

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, May 06, 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, Greg Dodson,  
Derek Harlan and Blake Griffin

Members Absent: Renae Bauer

Also Present: Supt. Craig E. Clark, Christina Becker, Timothia Williams,  
Jason Coulter, and Austin Williams

Board President Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 6:46 p.m.

MOTION #1:

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Griffin to adjourn to closed session to review personnel matters.

Adjourned to closed session at 6:47 p.m.

Reconvened to open session at 7:01 p.m.

MOTION #2:

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

1. Approval of minutes of regular meeting held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025.
2. Approval of minutes of the special meeting held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025.
3. Approval of bills for 616,157.08.
4. Approval of the May payroll.
5. Abolishment of the Working Cash Fund and the transfer of the fund balance to the Education Fund.
6. Approval of the final 2024-2025 School Calendar to reflect May 27, 2025, as the last day for students and May 28, 2025 as the last day for teachers.
7. Approval of out-of-district trips:
  - a. Schiller Kindergarten to Salem Bowl on May 19, 2025
  - b. CJHS PBIS to St. Louis Zoo on May 21, 2025
  - c. Schiller First Grade to SAlem Bowl on May 22, 2025
  - d. CJHS Band, Color Guard, and Choir to Holiday World on May 28, 2025

MOTION #3:

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

## RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS FROM EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC

### BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

#### CURRICULUM REPORT

Mrs. Becker reported that final iReady diagnostics for all grades and final F & P testing for grades K-5 are wrapping up. All spring assessments required by the state have also been completed. Test data will be used to determine which areas to celebrate and which areas to improve upon. Mrs. Becker also recognized the hard work everyone puts in to educate the children in our district and noted that we are fortunate to have such a great team working together.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### NEW BUSINESS

A First Reading was held for the following PRESS Policy Updates:

2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure; 2:265 Title IX Grievance Procedure; 4:15 Identity Protection; 4:80 Accounting and Audits; 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment; 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited; 5:60 E2 Exhibit - Employee Estimated Expense Approval Form; 5:100 Staff Development Program; 6:150 Home and Hospital Instruction; 6:235 Access to Electronic Networks; 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities; 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited; 7:60 Residence; 7:70 Attendance and Truancy; 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment; 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited; 7:190 Student Behavior; 7:200 Suspension Procedures; 7:210 Expulsion Procedures; 7:250 Student Support Services; 7:255 Students Who Are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence; 7:270 Administering Medicines to Students; 7:310 Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools; 7:340 Student Records

#### MOTION #4:

It was moved by Griffin and seconded by Dodson to accept the bid from Kohls for food for the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried.

#### MOTION #5:

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Harlan to accept the bid from S & L Produce for bread for the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried.

MOTION #6:

It was moved by Griffin and seconded by Dodson to accept the bid from Prairie Farms for milk for the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried.

MOTION #7:

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Dodson to accept the resignation of Katelynn Knox as Jordan School Special Education Teacher. Motion carried.

MOTION #8:

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Harlan to approve the hiring of Nicole Schwartz as Extended School Year Teacher for 2025. Motion carried.

MOTION #9:

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Harlan to approve the hiring of Donna Bailey as Jordan School Special Education Teacher. Motion carried.

MOTION #10:

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Harlan to approve the hiring of Sandra Simmons as Speech-Language Pathologist. Motion carried.

MOTION #11:

It was moved by Griffin and seconded by Dodson to approve the transfer of Kyle Kohlmeier from Jordan School Instructional Support Teacher to Central Middle School Fifth Grade Teacher. Motion carried.

MOTION #12:

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Middleton to approve the FMLA request for employee #1712. Motion carried.

MOTION #13:

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Griffin to approve a 3-year contract extension with Wendy Jourdan as Dean of Student Management. Motion carried.

MOTION #14:

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Middleton to approve Liliana, Nocerine, Alexa Severs, and Avery England as volleyball volunteers. Motion carried.

### MOTION #15:

It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Middleton to approve to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to prepare a Tentative School District Budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, with the hearing for the said budget to be set for the Board Meeting on September 9, 2025. Motion carried.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. CJHS Graduation will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
2. Building Celebrations
3. Other

Schiller:

Jordan:

- Jordan faculty and staff participated in the district bowling night at Nu Bowl Lanes in Mt. Vernon. Our bowlers received a trophy for the highest total score. This was a great opportunity for staff to socialize outside of the workplace and was a great team-building experience.
- The Jordan PTO Krispy Kreme Doughnut fundraiser was a huge success.
- In April, students explored the importance of diversity. They talked about stereotypes and the idea of not judging a book by its cover. To reflect on their discussion, students decorated a Coat of Arms to display how they are each unique. Lessons were presented by our Mental Health Support team.
- Our "ZYX Countdown" kicked off on Wednesday, April 16th, and continues until the end of the school year. Each day has a specific theme as we count down.
- On April 22nd and 23rd, 3rd-grade students participated in the Picture Person Program. They learned about the artist Gustav Klimt and painted their own "Tree of Life."
- Mrs. Patty Donoho, our school secretary, was celebrated on Thursday, April 24th. We appreciate all that she does for our school.
- Our annual Title I Family Fine Arts Festival featuring our "Jordan's Got Talent" show, student art galleries, and a Scholastic Book Fair was held on Thursday, April 24th, and was a big success. Over 260 people attended this event.
- On Monday, April 28th, students who met the behavior criteria participated in our April Expectations Celebration! This month's theme was "Crushed It!" Students were treated to snow cones and extra play! This month's celebration was organized by Mr. Krutsinger and Mrs. Osborne.
- On Tuesday, April 29th, Diane Cole from Bradford National Bank came and spoke with third-grade students about financial literacy.

- On Wednesday, April 30th, students had the opportunity to travel to the Centralia Cultural Society to view the artwork they created recently during the Picture Person Program. This program is presented by the Centralia Cultural Society and provides students with exposure to famous artists and allows them to create their own works of art.
- On Wednesday, April 30th, the Centralia High School Chorus and Jazz Band visited and performed for our students. Many of the performers were former students. Thank you to Mrs. Stephanie Aarons-Dennison, band director, and Mrs. Jami Jacobs, choir director, for bringing these talented musicians to our school and for exposing our students to what the music programs at CHS have to offer.
- On Thursday, May 1st, an assembly was held to honor students who were selected as “Jordan Stars” for April. Students are encouraged to express and demonstrate positive behaviors daily in their classrooms and around the school to receive this recognition. Students receive a “Jordan Rockstar” t-shirt, a certificate, and a free meal at Wendy’s.
- On Friday, May 2nd, five students in Ms. Wysocki’s classroom participated in the Special Olympics in McLeansboro. Mr. Krutsinger organized this opportunity, and Mrs. Brooks assisted.
- Friday, May 2nd, was “School Lunch Hero Day”. Our amazing cooks, Diane and Donna, were honored throughout the day.
- Friday, May 2nd, was the last day for our Reading Buddy Program. Jordan students and CJHS SOAR students were treated to a pizza party on the last visit. This program is coordinated by Mrs. Jodie Witzel.
- The CHS FFA and Ag in the Classroom presented a “Farm Day” for our students on Friday, May 2nd. Students were given opportunities to pet various farm animals, tour various farming equipment, and participate in farm-related activities. This day was coordinated by CHS teacher and FFA sponsor, Mrs. Megan English, and Ag in the Classroom presenter, Meggan Heistand.
- On Wednesday, May 7th, 2nd-grade students in Mrs. Witzel’s, Ms. Knox’s, and Ms. Wysocki’s classrooms will participate in their last day of swim lessons and will be treated to a play day. All 2nd-grade students had the opportunity to participate in swim lessons.
- Dr. Science continues to visit Mrs. Stroud’s and Mrs. Miller’s classrooms and presents science lessons and activities.
- Our April “Jordan Stars” were recognized for their efforts during an assembly on Wednesday, May 1st. Students are encouraged to express and demonstrate positive behaviors daily in their classrooms and around the school to receive this recognition.
- Jacobi and Aliyanna, students in Ms. Wysocki’s classroom, participated in the Special Olympics in Mt. Vernon on Friday, May 3rd. Mr. Krutsinger organized this opportunity, and Ms. Thompson assisted.
- On May 3rd, we celebrated School Lunch Hero Day with our amazing cooks, Mrs. McMillan and Mrs. Whitelow, who prepare and serve delicious meals to our students throughout the school year! We are lucky to have them and appreciate all that they do.

- Fountas and Pinnell testing has been administered by our sweep team consisting of Mrs. Witzel, Mrs. Nattier, Ms. Isaac, and Mr. Kohlmeier. Data displays that there has been significant improvement in reading levels, and the majority of students have met or exceeded their goals for the school year.
- Our Jordan PTO “Spring Fling” carnival will be held on Friday, May 16th, on the north lawn of our school campus. The event will include bounce houses, games, food, and a 50/50 drawing.
- “Baseball Week” is scheduled for May 19th-23rd. During this school-wide thematic unit week, the theme of baseball will be incorporated into various subject areas.
- A special end-of-the-year event called “Top Notch Taco Tuesday” will be held on May 20th. This event is for students who have a 95% or above average for the school year on Class Dojo. This will be a great opportunity to celebrate those students who have exhibited good behavior and have made great choices throughout the school year. We will have a food truck on our front parking lot, and tables will be set up for these students during lunchtime.
- On Thursday, May 22nd, we have planned a “Stay and Play Day”. Rather than traveling to other destinations for our field trips this year, we will have the destinations come to us. The day will be filled with many activities, including laser tag, gelly ball, a foam party, goat story time and lessons, shaved ice, and a Mad Science assembly. All activities are funded by the Jordan PTO.
- On May 27rd, our last day of student attendance, students will participate in both a “Play Day” for half of the day at Jordan Elementary featuring various bounce houses and treats, and a “Field Day”, organized by Mr. Krutsinger, at the CHS track featuring numerous track and field events and ribbons.

#### CMS:

- Picture Person came to each of the 4th and 4th grade classrooms to work on an art project with our students.
- CMS5th grade students completed their ISA (State Science Test).
- CMS students completed their final R2S2 station rotation to support students as they navigate key areas aligned with appropriate behaviors, throughout our building which may be more challenging for them (hallway, restroom, classroom, cafeteria, playground, and bus).
- 4th grade students took a trip to Carlyle for Earth Day. Despite the rain, our students reported that they had a really good time observing the exhibits and playing in the park area.
- The Amy Center came to CMS and presented Body Boundaries to our 4th grade students about the dangers of online activity and how they could ensure that they remained safe while interacting online and in-person.

- The CMS team celebrated several “appreciation days” during the month of April. These days serve to recognize the hard work of members on the team and their contributions to the organization.
- The final book fair of the year started. Students were excited to get an opportunity to purchase some of their favorite books and literacy pieces.
- Teacher appreciation week will have a purple and white theme this year. Teachers will be treated to a special ‘thank you’ each of the days of the week.
- CMS celebrated April and May birthdays with a potluck luncheon.
- CMS celebrated a baby shower and a wedding shower for two of their teammates.
- Cinco de Mayo (May 5th) was highlighted on the announcements at CMS.
- The SOAR picnic is scheduled to take place on May 8th at Fairview Park.
- CMS students are scheduled to travel to City Hope to watch the musical, Queen. This musical will highlight some of the talent that exists throughout CMS and CJHS.
- Several CMS girls participated in ‘Girls on the Run’. Students reported that they enjoyed the practices which were expected to lead to participation in a ‘marathon’ run in STL.
- The fifth grade students are scheduled to travel to St. Louis to the Arch and the Riverboat on May 15th.
- The 99-100% party is scheduled for those students who have managed to maintain 99-100% of their points throughout the school year while also remaining in the framework of positive attendance.

#### CJHS:

- April Faculty Meeting: On April 9, teachers and paraprofessionals met in their grade levels. Mr. Boldt & Mr. Jake Purcell (KSED) went over IEP accommodations. Teachers met to select the April Tigers of the Month.
- Science Testing: CJHS students took part in Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) on April 23-25.
- 6 th Grade Orientation: On April 28, CJHS hosted an orientation for current 5 th grade students. Teachers, coaches, & sponsors welcomed the future 6 th grade students in an effort to relieve any anxieties before they leave for the summer months.
- Tigers of the Month: The following CJHS students were selected as the April Tigers of the Month and were honored at the April 29 school-wide assembly:
  - 6 th Grade: Elisa Ray, Aarson Striker
  - 7 th Grade: Serenity Sheckleford, Haylea Shreve
  - 8 th Grade: Zaida Hawk, Marcinio Gray
- April Discipline: Overall discipline numbers were down compared to last year at this time:

	Apr 2024	Apr 2025 YTD	2023-24 YTD	2024-25
6 th Grade:	41	49	314	215
7 th Grade:	114	23	871	228
8 th Grade:	98	47	675	316
TOTAL:	253	119	1860	759

- Honors Club Field Trip: Mr. Cook & Ms. McFall took the CJHS Honors Club to Springfield to visit the state capital, Lincoln's home, Lincoln's tomb, & the museum on April 14.
- Scholar Bowl Field Trip: Mrs. Hocking took members of the Scholar Bowl team to Carbondale on April 23.
- Spring Concert: The CJHS Spring Band/Choir Concert took place on May 1 under the guidance of Ms. McFall & Ms. Wall. The CJHS Color Guard was also honored along with Ms. Elizabeth Bishop.
- Track: The following 8 th graders qualified for state in track, which will take place at Carterville High School on May 10: Trey Branch in the 200 meter dash, Savion Howard in the high jump, & Montez Lewis in the long jump & the 100 meter dash.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MOTION #17:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.




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

MOTION #	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
JOHNSON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
WILLIAMS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HARLAN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
BAUER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MIDDLETON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
DODSON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
GRIFFIN	Y	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