CHESTER COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.139
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting
January 15, 2026

The Board of Education of Chester Community Unit School District No. 139 held a Regular Meeting on January 15, 2026 in the Chester Early Childhood Center. Debi Caraway called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Krieg motioned, Coffey seconded to enter into the executive meeting at 6:30 p.m for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Ebers motioned, Fricke seconded to recess the executive meeting at 7:07 p.m. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Ebers motioned, Fricke seconded to enter into the public hearing at 7:08 p.m. concerning the intent of the Board of Education to sell not to exceed $1,550,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds and not to exceed $4,750,000 School Fire Prevention and Safety Bonds. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment
- None

Fricke motioned, Davitz seconded to adjourn the executive meeting at 7:09 p.m. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Fricke motioned, Davitz seconded to enter into the regular session at 7:10 p.m. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Public Comment
- None

Board Correspondence
- Thank you cards from Gail Kordys, Pam Fogerson, and Tammy Liefer for staff gift cards for Christmas

Fricke motioned, Coffey seconded to approve the consent agenda and items as listed. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.
Agenda and items as listed:
- Approve December 18, 2025 Regular, Executive, and Public Hearing minutes, and December 19, 2025 Special meeting minutes
- Bills in the amount of $418,261.96 and payroll in the amount of $686,102.42
- Financial reports

Athletic Director Report

CHS

Dance
- Next competition is Saturday Jan 17th @ Marion High School

Cheer
- Cheer Camp will be the week of Feb 9th with the performance on Friday Feb 13th at the boys home basketball game.

Boys Basketball
- CIT dates: Jan 12th-17th
- Chester plays Jan 13th, 15th and 17th
- Regionals begin Feb 23rd

Girls Basketball

- Lexie Mott named to the All Tournament team at the Saxony tournament and the Carterville Tournament
- The Lady Jackets placed 2nd in the LJMWC, Jessica Stumpe and Lexie Mott both named to the All Tournament Team. Lexie Mott was also voted the MVP of the tournament by the coaches.
- Regionals Begin Feb 14th
- Chester is to host the girls Sectionals Feb 24th and 26th

CGS

Boys Basketball

- 8th Grade night is Jan 21st
- Regionals are Jan 28th and 30th
- 5/6th Boys Basketball placed 2nd at the Steeleville Tournament.

Girls Basketball

- 8th Grade night was Jan 6th
- Regionals are Jan 13th and 15th

Other

High School

- Track and Field may begin practices Jan 19th
- Softball may begin practices Feb 23rd
- Baseball may begin March 2nd

High School Principal

- The first semester grades have been finalized, and Class Rank, Honor Roll, and GPA calculations are now complete
- We are also excited to announce the return of the 4th Annual Distinguished Yellow Jacket Award ceremony, which is scheduled for April 13th
- We have begun the process of developing the 2026-2027 Master Schedule

Important Dates:

- Jan 19th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day NO SCHOOL
- Feb 13th - 11:30 Dismissal & PBIS Celebration
- Feb 16th - Presidents Day NO SCHOOL
- **Mar 3rd - Freshman Preview Night**
- **March 9th & 12 - Spring P/T Conferences**
- March 13th - No School
- March 19th - Senior Tea and Cookout
- March 19th - 22nd - CHS Presents School Play
- March 27th - 11:30 Early Dismissal
- April 2nd - Pre ACT and ACT Testing
- April 3rd - 6th - Spring Break NO School
- **April 11th - Prom**
- **April 13th - Distinguished Yellow Jacket Ceremony**
- April 17th - PBIS Celebration
- April 24th - Earth Day Celebration
- **May 13th - Awards Night**
- **May 17th - Graduation**
- May 20th, 21st, & 22nd - Underclass Semester Exams

Grade School Principal

- The annual staff Christmas program was held on the last day of school prior to holiday break
- Each grade level teacher in grades K-4 met with the data team to discuss student progress last week.
- Report cards for grades K - 5th were sent home with students last Friday and report card grades for 6th - 8th were made viewable to parents via Teacherease.
- The school had an autism training session on Friday, January 9th. This was provided by Behavior Plus

- Volleyball open gyms started over holiday break. Tryouts were held on January 9th from 5pm to 7pm with a make-up try out date of Saturday January 10th from 2pm to 4pm
- The 5th/6th grade boys basketball season has also started
- A PTS meeting is scheduled for January 20th at 6pm in the grade school cafeteria

Early Childhood Principal

- January 29th 5:00-6:30, Family Fun Night at CECC, winter-themed with crafts, experiments, cookie decorating, a parent education class, and dinner will be provided in different rooms throughout the building
- Autism training at CGS on Friday the 9th
- Mock Ecers this month for our PFA CQIP in all the preschool classrooms
- Jaime Peck from the ROE has been in our building mentoring and supporting Ms. Schwarz and Ms. McClain, our new teachers
- Our ISBE Compliance Visit has been scheduled for February with our monitoring call on February 2

Enrollment

Pre-K: 73 students, with 1 potential student starting soon

EC: 13 students, with 5 new students transitioning from EI in January and February

Total: 86 students

Curriculum Director

Winter Benchmark

- Our grade level data meetings were held on Jan. 6th and 7th
- In our meetings, we looked at Fall to Winter data, reviewed student interventions and progress monitoring goals
- There are several makeup tests that still need to be completed at the high school level. Once those are done, the teachers will review that data as well

ACCESS Testing

- The ACCESS testing window begins Jan. 14th.
- I will share a progress update at the February Board Meeting.

NAEP Testing

- National Assessment of Educational Progress
    - Shows average scores and achievement levels for the nation
    - Results help to inform education policy and practice at national, state, and local levels. In addition, strengths, weaknesses, and achievement gaps are identified to guide educational improvements.
- Our CGS 4th grade students have been selected to participate in NAEP testing this spring on March 17th.
- Each participating student has been “assigned” to take either the Reading or the Math assessment, which lasts approximately 90 minutes.
- I am working with our assigned NAEP representative to complete all necessary pre-assessment tasks.

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

<u>Governance:</u>

- **IASA DAE School Improvement Support:** I met with Lori James-Gross, Ph.D., Director of Academic Empowerment—Rural Districts, to support our district's leadership development and instructional improvement, including ELL services, MTSS, and PLCs.
- **Strategic Planning:** Dr. Kelly from IASA will help me facilitate the next phase with the administration team.
- **Meetings:** I attended Perando, Bushue, SWIASA, and ROE 45 Superintendent Networking this month.

Budget/Finance:

- Bonds
- Targeted Grant - quarterly report
- Cash Flow Analysis

Building and Grounds

- Projects:
    - **Windows & Tuckpointing**: Phase I is complete, and the final payment is included on the agenda. Phase II is now being initiated.
    - **Media Center**: Work is nearing completion. The remaining items on the punch list are currently being addressed.
    - **Roof**: A punch list remains outstanding for this project. At this time, no confirmed completion dates have been provided.
    - **Chester Early Childhood Center (CECC)**: Over winter break and continuing this week, contractors completed the installation of ceiling sound blocks and new glass on the multipurpose room doors. Work on the expansion joint has also continued during this time and is nearing completion.
    - **Football Lights**: Project is complete. They are working on the adder.
    - **Elevators**: Inspections are scheduled for January 15. We are hopeful for a smooth and successful inspection.
    - **Electricity GS:** This project is complete. We are continuing to work with the insurance company regarding the related claim.
    - **HVAC:** The RFP was sent out this week, and the Health/Life Safety Amendment process has also been initiated.

Classroom

- On our PD day, January 9, 2026, the Center for Intensive Behavioral Supports presented on Autism. We also had training on GoGuardian and Gemi.

Davitz motioned, Fricke seconded to approve the Tuckpointing and Windows Phase 2 at High School for the School Maintenance Project Grant match of 50,000. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Krieg motioned, Davtiz seconded to approve the Certificate of Payment for H&N Construction, Inc. Final Pay Application #6 in the amount of $103,743.06 for the Chester High School Tuckpointing and Window Replacement. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Fricke seconded to approve the MOU between the Board of Education of Chester High School and the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University for dual credit agreement. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Krieg motioned, Ebers seconded to approve Health Life Safety Amendment for use of maintenance funds and/or use of Fire prevention funds. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Fricke motioned, Davitz seconded to approve updated mileage reimbursement form. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Ebers seconded to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established with Chester Education Association to consider ELL endorsement for Lindsey Hargis. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Ebers motioned, Coffey seconded to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established with Chester Education Association to consider ELL endorsement for Jenny Krantz. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Fricke motioned, Coffey seconded to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established with Chester Education Association to consider Jr. High Science endorsement for Tonya Rodemich. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.
Coffey motioned, Davitz seconded to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established with Chester Education Association to consider Assistant Coach for HS Dance. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Krieg motioned, Coffey seconded to approve facility use request form for the Kids for Christ after school program March 9,16,23,and 30 from 3 pm-5 pm at the Chester Grade School. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Fricked motioned, Coffey seconded to approve Allison Heuer, intent to retire from High School Administrative Assistant, effective the end of the 2028-29 school year. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Ebers seconded to approve Jeremy Hargis as Grade School Boys Basketball Volunteer for the 2025-26 sports season. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Fricke motioned, Coffey seconded to approve Morgan Atchison as High School Girls Track Volunteer for the 2025-26 sports season. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Fricke motioned, Davitz seconded to approve Danny Cushman as High School Softball Volunteer for the 2025-26 sports season. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Fricke motioned, Davitz seconded to approve Keith Kiner as High School Boys Basketball Volunteer for the 2025-26 sports season. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Krieg motioned, Ebers seconded to approve the resignation of Joyce Bartens, Grade School Paraprofessional, effective January 8, 2026. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Ebers motioned, Fricke seconded to approve the resignation of Kim Linthicum, High School Paraprofessional, effective January 23, 2026. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Coffey motioned, Fricke seconded to approve Rhonda Bixby as part-time Cafeteria Personnel at the Early Childhood Center at $17.70/hr pending all employment requirements, including background check and EHR. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Ebers motioned, Fricke seconded to approve Daniel Clendenin as evening custodian at the ECC/Grade School at $20.30/hr pending all employment requirements, including background check and EHR. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Coffey motioned, Fricke seconded to Approve Ella Bernaix as 1st Grade Teacher for the 2026-27 school year pending all employment requirements including background check and EHR. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Coffey motioned, Davtiz seconded to approve Meagan Dehne as 2nd Grade Teacher for the 2026-27 school year pending all employment requirements including background check and EHR. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Fricke seconded to approve Alexzandra Westbrook as Jr. High Math Teacher for the 2026-27 school year. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Coffey seconded to approve Laverne Misselhorn as Special Education Teacher for the remainder of the 2025-26 school year. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Fricke motioned, Coffey seconded to approve reassigning Madison Hasemeyer from 1st grade teacher to 3rd grade teacher effective 2026-27 school year. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Fricke motioned, Coffey seconded to approve reassigning Tonya Rodemich from 1st grade teacher to Jr.High Math and Science teacher effective 2026-27 school year. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davtiz motioned, Coffey seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:52 p.m. Roll call vote. Ayes: Coffey, Fricke, Caraway, Krieg, Davitz, Ebers, Nays: none. Motion carried.

The next REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Education will be held **Thursday February 19, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Chester Early Childhood Center Board Room located at 2319 Old Plank Road, Chester, IL 62233.