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 12, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., in the Administration Bldg., 400 South Elm St., Centralia, IL 62801.

Members Present: Ron Johnson, Blake Griffin, Greg Dodson, Renae Bauer Sue Williams, and Michael Middleton

Members Absent: Derek Harlan

Also Present: Supt. Christina Becker, Assist. Supt. Elizabeth Hollenkamp, Austin Williams, Amanda Marshall, Laura Myers, Melissa Taylor, Herman Lee, and Teresa Hutchison

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

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

Adjourned to closed session at 6:02 p.m.
Reconvened to open session at 6:29 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 14, 2026.
2. Approval of bills for $704,566.74.
3. Approval of May payroll.
4. Approval of the May FOIA Request Report
5. Abolishment of the Working Cash Fund and the transfer of the fund balance to the Education Fund.
6. Approval of the final 2025-2026 School Calendar to reflect May 21, 2026 as the last day for students and May 22, 2026, as the last day for staff.
7. Approval of out of district trips:
   a. Centralia Jr. High School Band, Color Guard, and Choir to Holiday World in Santa Claus, Indiana on May 22, 2026.

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

RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS FROM EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC
Two Parents in attendance stated a need for additional special education programming in the district, particularly for children with autism.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

CURRICULUM REPORT
Schiller School Principal Ms. Amanda Marshall presented an update about changes made in academic instruction over the past several years. Teaching is more individualized with balanced literacy. The building has now received a commendable rating based on test scores.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS
A Second Reading of the following PRESS Policy Updates was held:
2:200 Types of School Board Meetings; 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 Process and Criteria; 5:50 Drug - and Alcohol-Free Workplace; Tobacco Prohibition; 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 Student Prohibited; 7:50 School Admissions and Student 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 Disablilities; 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 #4:
It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Griffin to approve the PRESS Policy Updates as read. Motion carried.

MOTION #5:
It was moved by Griffin and seconded by Middleton to approve the bed from Kohls for food for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion carried.

MOTION #6:
It was moved by Griffin and seconded by Bauer to approve the bid from Prairie Farms for milk for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion carried.

MOTION #7:
It was moved by Griffin and seconded by Bauer to approve the bid from S and L for bread for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion carried.

MOTION #8:
It was moved by Williams and seconded by Griffin to accept the resignation of Robin Haake as Schiller paraprofessional, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried.

MOTION #9:
It was moved by Griffin and seconded by Dodson to accept the resignation of Brandon Veller as fourth grade teacher for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion carried.

MOTION #10:
It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Bauer to employ Emily Alcorn as fourth grade teacher for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion carried.

MOTION #11:
It was moved by Dodson and seconded by Griffin to employ Kathryn Webster as fourth grade teacher (pending license) for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion carried.

MOTION #12:
It was moved by Griffin and seconded by Dodson to employ Mollie Dale as Schiller School secretary for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion carried.

MOTION #13:
It was moved by Middleton and seconded by Bauer to approve a maternity leave request for employee #1493. Motion carried.

MOTION #14:
It was moved by Griffin and seconded by Dodson to approve the renewal of Satchel Pulse program at a cost not to exceed $11,915. Motion carried.

MOTION #15:
It was moved by Middleton and seconded by Dodson to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to prepare a Tentative School District Budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, with hearing for said budget to be set for the Board Meeting on September 08, 2026. Motion carried.

MOTION #16:
It was moved by Middleton and seconded by Dodson to approve the School District's expenditure of funds to defray necessary and proper expenses and liabilities of the School District incurred for educational purposes of the District for Fiscal Year 2027, until which time the Annual Budget of the District is adopted in conformity with applicable sections of the Illinois School Code. Motion carried.

MOTION #17:
It was moved by Middleton and seconded by Bauer to approve the Consolidated District Plan. Motion carried.

MOTION #18:
It was moved by Griffin and seconded by Middleton to accept the RF Submittals and select the Architectual Firm of FGM Architects. . Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
1. Building Celebrations
2. Other - CJHS Graduation is May 19, 2026

Schiller:

- Schiller students finished their final fire drill of the school year with students and staff exiting quickly and orderly. All students were accounted for and the building was given the all clear. Drills are held at various times throughout the year so students know how to react in different areas of the school and at different times of the day.

- The retention team met with classroom teachers to determine student placements for the next school year. With all student data reviewed, only one student is being retained!
- Schiller School hosted pre-K screenings for KSED. Many future students came through for testing to see if they qualified for early interventions or for ECE.
- Wagner completed student spring pictures. Students were moved through quickly with their staff being patient and mindful of our students.
- Ms. Dudley and Mrs. Stedelin-Rommelman organized an amazing Earth Day for our students. A petting zoo, Ameren Power, making of bird feeders and grass buddies, a beekeeper, and recycling relay races were just a few of the fun stations for the students to visit throughout the day. Christ Our Rock High School, Patoka, and Mater Dei FFA students volunteered at each station to help the day run smoothly.
- Students and staff had a blast at our yearly dodgeball tournament with students vs. staff.
- The ROE came to set up the StarLab in the gym. Mrs. Engel and Mrs. Blair manned the lab with students exploring the solar system.
- Graphic Packaging came to Schiller to plant trees with every student. Each student picked their own tree, box, and filled them with dirt.
- Teachers and staff were treated all week for Teacher Appreciation. They were spoiled with breakfast, lunches, treats, and gifts for all the hard work they do.
- The ROE preK came to visit Schiller School. Students and parents enjoyed a tour of the school and a book reading by Mrs. DeKalb. The students were excited to see where they will be attending school next year.

Jordan:

- April was Child Abuse Prevention Month, and at Jordan Elementary, we are committed to creating a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment for every child. Throughout the month, we focused 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 shone blue throughout the month as a reminder of our commitment to protecting children.
- This April, our 2nd and 3rd graders dove into a fun and meaningful SEL lesson all about diversity—celebrating what makes each of us one of a kind! Our SEL team read the story "I Am Me". Students shared great ideas about how sometimes we try to fit in or compare ourselves to others—but also how amazing it is when we embrace who we truly are. To top it off, students participated in a sweet activity using M&M's. Students noticed all the different colors on the outside—and discovered that on the

inside, they're all the same. A simple (and tasty!) reminder that while we may look different, we have so much in common.

- Our annual "Baseball Week" took place during the week of April 13th through the 17th. Baseball-themed activities were integrated into the classroom throughout the week. Players from the Centralia High School Orphans baseball team and Annies softball team worked with our students during PE classes, helping them develop fielding and batting skills. Thanks to Derek Harlan for again scheduling players to come and assist us.
- Our "ZYX Countdown" kicked off on Thursday, April 16th, and continues until the end of the school year. Each day has a specific theme as we count down.
- We are proud of our students, Nevaeh and Jerin, who participated in the Special Olympics on Friday, April 17th, in Herrin, IL. It was an amazing day filled with competition, teamwork, and celebration. A huge thank you to Mr. Hiller and Mrs. Brooks for supporting our students and allowing them to be part of this special event.
- First Chapter Friday took place on Friday, April 17th, with guest reader, Mrs. Laurie Miller, CCS Instructional Coach. In honor of Baseball Week, she shared a book titled The Cardinal Caper by David Kelly. It was perfect, and many had not heard of it.
- Mrs. Patty Donoho, our school secretary, was celebrated on Wednesday, April 22nd. We appreciate all that she does to make our school run smoothly.
- On Thursday, April 23rd, the Centralia High School Chorus and Jazz and Rock Bands visited and performed for our students. Many of the performers were former students. Thank you to Mrs. Stephanie Aarons-Dennison for bringing these talented musicians to our school and for exposing our students to what CHS's music programs have to offer.
- To mark this school year's final reading buddy visit, we hosted a pizza party for our Junior High SOAR reading buddies. We are grateful for the SOAR students' commitment: their meaningful engagement is always a highlight of the year for our students.
- 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 23rd, and was a big success. Over 250 people attended this event.
- Fredbird and former Cardinal Al Hrabosky presented their "Fredbird and Friends Assembly" to students and families on Friday, April 24th. The program focused on encouraging students to make positive choices, show respect to others, work hard in school, and demonstrate good character both inside and outside of the classroom.

- An encore performance of "Jordan's Got Talent" took place on Friday, April 24th, for our student body and gave all of our students an opportunity to attend the show.
- Our 3rd graders enjoyed their final First Chapter Friday on Friday, April 24th. It was a great reminder to keep exploring new books and stories—each one helps us grow as readers and builds our imagination. Thank you to Mrs. Hollenkamp, CCS Assistant Superintendent, for sharing our final read.
- On Tuesday, 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 Monday, April 27th, we honored our transportation department with cookies for Bus Driver and Bus Monitor Appreciation Day! From navigating traffic, following routes, and early mornings to keeping every student safe and on time, their care and dedication make a huge difference every day. We appreciate YOU!
- Macz Funeral Home Pursuit of Excellence Awards were presented to students before our Jordan Stars assembly on Thursday, April 30th, by 6th-grade student George Macz, alongside his mother, Traci Macz. A heartfelt thank you to the Macz family for honoring our students and celebrating their hard work and achievements.
- On April 30th, "Jordan Stars" were recognized for their efforts during an assembly on Thursday, April 30th. Students are encouraged to express and demonstrate positive behaviors daily in their classrooms and around the school to receive this recognition.
- Friday, May 1st, was "School Lunch Hero Day". Our amazing cooks, Diane and Donna, were honored throughout the day. Thanks for feeding our students delicious meals.
- On May 1st, students who met the monthly behavior criteria enjoyed our Expectations Celebration! This month's theme was Playtime & Snowcones, and it was a fun-filled time for everyone!
- Teachers were honored during Teacher Appreciation Week (May 4th-7th) by our Jordan PTO with special treats each day. A special thanks to Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Miller for planning everything for our staff.
- On May 6th, students had an out-of-this-world experience exploring the solar system thanks to the Star Lab, brought by Dan Knox and compliments of ROE 13. Through this immersive, hands-on opportunity, students traveled through space, learning about planets, stars, and the wonders of our universe in a fun and engaging way. Thank you to ROE 13 and Dan Knox for making learning come to life!

- Nurse Trisha Niepoeter was honored on Wednesday, May 6th, in recognition of School Nurse Day for her dedication to keeping students and staff healthy throughout the school year.
- Fountas and Pinnell testing has been administered by our sweep team consisting of Mrs. Witzel, Mrs. Nattier, and Ms. Isaac. Data displays that there has been a significant improvement in reading levels, and the majority of students have met or exceeded their goals for the school year.

- Mrs. Moore has again planned a Starbooks Cafe for students, and it will take place on Monday, May 11th.
- A special end-of-the-year event called "Top Notch Taco Tuesday" will be held on Tuesday, May 19th. 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 Monday, May 18th, we have planned a "Bobcat Experience 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, mini golf, bowling, shaved ice, Name That Tune, and a special activity with Mr. Hiller. All activities are funded by the Jordan PTO.
- On Thursday, May 21st, 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" during the other half of the day. The American Ice Cream truck will be here to serve treats to students and staff. These activities are also funded by the Jordan PTO.
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Central:

- Paraprofessional Appreciation Day. CMS recognized our five parapros with treats and a gift card. We wanted them to know that they are appreciated everyday and we recognize the tremendous impact they have on our team.
- IAR makeups were completed. Students were encouraged daily to demonstrate all that they have learned.
- ISA (5th grade Science). Our students participated in three science tests to demonstrate their knowledge in Science as part of the statewide testing season.

- CMS students were able to use their creative skills to complete art projects for the yearly Picture Person program that is facilitated by the Cultural Society. Volunteers came to each of the classrooms and helped students to create unique art projects.
- The STEAM "Amazon store" is up and running. Ms. Stacey has been working to complete a purchasing project for the CMS students that will enable them to "purchase" supplies by adding them to a cart using "money" that they have earned. This project is a real life experience that will help students understand the value of money and budgeting their funds accurately.
- 5th Grade students participated in the Women's Club yearly Parent of the Year essay contest. One student is selected to have their essay presented to their parent in a classwide celebration. This year's winner was Khloe Roper. She wrote a moving essay about her mother, Destiny Pigg. Her essay described how her mother has impacted her life and supported her on her childhood journey.
- Students were encouraged to wear blue in support of child abuse awareness on Friday April 10th. In addition, CMS turned their outside signs blue in recognition of this very important topic.
- The PBIS mid-quarter celebration was an extra recess with snacks brought from home. Students who earned the celebration enjoyed kickball, basketball, and playground activities for one hour in the afternoon.
- Students completed the SEL (social emotional learning) screener. This screener provides valuable data that enables our mental health support staff data about struggling students. It also helps to provide data for creating lessons that are specific to the needs of our students.
- Students reviewed expectations for the final formal meeting of the school year. The focus is on appropriate behavior in the hallways, classrooms, cafeteria, restrooms, playground, and on the bus.
- Spring sports pictures were scheduled and taken.
- Footloose rehearsals continued for those CMS students who are actively participating in the upcoming musical.
- CMS choir members have been rehearsing for their May 5th Performance. This is the first time in years that CMS has had any students in the chorus. A shout out to Mr. Webster for making this dream come to life.
- 12 students were chosen as CMS cub of the month. These students were treated to a pizza luncheon with a guest of their choice. Students are selected on the basis of their ability to follow the CMS expectations and represent themself as a role model to other students on appropriate behavior.

- Students traveled by bus to the Cultural Society to view their artwork that was completed during the Picture Person art program. They enjoyed a gallery walk of the artwork displayed from each of the schools.

CJHS:

- **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 March 31.
- **Spring Break:** Students enjoyed Spring Break from April 2-6.
- **Centralia Historical Society:** On April 7, the Centralia Historical Society presented to CJHS 8th grade students about the history of Centralia. CCS board member, Michael Middleton, used pictures & stories to explain interesting bits of information regarding Centralia's past.
- **8th Grade Career Day:** On April 10, CJHS 8th grade students went to Kaskaskia College for Career Day.
- **April Faculty Meeting:** On April 8, teachers and paraprofessionals met in the Library. Mr. Brendel went over the discipline report and Mr. Boldt explained the RTI Pyramid & RTI plans for 2026-2027. Teachers met in their grade levels to discuss RTI goals for Tier 2 & Tier 3, remediation plans for students who are on the retention watch list, and select the April Tigers of the Month.
- **Donuts With Grownups:** On April 15, more than 30 families showed up to CJHS to eat donuts with their children prior to the start of the school day.
- **Special Olympics:** On April 17, student-athletes who participated in the Special Olympics in Herrin were greeted with a school-wide walk out. Students & staff cheered on the athletes as they left the school building & boarded the bus.
- **CHS Athletics With Coach Bennett:** On April 23, CJHS 8th grade students met with Coach Bennett in Tiger Gym as he explained how to get involved with Centralia High School sports, including summer activities & camps.
- **ISA Testing:** CJHS 8th grade students took part in ISA science testing on April 22-24.
- **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:
  - **6th Grade:** Victoria Boyce & Kaiden Peters
  - **7th Grade:** Alaina Rink & Ciara White
  - **8th Grade:** Grant Bradford & William Qualls
- **Boys & Girls Track Teams:** The boys' & girls' track teams were honored and given letters & pins by Coach Hargis & Coach Poore.
- **Track Regionals:** The boys' & girls' track teams competed at the Regionals in Salem

on April 29. Dyami Webster qualified for the state track tournament. He will compete in Carterville on May 9.

- **Step Up Night:** On the evening of April 29, incoming 6th grade students & their families attended a CJHS orientation. 6th grade teachers & CJHS coaches & sponsors met with the families & students to help showcase what next year will look like.
- **Holocaust Museum:** On April 30, 8th grade students & teachers attended the Holocaust Museum in St. Louis.
- **99/100 Six Flags Trip:** On May 1, CJHS sent 40 students on a field trip to Six Flags, honoring them for good behavior throughout the 2025-2026 school year.
- **April 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.

	April 2024	April 2025	April 2026	YTD 23-24	YTD 24-25	YTD 25-26
6th Grade	41	49	81	314	215	361
7th Grade	114	23	51	871	228	436
8th Grade	98	47	26	675	316	262
TOTALS	253	119	158	1860	759	1059

ANNOUNCEMENTS

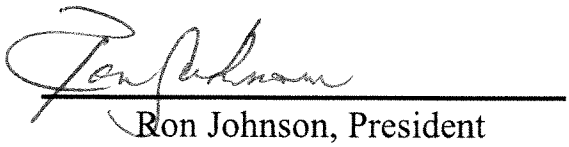
MOTION #19:
It was moved by Middleton and seconded by Bauer to adjourn the meeting.
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

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

MOTION #	10	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
JOHNSON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
WILLIAMS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HARLAN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BAUER	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
MIDDLETON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
DODSON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
GRIFFIN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
Sue Williams, Board Secretary

APPROVED: 
Ron Johnson, President

Sue Williams, Board Secretary