

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF
CENTRAL GRADE SCHOOL, DISTRICT 51,
WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS**

EARLY HISTORY

The early recorded history of Central Grade School is virtually nonexistent except for the memories of those having received their early education there. Located on the corner of the now Wilmore Road and Dallas Road, the rural one-room structure was reportedly old in 1880; documentation exists that a subscription school was taught by John Berry in a log house located at that site in the 1830's and called the "West-Side" school house. Parents paid to send their children to the school, the teacher could choose those students he/she wanted to be in the school, and the teacher was boarded with families of the school children.

In the early 1900's the student population climbed to 40 with attendance being rather erratic as the boys would leave school to help with the harvest in the fall and planting in the spring. Schools at that time were generally open eight months of the year. Pupils were classified by the reader, speller or arithmetic book they used rather than by grade level. Ida Parsons, one of the teachers in the early 1900's, taught all age levels at Central School.

One of Ida Parson's students, John Willhardt, served on the Board of Directors in the 1920's. He recalled the visits by the County Superintendent of Schools (BI Martin: 1919-1927) who directed the supervision of schools and was responsible for achievement testing in Tazewell County at that time. He was reminded of the County Superintendent's journey from Pekin to Washington by train and his visits on a hired rig of horse and buggy to get to the schools.

Later, in the decade of the 1920's, the enrollment dropped sharply due most likely to economic conditions during that era. The school became increasingly costly to maintain and was consequently closed for a period of 10 years.

Mr. Bill Ebert attended Central School from 1933 to 1940 after attending a private school surrounded by many different flowers located on the current library property taught by Mrs. Mary Etlein. Most children would either walk or ride a bicycle to the school. He

fondly recalls, Mrs. Florence Mette, who was his teacher in grades three through eight, and recognizes her as a “great influence” to him.

Attendance in the school varied. There were about six students at Mr. Ebert’s grade level in 1935-1936 with a total of 17 to 28 students attending school at any given time. He recalls the coal room located the NW corner of the basement and the heat register near the center of the single room to provide heat to the classroom. The property had a hand pump and outdoor well that provided water. The water was brought into the room in a pail with students sharing a common dipper. The restrooms were located on either side of the main entrance after walking up four or five steps. The restrooms have been identified as outdoor toilets located indoors.

The teacher had her desk on the East side of the room with a long, recitation bench separating individual student desks on the West side of the classroom. The individual student desks had the opening for an ink well but no one reported pig tails being dipped in ink. A piano was available and played by Mrs. Mette to the enjoyment of her students.

The teacher would call groups of children to the long bench for instruction by subject. Mr. Ebert said he learned a great deal by listening to the instruction given the older children and credits the learning environment for helping his ability to concentrate on independent tasks in adulthood. The children used goldenrod tablets to practice the Palmer writing methods. Each child had books for their use. Students enjoyed the opportunity to learn and discipline was not a major issue. The occasional group of older boys might slip out the back window while the teacher was otherwise involved, but the variety of teacher responsibilities permitted such shenanigans.

At recess time, one of the games played often and with great relish was “Andy I Over” which involved one team yelling “Andy I Over;” then throwing a ball over the school. If a member of one team caught the ball, they would run around and try to eliminate a member of the other team by throwing the ball at them. In colder months after the school day, the children would cut hockey sticks from tree branches and play on the frozen creeks. The girls often played Jacks while some of the boys would play marbles or mumbly peg. Often though, the girls and boys would join together to form softball teams and enjoy an informal game. Mr. Ebert mentioned the dress of the day included high topped shoes, knickers, corduroy or overall pants.

On inclement days the boys and girls used the basement as an activity area, staying clear of the coal and coal furnace used to heat the school.

“Uncle” Billy Hess, who sold sorghum and real estate, went with the school’s softball team providing guidance whenever Central had a game with another school. He was not available for practice sessions.

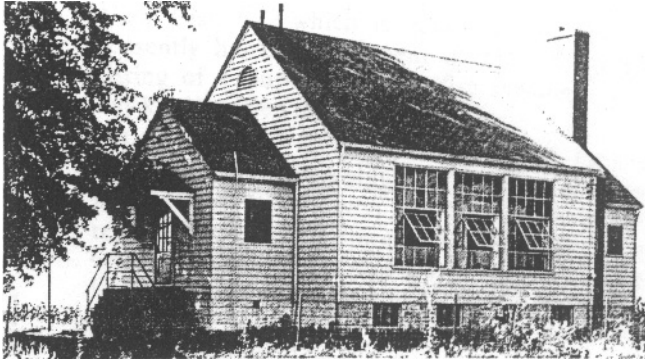
Mr. Ebert recalls parents planning and holding ice cream socials twice a year to raise money. Donated cakes, fudge, and candy were sold. Some cakes and fudge were used as prizes for the cake walk with the piano providing the music.

A 1937 graduation program shows only one student graduated that year: Ruth Sager. The graduation program was held at District 52 with their graduates and others from Jefferson School, Columbia School, Cottonwood School, Hopewell School, Stormer School, Liberty School, and Greenridge School.

The next major milestone in the history of Central School unfolded dramatically on a stormy Saturday morning in 1941. The weather was extremely warm with news reports indicating temperatures in the upper 80’s. On April 19, 1941, a tornado demolished the one room schoolhouse as it tore its way across the farmlands northwest of Washington. The New York Times headline read, “Howling Storms Damage Midwest...”

School was dismissed for the remainder of the year. Another building was constructed during the summer months on the same property by major Washington contractors, Henry and Willis Hett, before September, 1941. Mr. Reeves was the sole teacher in 1950 and taught all eight grades. The basement was ultimately used as a classroom when in the early 1950’s enrollment increased and expanded budgets permitted the hiring of another teacher. Dave Weaver recalls being hired while a student at the old Central School and during his eighth grade year at the new Central School to clean the classrooms, the blackboards, and to deal with the boiler. He remembers Dale Pittenger, a year older, also provided the same services for a small amount of pay. Dale may also have lost a fingertip to a paper cutter at the school.

Mrs. Nancy Bender moved to Washington in 1957 and first attended the old Central School. She was amazed, having moved from the much larger Peoria school district that a two-room school still existed.



Central School - Wilmore and Dallas Rd

In August 1955, an attempt was made to annex Central School District 51 to Washington Grade School District 52. A petition submitted to Tazewell county Superintendent, L.L. Atteberry was denied on June 10, 1955. The annexation petition was opposed on the grounds of anticipated growth of 400 undeveloped plots in the Washington Estates and Hillcrest Drive areas which happened soon after the denial. Mrs. Griffin recalls that Angelo Karagianis was very involved with the Washington Estates development. He may have worked with Scoltz Homes, the company that built the first spec home in the Estates. Mr. Karagianis also served briefly on Central's Board of Directors. Mrs. Euphemia Schmidt and Rev. Murvel Huffstutler shared the teaching duties at Central School with 38 students enrolled in grades 1 – 8 with Mrs. Schumacher taking over early on for Rev. Huffstutler.

The building that had served as Central School since 1941 was formally retired in 1958 at a public auction. Its last Board of Education consisted of three members: Mr. Wes Wenger, President; Mr. Roland Walwer, Secretary; and Mr. Ralph Brown. The building sold for approximately \$2,000.00 and was utilized as a church. Sixty-one pupils entered the new Central School building located at then 301 Eagle Avenue (later to become 1301 Eagle Avenue) on a 5.38 acre site in the Washington Estates subdivision on January 2, 1957.

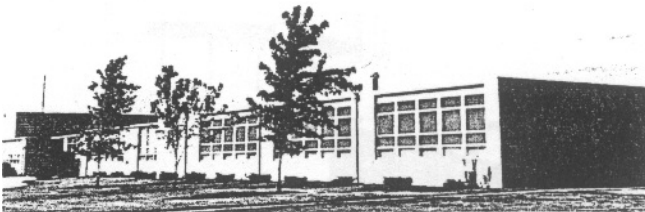


Figure 1 Central School 1301 Eagle Avenue in 1970

BRICK AND MORTAR (1957-Present)

The four classroom concrete block and brick veneer building accommodated the students from the old Central School in two 32-desk classrooms. The first two teachers at the new school in January 1957 were: Mrs. Euphemia Schmidt and Mr. Schmeckpepper, who served as the District's first administrator. The third classroom was put into use in September 1958 when Mrs. Alice Griffin was hired. The fourth classroom had no blackboards, floor tile, ceiling lights and was sometimes used as an all purpose room. Plans were being considered for an eventual capacity of 128 students according to Wesley Wenger, President of the Board of Education. Mr. Walwer, the Secretary/Treasurer recalls the first budget in the new facility was around \$30,000. He was responsible for paying the bills at the time. The third board member was August T. Rosenberg. The assessed valuation of \$1,163,610 supported the bond issue of \$58,000 approved by the voters for architects Verkler and Tinsman to construct the school. Included among the teachers added to the faculty in 1959 was Mrs. Marg Pacey - Grades 1 and 2, (who taught her classes in the basement of the Wenger home since her classroom was not ready for occupancy), Mrs. Marge Abernathy - Grades 3 and 4, Mrs. Griffin for Grades 5-6 and Mr. Schmeckpepper who taught the 7-8th graders and served as the first administrator. The only sports team from the old Central School and continuing at the new Central School was an ad hoc softball team that played competitively against students from Lafayette, Hopewell, Columbia, and Liberty schools. Mr. Richard "Bud" Berry was a volunteer who offered to help coach the softball/baseball team in 1957.

The new Central School graduated three eighth graders its first year: Gail Bachman, Ron Kuykendall, and Dave Weaver. There were eight in the class of 1958 – four girls and four boys according to Mrs. Nancy Bender. The graduates held their ceremony with the graduates of District 50 at the Washington Community High School gym.

By March 1960, student enrollment had continued to climb with the Board of Education anticipating growth to 110 students. The need for addition rooms was evident as the voters of the District approved a \$60,000 bond issue to construct additional classrooms, a kitchen, office, storage space, and toilet facilities. Architect Tom Landis designed and provided oversight for the 1963, 1965, 1967, and the 1980 additions.

Four teachers were employed by the District in 1960. It was also about this time that the first school bus was purchased by the District.

A survey of the District indicated a large number of homes under construction or proposed in the Washington Estates and Felker's Addition. In 1960, one third of the school's enrollment came from the Cummings Lane area; another third from Washington Estates, and the balance coming from the remainder of the District. Accompanying the growth of the area was an increase in assessed valuation to \$2,223,110 with a steady increase predicted for the future.

Plans to build a gym were presented to the public in February 1963. Due to zoning ordinances the original plans had to be altered before approval from the Washington City Zoning Board of Appeals was received.

Mrs. (Helen?) Emerson wrote the lyrics for the Central Trojan Fight Song in the early 1960's. She later taught music instruction at Robein School. In 1976 Mr. David Musick used help from former student and Central teacher (A.K. Berry) in recalling the lyrics. He then created the musical score for the school's Fight Song. Adrienne Berry was a first grade student when the new school opened.

One hundred twenty-one students were enrolled in Central School in July 1, 1963 and the District had reached its limits of bonded indebtedness of five percent after the voters approved the plans for the new gymnasium. The District's financial flexibility was enhanced with the consolidation and closing of Hopewell School, District 271, as the assessed valuation rose from \$3,195,610 to \$4,255,490 and increased student enrollment by 39. There was one teacher per age/grade level classroom after 1963.

The first Hopewell School was built in 1869 and reportedly had two teachers and a principal. Mr. Keil was a teacher at Hopewell for a long time. Mr. Schrone was the principal for 20 years. The Hopewell School bell remains the property of Central School District 51.



Front view of the First Hopewell School. The school was moved across the road, after being remodeled was used as the Grange Hall.

Front view of the First Hopewell School; later used as the Grange Hall.



Hopewell School is built across the street from the original school.



Hopewell School, Dist. 271 on Centennial Drive (currently a private residence).

Bond issues in 1965 for six classrooms and again in 1966 for six more classrooms along with the purchase of two additional acres of adjacent land were successful for \$72,000 and \$87,000 respectively. Student enrollment, meanwhile, continued to climb surpassing earlier projections. Central School housed 382 students in 1966, indicating further development of the residential areas and outlining continuing need for future planning. It appears the first teaching salary schedule was developed and used during the 1966-67 school year.

Mrs. Griffin was paid \$100 a year to supervise the library for two or three years. She remembers Sharon Day (later a teacher at Central) and a parent helping catalog the library books. Their reimbursement: Superintendent Gary Seymour took them to lunch.

Once again, the Board of Education found itself in need of another six classroom addition. They sought passage of a \$105,000 bond issue in 1968. The issue was overwhelmingly approved. In addition, the science lab was doubled in size with half used for student instruction, the other for experimentation with state-of-the-art equipment.

Mr. Holford recalls Mr. Jerry DeBolt was the President of the PTO (Parent-Teacher Organization) in 1968. Some of their activities included creating a Central School Cook Book, sponsoring a chili supper, and the ice cream social (a long running event at the school, continuing to date as the annual school carnival). Mr. Ken Pitts was the President of the PTO in 1970.

In 1970 Central School had a staff of 28 teachers, a superintendent, principal, and auxiliary personnel serving a student population of 620 with trends indicating a plateau had been reached – at least momentarily.

Additional land (2.79 acres) was acquired in 1974 at a cost of \$23,250 to enlarge the playground area.

On July 1, 1974, Columbia Grade School, District 49, annexed to Central Grade School, District 51. Columbia Grade School was a four classroom building of block and brick construction. The school was financed through two bond issues for \$37,000 and \$23,000 approved and issued in 1961 and 1965.

The consolidation with District 49 increased District 51 from 9.7 square miles to 14.7 square miles. The assessed valuation of District 51 also rose from \$13,747,400 to \$16,375,580. Sixty-one additional students joined Central School as well as three teachers: Mrs. Janet Ozmun, Mrs. Lola Hutchings, and Mrs. Margaret Robinson.

Columbia School, after a great number of years service to its community, provided District 51 with four additional classrooms which housed the District's half-time kindergarten program and students until 2004 when the kindergarten program changed to full-time.



Columbia School on Spring Creek Road; currently unoccupied.

In 1979, the Board of Education addressed the recognized needs to provide an improved gymnasium with additional seating, music facilities, and some additional classrooms. A \$970,000 bond referendum was approved and students enjoyed the addition beginning in September 1980. The boy's basketball team won its first state tournament in the inaugural year of the new gym facility. In 1998 the gymnasium was named the Kenneth G. Holford Gymnasium in recognition of the former superintendent's 30 years service and leadership for the District.

Over the course of the 30 year period from 1970 to 2000, the student population remained somewhat constant. Programs, however, were expanded to meet student needs in the areas of classroom music instruction, choral music, and instrumental music. Kitchen facilities were improved and personnel were employed to provide a hot lunch program during the 1970's, first with TV-style dinners and later with in-house preparation. Students no longer had to sit on the bleachers in reverse fashion using one bench to place their food and the other to sit uncomfortably to eat their lunch. A bus barn was added to house and protect the District's investment in school buses in the late 1970's.

In 1980, the District purchased its first computer (a Texas Instrument TI-80 with a cassette tape drive); in the 1990's a computer instructor was added to the faculty. Special education needs also increased and personnel (teachers and aides) were employed accordingly. Additional acreage was purchased throughout the 1980's and 1990's creating a campus of 32 acres featuring four ball diamonds and sufficient space for student recreation. Curricular improvements

brought advanced instruction in mathematics, a continuing commitment to phonic-based instruction; computer awareness, keyboarding, and later, computer instruction. The District began accessing the internet and participated in a county-wide effort with Illinois Central College to use fiber-optic technology. The school's Scholastic Bowl team won its first state trophy under the guidance of Mrs. Fran Newman. Federal and state legislative mandates brought increasing control over curriculum goals and objectives, testing, and reporting. The girl's basketball teams under the leadership of Mr. Brett Lawless was second in the State during their inaugural season in 2001 and were State champions the following year. Character education was added in 2003; additional computer instruction and personnel was provided for our primary youngsters; a librarian joined Central's faculty. Computerized grading and networked systems were created in 2003 and laptops became available to the students in 2004.

Our community began growing in significant numbers about 2002-2003. The Board of Education once more recognized classrooms were needed. Following voter approval of a \$4,500,000 bond issue in 2003, 15 additional classrooms were in use plus upgrades in painting, repair, and heating/air conditioning were welcoming 720 students in 2004. The first assistant principal (and first female administrator – Mrs. Diane Beard) was employed.

By 2006, the Board of Education felt student growth was continuing. The decision was made to ask the voters to approve another building bond issue for \$11,800,000 to build a separate K-2 facility on the current campus, to expand the 1980 gymnasium and additional upgrades to Central School and to seek approval for an operational rate increase of 25 cents. Due to bonding limitations, the District needed to achieve a 66% approval rate to permit the building bond to proceed. An approval rate of 63.4% was achieved; the referendum did not pass.

After consulting with First Midstate Bank, Board of Education members elected to sell premium bonds in the amount of \$10,900,000 that fell within the district's debt limit and would allow the building process to commence. Kenyon and Associates, Ltd. were retained as the architecture firm. Peoria Metro Construction was the general contractor for the renovation project at the current building and P.J. Hoerr Construction was the general contractor for the new building.

When the district's debt limit expanded because of rising Equalized Assessed Valuations, the Board of Education decided to issue bonds in the amount of \$1,250,000 and to allocate \$550,000 from

Education Fund reserves to add seven additional classrooms to the new building. This would allow for grades K-3 to be housed in the new facility when it opened in the fall of 2009. Grades 4 through 8 would continue to be housed in the current building.

In spring 2009, board members approved naming the buildings Central Primary School and Central Intermediate School. It was also determined that Central Primary School would be dedicated to Kenneth G. Prater for his 30 plus years of service to the district. A ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony was held in September 2009.

Central School District 51 has had superior, dedicated members on its Boards of Education. Moving from a three-member Board of Directors to a seven member Board of Education occurred in April 1964 well after the new Central School was opened.

Central School District 51 has had ten superintendents, many who also served as principal. They were: Mr. Schmeckpepper, Mr. Cordy, Charles Rellis, Jim Funk, Virgil Dawson, Gary Seymour, Kenneth Holford , Kenneth Prater, Kirk Hines, and Chad Allaman. Kenneth Holford served as the Superintendent in 30 of Central's 51 years through 2007.

When the state superintendent's representatives and the regional superintendent scheduled a visit during Mr. Cordy's brief tenure, it was reported he prepared by buying cigars for each. His plan went astray however, when he discovered the representative who came for the visit from the State offices was female. Mrs. Griffin reported that state visitors seemed more interested in what was on the teachers' bulletin boards than the actual teaching/learning that was happening.

It was also reported that Mr. Dawson was a frugal administrator with access to information about state auctions. It was at several of these auctions that Mr. Dawson purchased used and discarded lockers, desks, and the internal communication system used for many years thereafter at Central School. Many students from the 1970's will remember the small book-sized lockers and the absence of personal locks.

Central School District 51 has logged an estimated 125 + years of educational service to its public. A century of exceptional teachers, a century of supportive members of our community, a century of caring and involved parents, a century of engaging and vibrant children, and a century of committed, dedicated members of our Boards of Education have made Central School what it has become and placed its imprint on what it will be. Central Grade School, where "Developing its Greatest

Resource” is not merely a motto but guidance for the educational institution and the children it serves – for the next 125 years.



PROGRAM		GRADUATES	
Class March	Selected	DISTRICT 52	
Invocation	Rev. Ben Esch	VERNON ATTBERRY	DOROTHY REHSER
Welcome	Dorothy Mae Holland	CHARLES BESSLER	MAXINE REHSER
Vocal Solo, "The Second Minuet"	Virginia Schmueck	JUNIOR BLUMENSHINE	FLOYD RICH
Declamation, "The Step Dog"	Lorena Bell	JUNIOR BUCK	ROBERT RISSER
Girls' Chorus, "To a Water Lilly"	"Sleep Little One, Sleep"	*LORENA BELL	*MAVIS ROTH
Remarks	Superintendent F. R. Isenburg	*IRIS BOOTE	*LOIS SAMPSON
Vocal Solo, "By Bendeemer's Stream"	Jack Wepler	*HARLAND DIEBEL	*VIRGINIA SCHMUCK
Declamation, "Ma at the Basketball Game"	June Rose Koch	MILDRED DEYORE	*RALPH SMALL
Toast to the Graduates	Herman Linder	MARCELLA DUHOIS	*LEANOR SMITH
Class Songs, "May Time"	"Bonnie Eloise"	*BENJAMIN PULFORD	ALEXANDER SWANSON
Presentation of Diplomas	Rev. Ben Esch	PHYLLIS GRAVNROR	JACK TANTON
Song, America	Audience	*J. B. HOKK	PEARL VALENTINE
Class Colors—Lavender and Yellow		*DOROTHY MAE HOLLAND	HARRY WARD
Class Flower—Carnation		BERNICE HURST	*GLENNIS WEAVER
Class Motto—Success Never Needs an Excuse		BERNICE KELSO	JACK WEPPLER
		JUNE ROSE KOCH	EUGENE WYKLE
		FRED McCULLOUGH	OLIVER VODER
		SHIRLEY NORRIS	
			JEFFERSON
			MARVIN K. COOK
			WANDA ELIZABETH RICH
			MAXINE ELIZABETH SCHICK
			ROBERT D. WILSON
			VIVIAN EMMALENE ZIMMERMAN
			COLUMBIA
			ARLO BRACKBILL
			BERTHA SCHAER
			*JOHN OTTEN
			BERNICE SCOTT
			COTTONWOOD
			IONA ATTIG
			HARVEY LE ROY BLUMENSHINE
			HOPEWELL
			JESSIE ALFS
			MARY ELIZABETH WYCKOFF
			STORMER—JACK CARUS
			LIBERTY
			*BYRON RANNEY
			*ANITA BELL NOFSINGER
			CENTRAL—RUTH SAGER
			GREENRIDGE
			FRED ALBERT ASHER
			MILDRED IRENE OITMAN

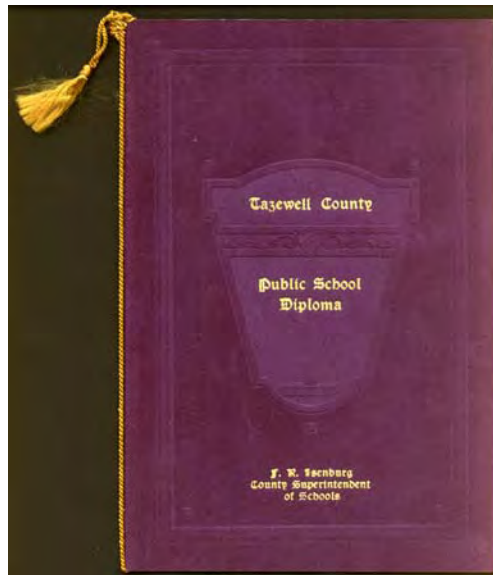
A 1937 Graduation Program





September 1935: Mrs. Mette – back row left;
Bill Ebert – front row right

October 1936: Mrs. Mette- back
row right; Bill Ebert is fifth from
the left in the back row.



**Graduation Cover
From 1940.**

Public School Diploma



This Certifies That

William Michael Gert
has satisfactorily completed the Common Branches required by law
to be taught in the Public Schools of
Tazewell County
and is therefore entitled to this Diploma which admits the holder
to any High School in the State.



In Witness Whereof, we hereunto affix our signatures and seal at

Pekin, Illinois, this *24th* day of *May*, 194*2*

John H. Willhardt
President
Clayton W. Hesselein
Secretary

Florence Mette
Teacher
J. R. Isenburg
County Superintendent of Schools

MADE BY THE JOHNSON-RANDOLPH CO., CHAMPAIGN, ILL.
BY PERMISSIVE SILVER BURDETT CO. © 1938

Graduation diplomas were issued by the County Superintendent of School – Mr. Isenburg in May, 1940. Mr. Willhardt was the President of the Board; Mr. Hesselein was the Secretary.



Mrs. Alice Griffin's first class at the new Central School in 1958; Mrs. Griffin is on far right.

419 River Printing Company, Springfield, Illinois

TEACHER'S CONTRACT

It is hereby Contracted and Agreed by and between August Rosenberg,
A. Peragiano and Wesley Libinger
the undersigned School Directors of District No. 51, County of Logan
and State of Illinois, and Alice J. Griffin
a legally qualified Teacher, that the said teacher shall teach
the School in said District for three months for the sum
of Four hundred Dollars per month, teaching at least 4
hours each day, commencing on the 2nd day of September 1958.
Provided, that nothing herein contained shall require said teacher
to teach upon the days excepted from the school month by the statute. And the said teacher
agrees faithfully to teach the said School according
to the best of her ability, and to keep a Register of the Daily Attendance of each Pupil belonging to the School,
and make such report of the School as is or may be required by law, or by the State Department of Public Instruc-
tion, and to observe and enforce all rules and regulations established by proper authority for the government and
management of said school.

And It is Further Agreed by and Between the Parties Hereto, That the said teacher
shall use her best endeavors
to preserve in good condition the School House and Premises connected with it; also the Apparatus and Furniture
therein belonging, and also all Books and Records provided by the School Board for the use of said School, and to
deliver the same to the Clerk of said District, or his successor in office, at the close of the said term of School, in
as good condition as when received, natural wear and tear excepted.

And the undersigned, as Directors of said School District, hereby agree in behalf of said district to keep the
School House and premises connected with it in good repair, to provide necessary fuel for the use of said School
during the said term, and that for the services performed as above described, then and thereupon the undersigned
Directors of said District agree to certify to the Schedule as the law directs, in favor of the said

Alice J. Griffin
that the sum of Four hundred \$400.00 Dollars
is due her, the same being the amount of wages agreed upon by the parties hereto.

Provided, That in case the said teacher shall be dismissed
from the said School by the said Directors for gross immorality, incompetency, or any violation of this Contract, or
shall have her Certificate annulled or revoked by the County or State Superintendent,
she shall not be entitled to receive any compensation from and after such annulment or dismissal.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have hereunto subscribed our hands this _____ day
of _____ 1958

August J. Rosenberg
Joseph Peragiano
Wesley P. Libinger } School
Alice J. Griffin } Directors
Teacher.

REMARKS—This contract should be made up in duplicate, and one copy given to the teacher. No Sheriff should allow a teacher
to commence school until a written contract is presented. By both parties agreement all of the points about which differences
would be likely to arise, such as the amount of salary, length of time, etc., should be plainly set forth in such agreement. The
language of the contract must ensure the exact intention of the parties; for while the rule of the law is to give effect to the inter-
pretation of the language as understood it will govern, although it fails to express the real intention of the parties.—Donnell vs.
McDonald, 4 Ill. (1870), 191. Statute's intention, near 116. A teacher shall not be removed or suspended on suspension or expul-
sion. The school month shall be the same as the calendar month, but a teacher shall not be removed or suspended on suspension or expul-
sion. Holidays, which are the first day of January, the twelfth day of February, Good Friday, May 31, the fourth day of July, Labor
Day, the seventh day of November, the 25th day of December, and any day proclaimed by the President or Governor to be a day
of observing, and no deduction shall be made from the time or compensation of a teacher on account of such days. Sec. 15-1-5,
School Law.

Mrs. Griffin's 1958 teaching contract



Some of Central's teachers from the late 1950's and 1960's: L to R: Mrs. Sylvia Delicath, Mrs. Marg Pacey, Mrs. Alice Griffin, Mrs. Barb Spring, Mrs. Bettejo Fisher, Mrs. Ethel Troyer, and Mrs. Opal Bachman.

**Members of the Central School District
Board of Directors and Boards of Education from April 14, 1956**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1956 – April 14, 1956

Wesley Wenger – President

Donald King – Clerk

Vernon Strubhar

August 1, 1956

Vernon Strubhar – Resigned

Angelo Karagianis – Appointed

1957 – April 13, 1957

August Rosenburg – President

Wesley Wenger – Clerk

Angelo Karagianis

1958 – April 18, 1958

August Rosenburg – President

Wesley Wenger – Clerk

April 6, 1959

Angelo Karagianis – Resigned

Robert Fuller – Appointed

1959 – April 13, 1959
Robert Fuller – President
Wesley Wenger – Clerk
Ralph Brown

1960 – April 11, 1960
Wesley Wenger – President
Ralph Brown – Clerk
Grant Coningham

1961 – April 10, 1961
Grant Coningham – President
Ralph Brown – Clerk
Wesley Wenger

1962 – April 19, 1962
Grant Coningham – President
Ralph Brown – Clerk
Wesley Wenger

September 16, 1962
Grant Coningham – Resigned
Roland Walwer – Appointed

January 31, 1963
Ralph Brown – Resigned
Robert Fuller – Appointed

1963 – April 15, 1963
Wesley Wenger – President
Roland Walwer
Dale Riggins

BOARDS OF EDUCATION

SEVEN MEMBER BOARD ELECTED

1964 – April 14, 1964

Roland Walwer – President

James Fox – Secretary

Charles Alexander

Floyd Dierdorff

Richard Keil

Kayton Heavrin

Gene Menz

Raymond Allison

October 1, 1964

Roland Walwer – Resigned

(?) - Appointed

1965 – April 15, 1965

James Fox – President

Kayton Heavrin – Secretary

Gene Menz

Charles Alexander

Raymond Allison

Richard Keil

Theodore Sievers

1966 – April 14, 1966

James Fox, President

Kayton Heavrin, Secretary

David Matheny

Richard Keil

Charles Alexander

Raymond Allison

Gene Menz

1967 – April 18, 1967

Roland Walwer – President

Gene Menz – Secretary

Charles Alexander

James Fox

Kayton Heavrin

Richard Keil

David Matheny

1968 – April 13, 1968

Kayton Heavrin – President

Gene Menz – Vice President

Dorwin Larson

Lyle Van Hook

Richard Keil

James Fox

Charles Alexander

1969 – April 12, 1969

Richard Keil – President

Gene Menz – Vice President

Martin Dann

Wayne Ulrich

Dorwin Larson

Lyle Van Hook

Kayton Heavrin

1970 – April 11, 1970

Martin Dann – President

Kayton Heavrin, Vice President

Gene Menz

Roland Walwer

Evan Jackson

Wayne Ulrich

Lyle Van Hook

1971 – April 10, 1971

Martin Dann – President

Lyle Van Hook – Vice President

Robert Jeffers

Charles Alexander

Gene Menz

Roland Walwer

Kayton Heavrin

1972 – April 8, 1972

Martin Dann – President

Robert Jeffers – Vice President

Kayton Heavrin

Charles Alexander

Gene Menz

Robert Purcell

Roland Walwer

1973 – April 14, 1973

Martin Dann – President

Robert Jeffers – Vice President

Charles Alexander

Robert Purcell

Roland Walwer

Kayton Heavrin

James Wilson

1974 – April 13, 1974

Martin Dann – President

Robert Jeffers – Vice President

Kayton Heavrin – Secretary

Charles Alexander

Robert Purcell

James Wilson

August 8, 1974

James Wilson – Resigned

Carlos Canamore- Appointed

1975 – April 12, 1975

Robert Jeffers – President

Roland Walwer – Vice President

Kayton Heavrin – Secretary

Charles Alexander

Robert Purcell

Donald Mitchell

Robert Dickerson

1977 – April 9, 1977

Robert Jeffers – President

Roland Walwer – Vice President

Kayton Heavrin – Secretary

Charles Alexander

Robert Purcell

Donald Mitchell

Robert Dickerson

1978 – April 8, 1978

Robert Jeffers – President
Roland Walwer – Vice President
Kayton Heavrin – Secretary
Charles Alexander
Robert Dickerson
Donald Mitchell
James Bishop

1979 – April 14, 1979

Robert Jeffers – President
Roland Walwer – Vice President
Robert Dickerson – Secretary
Charles Alexander
Donald Mitchell
James Bishop
Ray Brinker

1980 – April 12, 1980

Robert Jeffers - President
Donald Mitchell – Vice President
James Bishop – Secretary
Carl Ross
John Rathbun
Donald Fenoglia
Ray Brinker

1981 – November 12, 1981

Robert Jeffers – President
Donald Mitchell – Vice President
James Bishop – Secretary
Carl Ross
Donald Fenoglia
Ray Brinker
John Rathbun

1982 –

Robert Jeffers – President
Donald Mitchell – Vice President
James Bishop – Secretary
Carol Ross
Ray Brinker
Donald Fenoglia
John Rathbun

1983 – 84

Robert Jeffers – President
Donald Mitchell – vice President
Carl Ross – Secretary
Ray Brinker
John Rathbun
Donald Fenoglia
John Barton

1985-86 – November 5, 1985

Donald Mitchell – President
John Rathbun – Vice President
Carl Ross – Secretary
David Newman
Vicki White
Patricia Bontemps
Keith Steffen

1987-88 – April 14, 1988

Donald Mitchell – President
David Newman – Vice President
Carl Ross – Secretary
Keith Steffen
John Barton
Patricia Bontemps
Vicki White

1988-1989 – April 13, 1989

Donald Mitchell – President
John Barton – Vice President
Carl Ross – Secretary
David Newman
Vicki White
Patricia Bontemps
Keith Steffen

1989-1990 – November 7, 1989

Donald Mitchell – President
David Newman – Vice President
Carl Ross – Secretary
Patricia Bontemps
Keith Steffen
Donald Fenoglia
David Woith

1991 – 1992 – November 5, 1991

Donald Mitchell – President
David Newman – Vice President
Carl Ross- Secretary
Keith Steffen
David Woith
Joseph Hart
Brian Butler

November 10, 1994

Carl Ross – Resigned

November 16, 1994

Ellen Dingledine – Appointed

David Woith – Secretary

1995-96 – November 7, 1995

Donald Mitchell – President
David Newman – Vice President
David Woith – Secretary
Joseph Hart
Brian Butler
Ellen Dingledine
David Wright

1997-2000– November 6, 1997

Brian Butler – President
David Newman – Vice President
David Woith – Secretary
Ellen Dingledine
David Wright
Bret Heavrin
Laura Grahek

2000-2001 – April 5, 2001
Brain Butler – President
David Newman – Vice President
Ellen Dingledine – Secretary
Bret Heavrin
Kyle Mayginnes
Laura Grahek
David Wright

2002-2003 March 13, 2003
David Wright – President
Kyle Mayginnes
Ellen Dingledine
Joe Crocker
James Cotner
Laura Grahek
Matt Martin

2003-2004 – April 1, 2003
Ellen Dingledine – President
David Wright – Vice President
James Cotner – Secretary
Matt Martin
Michele Heinz
Laura Grahek
Joe Crocker

July 11, 2003
Laura Grahek – Resigned
Kyle Mayginnes - Appointed

April 8, 2004
David Wright – Resigned
May 14, 2004
Jim Gerkin – Appointed

2005-2006
Ellen Dingledine – President
James Cotner – Vice President
Matt Martin – Secretary
Michele Heinz
Joe Crocker
Christopher Nichols
James Gerkin

2007 – April 17, 2007

James Cotner – President

Matt Martin – Vice President

Christopher Nichols – Secretary

Michele Heinz

Joe Crocker

Ellen Dingledine

William Hudson

2009 – April

Christopher Nichols –President

Matt Martin – Vice President

William Hudson – Secretary

Ellen Dingledine

Michele Heinz

Paul Kinsinger

Jeff Mertens

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Kenneth G. Prater

(principal and superintendent)

July 1, 2007

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