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, April 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., in the Administration Bldg., 400 South Elm St., Centralia, IL 62801.

Members Present: Ron Johnson, Blake Griffin, Derek Harlan, Renae Bauer Sue Williams, and Michael Middleton

Members Absent: Greg Dodson

Also Present: Supt. Christina Becker, Assist. Supt. Elizabeth Hollenkamp, Kandance Myers, Ty Thompson, Craig Bland and Austin Williams

Board President Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

MOTION #1:
It was moved by Middleton and seconded by Harlan to adjourn to closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal or specific employees of the district and a student disciplinary case.

Adjourned to closed session at 6:03 p.m.
Reconvened to open session at 7:08 p.m.

MOTION #2:
It was moved by Bauer and seconded by Middleton to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Approval of minutes of regular meeting held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026.
2. Approval of bills for $534,442.77.
3. Approval of April payroll.
4. Approval of the Superintendent of Schools to prepare an Amended School District budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, with Hearing for said budget to be set for the Board Meeting on June 09, 2026, if necessary.
5. Approval of the April FOIA Request Report
6. Approval of out of district trips:
   a. 7th Grade SOAR students to Earth Day at Carlyle Lake on April 24, 2026 (to be presenters).
   b. CJHS PBIS 99/100 Percent Students to Six Flags on May 1, 2026
   c. Schiller School to St. Louis Science Center on May 4, 2026
   d. CJHS Robotics Club to R & J Tactical Laser Tag in Woodlawn, IL, on May 15, 2026
   e. CJHS PBIS to St. Louis Zoo on May 18, 2026.
   f. Participating students from Jordan/CJHS to the Special Olympics in Herrin, IL on April 17, 2026.

MOTION #3:
It was moved by Harlan and seconded by Middleton to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS FROM EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

1. The Calendar Committee met recently and the proposed calendar was reviewed.
2. The Salary Committee met with staff recently.

CURRICULUM REPORT
Jordan School Principal Mr. Craig Bland presented an update from various staff members addressing their reading and math programs as well as student behavior, special education, RTI, mental health support, expectation celebrations, and other positive incentives were explained.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION #4:
It was moved by Bauer and seconded by Griffin to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to start a search for a district architect. Motion carried.

MOTION #5:
It was moved by Williams and seconded by Harlan to approve 2026-2027 school year calendar. Motion carried.

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

2:200 Types of School Board Meetings; 2:220 School Board Meeting Procedure; 2:250 Access to District Public Records; 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure; 2:140-E Exhibit-Guidance for Board Member Communications, Including Email Use; 4:165 Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors; 5:30 Hiring Processand Criteria; 5:50 Drug- and Alcohol - Free Workplace; Tobacco Prohitition; 5:250 Leaves of Absence; 5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves; 6:65 Student Social and Emotional Development; 6:100 Using Animals in the Educational Program; 6:145 Migrant Students; 6:170 Title I Programs; 6:180 Extended Instructional Programs; 7:150 Agency and Law Enforcement Requests; 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited; 7:50 School Admissions and Stduent Transfers To and From Non-District Schools; 7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusions of Students; 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited; 7:220 Bus Conduct; 7:230 Misconduct by Students with Disabilities; 7:240 Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities; 7:260 Exemption from Physical Education; 7:280 Communicable and Chronic Infections Disease; 7:300 Extracurricular Activities; 8:90 Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs

MOTION #6:
It was moved by Bauer and seconded by Middleton to accept the resignation of Shaina Hocking as scholar bowl coach at Centralia Jr. High School effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried.

MOTION #7:
It was moved by Williams and seconded by Harlan to accept the resignation of Shaina Hocking as homebound teacher effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried.

MOTION #8:
It was moved by Harlan and seconded by Bauer to accept the resignation of Alexis Berryman as speech-language pathologist at Centralia Jr. High School effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried.

MOTION #9:
It was moved by Harlan and seconded by Bauer to accept the resignation of Martha Gray as paraprofessional at Schiller School effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried.

MOTION #10:
It was moved by Harlan and seconded by Griffin to employ Amanda Barbee as Early Childhood Teacher at Schiller School. Motion carried.

MOTION #11:
It was moved by Middleton and seconded by Harlan to transfer Amanda Johnston to 3rd grade teacher at Jordan School beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. Motion carried.

MOTION #12:
It was moved by Griffin and seconded by Harlan to accept the Intent to Retire letter from Cami Wheelan-Dorries effective at the end of the 2029-2030 school year. Motion carried.

MOTION #13:
It was moved by Harlan and seconded by Griffin to accept the Intent to Retire letter from Tracy DeVore effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year . Motion carried.

MOTION #14:
It was moved by Harlan and seconded by Bauer to approve the FMLA request for employee #1746. Motion carried.

MOTION #15:
It was moved by Middleton and seconded by Bauer to renew a three-year contract with Transfinder/Samsara for GPS Hardware for school buses at a cost not to exceed $23,928 over three years. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
1. Building Celebrations
2. Other

Schiller:

- SAFE came to Schiller School to do SEL lessons with students and talk about emotions and feelings.
- Students were treated to a short field trip to Centralia High School for a viewing of High School Musical put on by the CHS Drama Club.
- Our annual school carnival was a success, with families coming out to enjoy a night of fun and treats put on by our own Schiller staff.

- First-grade students enjoyed working with volunteers from the Cultural Society to complete art for Picture Person. In May, they will get to go to the Cultural Society to see their own artwork displayed.
- Students had a blast during our annual Easter egg hunt. Each student was table to get a minimum of 25 stuffed eggs each. The hunt was held during their PE time.
- Adults also had their chance at fun with the Morale Team putting on their annual adult Easter egg hunt this year. Lots of eggs and amazing prizes!
- Schiller students participated in their third and final fire drill to prepare for an emergency.

Jordan:

- On Thursday, March 12th, 2nd-grade students participated in Picture Person art lessons presented by volunteers from the Centralia Cultural Society. Students learned about the famous artist Claude Monet and discovered how he used color and light to capture nature.
- On Thursday, March 12th, Special Education coordinator, Holly Tieman, and her daughter presented an Irish Dance Assembly. They discussed the various dances with the students and then demonstrated them. This assembly was appropriate for the month of March.
- 2nd graders went hog wild this month and learned all about pigs during Ag in the Classroom lessons—farm fun and facts included.
- On Friday, March 13th, Mrs. Chris Becker, CCS Superintendent, shared a book titled "The BFG" by Roald Dahl with 3rd-grade students. Each 3rd-grade student received their own copy of this book from the Jordan PTO this year.
- On Friday, March 13th, our annual "Don't Sweat the IAR" assembly was held. Our special guests, the CHS cheerleaders, helped get everyone excited by cheering on our 3rd graders and creating special signs filled with encouragement. Mr. Bland also reminded students to "show what you know" on the tests and shared a few helpful test-taking tips to help them do their best.
- Our 3rd-grade students took the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) during the week of March 16th through the 20th, assessing their mastery of the Illinois Learning Standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. As an incentive, students had a chance to get their name entered into a drawing for prizes at the end of testing. Students earned tickets based on attendance, effort, and overall behavior during testing. This was a motivation for students to ROCK this test! 3rd-grade teachers challenged

students to do a Screen Free Challenge during this week. Many students completed the challenge.

- During the week of March 16th-20th, students participated in a food drive sponsored by the Centralia High School National Honor Society. Students and families were encouraged to donate non-perishable food items to help support members of our community who may be struggling with food insecurity. Food drives like this are important because they help provide meals for families in need and teach our students the value of kindness, generosity, and helping others.
- 3rd-grade students who did not lose a single Dojo point during the 3rd quarter were honored during an assembly on Wednesday, March 18th.
- On Friday, March 20th, Mrs. Moore's 3rd-grade class participated in Camp Read-A-Lot along with Ms. McMillan's 3rd-grade class. Mrs. Moore read, "Camping Spree with Mr. MaGee." Students read with a buddy using a flashlight, ate S'mores, and colored a bookmark.
- On Friday, March 20th, we celebrated our students who participated in the Kids Heart Challenge with a fun-filled popcorn-and-juice glow dance party! Students enjoyed glowing necklaces and bracelets while dancing the day away, and they also received prizes for their amazing participation. Thank you to everyone who helped make the Kids Heart Challenge such a huge success.
- On Monday, March 23rd, our IAR prize assembly was held. Students who put forth good effort, had a positive attitude, and were in attendance each day earned a chance to win a variety of prizes, including a girl's and a boy's bike. Thank you again to our generous sponsors, including Shores Builders, Central City Lioness, and Bob and Patti Hahn. Also, a BIG thank you to Mrs. Moore for organizing this special incentive.
- Our 2nd and 3rd-grade students focused on self-confidence during this month's SEL lessons. Students had a great time creating their own "superhero" masks using markers, paint, and lots of color to represent what makes them unique. Students also practiced sharing their personal "superpowers," such as reading, art, math, singing, drawing, writing neatly, being funny, showing kindness, and helping others at home. It was wonderful to see students build confidence as they recognized their strengths.
- On Thursday, March 26th, the Easter Bunny hopped by Jordan Elementary School. Students had a wonderful time visiting, smiling, and taking photos as part of our Activity Fund fundraiser.
- On Friday, March 27th, Mrs. Jodie Witzel was the guest reader for First Chapter Friday. She shared a book titled "Fourth Grade Rats" by Jerry Spinelli.

- On Friday, March 27th, we celebrated students who met their March Reading Rockets goal with a green tasting party for the month of March and leprechaun floats. We are so proud of these students for putting in the extra time to be fluent readers.
- On Monday, March 30th, our last round of 2nd-grade swim lessons kicked off for students in Mrs. Wangler's and Mrs. Witzel's classrooms. Students receive lessons through the end of April.
- On Monday, March 30th, CHS FFA students visited 3rd-grade classes and taught students all about chickens. Students even made a chicken out of pudding as a treat.
- On Tuesday, March 31st, Diane Cole from Bradford Bank came to talk to the 3rd graders about banking and looking out for counterfeit money. Thank you for the activity books and for educating our students about the banking system.
- Our monthly "Expectations Celebration" was held on Monday, March 31st. The theme of this event was "Lucky to be a Bobcat". Students who met the behavior expectations were encouraged to wear Jordan spiritwear, participated in a scavenger hunt, and were treated to Lucky Charms treats.
- On Wednesday, April 1st, 2nd-grade students participated in an exciting Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn of Jordan Elementary School. They were lucky enough to enjoy the event just before today's rain rolled in. It was truly an "egg-ceptional" experience filled with smiles, laughter, and plenty of springtime joy.
- On Wednesday, April 1st, our Jordan Stars were honored during our monthly Jordan Stars Assembly. These students embraced our motto: Stop, Think, Act Responsibly.
- We are presently observing Child Abuse Prevention Month. At Jordan Elementary, we are committed to creating a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment for every child. Throughout the month, we will focus on promoting kindness, building strong relationships, and encouraging students to speak up and seek help from trusted adults. In recognition of this important cause, our Jordan Elementary signs will shine blue throughout the month as a reminder of our commitment to protecting children. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our children.
- Baseball Week at Jordan Elementary is in progress. This is a fun-filled week celebrating America's favorite pastime and includes baseball-themed dress-up days and exciting daily baseball skills workouts during PE. We are excited to welcome the CHS Orphans baseball team and Annies softball players, who will be working with our students throughout the week to build skills, teamwork, and school spirit! Special thanks to Derek Harlan for working with us to coordinate and schedule players again this year. Fredbird and Al Hrabosky will be presenting the "Fredbird and Friends School Program" to students on Friday, April 24th.

- Our "ZYX Countdown" to the end of the school year will begin on Thursday, April 16th. Each day will have a specific theme as we count down. We will begin with "Z (Zany Fans at the Ballpark) Day".
- Our annual "Title I Family Fine Arts Festival" will be held on Thursday, April 23rd, in the Jordan Activity Center. It will include our "Jordan's Got Talent" show at 6:00 PM, student art galleries, and a Scholastic Book Fair.

Central:

- Spring Pictures with the new company (Wagner photography) took place at CMS.
- PBIS celebration was an ice cream social. Students who maintained 85% of their PBIS points were invited to celebrate.
- R2S2 (respect, responsibility, safety, self-control). Students reviewed the schoolwide expectations for appropriate behavior (classroom, hallway, cafeteria, restrooms, playground, and buses).
- CMS 5th graders participated in swimming safety classes and in-school safety classes. The goal is to prepare students for navigating encounters with water in a safe manner.
- Rehearsal continued for the EOY Musical, Footloose. Students are shuttled to Jordan Elementary for practice of music and choreography.
- 'Girls on the Run' is in full swing. Students travel to Jordan Elementary two days a week for practice. The goal is gearing up for the end of season trek in STL.
- IAR statewide testing took place at CMS. Students worked diligently to demonstrate to the state all that they have learned in Math and Reading.
- All fifth grade students traveled to the Rec Center for a two-hour swim party as a conclusion of the water safety program.
- 12 Cubs of the month were selected and invited to participate in a pizza party with a guest of their choice.
- All students in 4th and 5th grade who completed all of their IAR tests were invited to have an extra recess in celebration of their effort.

CJHS:

- **Women's History Month:** Several CJHS students participated in the Women's History Month Poster Contest in March. Posters were hung in the CJHS Commons. One winner was chosen from each grade level. The following students won lunch at Tequila Mexican Restaurant for creating inspiring posters: Shimaya Reynolds, Mattie Smith, & Mia Chen.

- **March Faculty Meeting:** On March 11, teachers and paraprofessionals met in their grade levels. Mr. Brendel went over the discipline report. Mrs. Hollenkamp discussed IAR testing. And Mrs. Tammy Henry & Mr. Boldt provided information regarding the teaching pyramid & learning objectives. Teachers met in their grade levels to discuss remediation plans for students who are on the retention watch list and to select the March Tigers of the Month.
- **Scholar Bowl:** The JV Scholar Bowl team won 1st place at the Raccoon Tournament on March 3 and Jayson Overall was named the MVP.
- **PBIS Celebrations:** 3rd Quarter PBIS celebrations took place at CJHS on March 13.
- **IAR Testing:** CJHS students took part in IAR math testing on March 17-19 and ELA testing on March 24-26.
- **Let's Tackle Hunger Food Drive:** Centralia High School National Honor Society contacted 10 schools to compete in an area food drive. Mrs. Wimberly's Home Room class brought in more than 300 canned goods and was rewarded with a pizza party. Also, Ms. Holland's Life Skills classroom brought in nearly 200 canned goods and enjoyed pizza with Coach Lee Bennett from Centralia High School on March 26.
- **CJHS Band:** Alaina Rink received a perfect score at the solo & ensemble in Mt. Carmel on March 14. And the CJHS Band received all first place ratings at the Band Competition in Mt. Vernon on March 21. Upcoming performances include the Spring Concert on May 5 & 8th grade graduation on May 19.
- **Tigers of the Month:** The following CJHS students were selected as the March Tigers of the Month and were honored at the March 27 school-wide assembly:
    - **6th Grade:** Nazaireyah Thomas & Alaina Rink
    - **7th Grade:** Briella Westbrook & Michael Stockton
    - **8th Grade:** Ka'Leah Agin & Alan Roblero Gordillo
- **Volleyball Team:** The volleyball team was honored and given letters & pins by Coach Severs & Coach Nocerino.
- **IPA Student Leadership Award:** Jordan Castleman was honored at the IPA Student Leadership Award Breakfast at Greenville University on March 13. Jordan was also honored by Mr. Boldt at the March Tigers of the Month Assembly on March 27.
- **March Discipline:** Our current 8th graders continue to outperform last year's 8th graders with fewer discipline referrals compared to a year ago. Also, overall referrals are still considerably down compared to two years ago.

	March 2024	March 2025	March 2026	YTD 23-24	YTD 24-25	YTD 25-26
6th Grade	43	47	48	273	166	280
7th Grade	143	19	76	757	205	385
8th Grade	296	67	47	577	269	236
TOTALS	**482**	**133**	**171**	**1607**	**640**	**901**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

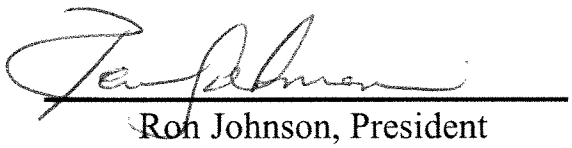
MOTION #16:
It was moved by Middleton and seconded by Harlan to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

MOTION #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
MIDDLETON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
DODSON	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GRIFFIN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

MOTION #	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
JOHNSON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
WILLIAMS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HARLAN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
BAUER	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
MIDDLETON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
DODSON	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GRIFFIN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
Sue Williams, Board Secretary

APPROVED: 

Ron Johnson, President

Sue Williams, Board Secretary