

# Central Community Unit School District 301 Board of Education Minutes DRAFT

Where: Central CUSD #301 District Office      Meeting: Regular  
Date: January 20, 2026      Time: 6:03 p.m.

### Board Members Present

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

## 1. BOE Meeting

1. A      Meeting Call to Order - President Wasson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- 1.B      Roll Call - President Wasson called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. 6:04 p.m.
- 1.C      Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.D.      Approval of the Agenda- The Agenda was Approved

**Motion by Mrkvicka, second by Herst, to approve the agenda as presented.**

**Voting yes:** Gorman, Herst, Mrkvicka, Pappas, Ward, Wasson

**Voting no:** None

## 2 Public Open Forum

2.A Recognition of Visitors – President Wasson welcomed visitors and thanked the students who showed up in large numbers for the meeting

2.B Public Comments - Parents and students spoke on the following, For the past 20 years, marching band students received a full-year PE waiver. Recently, students and parents learned that starting in the 2026-2027 school year, this would be reduced to a one-semester waiver to be used during the fall when marching band is active. Speakers said that the change forces students to drop elective arts or rigorous AP classes to fit a required PE semester into their already packed schedules. They shared that band activities are physically demanding and provide a vital community for students.

The superintendent clarified that this was not a new policy change but a correction to align with the Illinois Schools code Under state law, waivers are only permitted during the specific semester an activity occurs. The district had been misapplying the law for two decades. The board expressed a desire to find compromises, such as "zero hour" PE classes, to help students maintain their desired schedules.

3. Action Reports

A. Consent Agenda-

1. Minutes Regular Meeting December 15, 2025.
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Payment of Bills.
4. Payment of Bills - Northern Kane County Regional Vocational System.
5. Personnel Report.

**Motion by Mrkvicka, second by Ward, to approve the agenda as presented.**

**Voting yes:** Herst, Mrkvicka, Pappas, Ward, Gorman, Wasson

**Voting no:** None

**Absent:** Dogan

B. Approval of Veterinary Affiliation Agreement with Bethany Animal Hospital and Randall Road Animal Hospital.

**Motion by Pappas, second by Mrkvicka, to approve Veterinary Affiliation Agreement with Bethany Animal Hospital and Randall Road Animal Hospital.**

**Voting yes:** Mrkvicka, Pappas, Ward, Goman, Herst, Wasson

**Voting no:** None

**Absent:** Dogan

C. Approval of 2026 School Maintenance Project Grant.

**Motion by Ward, second by Pappas, to approve 2026 School Maintenance Project Grant.**

**Voting yes:** Pappas, Ward, Gorman, Herst, Mrkvicka, Wasson

**Voting no:** None

**Absent:** Doga

D. Approval of World Language Graduation Requirements Beginning in the CHS Class of 2031.

**Motion by Ward, second by Pappas, to approve World Language Graduation Requirements.**

**Voting yes:** Pappas, Ward, Gorman, Herst, Mrkvicka, Wasson

**Voting no:** None

**Absent:** Dogan

E. Approval of Authorization to Conduct a Competitive RFP for Natural Gas Service and Execute Agreement within Approved Parameters.

**Motion by Ward, second by Herst, to approve Authorization to Conduct a Competitive RFP for Natural Gas Service and Execute Agreement within Approved Parameters.**

**Voting yes:** Gorman, Herst, Mrkvicka, Pappas, Ward, Wasson

**Voting no:** None

**Absent:** Dogan

F. Approval of Donation to the CHS Activity Account.

**Motion by Mrkvicka, second by Pappas, to approve Donation to the CHS Activity Account.**

**Voting yes:** Herst, Mrkvicka, Pappas, Ward, Gorman, Wasson

**Voting no:** None

**Absent:** Dogan

G. Approve revised Contract with NIU for High School Graduation. (On BoardBook, not on Paper Agenda.)

**Motion by Ward, second by Pappas, to approve Revised Contract with NIU for the High School Graduation Ceremony.**

**Voting yes:** Mrkvicka, Pappas, Ward, Gorman, Herst, Wasson

**Voting no:** None

**Absent:** Dogan

4. Presentation

A. **AAL Advanced Academic Learner**

The board received a presentation from Kim Paulus, Melissa Leisner, Rachel Priola, Erica Snyder, and Leah Herold on a new Advanced Academic Learning Pathway for grades 4-8, designed to challenge high-performing students.

Accelerated Mathematics: Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, the district will implement an accelerated math course for 4th-grade. This allows identified students to begin advanced coursework earlier to prevent skill gaps that occurred under previous models.

ELA Enrichment: An Enrichment Model for 6th-8th grade English Language Arts (ELA) is planned for the 2027-2028 school year. Unlike math, which uses an accelerated (skipping ahead) model, ELA will focus on a deeper study of grade-level standards through complex texts and inquiry-based learning.

Qualification: Entry into these programs will be determined by a multi-point rubric including MAP scores, I-Ready data, common assessments, and aptitude tests like the CogAT. Parents will have the ability to opt-out if they do not wish for their child to participate in the program.

Member Gorman asked about space and staffing due to our growing district, and Kim Paulus shared that this is something they are still working on.

President Wasson thanked Kim Paulus and her team.

**B. Facilities Update**

CHS Track Project: Bids for the Central High School track replacement are scheduled to be opened on February 5, 2026, with a recommendation expected at the February board meeting. Work is slated to begin in May 2026.

The Board discussed the emergency replacement of a boiler at Prairie View Grade School, estimated to cost approximately \$104,375 after a critical failure during the winter.

The district is applying for a \$50,000 state grant (requiring a local match) to fund the replacement of exterior doors across district buildings to enhance security and maintenance.

**C. 2027-2028 District Calendar Draft**

Dr. Schumacher shared that the calendar draft was included in the board packet and had been shared at several meetings for input. Dr. Schumacher also reminded the board that this is only a draft at this time and is for the 27/28 school year.

**5. Old Business**

**A. Middle School Schedule**

The board clarified that High School scheduling will remain largely unchanged for the upcoming year, with only minor adjustments to specific times. However, administrators are actively investigating the implementation of "zero hour" or early period classes to provide students more flexibility to fit in electives and rigorous courses. The Middle School schedule is still under review, with formal options expected to be presented at the February board meeting.

**B. Superintendent Search**

The search for a new permanent superintendent is ongoing. A committee of stakeholders is involved in the process, and the board expects to have a more definitive update by the February meeting.

**6. Anticipated Agenda Items February 17, 2026 BOE Meeting.**

1. Superintendent search
2. Fees
3. Architect Update
4. Calendar 27-28 Final approval
5. Middle School Schedule

**14. Adjourn**

**Motion by Mrkvicka, second by Pappas to Adjourn. Approved unanimous voice vote at 7:11 p.m.**

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Board President Ryan Wasson

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Board Secretary Scott Mrkvicka