

Central A&M Community Unit District #21  
Board of Education Meeting  
May 18, 2026

**I Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Board President, Josh Burgener.

**II Roll Call of Current Board of Education**

The roll was called by Board Secretary, Aaren Rutan, and members calling present were: Bender, Boltz, Rutan, Just, Townsend, Burgener.

The meeting began at 7:00pm.

Also present:

- Superintendent Sacha Young
- High School Principal Larry Daly
- Gregory Principal Brian Pektivitch
- Middle School/Bond Principal Alexis Black
- Michael Garner

Guests:

- 29-community members were present including students, parents, coaches, and teachers.

**III Reorganization of the Board of Education**

**A. Approve the Appointment of Board member**

A motion was made by Boltz and seconded by Bender to approve the appointment of Connor Bridgman to replace Board Member, Kay Jordan, as presented.

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

**B. Oath of Office for newly appointed Board member**

The Oath will be administered by Board President, Josh Burgener, for the newly elected members. The oath is as follows:

“I, Connor Bridgman, do solemnly affirm that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of member of the Board of Education of Central A&M Community Unit District 21, in accordance with the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, to the best of my ability.

I further affirm that:

I shall respect taxpayer interests by serving as a faithful protector of the school district’s assets;

I shall encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow board members and others who seek a hearing before the board, while respecting the privacy of students and employees;

I shall recognize that a board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a public board meeting; and

I shall abide by majority decisions of the board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels.”

#### **IV Roll Call of new Board of Education**

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

#### **V Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by new member Bridgman.

#### **VI 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

- Todd Rork addressed the Board regarding the potential co-op agreement with Okaw Valley for additional sports. He shared that after serving on the committee exploring the potential co-op, his opinion about the future of the

sports program and the necessity of looking at an athletic co-op in order to continue offering sports opportunities for our students. He shared his agreement with the recommendation of the committee which is to pursue the co-op agreement with Okaw Valley.

- William Voudrie addressed the Board regarding the potential of extending the opportunity for participating on the CAM Archery team to students in neighboring districts due to the shortage of archery teams in the area. He stated his understanding that there would be no cost to the District.

**D** Request of Use of Facilities to be added to the Agenda - NA

**E** Items to be added to the current Agenda - NA

## **VII Administrator Reports**

- Principal Black presented information about Bond Elementary and the Middle School including end of the year activities and planning for next year. She shared information about field trips, academics, and athletics as the school year wraps up.
- Principal Pekovitch presented information about Gregory Intermediate. He shared the current enrollment is 198. He shared the attendance rate for the year, which was no lower than 95% throughout the school year. Mr. Pekovitch also shared information about summer school and highlighted activities and events at Gregory.
- Principal Daly presented information about the High School. He shared about activities including prom, senior award day, Baccalaureate, and graduation. He also shared information about final exams and summer school. Mr. Daly highlighted student achievements in academics, athletics, music, and FFA.
- Principal Dance was absent.

## **VIII Financial Report**

- The District Financial Report was submitted in the Board packet. Mrs. Young asked members if there were any questions about the financial report. She noted that the Board would need to meet to make an amendment to the Budget next month.

## **IX Executive Session (Closed Meeting)**

**Action** - A motion was made by Just and seconded by Rutan 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, Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes, Bridgman - yes, Bender - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session entered at 7:17pm.

### **Return to Open Session**

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

Open Session entered at 7:37pm.

### **X Adopt Agenda Motion**

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

### **XI Consent Agenda**

**Action** - A motion was made by Townsend and seconded by Just to approve the consent agenda as presented including:

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting - April 20, 2026

Approval of the Executive Session Meeting Minutes - April 20, 2026

Approval of the payment of current bills

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

## **XII Items for Discussion and/or Action**

### **A. Employment Needs for the District**

**Action** - A motion was made by Boltz and seconded by Just to approve the employment of Tom Zuber as the Middle School Stem teacher for 26/27 school year as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes, Bridgman - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action** - A motion was made by Rutan and seconded by Just to approve employment of Kaylee Zahradka as a fifth-grade teacher at Gregory Intermediate School for the 26/27 school year as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Burgener - yes, Bridgman - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Townsend - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action** - A motion was made by Just and seconded by Townsend to approve the employment of Cayla Jordan, Denise Kelly, Chris Horn, Jean Ann Howse, Ross Lynch, Lacy Taylor, and Pam Vidmar for the summer school session 2026 as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Bridgman - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action** - A motion was made by Just and seconded by Bender to approve the employment of Rachel Williams and Kord Champley as driver's ed driving instructors for summer 2026 as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes, Bridgman - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action** - A motion was made by Boltz and seconded by Just to approve Michael Greer as HS Boys Basketball Asst Coach for the 26/27 season as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Just - yes, Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes, Bridgman - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Rutan - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action** - A motion was made by Rutan and seconded by Boltz to approve Janie Griesemer as 7th Grade Girls Volleyball coach for the 26/27 season as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Just - yes, Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes, Bridgman - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action** - A motion was made by Rutan and seconded by Just to approve Caleb Ludwig and Tonya Christian for High School Summer Help for the 2026 Summer season as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes, Bridgman - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**Action** - A motion was made by Just and seconded by Boltz to approve the HS Handbook changes as presented for the 26/27 school year. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes, Bridgman - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action** - A motion was made by Townsend and seconded by Boltz to approve the CAM OV athletic co-op proposal for 26/27 and 27/28 school years as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Burgener - no, Bridgman - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz -yes, Rutan - no, Just - no, Townsend - yes. The motion passed 4 to 3.

**Action** - A motion was made by Townsend and seconded by Boltz to accept the proposal from Hutchens in the amount of \$12,500 for removing and replacing the sidewalk in front of Gregory Intermediate School as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Bridgman - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action** - A motion was made by Just and seconded by Rutan to approve the overnight cheer camp at SIU-Edwardsville from June 10-June 12 as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes, Bridgman - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action** - A motion was made by Townsend and seconded by Boltz to approve the Breakfast and Lunch price increase of \$0.10 to be in line with the recommendations from ISBE and USDA for the 26/27 school year as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Boltz - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Townsend, Burgener - yes, Bridgman - yes, Bender - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Young stated that unpaid lunch debts recommend the District to raise lunch prices per State of Illinois requirements. Mrs. Young has looked into relief options, but the CEP risk is too high for the District to receive assistance.

**Action** - A motion was made by Burgener and seconded by Just to approve the change of the regular June Board meeting from June 21, 2027 to June 28, 2027 to allow for more time to amend the FY27 Budget as presented. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Rutan - yes, Just - yes, Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes, Bridgman - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action** - A motion was made by Burgener and seconded by Townsend to rewrite the MOU for archery to include the permission for students from other schools to participate under our MOU as Raiders. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Just - yes, Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes, Bridgman - yes, Bender -yes, Boltz - yes, Rutan - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action** - A motion was made by Just and seconded by Rutan to agree to allow the Cutler family to sell the Van Sycle home of which the District is named as one of the benefactors. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes, Bridgman - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Committee Items for Discussion**

#### **Student and District Activities - NA**

**Building and Grounds** - HVAC as MS will be a June 2027 project due to lead times and NOT wanting to close the gym down during the winter months. Weight room HVAC estimate around \$16000.

## **Transportation - NA**

### **Consideration of Request for the Use of Facilities - NA**

#### **Other**

Superintendent Young stated that she has scheduled a book study for next year over the book *The Anxious Generation*.

**Correspondence** - Thank you from the Post Prom committee.

#### **Announcements / Reminder of Workshops / Meetings / Etc. - NA**

#### **Adjournment**

**Action** - A motion was made by Rutan and seconded by Townsend to adjourn the meeting at 7:56pm. The roll was called and members voted as follows: Townsend - yes, Burgener - yes, Bridgman - yes, Bender - yes, Boltz - yes, Rutan - yes, Just - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.

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Josh Burgener, Board President

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Aaren Rutan, Board Secretary