

**Central Community Unit School District 301
Board of Education Minutes**

Where: Central CUSD #301 District Office
Date: January 21, 2025

Meeting: Regular
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

Junaid Afeef	Y
Marc Falk	Y
Jeff Gorman	Y
Dornetria Hemphill	Y
Eric Nolan	Y
Morgan Pappas	Y
Jennifer Volpe	Y

Administrators Present

Esther Mongan	Y
Matthew Haug	Y
Daina Pflug	Y
Shayne Birkmeier	Y
Stephen Buchs	Y
Daniel Carpenter	N
Graydon Engle	N
Sarah Farrington	N
Rania Hamadeh	N
Jesse Hawley	N
Ted Juske	Y
Theresa Kolkebeck	Y
Kim Lewis	Y
Marilyn Mattei	Y
Megan Minehart	N
Matt Newquist	Y
Sarah Nolan	N
Kristen Nowicki	N
Alex Paszt	N
Edgar Pereda	N
Patrick Podgorski	Y
Dan Polowy	Y
Pam Porto	N
Curtis Price	N
Tamara Proberts	N
Matt Rodewald	Y
Melissa Rourke	N
Vicki Shadel	Y
Erica Snyder	Y
Andrew Speiden	N
Brian Tobin	Y
Jessica VonSchnase	N

Roll Call Roll was called at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Afeef, Falk, Gorman, Hemphill, Pappas, Volpe, Nolan
Absent: None

Approve Agenda Motion by Falk, second by Hemphill, to approve the agenda as presented..

Voting yes: Afeef, Falk, Gorman, Hemphill, Pappas, Volpe, Nolan
Voting no: None
Absent: None

- Consent Agenda Motion by Falk, second by Hemphill, to approve the consent agenda as presented.
- Voting yes: Afeef, Falk, Gorman, Hemphill, Pappas, Volpe, Nolan
Voting no: None
Absent: None
- Approve November 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes Motion by Gorman, second by Falk, to approve the revised minutes from the November 18, 2024 regular meeting.
- Voting yes: Afeef, Falk, Gorman, Hemphill, Pappas, Volpe, Nolan
Voting no: None
Absent: None
- Approve Veterinary Affiliation Agreement Motion by Falk, second by Hemphill, to approve the veterinary affiliation agreement with Anderson Humane Clinic.
- Voting yes: Afeef, Falk, Gorman, Hemphill, Pappas, Volpe, Nolan
Voting no: None
Absent: None
- Approve Bus Bid Motion by Pappas, second by Hemphill, to approve the bus bid from Midwest Transit.
- Voting yes: Afeef, Falk, Gorman, Hemphill, Pappas, Volpe, Nolan
Voting no: None
Absent: None
- Approve 2025-2026 Amended Calendar Motion by Papps, second by Hemphill, to approve the 2025-2026 amended calendar as presented.
- Voting yes: Afeef, Falk, Gorman, Hemphill, Pappas, Volpe, Nolan
Voting no: None
Absent: None
- Motion to Censure Jeff Gorman Motion by Afeef, second by Hemphill, to approve the censure of Jeff Gorman.
- Voting yes: Afeef, Hemphill, Pappas, Volpe
Voting no: Falk, Gorman, Nolan
Absent: None
- Motion to Recommend Removal of Jeff Gorman from the BOE Motion by Afeef, second by Hemphill, to approve the recommendation to remove Jeff Gorman from the Board of Education and refer the matter to the Regional Superintendent.
- Voting yes: Afeef, Hemphill, Pappas, Volpe
Voting no: Falk, Gorman, Nolan
Absent: None
- Motion to Censure Junaid Afeef Motion by Gorman, second by Falk, to approve the censure of Junaid Afeef.
- Voting yes: Falk, Gorman
Voting no: Afeef, Hemphill, Pappas, Volpe, Nolan
Absent: None

- Executive Session Motion by Afeef, second by Hemphill, to adjourn open session and move into executive session at 8:26 p.m.
- Voting yes: Afeef, Falk, Gorman, Hemphill, Pappas, Volpe, Nolan
Voting no: None
Absent: None
- Open Session Motion by Falk, second by Afeef, to adjourn executive session and return to open session at 9:17 p.m.
- Voting yes: Afeef, Falk, Gorman, Hemphill, Pappas, Volpe, Nolan
Voting no: None
Absent: None
- Approve December 16, 2024 Executive Session Minutes Motion by Afeef, second by Volpe, to approve the December 16, 2024 Executive Session Minutes.
- Voting yes: Afeef, Falk, Gorman, Hemphill, Pappas, Volpe, Nolan
Voting no: None
Absent: None
- Action on Semi-Annual Review of Closed Minutes Motion by Volpe, second by Gorman, to approve the release of the closed minutes dated July 9, 2024 and find the need for confidentiality exists as to all remaining closed minutes..
- Voting yes: Afeef, Falk, Gorman, Hemphill, Pappas, Volpe, Nolan
Voting no: None
Absent: None
- Adjourn Motion by Afeef, second by Falk, to adjourn at 9:19 p.m.
- Voting yes: Afeef, Falk, Gorman, Hemphill, Pappas, Volpe, Nolan
Voting no: None
Absent: None
- BOE Meeting
1. Meeting Call to Order
 - 1.A Roll Call
 - 1.B Approval of Agenda - The Board approved the agenda as presented.
 2. Pledge of Allegiance
 3. Public Open Forum
 - 3.A Recognition of Visitors – President Nolan and Superintendent Mongan welcomed attendees and those watching remotely.
 - 3.B Public Comments - Public comment was heard regarding information included in the censure memos, acceleration programs, transparency, school fees and architect agreements.

4. Action Items

- 4.A Consent Agenda – Business Manager Pflug reviewed the revenues and expenditures. The District received \$76,244.49 in December for eight new home starts. The bills payable reports for both Central 301 and Northern Kane are typical for January.
- 4.B Approve Minutes from Regular Meeting November 18, 2024 – The Board approved the revised minutes from the November 18, 2024 Board of Education meeting.
- 4.C Approve Veterinary Affiliation Agreement – Curriculum Director Buchs shared that we have a new location, Anderson Humane Low Cost Vet Care, that is excited to have students complete externship hours in their facility.
- 4.D Approve Bus Bid – Business Manager Pflug shared that we received one complete bid from Midwest Transit. We have worked with Midwest Transit in the past and it was recommended that we approve this bid.
- 4.E Approve 2025-2026 Amended Calendar – Superintendent Mongan shared that the possible changes discussed at last month's Board meeting were brought to DLT for discussion. DLT did support changing the calendar as discussed, but still maintaining our established start date. We will consider moving the start date forward a week for 2026-2027 to better align with partner districts.
- 4.F Motion to Censure Jeff Gorman – The Board discussed the recommendation to censure Member Gorman due to his decision to not inform the Board of the circumstances surrounding former Member Vogt's resignation from the Board.
- 4.G Motion to Recommend Removal of Jeff Gorman from the BOE and Refer the Matter to the Regional Superintendent – The Board discussed the recommendation to remove Member Gorman from the Board due to the willful decision to not inform the Board of the circumstances surrounding former Member Vogt's resignation from the Board. The recommendation will be forwarded to the Regional Superintendent who will make a determination.
- 4.H Motion to Censure Junaid Afeef – The Board discussed the recommendation to censure Junaid Afeef for violating his fiduciary duties as a member of the Board.

5. Information Items

5.A Committee Reports

- 5.A.1 DLT – President Nolan shared that DLT spent most of its meeting discussing the calendar and that we will work on a calendar for 2026-2027 that mirrors the updated 2025-2026 calendar but possibly moving the start up a week earlier.
- 5.A.2 CAT – Member Pappas shared that CAT is a group of community members, two Board members and some administrators and they had a good discussion about the District's strategic plan, the referendum, enrollment and more.
- 5.A.3 Facilities – Member Gorman shared that the Facilities Committee will discuss capital projects and facility needs, such as the HBT roof, LL's HVAC, the athletic stadium and paving at CT. They also discussed the RFQ process for architects and planning for future growth.
- 5.A.3 CCC – President Nolan deferred this report to Curriculum Director Birkmeier as she will be presenting on acceleration.

- 5.B School Maintenance Project Grant Update – Facilities Director Polowy shared that the School Maintenance Project Grant brought to the Board in November was approved by the state. Funds received from the grant will be used to upgrade locking mechanisms on doors at PKMS, CMS and CHS.
- 5.C Facilities Update – Facilities Director Polowy shared that the CHS addition was in use today by students with the start of the new semester and teachers who were using the mobile unit or didn't have their own classroom were moved to the new wing. Over the winter break facilities staff replaced some stair treads at CHS and continued to work on the District Office remodel as well as routine cleaning. They are still working on the RFQ for the architects so they can make sure they have the right questions and can identify the right candidates for both large scale and smaller scale projects.
- 5.D School Fees for 2025-2026 – Superintendent Mongan explained that we bring fees to the Board each year for review. We are not anticipating changing registration fees for next school year but are considering increasing technology fees and specific course fees due to rising costs. A recommendation will be brought to the Board for approval next month so we have them in place before registration begins in March.
- 5.E Board Policies 2:270, 5:10, 5:20 – Superintendent Mongan shared that Board policy 2:270 is new based on a new state law. While we already had policies against discrimination, this one is specific to race and includes how to file a report to the complaint managers and the District's reporting requirements to ISBE. Board policies 5:10 and 5:20 aren't new but will now reference 2:270. These policies will come to the Board for approval in February.
- 5.F Acceleration Programming – Curriculum Director Birkmeier presented information about current and proposed enhancements to acceleration programming for academically advanced learners. She is recommending implementation of a new academically advanced pathway for fourth and fifth grade students who are performing at the 95th percentile or higher beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. We would then roll it up a grade each year to include fourth through eighth graders by the 2028-2029 school year.
- 5.G Proposed Boundary Change – Superintendent Mongan shared that currently Prairie View has the most available space among elementary buildings, though it is over capacity. The new West Point Gardens phase 3 development has begun building and those homes are currently within HBT's boundaries. She is recommending that we shift that neighborhood to attend PV as the change would not impact any current families. We are hoping to get a sidewalk put in so those students could walk to school.
- 5.H Discussion of Board Member Engagement with the Community – The Board discussed the role of the Board in interacting with the community and ways that they would like to improve engagement with the community, including community coffees, surveys, and mixed committees.
- 5.I Enrollment Report – The enrollment report is in the Board packet. Dr. Mongan shared that we've had another 13 students enroll since the data was pulled on Wednesday.
6. Freedom of Information Act
- 6.A Ms. Welch - We received a request for communications between Todd Stirn and Sheila Gorman regarding e-learning or remote learning in 2019 or 2020. – We were able to comply with this request with redactions as allowed by law.

- 6.B Mr. Ally - We received a request for information regarding the submissions of interest in serving on the Community Advisory team and selection criteria and process. – We were able to comply with this request with redactions as allowed by law.
- 6.C Ms. Tecza - We received a request for a copy of the report of the most recent water sample tests performed by Pace Analytical Services for Central Middle School. – We were able to comply with this request.
- 6.D The Data Branch - We received a request for purchase order information from January 1, 2020 through December 2, 2024. – We were able to comply with this request.
- 6.E Ms. Warren - We received a request for communications between Esther Mongan and Board members regarding “individually identified student” between November 1, 2024 and December 18, 2024. – The request was denied as we cannot release individually identifiable student information.
- 6.F Ms. Welch - We received a request for communications between Esther Mongan, Board members and District staff regarding ISBE’s Property Tax Relief Grant program. – We were able to comply with this request.
- 6.F Mr. Afeef - We received a request for a number of items related to the resignation of Fred Vogt from the Board of Education. – We were able to comply with this request with redactions as allowed by law.
7. Executive Session
- 7.A Adjourn to Closed Session - The Board adjourned to closed session to hear information regarding exceptions 2(c)(1), 2(c)(2), 2(c)(9), 2(c)(10), 2(c)(11) and 2(c)(21).
8. Open Session
- 8.A Adjourn Closed Session to Return to Open Session
- 8.B Action Items from Closed Session
- 8.B.1 Approval of December 16, 2024 Executive Session Minutes - The Board approved the Executive Session Minutes from the December 16, 2024 Board meeting.
- 8.B.2 Action on Semi-Annual Review of Closed Minutes - The Board approved the release of the closed minutes dated July 9, 2024, and found the need for confidentiality exists as to all remaining closed minutes.
9. Adjourn

Board President

Board Secretary