

CHESTER COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.139

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

December 18, 2025

The Board of Education of Chester Community Unit School District No. 139 held a Regular Meeting on December 18, 2025 in the Chester Early Childhood Center. Debi Caraway called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Krieg motioned, Coffey seconded to enter into the executive meeting at 6:01 p.m for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body and the collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Ebers seconded to adjourn the executive meeting at 7:04 p.m. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

- None

Board Correspondence

- Thank you cards from high school faculty and staff, Early Childhood faculty and staff, CEA Priscilla Martinez and Dwight Lochhead, and Sue Furuholmen for staff gift cards for Christmas.

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

Agenda and items as listed:

- Approve November 18, 2025 Regular and Executive Board Minutes
- Bills in the amount of \$387,118.23 and payroll in the amount of \$696,146.95
- Financial reports

Athletic Director Report

CHS

Football

- Academic All State Football selections- TaShawn Palacio, Karmin Landeros, Trayton Peters, Trey McCartney, Zane Eggemeyer, Brayden Juenger, Jackie Bess, Kannon Jany and Ethan Colvis

Fall Awards

Young Gun

- Avery Wittenborn
- Rhett Creason
- Landen Conder

Offensive Weapon

- TaShawn Palacio
- **Defensive Weapon**

- Morgan Meirs

Special Team Weapon

- Karim Landeros

Practice Player of the Year

- Issac Sims
- Donnie Sabo

Special Team Player of the Year

- Alex Blechle
- Eric Skorcz Award
- Brayden Juenger
Elite Warriors
- Trayton Peters
- Ethan Colvis
- Zane Eggemeyer
Career Records
- Trayton Peters Single Season Passing TDs 25
- Trayton Peters Single Season Passing Completion Percentage 65.13%
- TaShawn Palacio Single Season Receiving Yards 900
- Tashawn Palacio Single Season Receiving TD 13
- Karim Landeros Single Season Yards per Punt 40.6
- Karim Landeros Career PAT 98
- Ethan Colvis 1010 Yards Rushing 8.21 Yds/Carry 14 TDs

Volleyball

- SICA selection : Maggie Caby

Fall Awards

- Defensive Player of the Year- Camryn Wolff
- Offensive Player of the Year- Maggie Caby
- Co-MVP's Camryn Wolff and Aleah Eggemeyer

Boys Golf

- SICA selection: Tallen James

Fall Awards

- MVP Tallen James
- Most Improved Alden Davitz

Girls Golf

Fall Awards

- Team Champion Macy Bert
- Dedication Award Rylie Myers
- Most Improved Riley Lochhead

Cross Country

Fall Awards

- MVP Ivan Hobbs
- MVP Katelynn Vallett

Dance

- Sat, Dec 13th @ Belleville East girls placed 1st in Pom in their division
- Next competition Sat Dec 20th @ Herrin

Cheer

- The next competition is Sunday Dec 21st @ Mt. Vernon

Boys Basketball

- DuQuoin All tournament Team selection: TaShawn Palacio, Trey Peters given the tournament Sportsmanship Award
- Pinckneyville Tournament : Dec 27th, 29th and 30th
- CIT dates: Jan 12th-17th

Girls Basketball

- Sparta Tournament : Consolation Champions, Jessica Stumpe and Lexie Mott named to the All Tournament Team
- Playing for Championship of Consolation on 12/18 in the Saxony Tournament @ The Show Me Center in Cape.
- Carterville Tournament: Dec 29th and 30th
- LJMWC dates : Jan 5th-10th
- Girls are set to host Sectionals the week of Feb 23rd

CGS

Boys Basketball

- Currently playing in the St. John's Winter tournament
- Regionals are Jan 28th and 30th

Girls Basketball

- Regionals are Jan 13th and 15th

High School Principal

- The student council organized a Holiday Extravaganza. This was a free event where community members were treated to coloring with student council members, pictures with Santa and the Grinch, and a holiday movie in Colbert Gym with hot cocoa and popcorn
- This month the senior English class visited SIUC
- A FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) information night was held during the parent teacher conference night to support students' college preparation. Mrs. Miesner organized an event that rewarded any senior that have completed their FAFSA requirements with a doughnut party
- We have deployed crosswalk reflective signs on each side of the crosswalks to help increase safety of our students and others while navigating our school zone
- Final examinations are currently in progress and will conclude on Friday, December 19th
- CHS hosted two Christmas programs from CGS and a performance by the high school music department
- The staff engaged in a spirited week-long "Scavenger Hunt" activity, where participants went hunting for tiny objects that had a currency value written on the bottom of the object. These objects were then converted into a currency that staff used to participate in a silent and live auction

Grade School Principal

- Dental Safari was at school on December 3rd to see students. They will be returning this summer for a follow up
- Staff Comfy Clothes day donated collected funds to the Chester Food Pantry
- The 2nd Quarter ends on Friday, December 19th. Grades are due in the office by the end of the day January 7th
- The 6th - 8th Grade Band Concert was held on Thursday, December 4th in the CHS Gym. The 1st - 4th Grade Christmas Program concluded all programs on Thursday, December 11th at the high school
- PTS hosted Santa's Cottage in the library during the school day on December 9th - 12th
- Staff Secret Santa started at the beginning of this week and will end tomorrow
- Christmas Spirit Week began on Monday with our Junior Beta Club kicking it off with their annual fundraiser. Funds collected will be donated to our McKinney-Vento/Homeless program
- Santa made a visit to Kindergarten through 5th grade on Tuesday. The Grinch stopped by both last week and this week. Our school elves, Clifford and Elizabeth, have been engaging in their usual Christmas shenanigans this week as well
- The staff Christmas program and PBIS party is tomorrow morning.
- Christmas break will start December 20th with staff returning on January 6th and students on January 7th

Early Childhood Principal

- Fire Marshal visited December 3rd
- Santa's Kottage was held December 11th
- January 29th from 5:00-6:30, a Family Fun Night, winter themed with crafts, experiments, cookie decorating, a parent education class, and dinner will be provided in different rooms throughout the building
- Attended the IASB–IASA–IASBO Joint Annual Conference with Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. Caraway, Mrs. Barton, and Dr. Petrowske. Throughout the conference, we participated in several outstanding breakout sessions, including Google Gemini and AI Tools, Rural Realities, and some amazing keynote speakers, especially Damon West
- Children's Yoga at the Red Bud YMCA – Families enjoyed a fun and engaging children's yoga session at the Red Bud YMCA with Ms. Mona. The event supported movement, mindfulness, and family wellness.
- On December 12th, Monroe–Randolph Partnership for Children and Families Partner Summit – The Partner Summit was held at Red Bud Hospital from 9:30–11:00 a.m. Representatives from community organizations gathered to collaborate, share updates, and strengthen partnerships that support children and families in our region.
- On December 17th, Jada Berry led our second playgroup in the multipurpose room, offering hands-on activities, social interaction, and early learning experiences for young children and their caregivers

Enrollment

Pre-K: 72 students

EC: 12 students, with 5 new students starting soon

Total: 84 students

Curriculum Director

Winter Benchmark

- Winter Benchmark testing began on December 1, 2025
- Except for some makeup testing, all K - 12 Winter Benchmark testing has been completed
- I have been working on setting/updating goals in Aimsweb and Renaissance for students who tested below the proficiency benchmark level
- Week of Dec. 15th: I have planning meetings scheduled with K-5 teachers, reading specialist and math specialist to review the benchmark data and update interventions and progress monitoring. Grades 6 - 12 teachers will review their student data when we return in January

ACCESS Testing

- Our ESL teachers have been working on their training in preparation for testing that begins in mid-January

State Testing Accommodations

- Mrs. Keller is working to enter state testing accommodations for the IAR
- Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Miesner and I are working together to enter state testing accommodations for the ACT

2026 Spring State Assessment Dates:

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. 23 - Mar 27 for CGS Grades 3-8

ISA: Illinois Science Assessment -- Mar 3 - Apr 30 for Grades 5 & 8

ACT with Writing: April 2nd for CHS Grade 11

PreACT Secure: April 2nd for 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.

Maintenance

- Repaired 3 partition, 2 at the grade school and one at the high school
- We have gotten our training on the DOAS and HVAC systems at early childhood building
- We will be refinishing the Colbert gym floor, starting on the 22nd of December

Superintendent

Governance:

- ❖ **Strategic Plan Dates:** Strategic Planning meeting. I continue to collaborate with the administration to complete SMART goals
- ❖ **FY25 CACC Review:**
- ❖ **Meetings:**

I attended Perando, Bushue, SWIASA, and ROE 45 Superintendent Networking this month

Budget/Finance:

- ❖ Reviewing grants

Building and Grounds

- ❖ Projects:
 - **Windows & Tuckpointing:** Substantially complete. Done except for a couple of rooms
 - **Media Center:** Pending completion, as some electrical work needs to be finished, a cabinet piece had to be reordered, and a door cylinder is still needed
 - **Roof:** Work ongoing. Although the ladder arrived and was set in place, it did not pass inspection, and additional gas line work and a manufacturer review are still required
 - **Chester Early Childhood Center (CECC):** The door is in place, but the lettering still needs to be reinstalled, with other missing signage on the way. Punch list items are still being addressed, ceiling tiles will be installed over break, the glass is scheduled to ship on January 7th, and expansion joints will be completed over Christmas break
 - **Football Lights:** Project is complete. They are working on the adder
 - **Elevators:** Work is complete; we are still currently awaiting the final inspection
 - **Electricity GS:** As you are aware, we experienced an electrical incident at the Grade School. I am continuing to work with our insurance provider and Brown Electric to determine the final steps needed to fully resolve the issue

Classroom

- ❖ Our PD day, November 7th, was canceled and rescheduled to January 9th

Fricke motioned, Coffey seconded to recess regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Fricke motioned, Coffey seconded to enter into the Tax Levy Hearing at 7:30 p.m. for Chester CUSD 139. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Fricke motioned, Krieg seconded to approve the proposed Property Tax Levy Increase for Chester School District No. 139 for 2025. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Fricke motioned, Krieg seconded to adjourn the Tax Levy hearing at 7:36 p.m. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Fricke motioned, Krieg seconded to go back into the regular meeting at 7:37 p.m. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Wolff motioned, Fricke seconded to conduct a second reading and approve Press Plus Policy Issue 120. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Fricke motioned, Davitz seconded to adopt 2025 Certificate of Tax Levy for Chester School District as presented. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Wolff motioned, Krieg seconded to approve a proposal with Security Alarm for the intercom system for the tunnel at the high school in the amount of \$2,284.73. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Fricke seconded to approve the resolution abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2025 to pay debt service on the District's Taxable General Obligation Refunding School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2022C. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Wolff motioned, Davitz seconded to approve the resolution declaring the intention to issue not to exceed \$1,550,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds of the District for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Krieg motioned, Wolff seconded to approve the resolution abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2025 to pay debt service on the District's General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2024B. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Krieg seconded to approve the change for the 2025-26 SY Calendar as presented. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Ebers seconded to approve shot clocks for the high school in the amount of \$7,528.00. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Fricke motioned, Davitz seconded to approve the resignation of Ryker Hoffman, Jacketcare worker effective December 5, 2025. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Wolff motioned, Ebers seconded to approve the resignation of Alecia Perruquet, Grade School Paraprofessional effective immediately. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Wolff motioned, Coffey seconded to approve the resignation of Amy Miller, High School Special Education Teacher effective January 2, 2025. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Wolff motioned, Fricke seconded to approve Sophie Miller as Grade School Volleyball volunteer for the 2025-26 sports season. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Fricke seconded to approve Korbin Jany as 5th/6th grade Basketball volunteer for the 2025-26 sports season. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Krieg motioned, Fricke seconded to approve the employment of Jennifer Cagamping as Grade School Special Education Teacher effective 26-27 SY. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Wolff motioned, Fricke seconded approve the employment of Margie Sadia Nagar as High School Special Education Teacher effective 26-27 SY. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Coffey seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:55 p.m. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Wolff, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

The next REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Education will be held **Thursday January 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Chester Early Childhood Center Board Room located at 2319 Old Plank Road, Chester, IL 62233.