the Month: The following CJHS students were selected as the February Tigers of the Month and were honored at the February 28 school-wide assembly:
  - 6 th Grade: Elysa Ruiz, Vaden Owens
  - 7 th Grade: Cohen Elliston, Chase Raab
  - 8 th Grade: Aubrey Moore, Travis Maxfield
- Cheer Team: The cheer team was honored and given letters & pins by Coach Simmons-Young.
- February Discipline: Overall discipline numbers were down compared to last year at this time: Feb 2024 Feb 2025 YTD 2023-24 YTD 2024-25
  - 6 th Grade: 77 20 230 119
  - 7 th Grade: 175 22 614 186
  - 8 th Grade: 79 30 281 202
  - TOTAL: 331 72 1125 507
- Boys' Basketball: The boys' basketball team finished third in the SIJHSAA state tournament at Rend Lake College on February 22. They defeated Carbondale in the 3 rd place game.
- Girls' Volleyball: The girls' volleyball team has been awarded the #1 seed in their regional tournament, which CJHS will host on March 19.
- Scholar Bowl: Jayson Overall & Rayner Finley represented the CJHS Scholar Bowl team at the All-Star Rotary Luncheon on March 5. Also, the JV Scholar Bowl team finished in 3 rd place at the Marion County Tournament held at Raccoon School on March 4.



- CJHS Band: 24 band students attended the Solo & Ensemble Contest at Mt. Carmel on Saturday, March 1, and returned with 14 first place finishes & 8 second place finishes. On March 15, the Sound Spectacular Concert at Centralia High School will take place, featuring five bands and musicians ages 9 to 85. The CJHS Band, including Ms. McFall, will participate in this event.
- Let's Tackle Hunger Food Drive: Centralia High School National Honor Society has contacted area schools to help in an area food drive competition. A total of 10 schools are competing – including CJHS. Mr. Morris is in charge of the CJHS food drive. It will take place March 10-14.
- End of 3 rd Quarter: The end of the 3 rd quarter is Friday, March 14.
- IAR Testing Dates:
  - March 18 – 20: Math
  - March 25 – 26: ELA

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MOTION #18:

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Griffin to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion carried.


Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.


<u>MOTION #</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
JOHNSON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
WILLIAMS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HARLAN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BAUER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MIDDLETON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
DODSON	-	-	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
GRIFFIN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

<u>MOTION #</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>
JOHNSON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
WILLIAMS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HARLAN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BAUER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MIDDLETON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
DODSON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
GRIFFIN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED  
Sue Williams, Board Secretary

APPROVED:

  
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Ron Johnson, President

  
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Sue Williams, Board Secretary