

**Minutes of the March 12th, 2018  
Regular Board Meeting  
Starmont Community School District Board of Directors**

**1. Call to Order Regular School Board Meeting**

The Starmont Community School District Board held its regular board meeting on Monday, March 12, 2018, at the High School Conference Room. President Puffett called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Members present: Doug Puffett, Shane Paris, Julie Uhlenkamp, Darren West, Kevin Powell. Administration present: Superintendent, Troy Heller; MS/HS Principal, Jason Yessak; Elementary Principal, Sandy Klaus; Curriculum Coordinator, Patty Briggs; Athletic Director, Chad Whittle; SBO/Board Secretary, Robyn Hosch.

**2. Receive Communications and Visitors**

There were none to receive.

**3. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve Agenda
- b. Approve Minutes – February 12, 2018
- c. Approve Monthly Financial Reports
- d. Approve Monthly Bills
- e. Approve Personnel Recommendations

**Hiring:**

1. Jon Becker as Maintenance Director- \$45,000 annual salary
2. Julia Gamm as summer painter- \$11/hour
3. Terra Corbin as summer painter- \$11/hour
4. Megan Chambers for summer cleanup- \$10/hour

**Early Retirement Plan Applications & Resignations:**

1. Janet Swanson- Teacher. Effective 6/30/19. Thank you for your 37 years of service, and happy retirement next year, Janet!
2. Bobbi Delong- Teacher. Effective 6/30/19. Thank you for your 33 years of service, and happy retirement next year, Bobbi!

Motion by West to approve the consent agenda, Powell seconded, motion carried 5-0.

**4. Review and Consider Approving Architecture Company for HS Science Room Addition**

The board viewed the 2 bids received for the high school science room renovations. The companies that submitted bids were Emergent and Martin Gardner. Emergent's bid was \$41,500, and Martin Gardner's bid was \$38,500, both without the costs of mileage/additional services included. The projected date of completion is January 1, 2019. Motion by Powell to hire Martin Gardner Architecture for the high school science room renovations for the bid amount of \$38,500, Paris seconded, motion carried 5-0.

**5. Review and Consider Approving Bids on New Web Design**

Website Coordinator, Robbie McIntyre, was present to discuss the 2 website proposals he had received for a website update. This would ensure the school's website is in compliance with the law and would make it easier for people's viewing, specifically on mobile screens. The new website is scheduled to be up-and-running by the 2018-19 school year. Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve the proposal from Neapolitan Labs as presented, West seconded, motion carried 5-0.

**6. Public Hearing for the 2018-2019 School Calendar**

After the calendar committee met to discuss the 2018-19 school calendar, 2 different calendars were created- a 170 day calendar and a 180 day calendar. Heller reviewed the various pros and cons of each and then opened it to the public. The public hearing began at 7:22 PM.

Jason Martin-Hiner was present to voice concerns over the 170 day calendar. He is concerned with the loss of 10 instructional days, especially when comparing to the teaching workload, and from another perspective, it means losing 10 breakfast/lunch opportunities for students. Also, if the board would decide down the road to not make up snow days, then the 170 day calendar is even a greater loss of school days.

Milly Steward agreed with Jason’s comments. The loss of days on the 170 day calendar would be students’ loss of opportunity with teachers and instructional time, not to mention teachers having to rearrange their teaching plans. She also pointed out that by adopting the 170 day calendar, the message to students could be conveyed as it is okay to settle for the minimum and instead, she feels we should be holding high expectations for them.

Charlie Gruman expressed that he liked the 170 day calendar from a professional development (PD) perspective. With this calendar, the PD days would be a full day once/month, and he feels this is advantageous for students to get more out of their instructional time versus 4 shortened days/month. He looks at the calendars from a standpoint of the # of *full* days, not just the # of days.

Heller wanted to add that he feels the 180 day calendar is most beneficial to the elementary but not necessarily to the middle school/high school. There are not many schools in the state that have the number of hours that Starmont already has.

Klaus wanted to re-emphasize that those 10 instructional days lost with a 170 day calendar are purely time lost in core classes for the elementary.

Puffett asked if either would make a difference for AEA PD time. Powell inquired if Starmont should collaborate with schools interested in sharing PD and work together on a similar calendar. Powell added that based on studies he has read, longer spans of instructional time are more beneficial to students’ learning. He also asked to change the time registration occurs with conflicts of the Clayton County Fair.

Allison McIntyre stated she was also worried about losing instructional time with the loss of days.

The public hearing closed at 7:45 PM.

**7. Review and Consider Approving the 2018-2019 School Calendar**

With the previous discussion on the 2018-2019 school calendar, the board would like to table the approval of the calendar until the next regular board meeting. Motion by Paris to table the approval of the 2018-2019 school calendar, Powell seconded, motion carried 5-0.

**8. Review 2018-19 Budget Information and PowerPoint**

Heller shared with the board the property tax trend, as outlined below:

<u>Year:</u>	<u>Total Tax Rate:</u>	<u>Year:</u>	<u>Total Tax Rate:</u>
2010	15.96149	2015	16.07242
2011	15.98523	2016	13.80283
2012	16.75211	2017	12.96073
2013	16.38748	2018	12.43092
2014	16.30023	2019	12.30012

Starmont's rates have seen a consistent downward trend, saving its constituents a lot of money over time. Heller also reviewed the cash levy (which was not needed at this time) and the management rate. Puffett stated he feels the budget is going in the right direction. There were no major questions or concerns.

**9. Review and Consider Approving Budget Guarantee Resolution**

The FY19 budget guarantee resolution is as stated: **Resolved, that the Board of Directors of Starmont Community School District, will levy property tax for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under Section 257.14, Code of Iowa.** Motion by Paris to approve the FY19 budget guarantee resolution, Uhlenkamp seconded. Roll call. Ayes: Powell, Uhlenkamp, Paris, West, Puffett. Nays: none. Motion carried.

**10. Review 2017-2018 Budget Amendment**

After reviewing the current budget and due to unexpected and higher-cost construction items, the 2017-18 budget will be amended by a total of \$400,000. The public hearing will take place at the next regular board meeting.

**11. Review and Consider Approving Management Levy Resolution**

The FY19 management levy resolution is as stated: **Be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the Starmont Community School District, consistent with the Iowa Code, will levy tax for the fiscal year 2018-2019 in the amount of \$430,000 for the district's management fund.** Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve the FY19 management levy resolution, Paris seconded. Roll call. Ayes: West, Paris, Uhlenkamp, Puffett, Powell. Nays: none. Motion carried.

**12. Review and Consider Approving Fire Safety Report for State Schools**

The Fire Marshal inspected all the facilities on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The board was shown the report of his findings. There were no major questions or concerns. Motion by West to approve the fire safety report findings as presented and discussed, Uhlenkamp seconded, motion carried 5-0.

**13. Review and Consider Approving 2018-19 Teacher Leadership Grant**

The teacher leadership grant was presented to the board. The Department of Education has already approved the grant; however, the school board has to approve before moving forward. The interview process will begin in about 2 weeks. Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve the TLC grant as presented, West seconded, motion carried 5-0.

**14. Review and Consider Approving LLI Materials Using Early Literacy Funds**

Klaus and Briggs are requesting permission to spend some of the early literacy funds for materials that would help reading and writing along with the recovery areas for students. Motion by Powell to approve the purchase of LLI materials in the amount of \$23,425.15, Uhlenkamp seconded, motion carried 5-0.

**15. Elementary Principal's Report/Curriculum Coordinator's Report**

Klaus has met with various emergency management teams to orchestrate a full crisis drill. The plan is to have the drill on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Kindergarten round-up was last week, and it is looking like enrollment could be around 40 students. Preschool registration will take place on March 15<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 PM.

Briggs shared data on Iowa Assessment scores and was happy to report that all grades' proficiencies either went up or stayed the same compared to last year. Briggs has also been working with teams to discuss interventions for struggling readers, and new standards are still being reviewed.

**16. MS/HS Principal's Report/AD's Report**

Yessak reported that there are 3 students interested in becoming a student member of the student board, and they plan to be in attendance at next month's meeting. He also wanted to thank everyone who helped with hosting State Speech, specifically those who headed the operation and set everything up. He also reported that a coding class will be offered as part of the curriculum next year, and he wanted to congratulate the Robotics team for their opportunity to attend a world competition in Detroit, Michigan next month.

Whittle wanted to thank all the workers who helped out during the winter sports season and wanted to remind everyone of the fish fry and art show on Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4:30-7:30 PM. He also wanted to mention a special thanks to everyone who volunteered to help at State Speech and also a special thanks to Cathy Smith and Amanda Knox for their organization and hard work for this event. A huge congratulations to the following: Michael Conduff for UIC 2<sup>nd</sup> basketball team; Caleb Koch and Quinn O'Brien for Honorable Mention team; Vanessa Hamlett for UIC All-Conference 2<sup>nd</sup> basketball team; Gabrielle Moellers and Kristen Hamlett for UIC Honorable Mention team; Mitchell Hayes for state wrestling; Gabrielle Moellers for All-State Speech; all students and staff who took part in the Variety Show.

**17. Review and Consider Approving University of Northern Iowa Student Teaching Contract**

Motion by Paris to approve the 2018-19 UNI student teaching contract, Uhlenkamp seconded, motion carried 5-0.

**18. Review and Consider Approving 507.9 & 705.1 Board Policies**

Hosch informed the board that the nutrition fund was audited in December, which resulted in the auditors making a few suggested changes to board policies 507.9 & 705.1. She addressed the 3 changes with the board with no major questions or concerns. The 2<sup>nd</sup> reading will take place at the next regular board meeting.

**19. Review and Consider Approving 2017-2018 DECA Trip to Atlanta, Georgia**

Heller shared the DECA itinerary for the scheduled Atlanta, Georgia trip where 4 DECA students will be attending in April. Motion by West to approve the 2017-18 DECA trip to Atlanta, Georgia as presented, Powell seconded, motion carried 5-0.

**20. Review and Consider Approving Wrestling Room Floor Bids**

Two bids to replace the wrestling room floor were received and reviewed. U.S. Plastic Pallets & Handling submitted a bid in the amount of \$8,970, and Diane Gesie's bid came in at \$11,542.50. A group of parents will be helping with the installation. Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve the bid from U.S. Plastic Pallets & Handling in the amount of \$8,970, Paris seconded, motion carried 5-0.

**21. Review Keystone AEA Certificate of Emergency Repair Letter**

The school's insurance provider has agreed to cover the costs to replace the damaged parts of the roof from last spring's hail storm. The school has received a letter from the AEA that will help expedite the formal process faster, so the construction will hopefully be completed before the next school year begins.

**22. Superintendent's Report**

Starmont would like to send a huge thank you to the Booster Club for purchasing the Volt program for its athletic clubs and organizations. We feel this could make major improvements to our athletic program, and we are thankful for the opportunity the Boosters provided.

**23. Set Date for April School Board Meeting & Annual Budget Meeting**

The next regular board meeting along with the public hearings for the FY18 budget amendment and the FY19 budget adoption will take place on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 6:30 PM. Powell will audit the bills.

**24. Adjourn**

Motion by Paris to adjourn, Powell seconded, meeting adjourned at 9:13 PM.

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Douglas Puffett, Board President

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Robyn Hosch, Board Secretary