

Central A&M Community Unit District #21
Board of Education
January 26, 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:

- Brian Bender
- Brock Boltz, Vice President
- Kay Jordan
- Aaren Rutan, Secretary
- Chris Just, Treasurer
- Josh Burgener, President

Members Absent:

- Collin Townsend

Also present:

- Sacha Young, Superintendent
- Larry Daly, High School Principal
- Alexis Black, Bond Primary and Middle School Principal
- Brian Pekovitch, Gregory Intermediate Principal

Guests:

- There were multiple community members in attendance.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Jim Dial.

Public and Employee Comments or Questions

- A. Student Talk - NA
- B. Teacher Talk - NA
- C. Citizens Agenda - The opportunity for those present to address the Board
 - a. CAM High School senior, Emma West addressed the Board with questions regarding the possibility of a Co-op for spring sports with Okaw Valley. West presented statistical data she had compiled via a student survey. She noted that the responses in the survey that resulted in a 60% overall negative

response to the potential co-op. She noted that some of the reasons for the declining participation included: work (15.4% of respondents), staff/coaches (49.5%), and loss of interest (27.5%).

- b. CAM High School Baseball Coach Sean McQuire shared concerns about the lack of research as a Board first, but did note that there is the possibility of running into issues with pitch counts and the potential for not having enough athletes to field a JV team. He noted that the numbers may not present a “must do” scenario at this time, but the co-op with Okaw Valley could help to address these issues.
- c. Aly Dial, a parent of a middle school athlete, asked the Board if the potential co-op will give us a real solution, how it would affect the kids, how quickly the decision had to be made, and if we could wait and possibly come up with other solutions.
- d. Jim Dial, a parent of a junior at CAMHS, also asked if the Board is rushing this without having all of the data and suggested that the Board should “pump the brakes.” He suggested looking into summer programs that feed into our high school programs and seeing if we can work to build something there. He also asked about what needed to be done to help here. He inquired about a possible Ameren program for lighting at the fields as one solution.
 - i. Member Boltz responded that we do have summer programs. He expressed agreement with the points about numbers and understanding of the points about coaches. However, he questioned whether the chain of command to address complaints was being followed so that resolutions could be made. He encouraged those present to keep these things in mind.
- e. Shana Sloan asked the Board why we have just heard about this potential co-op 10-days ago given the deadline. She also inquired as to whether or not negotiations would be possible rather than just accepting what was presented as it was presented by Okaw Valley.

- f. Aly Dial brought up the possibility of coaching clinics to address possible issues with coaching. She suggested finding ways to better equip our coaches at Central A&M.
 - g. Brett Snow, a parent of CAM High School students shared that he does not believe this is a coaching problem, but could be a parent problem. He stated that our coaches care about our kids. He raised the possibility of parent clinics. He shared that he felt that players and parents should be encouraged to understand their value to their teams even when they aren't getting as much playing time.
 - h. Moweaqua campus School Resource Officer, Justin Johnson addressed the Board and thanked them for their support during the discussion of the SRO funding.
- D. Request for use of facilities to be added to the agenda
- a. Jamesly Jesse Haiti food packing - CAM High School on April 12, 2026 with 400-people expected to assist
- E. Items to be added to the current agenda
- a. Macon-Piatt Joint Special Education agreement (language changes)
- F. Administrator Reports
- a. Bond Primary and Middle School - Principal Alexis Black presented the report on the Assumption campus schools. She shared that Mrs. Odle, the secretary at Bond had recently retired and expressed gratitude for her service. Ms. Hope has taken over that role and is doing well. Principal Black also reported that Mrs. Handy had been working to complete winter benchmarks and is doing a great job. The 100th Day at Bond was celebrated.
 - i. Bond Primary enrollment 126
 - ii. Middle School enrollment 150
 - b. Gregory Intermediate - Principal Brian Pekovitch reported that a letter was sent out recently to address outstanding lunch fees and other fees that were reported in December. He shared that the response had been positive. He

addressed his recent work on the school improvement plan, school safety discussions, IAR testing, and class sizes.

i. Enrollment 203

c. High School - Principal Larry Daly reported that he is currently searching for the Tech and Business instructor, but has found a long-term sub to fill the position. He presented the totals from the annual Cakes for a Cause cake auction at Meridian High School during the Central A&M boys basketball game. This year's total was just under \$16,000, with CAM's half going to St. Louis Children's Hospital's Heart Center. He shared about the recent activities of CAM High School students and their accomplishments.

d. Kemmerer Village School - Principal Carol Dance was absent, but submitted her report in the Board packet.

G. **Financial Report** - Business Manager Kristy Keown was absent, but submitted the financial report in the Board packet.

H. **Executive Session (CLOSED MEETING)**

Action - A motion was made by Just and seconded by Jordan 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: Boltz - yes, Jordan - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Burgener - yes, Bender - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session Start Time: 7:43pm.

I. **Return to Open Session**

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

Return to Open Session Time: 8:17pm

J. **Adopt Agenda Motion**

Action - A motion was made by Boltz and seconded by Jordan to adopt the agenda as presented (adopt the agenda with the following additions: Jamesly

Jesse use of facilities. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Burgener - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Jordan - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

K. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting - December 15, 2025
- b. Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting - December 15, 2025
- c. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting - January 12, 2026
- d. Approval of the payment of current bills

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

L. Items for Discussion and/or Action

Actions - Employment Needs for the District

- a. A motion was made by Just and seconded by Boltz to accept the resignation of Greg Carter as Kemmerer Village Special Education Teacher effective January 5, 2026. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Burgener - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Jordan - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. A motion was made by Boltz and seconded by Just to accept the resignation of Kaitlin Jacobs as MS track and field coach effective immediately as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Burgener - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Jordan - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. A motion was made by Boltz and seconded by Jordan to approve the employment of Trevor Higgins as the CAMOV Football Head Coach for the 26/27 school year as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Jordan - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Burgener - yes. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. A motion was made by Just and seconded by Rutan to approve the employment of Sara Eldred as National Honor Society Sponsor at CAM High School effective immediately as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Boltz

- yes, Jordan - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Burgener - yes, Bender - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

- e. A motion was made by Rutan and seconded by Just to approve the maternity leave of Julie Tuel as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Just - yes, Burgener - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Jordan - yes, Rutan - yes. The motion passed unanimously.
- f. A motion was made by Boltz and seconded by Jordan to approve the maternity leave of Kaitlin Jacobs as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Burgener - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Jordan - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes. The motion passed unanimously.
- g. A motion was made by Just and seconded by Boltz to approve the engagement contract for LMHN as auditor for year end June 30, 2026. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Jordan - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Burgener - yes. The motion passed unanimously.
- h. A motion was made by Just and seconded by Jordan to accept the project proposal for HVAC replacement in the Middle School Gym as submitted by Farnsworth group as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Boltz - yes, Jordan - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Burgener - yes, Bender - yes. The motion was passed unanimously.
- i. A motion was made by Just and seconded by Boltz to approve the share cost regarding our Moweaqua regarding our Moweaqua SRO to be changed from 50%/50% to 75%/25% split in the 2026-2027 school year MOU as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Jordan - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Burgener - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes. The motion passed unanimously.
- j. Actions on OV-CAM co-op for High School Track and Field, High School Softball and High School Baseball

Superintendent Young recommended against moving forward with these co-op presented separately on the Agenda at this time given that more information is needed before she would be able to make a recommendation to move forward.

Board President Burgener asked if anyone wanted to make a motion. No motions were made. The motions were not pursued.

M. Committee Items for Discussion

- a. Student and District Activities - NA
- b. Building and Grounds
 - i. HVAC will start in February with project completion projected by next heating season.
- c. Transportation - Superintendent Young noted the need for bus drives and bus aides.
- d. Consideration of Request for use of facilities.

Action - A motion was made by Rutan and seconded by Just to approve the use of facilities as requested by Jamesly Jess for the food packing for Haiti project. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Burgener - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Jordan - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

- e. Additions to the Agenda

Action - A motion was made by Boltz and seconded by Just to approve the addition to the Agenda to approve the Macon-Piatt Joint Special Education agreement as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Just - yes, Burgener - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Jordan - yes, Rutan - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

- f. Correspondence - Christmas card from the Farnsworth Group.
- g. Announcements/Reminder of Workshops/Meetings/Etc. - Abe Lincoln regional meeting coming up.

N. Adjournment

Action - A motion was made by Just and seconded by Boltz to adjourn the meeting at 8:29pm. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Burgener - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Jordan - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Josh Burgener, Board President

Aaren Rutan, Board Secretary