

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

Where: Central CUSD #301 District Office
Date: November 17, 2025

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

Board Members Present

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

BOE Meeting

1. Meeting Call to Order - President Wasson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

1.A Roll Call - **President Wasson called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. 6:02 p.m**

1.B Pledge of Allegiance

1.C Approval of the Agenda- The Agenda was Approved

Motion by Pappas, second by Mrkvica, to approve the agenda as presented.

Voting yes: Pappas, Dogan, Gorman, Herst, Mrkvicka, Wasson

Voting no: None

Absent: Ward

2.. Public Open Forum

2.A Recognition of Visitors – President Wasson welcomed visitors.

2.B Public Comments - President Wasson asks that everyone keep to three minutes when speaking and reminds everyone that the Board does not engage in discussion or respond to questions at this time but encourages the community to use the district channels to communicate with the board.

A member of the community criticized the district's proposed levy and asked the Board not to pass it. He also recommended using the district's operating fund balances to cover expenses instead.

A member of the audience shared information on Birth to Five Illinois a non profit company of which she is the Family Community Engagement Specialist. She shared information on how the company assists Kane County and shared the

website www.birthtofiveil.com asking that administrators seek it out and read their reports.

A community member addressed the board regarding the district's response to the presence of federal agents near Country Trails and Prairie Knolls schools. He also asked the Board of Education to review Policy 4:170 concerning safety and to improve prompt communication with parents.

The Board President Ryan Wasson took this opportunity to commend the administration's calmness and professionalism in responding to what he termed a "perceived threat," noting that panic and fear are significant threats to students. President Wasson also stated that discussing specific safety protocols in an open meeting would be counterintuitive to security.

A community member shared she felt the district did a good job last week with the presence of federal agents. She also liked the idea of listening tours with board members and superintendents meeting with the community.

- 2.C Audit report for Central 301 and Northern Kane County Vocational System-
Charyden Juergensen from Eccezion gave a presentation on the Audit report for Central 301 and the Northern Kane County Regional Vocational System received an **unmodified opinion**, meaning the financial statements were free from material misstatement. No deficiencies or concerns were found regarding internal controls.

3. Action Reports

Consent Agenda-

1. Minutes Regular Meeting October 20, 2025
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Payment of Bills
4. Payment of Bills - Northern Kane County Regional Vocational System
5. Personnel Report
6. Approval of Donation to PV Student Council Activity Account
7. Superintendent Search Update

Item number 7 Superintendent Search was moved from consent Motion by Dogan, second by Mrkvicka, to approve the consent agenda as modified.

Voting yes: Mrkvicka, Pappas, Dogan, Gorman, Herst, Wasson

Voting no: None

Absent: Ward

- 7. Superintendent Search** - President Wasson shares that the Superintendent search is on schedule with the original timeline.

B. Approve Tentative Tax Levy

Motion by Pappas, second by Dogan, to approve the consent agenda as modified.

Voting yes: Mrkvicka, Pappas, Dogan, Gorman, Herst, Wasson

Voting no: None

Absent: Ward

The Board recommended the Tentative Levy in the amount of 60,910,000.00. Since the request is below the 5% increase threshold, a truth in taxation hearing is not required.

- The anticipated **total tax rate is projected to decrease** from 5.87 to 4.94 This significant decrease is primarily attributed to the falling off of payments for the 2013 series bonds.
- The district plans to **under-levy certain funds** (IMRF, social security, and tort) to utilize existing fund balances.

4. Presentations-

- A. Central District 301 Summer internship presentation 2025 - The presentation given by Nancy Coleman, from the Alignment Collaborative for Education, Todd Stern and Terry Stroh Program Specialists of the Northern Kane EFE Program, highlighted the success of the 2025 summer internship program. The program served 3,418 students with resume building workshops. Students presented to the board sharing the things they have learned and are excited about in the EFE program.
- B. Presentation on Girls Flag Football - Mike Sutter Athletic Director, presented a proposal to adopt Girls Flag Football as an IHSA sport starting in the 2026-2027 school year. Central 301 is currently the only district in the Fox Valley Conference that does not have a Girls Flag Football program. The proposal for Girls Flag Football will return as a formal action item for the December Board meeting.
- C. CEF Elective Survey Result - Stephen Buchs, 9-12 Curriculum Director and Dee Hemphill, President of The Central Education Foundation (CEF) presented results from a survey conducted with high school students and parents regarding potential new elective curriculum. The top three areas of interest for students were: Culinary Arts (over 60% of students), Fitness and Personal Training, and Digital Marketing/Graphic Design. Parents also ranked Culinary Arts and Digital Marketing/Graphic Design highly, alongside Wood Shop or Welding. The district is reviewing the data to determine feasible short and long-term goals, acknowledging that the CEF Foundation is prepared to help fund new program initiatives.
- D. 24-25 Achievement Presentation - The annual achievement presentation reviewed the district's performance based on the state's new testing system and "right-sized" benchmarks. The district received four exemplary and three commendable summative designations for its schools. Central 301 ranks number one among surrounding peer districts in ELA proficiency (78.2%). Because the state moved proficiency benchmarks, current test scores are a new baseline and cannot be directly compared to prior years' data.

- E. Facilities Update - Dan Poloway, Facilities Director shared updates in regards to the architects conducting facility assessments. The updated budget for the track project will be presented in December. During the upcoming holiday break, the staff will be performing capital projects such as flooring, painting and HVAC.
5. Information Only - FOIA Report
- A. FOIA Report. in the Board Packet.
6. Old Business (Discussion)
- A. Listening Tours for Board members and Superintendent.
The Board discussed and supported establishing "Listening Tours" involving board members and the superintendent. These tours are intended to give the community an alternative, face-to-face outlet for engagement and to share accurate information, countering the spread of misinformation often found on social media. The timing is considered ideal because of the upcoming announcement of a new superintendent to the community.
- B. Language Requirements 2028-2029 MS/HS Schedule options
The board continued the discussion regarding the state's impending two-year foreign language graduation requirement and potential schedule changes. A specific recommendation was made to move forward minimally by focusing on adopting an additional period for grades 6, 7, and 8 as soon as possible. This change is intended to provide middle school students with more elective and career exploratory options, which aligns with community interest and prepares them for future career decisions. This will be brought back for discussion at the December meeting.
7. Anticipated Agenda Items December 15, 2025 BOE Meeting
- Central District 301 Levy
 - Girls Flag Football
 - Language requirements 2028/2029 MS/HS Schedule options
 - Superintendent search update
- 8.. Adjourn to Closed Session
- 8.A The Board adjourned to Closed Session for exceptions: *The appointment, employment, resignation, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)]. Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)]. at 7:19 p.m.*

Motion by Herst, second by Mervicka, to adjourn to closed session at 8:23 p.m.

Voting Yes: Pappas, Dogan, Gorman, Herst, Mrkvicka, Wasson

Voting No: None

Absent: Ward

9.. Adjourn to Open Session

9.B The Board adjourned to open session at 9:15

**Motion by Herst, second by Dogan to adjourn to Open Session at 9:15 p.m.
Passed by unanimous voice vote.**

13. Open Session

No Discussion

14.. Adjourn

**Motion by Herst, second by Mrkvicka to Adjourn and approved by
unanimous voice vote at 9:16 p.m.**

Board President

Ryan Wasson

Board Secretary Scott Mrkvicka