



ILLINI CENTRAL C.U.S.D #189

208 N. West Avenue, Mason City, IL 62664

Dr. Jennifer Durbin, Superintendent
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Mrs. Cassy Carey, Grade School Principal
Mrs. Kyra Fancher, Middle School Principal
Mrs. Annie Baugher, High School Principal
Ms. Lori Avart, Special Education Coordinator

Superintendent's Report May 15, 2026

Board Self-Evaluation: As a result of our Self-Evaluation training in April, we have certainly taken on a new look at our board meetings. It was discussed during the training that it is difficult to have conversations seated facing the audience, so we decided to change the seating arrangement to face one another.

We discussed the analogy between "the balcony" and "the dance floor" in the context of board governance. From the balcony, a board member can see the big picture (the ability to see the future, connect with the entire community, and powerfully tell the district's story) and avoid the temptation of the dance floor, where the district's day-to-day work is done by the staff. The Board approves and creates policy that others carry out on the dance floor.

We also updated the Board Protocols to reflect the board's unity and its commitment to having conversations as a board while seated at the board table, by including the phrase, "Board members will not attempt to persuade others to vote one way or another prior to the board meeting." We also broadened the language regarding the district's spokespersons to include the Board President and the Superintendent for all communications, not just with the media.

Another conversation topic included ways to increase community involvement in school activities by incorporating volunteers into the regular school day, such as reading buddies. We also discussed the desire to have an afternoon production of the musical/play, so those who do not want to drive at night have an opportunity to attend.

I have also invited the Illini Central Educational Association to attend meetings regularly, and I will post the agenda on our social media outlets when it is made public.

Health-Life Safety: We received notice that ISBE and the ROE have approved the closeout of our previous 10-Year Health-Life Safety Amendment, and we will begin work on our new board-approved one.

Small Rural Schools Achievement Grant: I have submitted the application, and we should hear by the end of September whether we are awarded any funds. In the past, we have used these funds to fill gaps in Title Grant-funded projects, especially in curriculum.



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Amended Budget: Katie and I have worked to make sure the budget amendment is ready for the June meeting. We will review it during the board meeting as to the changes that were made.

Staff Recognition: Each year, we celebrate the anniversaries of our staff, and we will do this on Tuesday, 5/19/26. We have planned to deliver ice cream sandwiches and celebrate our staff members celebrating milestone work anniversaries.

Staff Appreciation: We had a great week for Teacher Appreciation Week. We had corndogs and lemonade shake-ups on Monday, the Board provided Moe's taco bar on Tuesday, and on Friday, we had Flapjacks for breakfast by the admin team. It was a great way to show how much our staff means to us.

Graduation on May 16th at 2:00 pm

Commitment to Graduation on May 26th at 6:30 pm

Staff In-service on May 28th