

CHESTER COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.139

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting October 15, 2025

The Board of Education of Chester Community Unit School District No. 139 held a Regular Meeting on October 15, 2025, in the Early Childhood Center Board room. President Debi Caraway called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Wolff motioned, Davitz seconded to enter into executive session at 6:00 p.m. for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Fricke, Ebers, Davitz, Wolff Nays: none. Motion carried.

Principal Jeremy Blechle came into the executive session at 6:04 p.m.

Jeremy Blechle leaves the executive session at 6:27 p.m.

Jeremy Blechle returns to the executive session at 6:55 p.m.

Jeremy Blechles leaves the executive session at 7:01 p.m.

Krieg motioned, Ebers seconded to recess the executive meeting at 7:02 p.m. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Fricke, Ebers, Wolff, Davitz, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Fricke motioned, Davitz seconded to enter into the regular meeting at 7:06 p.m. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Fricke, Ebers, Wolff, Davitz, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

- Dwight Lochhead - Union President - spoke on behalf of teachers regarding Mr. Blechle.
- Stephanie Sabo - SRO

Board Correspondence

- Pam Fogerson - Thank you letter

Fricke motioned, Davitz seconded to approve the consent agenda and items as listed. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Fricke, Ebers, Wolff, Davitz, Nays: none. Motion carried.

- Agenda and items as listed:
- September 18, 2025 Regular and Executive Meeting Minutes, September 18, 2025 Board Hearing Minutes, and October 5, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes;
- Bills in the amount of \$1,690,955.81 and payroll in the amount of \$675,134.68
- Financial reports
- Approval of Teacher and Administrative Salaries

Athletic Director Report

CHS

- The Jackets are currently 6-1 with a loss to West Frankfort
- The Jackets beat Dupon for Homecoming in a great game, making the Jackets undefeated in the Conference
- Next Varsity game is Friday October 17, 2025 at Red Bud
- At the Benton Volleyball Tournament, Maggie Caby and Aubrey Colvis were named to the tournament team
- Senior night for Volleyball is October 22, 2025 vs. Marion
- Pink Out Volleyball game vs. Steeleville was on October 6th, they had a great turn out with the proceeds going to Vicki Laramore
- Maggie Caby broke the school record for varsity kills, reaching 600 and still going
- Aleah Eggemeyer has reached 500 varsity assists
- Head Volleyball coach Colleen Runge reached her 100th varsity win
- Approximately 90 girls participated in the Dance Camp on September 23-25, 2025
- Competition season for Dance begins October 27, 2025

- Competition season for Cheer begins October 27, 2025
- Chester is hosting Cross Country Regionals on October 25, 2025 at the Randolph County Lake
- Freshman Katelynn Vallett has been placing and medaling in numerous invitationals with 8th place in Chester's, 5th place in Sparta's, 11th place in Nashville's, and 5th place in DuQuoin's
- Golf Sectionals, Riley Lochhead and Rylie Myers qualified for Sectionals
- Golf Regionals, Tallen James, Trevin Eggemeyer, Kross Jany, Logan Springston, Alden Davitz, and Jack Luthy places 3rd qualifying them for the Sectional meet
- Tallen James qualified for the State meet shooting a 77, during the State meet Tallen James made the Friday cut to compete for the finals on Saturday. He places 47th out of 113 golfers

CGS

- Baseball season is over
- Softball season is over
- Cross Country Conference results: Roman Ditch placed 3rd and Kolin Martinez placed 6th, both medaling
- The boys Cross Country team qualified for State by placing 3rd at the Waterloo Class L Regionals, State is October 18th at DuQuoin
- Boys Basketball season begins with a B Team tournament at PDR on October 20, 2025, the A Team tournament begins October 27, 2025 at Marissa
- Girls Basketball season begins with a home game on October 22, 2025 vs. Dupo

Other

- Senior Night for Football, Golf, Cross Country, Dance, and Cheer will be October 24, 2025
- Download the Eventlink app to stay up to date with CGS and CHS sporting events

High School Principal

- CHS celebrated a successful homecoming week from October 6th to October 11th, organized by the CHS Student Council
- Mr. Blechle and Mr. Lochhead led over 200 attendees on a tour of the high school, where guests enjoyed coffee, a lanyard, and storytelling
- On October 2nd, Mrs. Dierks-Boyd and the Art Club participated in a Chalk Walk in Steeleville
- On October 2nd, Mrs. Clendenin and Mr. Ruehling accompanied student representatives Addison Gottschammer, Camryn Woff, and Lillian Diskey to Senator Bryant's Youth Advisory Committee
- CHS hosted its first of the year PBIS Celebration on October 10th

Grade School Principal

- On October 10th, the PBIS team hosted a Fall Fun day at the school where students gathered for a school wide assembly where they competed in fun activities
- The Baseball and Softball season has concluded
- Positive Give back earned \$305 for Wee Care for the month of October
- Gail Kordys recognized as Staff Member of the month of September
- Parent Teacher Conferences will take place October 21st and 23rd
- Sir Hansel and Ms. Sheryl organized a lively morning of outdoor games for their students. These activities were rooted in traditional Philippine games

Early Childhood Principal

- The elevator is working and now have a sensory room and multi purpose room
- PI had their annual field trip to the pumpkin patch in Red Bud at Pumpkin Blossom with around 30 children
- The Monroe Randolph Partnership for Children and Families grant has been awarded \$55,000 for the 25-26 FY
- Successful fire drill on September 9th, the students and staff were out in 1 minute and 40 seconds
- Partnered with Memorial Hospital of Chester for the first family engagement event. It will be held in front of the medical building from 5:30-7:00 on October 16, 2025
- Hosting a Trunk or Treat on Halloween from 11:30-12:30 in the front parking lot in place of Halloween parties
- Recent Screenings
 - Pre-K: 69 students
 - EC: 10 students
 - 5 have been rescreened and are undergoing meetings for placement
 - 5 additional families have reached out for preschool and are gathering required documentation to start Pre-K in the next few weeks

Curriculum Director

- ELL Update
 - 18 ELL students in PreK
 - 10 ELL students in Kindergarten
 - 13 ELL students in Grade 1
 - 8 ELL students in Grade 2
 - 14 ELL students in Grade 3
 - 7 ELL students in Grade 4
 - 4 ELL students in Grade 5
 - 5 ELL students in Grade 6
 - 2 ELL students in Grade 7
 - 7 ELL students in Grade 8
 - 10 ELL students in Grade 9
 - 5 ELL students in Grade 10
 - 3 ELL students in Grade 11
 - 2 ELL students in Grade 12
- 18 ELL students at CECC, 70 ELL students at CGS, and 20 ELL students at CHS
- There will be 90 students taking the ACCESS test in January-February
- **2026 Spring State Assessments:**
 - **ACCESS for ELLs:** Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State to State for English Language Learners -- Jan 14 - Mar 3 for Grades K-12
 - **IAR:** Illinois Assessment of Readiness -- week of Mar. 30 - Apr 3 for CGS Grades 3-8
 - **ISA:** Illinois Science Assessment -- Mar 3 - Apr 30 for Grades 5 & 8
 - **ACT with Writing:** April 10 for CHS Grade 11
 - **PreACT Secure:** April 10th CHS Grade 9 and Grade 10
 - **DLM-AA:** Dynamic Learning Map Alternate Assessment -- Mar 12 - May 7 *We have one student at CGS and one student at CHS who will take these assessments.

Superintendent

Governance:

- ❖ **ROE Compliance Visit**
The ROE 45 completed a compliance visit to review district files.
- ❖ **IASA Conference**
I attended the IASA Annual Conference in Springfield, IL, which provided valuable networking and professional development opportunities.
- ❖ **Safe Routes to School**
Tim and I attended a public presentation at City Hall regarding the Safe Routes to School grant. We continue to collaborate with the city to support this project.
- ❖ **Intergovernmental Agreement**
I have met with the Mayor to begin establishing a new intergovernmental agreement for Cohen Fields, as our current ten-year agreement is set to expire on October 5.
- ❖ **Meetings:**
I attended Rotary and ROE 45 Superintendent Networking this month.

Budget/Finance:

- Budget in place

Building and Grounds

- ❖ Projects:
 - **Windows & Tuckpointing:** Work outside is complete.
 - **Media Center:** A change order has been submitted for a larger data box. Cabinets, ceiling tiles, carpet, and other finishes are complete. Pending some electrical work.
 - **Roof:** Roofing is complete. The remaining work is focused on steel installation.
 - **Chester Early Childhood Center (CECC):** Items on the punch list are coming off; however, waiting on items to be delivered.
 - **Football Lights:** Waiting on the relays for the box.
 - **Elevators:** Work continues, with progress now focused on the final elevator.

Classroom

- ❖ On our PD day September teachers participated in the following professional development sessions:
 - Homeless Training
 - AI Policy & PD
 - GoGuardian/Securely Pass 6-12 teachers

- Wonders K-5
- Medicaid Consultant - Nurse, Social Workers

Fricke motioned, Coffey seconded to adopt the Resolution directing the Regional Superintendent of Schools for The County of Randolph, Illinois, to certify to the County Clerk the question of expanding the use of revenues from the currently imposed County School Facility Sales Taxes to include school resource officers and mental health professionals, for submission to the electors of the County at the general primary election to be held on March 17, 2026. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Wolff motioned, Davitz seconded to approve the Elevator Maintenance Agreement with Phoenix Modular Elevator. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Fricke, Ebers, Davitz, Wolff Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Ebers seconded to approve the Change Order for additional soffits and layout changes for the Media Center Phase 3 project in the amount of \$2,641.11. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Fricke, Ebers, Davitz, Wolff Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Wolff seconded to approve Pay Application #3 with Samron Midwest Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$151,458.88 for the Professor Sharp Media Center Phase 3. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Fricke, Ebers, Davitz, Wolff Nays: none. Motion carried.

Fricke motioned, Davitz seconded to approve Pay Application #6 with Samron Midwest Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$763,200.92 for the Chester Early Childhood Center renovations. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Fricke, Ebers, Davitz, Wolff Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Coffey seconded to approve Resolution authorizing a change of bank depository for grade school HSA accounts. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Fricke, Ebers, Davitz, Wolff Nays: none. Motion carried.

Wolff motioned, Davitz seconded to approve the Change Order for contactor cabinet for \$3,780 with GeoSurfaces for the Chester High School Retrofit Football Stadium Lighting Project. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Fricke, Ebers, Davitz, Wolff Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Fricke seconded to approve Kody Stueve as Jr.High Girls Basketball coach for the 2025-2026 sports season. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Fricke, Ebers, Davitz, Wolff Nays: none. Motion carried.

Wolff motioned, Fricke seconded to approve the resignation of Jamie Davis, Grade School Paraprofessional, effective October 17, 2025. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Fricke, Ebers, Davitz, Wolff Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Coffey seconded to recess the regular meeting and go back into the executive session at 8:08 p.m. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Fricke, Ebers, Davitz, Wolff Nays: none. Motion carried.

Shannon Wolff and Matt Davitz left the executive session at 8:32 p.m.

Fricke motioned, Coffey seconded to return to the regular meeting at 8:51 p.m. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Fricke motioned, Coffey seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:52 p.m. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

The next REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Education will be held **Tuesday November 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Chester Early Childhood Center Board Room located at 2319 Old Plant Road, Chester, IL 62233.