

Central A&M Community Unit District #21
Board of Education
April 20, 2026
Central A&M Middle School Library - 406 E Colegrove - Assumption, IL

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Board President Burgener. The roll was called and members present were:

- Bryan Bender
- Brock Boltz, Vice President
- Aaren Rutan, Secretary
- Chris Just, Treasurer
- Collin Townsend
- Josh Burgener, President

Also present:

- Sacha Young, Superintendent
- Larry Daly, High School Principal
- Brian Pekovitch, Gregory Intermediate Principal
- Alexis Black, Bond Primary and Middle School Principal was absent, but submitted her report with the Board Member Packet
- Michael Garner, Maintenance Supervisor
- Joannie Mitsdarffer, District Secretary and Transportation Director

Guests:

23-community members were present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was led by Brock Boltz.

3. Public and Employee Comments or Questions

- A. Student Talk - postponed until CAM Band members were all present
- B. Teacher Talk - NA.

C. Citizens Agenda - the opportunity for those present to address the Board

- Jimmy Dial asked for an update on the process of the co-op discussion.
- Mr. Daly, HS Principal, provided an update on the committee talks on exploratory committee. He stated that the committee, which includes administrators, coaches, parents, and a board member, had met three times since the last meeting. Student surveys had been administered. Okaw Valley had also scheduled a community meeting to address the possible co-op. Mr. Daly also outlined the current proposed sports to be co-oped:
 - Fall - cross country, golf, and football would be hosted by CAM.
 - Winter - girls basketball would be hosted by OV
 - Spring - baseball would be hosted by OV, track would be hosted by OV, and softball would be hosted by CAM

He also addressed discussions regarding transportation, noting the use of activity busses.

- Brett Snow asked about 50/50 split possibility of baseball.
- Dial asked where games would be played.
- Daly answered that a schedule would be built.
- Dial asked if we would be some Meridian, some OV, and some CAM.
- Shana Sloan asked if a soccer co-op had been considered if OV has the same interest.
- Superintendent Young stated that we have not been approached with soccer interest.
- Dial asked how we get our numbers for future years.
- Daly stated that numbers come from middle school projections also.
- Dial asked why we would jump into this without seeing if we could fix it.

- Daly stated that we may not be able to play either girls basketball or softball in the next few years and noted that numbers aren't promising all the way back to sixth grade.
- Dial said that girls' basketball only had 13-players to start and that cancelling the (J.V.) season made girls sit the bench.
- Daly said that the season was cancelled due to injuries.
- Brandi Robertson stated that the injuries weren't season ending.
- Coach Mitch Cloe stated that injuries as well as some players quitting left the team with eight players. He also noted that the numbers problem is not unique to our district, but that it is an issue nationwide. He shared that there is much speculation about why, but the problem isn't from a lack of trying.
- Dial asked about volleyball numbers and how they are staying up.
- Brittany Justice asked about softball numbers.
- Christa Minott asked if coaches would be willing to allow club volleyball participation during girls' basketball season.
- Robertson said that it had worked out for her daughter to participate in both.
- Cloe noted that he is doing his best to get students to play.
- Dial said that he understood that small schools are tough. He shared that CAM used to be dominant. He expressed concern that were aren't organized anymore and that our weight room facilities "are embarrassing." He commended our Ag program and asked about the possibility of writing grants and asked about who we could go to.
- Young share that she writes grants, but that the issues with the weight room would be managed by the AD, while Garner is the head of maintenance.
- Dial asked how Garner manages both.
- Garner said he manages both campuses.
- Snow inquired about Facebook engagement.

- Dial asked about IT.
- Young shared the IT process.
- Pekovitch shared that he has seen dwindling numbers in sports discussion and that it is happening everywhere. He shared his experiences with coaching for several years in his previous district and his attendance at conferences where this had been an ongoing discussion.

* At this time, Superintendent Young suggested a break in discussion for the Board to move to the Band room for a performance by the CAM High School band. The band performed selections from their upcoming performances in May. They were directed by Matt Parker, who shared a bit about the program and his background as a band teacher. He also invited Board members and community members present to attend their upcoming performances.

D. Request for Use of Facilities to be Added to the Agenda - NA

E. Items to be added to the current agenda

NA

* Superintendent Young notes an item that needed to be struck from the Agenda as it was a misprint. There were no resignations this month as noted on the Agenda.

4. Administrator Reports

A. Principal Black presented her report about the Middle School and Bond Primary activities. Current enrollment at the Middle School is 168 and Enrollment at Bond Primary is 134. She noted students who had been recognized throughout the month. She shared information about IAR and ISA assessments, freshman orientation for current 8th graders, fundraising reports, field trip information, and sports activities. She shared Bond Primary updates including: Raiders of the Month, Spring Family Nigh, the first annual Daddy/Daughter Dance fundraiser, and activities throughout the building as they approach the end of the school year.

B. Principal Pekovitch presented his report on Gregory Intermediate. Current enrollment at Gregory is 198. He noted the attendance rates for this year, with no quarter below 95% attendance. School improvement planning and IAR testing information was

provided as well as student activities and recognitions. He noted Ms. Dolan's class' participation in the Rube Goldberg Open House at the U of I, the Book Blast in March, and shared staff reports and professional development participation.

C. Principal Daly presented his report on the High School. He shared that the Spring Musical, "Mary Poppins," was a success. He shared student achievements with an extensive list of Raiders who achieved excellence in academics, music, leadership, and athletics. He also shared information about upcoming dates for activities for seniors including the awards night, Baccalaureate and Graduation.

D. Principal Dance was absent but submitted a written report about Kemmerer Village School updates to the Board in the Board packet.

5. Financial Report

A. Mrs. Young asked if there were any questions about the Financial Report, which was submitted to the Board in the monthly Board meeting Packet. There were no questions. She noted upcoming summer projects at Gregory and the High School.

6. Executive Session (Closed Meeting)

Action - A motion was made by Boltz and seconded by Just to enter into Executive Session for discussion of matters relating to employment, compensation, or other matters appropriate for closed session as mandated per 5ILCS120/2-Motion. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session entered at 8:11pm.

7. Return to Open Session

Action - A motion was made by Just and seconded by Townsend to return to Open Session. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Boltz - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes, Bender - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Open Session entered at 8:53pm.

8. Adopt Agenda Motion

Action - A motion was made by Just and seconded by Boltz to approve the consent agenda as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Action - A motion was made by Townsend and seconded by Just to approve the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda items are:

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting - March 16, 2026
- B. Approval of the Executive Session Meeting Minutes - March 16, 2026
- C. Approval of the Payment of Current Bills

The roll was called and members voted as follows: Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Items for Discussion and/or Action

A. Employment Needs for the District

- a. Action** - A motion was made by Just and seconded by Rutan to approve the recommendation of employment of Grace McClellan as K-8 art teacher for the 26-27 school year. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Boltz - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes, Bender - yes. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Action** - A motion was made by Rutan and seconded by Just to approve Rachel VanderMeersch as one-on-one aide paraprofessional at Bond Primary School for the 26/27 school year. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Action** - A motion was made by Boltz and seconded by Townsend to approve Kathryn Fehrenbach as the Assistant Scholastic Bowl Coach for the 26/27 school year. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Just - yes, Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Rutan - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

- d. **Action** - A motion was made by Boltz and seconded by Just to approve Katie Hardeman as the HS Business/Technology Teacher for the 26/27 school year as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes. The motion passed unanimously.
- e. **Action** - A motion was made by Boltz and seconded by Rutan to approve Jim Sarver as volunteer HA Football Coach for the 26-27 football season as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Burgener - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Townsend - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Other Needs of the District

- a. **Action** - A motion was made by Townsend and seconded by Rutan to approve the Aramark Food Service Contract Extension for one year and the submission to ISBE as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of potential CAM/OV athletic co-op.

- Minott and Sloan both noted that they felt these meetings should be advertised more effectively.
- Minott asked if there was going to be a public meeting if there had been any word from the community as a whole.
- Superintendent Young noted that the community had been notified.
- Mr. Daly shared that conversations and even negotiations for possible proposals are ongoing. He shared some concerns about equity in the current projections of where teams would play.
- Member Boltz shared that this committee is an exploratory committee to represent the community. He also stated that the ultimate decision is the Board of Education's.
- Michael Garner shared that he had coached for seventeen years (girls basketball). He shared his opinion that overlap of sports had been a contributing factor to the decline in participation.

- Transportation Director, Joannie Mitsdarffer, presented information about the current state of transportation in the District. (report attached). She shared that she feels like most days we are “losing the battle already” with the current shortage of drivers. Routes have been combined with some students on the bus for up to one and a half hours in the evening.
- There was discussion from community members about numbers in sports and the possibility of numbers going down in enrollment. Would this lead to consolidation?
- Young stated that there is no discussion of consolidation as enrollment is not an issue.

9. PRESS update 121 (First Reading)

10. Committee Items for Discussion

Student and District Activities

- Baccalaureate - May 10 at 6pm.
- Graduation - May 15 at 7pm

Building and Grounds

- Summer projects are being planned

Transportation

- Information provided earlier

11. Use of Facilities -

Action - A motion was made by Townsend and seconded by Just to allow use of facilities as presented for:

ACPA - Easter Egg Hunt (past - 3/28/26)

Post Prom - May 2-3 (cafeteria - High School)

The roll was called and members voted as follows: Rutan - yes, Just - yes Townsend - yes, Burgener -yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Additions to the Agenda - NA

C. Correspondence -

- a. Member Chris Just presented with the Established Board Member certificate from IASB.

D. Announcements/Reminders of Workshops/Meetings/Etc.

- a. Triple I Conference in November

11. Adjournment

Action - A motion was by Boltz and seconded by Townsend to adjourn the meeting at 9:50pm. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at: 9:51pm

Josh Burgener, Board President

Aaren Rutan, Board Secretary