

A-C CENTRAL C.U.S.D. #262
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
UNIT OFFICE
April 19, 2025 – 9:00 AM

MEMBERS

PRESENT

Curtis Cosner
Daniel Edge
Deb Petefish
Kara Martin
Carissa Myers
Brian Rennecker

ABSENT

Jennifer Fanning

Others present: **Superintendent** – Dr. Amy Zahm; **Principals –Technology** –; **A-CCEA** –Kathie Privia, Colin Arthalony, Lisa Privia, Jennifer Guillou; **Parents** –Kim Tomasko, Chris Arthalony, Jade Cave, Clint Cave; **Students** –Citizen –Eldon Leinberger, Carrie Jo Donnan, Dan Larakers, Angela Larakers; **Other** –; **Media-**; **Unit Staff** –Nancy Having, DeAnna Johnson.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Recognition of Visitors and Guests

Curtis Cosner led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed everyone to the board meeting.

Proposed Agenda

Myers/Edge - Motion to approve the proposed agenda as presented. Voice vote: All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Dan Larakers was signed up to address the board. Mr. Larakers stated that the voters of A-C Central had a very difficult decision to make on April 1st: either accept a year without sports opportunities for high school or accept PORTA's blackmail of us with consolidation. He stated that he understood how the co-op vote was going to go today at the meeting. He asked that all board members be cognizant of PORTA's extortionary tactics and do everything in their power to find alternative options. He went on to talk about the second item on the agenda which would undo the motion made by the outgoing board of education to pay off a bond. He stated that as a tax payer this has him concerned. Mr. Larakers stated that when the bond was obtained the previous board told tax payers it was to provide more flexibility to the school district when Illinois law makers threatened to cap the borrowing power of school districts at the amount of bonds they currently held. He stated that the previous board of education did not spend those bond funds so they voted to retire the bond and reduce taxes for A-C Central voters. If the new board cancels that action this would result in an increase in taxes relative to what they would be if the previous board of education action stands. He stated that to him taxes are a serious matter because they forcibly take money from A-C Central voters. In this case it would be without the voter's direct consent via referendum. He stated that the new board of education minimally should explain its intent when it comes to keeping the bond. He stated that if this board decides to eliminate the tax reduction it should assure voters via formal action that it will spend the money in a manner consistent with previous statements. He asked that the board pass a resolution on how they intend to spend the cash from the bond. Mr. Larakers stated he had a concern that the bond money would be used to cover budget deficits from over spending. At meet the candidates' night all candidates stated they wanted to increase salaries which would then increase operating expenses. He stated that we have seen the results of reckless spending with the PORTA

who is currently blackmailing us. Mr. Larakers stated that PORTA has racked up \$20 million in debt and has increased taxes. The last request Mr. Larakers had was in regards to the blackmail currently in place from PORTA in regards to consolidation. He would like to see a resolution assuring voters that the board of education will use any available cash to retire any bonds held by A-C Central prior to any possible consolidation.

Old Business (discussion only)

Old Business (action expected)

- a. Motion for approval of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for Certain Athletics and Extracurricular Activities- PORTA CUSD #202- A-C Central CUSD #262.


Myers/Edge- Motion for approval of the 4-year Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for Certain Athletics and Extracurricular Activities- PORTA CUSD #202- A-C Central CUSD #262 as presented. Roll Call: Petefish Nay, all other members Aye. Motion carried.

- b. Motion to approve the action to vacate the vote on the Resolution Authorizing Transfer from the Working Cash Fund to the Bond & Interest Fund to pay off the General Obligation Bond (2022).


Edge/Myers- Motion to approve the action to vacate the vote on the Resolution Authorizing Transfer from the Working Cash Fund to the Bond & Interest Fund to pay off the General Obligation Bond (2022) as presented. Roll Call: Petefish Nay, all other members Aye. Motion carried.

Adjournment (action expected)

Rennecker/Martin- Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 A.M. Voice vote: All members present voted aye. Motion carried.



President – Curtis Cosner



Secretary – Kara Martin