Central Community Unit School District 301
Board of Education Minutes DRAFT

Where: Central CUSD #301 District Office
Date: September 21, 2026 Time: 6:02 PM

Board Members Present

Andrew Dogan	Y
Jeff Gorman	Y
Chad Herst	Y
Scott Mrkvicka	N
Morgan Pappas	Y
Danielle Ward	N
Ryan Wasson	Y

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1. BOE Meeting

1.A Meeting Call to Order - President Wasson called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM

1.B Roll Call - Roll call was taken

1.C Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was said by D301 Students

1.D Approval of the Agenda - The Agenda was Approved as presented

Motion by Dogan, second by Pappas, to approve the agenda as presented.
Voting yes: Dogan, Pappas, Herst, Gorman, Wasson
Voting no: None
Absent: Ward, Mrkvicka

2. Student Recognition - Mrs. Linder's class from Howard B. Thomas (HBT) Elementary presented their annual Brookfield Zoo adoption project. The class adopted a mascot sloth named “Raisin,” using the project to practice narrative writing and building classroom community.

3. Public Open Forum

3.A Recognition of Visitors – President Wasson greeted everyone in attendance

3.B Public Comments -

Gene Meyer urged fiscal restraint, asking the board to distinguish between "wants" and "needs" to protect community members and seniors on fixed incomes from property tax increases.

Louise (29-year driver): Addressed bus driver compensation, noting that veteran drivers hit a pay scale ceiling cap of 36.80 / after 20 years. She advocated for improved wage progression and longevity recognition.

4. Superintendent Report - Dr. MacCrindle highlighted:

Central High School Recognition: Central High School ranked in the top 40% nationally and top 5 in Kane County in the U.S. News & World Report based on ACT scores, AP participation, and dual-credit success.

Strategic Focus Areas: Dr. MacCrindle outlined three core goals: (1) Relationships & Communication, (2) System Alignment across schools, and (3) Responsible Planning for facilities, safety, and strategic plan preparation.

Facilities Engagement: Announced three 'Shaping Central 301 / Let's Connect' public sessions (Oct. 15, 26, and 28) to share facility assessments and enrollment scenarios ahead of January referendum options.

Eighth grade promotion is on the calendar; save the date: May 24, 2027.

Safety & Accountability: Partnering with IDOT for speed radar signs and flashing beacons on Rt. 47 near Lily Lake Elementary. Outlined ISBE's expanded 6-tier school accountability system.

5. Kane County ROE: Overview of regional services supporting staff and special education. The ROE did not attend.

Suspend regular meeting for Central 301 Budget Hearing

Approval to suspend the regular Board meeting and move to the Central 301 Budget hearing.

Motion by Dogan, second by Pappas, to approve moving into the Central 301 Budget hearing.

A voice vote is taken and motion passes.

6. Review of Central301 Budget

1. Review of Budget Changes

Daina Pflug delivered the final FY 2026-2027 (FY27) District Budget presentation during the public hearing. The report detailed revenue/expenditure line-item revisions and explained how the district successfully eliminated an initial $1.6 million projected deficit to achieve a balanced operating budget.

The Key Revenue Revisions were as follows:

Education Fund: Refined grant allocations and actual state reimbursement totals.

TRS On-Behalf Entry: Adjusted state TRS on-behalf payments downward from $18M to $15M based on audit figures (equal offsetting revenue and expenditure).

O&M & Transportation: Incorporated asset disposal proceeds in O&M, updated state transportation claim estimates, and corrected interest income in the Tort Fund.

Key Expenditure Revisions:

Payroll Finalization: Updated salary calculations across all funds to reflect actual hires, step increases, and lane changes through September close.

Budget Offsets: Reduced elementary textbook adoption and technology equipment line items in the Education Fund to balance payroll adjustments.

Operations: Adjusted maintenance salaries, trimmed routine repair accounts, and increased the transportation fuel budget for diesel bus operations.

Deficit Elimination Factors:

Pflug highlighted six primary factors that transitioned the budget from a $1.6M deficit to a balanced position:

1. Prior-Year Spending Restraint: Interim spending controls generated carryover reserves.

2. Interest Income: Higher-than-projected interest rates across all financial accounts.

3. Special Education Refunds: Prior-year tuition billing credits from special ed cooperatives (NIA).

4. Contingency Padding Reduction: Unused stipend and extra-duty padding removed after CA contract finalization.

5. EBF Allocation Shift: Shifted Evidence-Based Funding transfers to O&M down from $3M-$4M to $2M, redirecting funds into the Education Fund.

6. Payment Management: Strategic timing of vendor and special education disbursements.

Public Comment:

Gene Meyer reiterated the need to limit property tax increases to protect fixed-income seniors and younger homeowners. He emphasized that modest Social Security

increases fail to keep pace with rising costs, forcing many seniors to continue working, while typical mortgage-sized payments are increasingly consumed by taxes alone.

7. Action Reports

A. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes Regular Meeting March 16, 2026
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Payment of Bills
4. Payment of Bills - Northern Kane County Regional Vocational System
5. Personnel Report

Motion by Gorman, second by Pappas, to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Voting yes: Pappas, Dogan, Gorman, Herst, Wasson
Voting no: None
Absent: Mrkvicka, Ward

Dr. MacCrindle pauses the meeting to welcome the new Director of Safety, Security and Compliance. This is a new role for the district.

B. Approval of Annual Review of Hazardous Bus Routes for Central 301

Rick Rindhage, Director of Transportation, requested renewal.

Motion by Gorman, second by Dogan, to approve the Annual Review of Hazardous Bus Routes.
Voting yes: Pappas, Dogan, Gorman, Herst, Wasson
Voting no: None
Absent: Mrkvicka, Ward

C. Approval of FFA Overnight Convention Trip (Oct 21 - 24 2026)

Motion by Pappas, second by Dogan, to approve the FFA Overnight Convention Trip (Oct. 21 - 24, 2026)
Voting yes: Dogan, Gorman, Herst, Pappas, Wasson
Voting no: None
Absent: Mrkvicka, Ward

D. Approval of Affiliation Agreement of Millbrook Vet Tech

Motion by Dogan, second by Pappas, to approve the Vet Affiliation Agreement with Millbrook (NAVTA).
Voting yes: Gorman, Herst, Pappas, Dogan, Wasson
Voting no: None
Absent: Ward, Mrkvicka

E. Approval of Meadow View Vet Tech Affiliation Agreement

Motion by Pappas, second by Dogan, to approve the Vet Affiliation Agreement with Meadow View (NAVTA).
Voting yes: Herst, Pappas, Dogan, Gorman, Wasson
Voting no: None
Absent: Ward, Mrkvicka

F. Approval of Kane County Farm Bureau Donation ($800.00 to CHS FFA)

Motion by Pappas, second by Dogan, to approve the Kane County Farm Bureau Donation ($800.00 to CHS FFA).

Voting yes: Gorman, Herst, Pappas, Dogan, Wasson
Voting no: None
Absent: Mrkvicka, Ward

G. Approval of CHS Booster Donation ($500.00 to CHS Chorus)

Motion by Pappas, second by Dogan, to approve CHS Booster Donation ($500.00 to CHS Chorus)
Voting yes: Herst, Pappas, Dogan, Gorman, Wasson
Voting no: None
Absent: Mrkvicka, Ward

H. Approval of Annual Compliance Posting IMRF Total Compensation Report

Motion by Pappas, second by Dogan, to approve the Annual Compliance Posting IMRF Total Compensation Report.
Voting yes: Herst, Pappas, Dogan, Gorman, Wasson
Voting no: None
Absent: Mrkvicka, Ward

J. Approval of Admin and Teacher Benefit Report
Motion by Pappas, second by Dogan, to approve Admin and Teacher Benefit Report (PA 97-0256).
Voting yes: Herst, Pappas, Dogan, Gorman, Wasson
Voting no: None
Absent: Mrkvicka, Ward

I. Approval of Final Central CUSD 301 FY27 Budget
Motion by Dogan, second by Pappas, to approve Final Central CUSD 301 FY27 Budget.
Voting yes: Pappas, Dogan, Gorman, Herst, Wasson
Voting no: None
Absent: Mrkvicka, Ward

J. Approval of PRESS PLUS Policy Revisions (First Reading)
Motion by Pappas, second by Herst, to approve PRESS PLUS Policy Revisions (First Reading).
Voting yes: Dogan, Gorman, Herst, Pappas, Wasson
Voting no: None
Absent: Mrkvicka, Ward

K. Approval of Education Foundation Donation ($5,000.00 for K-2 Phonics Kits)
Motion by Pappas, second by Dogan, to approve the Education Foundation Donation ($5,000.00 for K-2 Phonics Kits).
Voting yes: Dogan, Gorman, Herst, Pappas, Wasson
Voting no: None

8. Facility Study Update

Facilities & Growth: Facilities met two times last month, August 26th and Sept. 2nd. The first meeting was an update presentation by Wold sharing existing conditions and capital assessment. The next meeting was with Dr. Kasarda reviewing growth.

CCC Meeting: Dr. MacCrindle shared:

Mr. Buchs provided an update on high school curriculum initiatives.

The SAC committee and elementary staff have also been meeting, with social studies

and science teachers discussing curriculum standards alignment.

Additionally, the committee discussed the implementation of e-learning, which will be referred back to the DLT committee for further review to ensure teacher input is included.

The Policy Committee was discussed earlier in the meeting.

9. Information Items

A. FOIA Reports in the Board Packet

B. 6th Day Enrollment, presented by Dr. MacCrindle

6th Day Enrollment: Official district enrollment stands at 5,214 students (compared to 5,221 in the prior year). ISBE uses this information to determine how much funding the district receives.

10. Agenda Items for October 2026 BOE

11. Adjourn to Closed Session

Motion by Dogan, second by Pappas, to adjourn to closed session.
Voting yes: Gorman, Herst, Pappas, Dogan, Wasson
Voting no: None
Absent: Mrkvicka, Ward

12. Moving back to Open Session

Motion by Dogan, second by Pappas, to adjourn closed session and move to open session.
Voting yes: Gorman, Herst, Pappas, Dogan, Wasson
Voting no: None
Absent: Mrkvicka, Ward

13. Action Items from closed session:

A. Separation Agreement:
Motion by Pappas, second by Dogan, to approve the separation agreement

between Central 301 and Matt Rodewald.
Voting yes: Pappas, Dogan, Gorman, Herst, Wasson
Voting no: None
Absent: Mrkvicka, Ward

B. Transportation Salary Increase:
Motion by Gorman, second by Dogan, to approve the salary increase for the bus drivers in the Transportation Department.
Voting yes: Pappas, Dogan, Gorman, Herst, Wasson
Voting no: None
Absent: Mrkvicka, Ward

14. Adjourn

Motion by Dogan, second by Pappas, to adjourn.

Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote **8:05 PM**

Next Meeting October 19, 2026

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Ryan Wasson, Board President **Scott Mrkvicka, Board Secretary**