

**Minutes of the May 10, 2021
Regular School 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, May 10, 2021, at the High School Conference Room. President Uhlenkamp called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. Members present: Julie Uhlenkamp, Douglas Puffett, Tony Recker, Kevin Powell, Darren West. Administration present: Superintendent, Troy Heller (via Zoom); MS/HS Principal, Shauna Koppenhaver; Business Manager/Board Secretary, Robyn Hosch.

2. Receive Communications and Visitors (Including Board Members)

May is School Board Recognition month, so Hosch handed out and publicly thanked all the board members on behalf of the district for all they do for Starmont.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Agenda
- b. Approve Minutes – April 12, 2021
- c. Approve Monthly Financial Reports- Hosch wanted to mention to the Board the \$860.61 of daycare payroll paid with ESSER II funding due to COVID-19.
- d. Approve Monthly Bills- Powell briefly mentioned the viewing of the open enrollment payments.
- e. Approve Personnel Recommendations & Resignations

Hiring:

1. Kayela Gearhart as 4th Grade Teacher- \$32,790 + TSS/benefits
2. Cora Shefchik as Elementary Special Needs Teacher- \$32,790 + TSS/benefits
3. Kristen Althoff as a 2nd Grade Teacher for the 2021-22 school year only- \$32,790 + TSS/benefits
4. Jonna Keppler as Nurse- \$42,752 + Single Insurance
5. Kristi Chettinger as Daycare Paraprofessional- \$10.00/hour
6. Alexandria Burgin as Secondary English Teacher & Assistant Volleyball Coach- \$32,790 + TSS/benefits for teaching and \$2,951.10 for coaching
7. Mollie Franzen as 1st Grade Teacher- \$32,790 + TSS/benefits
8. Jon Janssen as Volunteer Softball Coach

Resignations:

1. Cory Gonzales as HS Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach. Thank you for your time, Cory!
2. Randy Schmidtke as Custodian. Happy retirement, Randy, and thank you for your time!
3. Michelle Unwin as Elementary Special Education Teacher. Thank you for your time, Michelle!
4. Rieley Rodman as 1st Grade Teacher & MS Volleyball Coach. Thank you for your time, Rieley!
5. Aaron Stringer as Bus Driver & Elementary Cook. Thank you for your time, Aaron!
6. Dan Reimer as Bus Driver. Thank you for your time, Dan!

Motion by Puffett to approve the consent agenda with the exception of pulling the hiring recommendation of elementary principal out for separate consideration, Powell seconded, motion carried 5-0.

The 2021-22 superintendent, Gary Benda, was present on Zoom to briefly discuss the hiring process of the new elementary principal. Benda, Heller and Koppenhaver would like to recommend hiring Heath Hesse as the Elementary Principal/Daycare Director starting in the 2021-22 school year, with a salary of \$80,000, family insurance, and a \$5,000 moving stipend. Motion by Puffett to approve Heath Hesse as the Elementary Principal with a salary of \$80,000, family insurance, and a \$5,000 moving stipend, Recker seconded, motion carried 5-0.

4. Review and Consider Approving 2021-22 Solution Tree PD Proposal- RTI Training

Koppenhaver and the BLT were present to talk about RTI training. Koppenhaver explained it is different from other trainings in that it focuses on a specific skill set for about 25 minutes, twice per week. The BLT members were present to talk about all the benefits it has brought to their students and classrooms. Motion by Powell to approve the \$35,936 RTI training proposal from Solution Tree for the 2021-22 school year, Puffett seconded, motion carried 5-0.

5. Review and Consider Approving Plans/Specifications for Boiler Project

Martin Gardner architect, Mike Tucker, was present to talk about the upcoming boiler project. The project involves replacing very old boilers, expansion tanks and some piping. The new boilers will be running in September with everything finalized by October 15th. Motion by Puffett to approve the presented plans/specifications for the boiler project, West seconded, motion carried 5-0.

6. Review and Consider Approving Setting a Time and Place for Public Hearing/Awarding Bid for Boilers

The bid opening will take place in the high school conference room at 2:00 PM on June 9th, with the public hearing recommended to be at the June board meeting. Motion by Puffett to approve the boiler project public hearing/awarding of bids to occur on June 14th, 6:30 PM, in the high school conference room, Powell seconded, motion carried 5-0.

7. Review and Consider Approving 2021-22 EMC Insurance

Jeri Watson and Pam Vaske were present from Smith Insurance to go over the insurance changes for the upcoming school year, which included: EMC no longer paying for cosmetic hail/wind damages; the deductible raising to \$25,000 for non-cosmetic wind/hail damages; the comprehensive and collision deductibles raising to \$1,000. Motion by Powell to accept the presented premium schedule from Smith Insurance in the total amount of \$155,496 to EMC Insurance, West seconded, motion carried 5-0.

8. Review and Consider Approving 2021-22 Nutrition, Fuel, and Copier Bids

Hosch presented the received bids for pizza, milk, bread, fuel, and copiers. Access Systems salesman, Nathan Johnson, was present to discuss their bid for an upgrade in copiers. Motion by Recker to approve the presented bread bid from Bimbo Bakeries, the milk bid from Prairie Farms, and the pizza bid from 6 Corners Gas Station for the 2021-22 school year, Puffett seconded, motion carried 5-0. Motion by Puffett to approve the 2021-22 fuel bid from Mulgrew Oil, West seconded, motion carried 5-0. There was a lack of motion to accept any of the 3 copier bids from Access Systems, Marco, and Koch Brothers, so the item died.

9. Review and Consider Approving Payment on Lagoon Project

Snyder & Associates engineer, Patrick Williams, was present via Zoom to give a brief update on the lagoon project. Motion by Puffett to approve the payment of \$46,835 to Top Grade Excavating, Recker seconded, motion carried 5-0.

10. Elementary Principal's Report/Curriculum Coordinator's Report

Bradford reported on ISASP and FAST testing, a \$10,000 grant received for a daycare playground, field trips and teacher appreciation week.

11. MS/HS Principal's Report/AD's Report

Koppenhaver provided her usual MS/HS data and reported there will unfortunately be no middle school girls' softball.

12. Review and Consider Approving Summer COVID-19 Rules & Expectations

Heller reviewed the current COVID-19 mitigation rules in the district but asked if it would be acceptable to have masks optional after the last day of school on May 28th. Motion by Puffett to maintain the same mask requirements in place through May 28th, with masking during the various summer programs being deemed as highly suggested, Recker seconded, motion carried 5-0.

13. Review and Consider Approving 2021-22 Bus Bids

Heller and the Transportation Director reviewed the 2 bids received on a new bus. Thomas International was a little cheaper; however, there were multiple hazards noted with not all the specifications being met. Motion by Puffett to approve the presented bus bid from School Bus Sales for a new Blue Bird in the total amount of \$119,104 after trade-in, Powell seconded, motion carried 5-0.

14. Review and Consider Approving Updated Kindergarten and IT/Shop Bids

The original kindergarten room and IT/shop construction bids from Dave's Complete Construction were board approved on March 8th, 2021. There were a few updates and, therefore, additional costs added to each bid. Motion by Recker to approve the increases in the original bids from Dave's Complete Construction for the kindergarten room and IT/shop construction, Puffett seconded, motion carried 5-0.

15. Review and Consider Approving the Following Board Policies: 409.2, 701.1, 701.2, 701.3, 702, 703.1, 704.1, 704.5, 704.6, 705.2, 706.2, 706.3, 707.2, 707.4, 707.5, 707.5R1, 708 (1st Reading)

Heller reviewed the minor changes to the aforementioned board policies with no questions or concerns.

16. Review and Consider Approving 2021-22 Administrative Raises

Motion by West to renew Shauna Koppenhaver's contract at \$93,000 for the 2021-22 school year and an additional 2 school years with a \$1,500 raise each year, Judy Weston at \$26,479.77 for the 2021-22 school year, Robyn Hosch at \$59,350 for the 2021-22 school year, and Cristen Bockenstedt at \$39,088.43 while averaging 30 hours or less per week and the ability to work remotely for the months of January and February for the 2021-22 school year, Puffett seconded, motion carried 5-0.

17. Review and Consider Approving Level I and Level II Investigators for Complaint of Abuse of Students by School Employees (Iowa Admin. Code 281.102)

Motion by Puffett to appoint Rachael Hach as Starmont's Level I Investigator and the Fayette County Sheriff as Starmont's Level II Investigator for the 2021-22 school year, Powell seconded, motion carried 5-0.

18. Review and Consider Approving the D.E. Cole Scholarship Amounts to the Top Two Graduating Seniors

Hosch explained that the D.E. Cole Scholarship is a scholarship awarded each year to the top 2 academic seniors, and it was the grantor's instructions to divide the annual interest equally amongst the top two seniors. With the COVID-19 pandemic, interest rates have plummeted enough to only create about a total of \$35 of interest. After reviewing the legal documents, the school attorney has stated that the Board can make a motion to allocate a larger amount for this scholarship on a year-to-year basis. Motion by Puffett to allocate \$250 to each of the top 2 academic seniors of the 2021 graduating class as the D.E. Cole Scholarship, Recker seconded, motion carried 5-0.

19. Superintendent's Report

Heller informed the board of a grant Michelle Becker got for summer painting, Lakeview Lawn requesting an additional \$300 for weed care around the lagoon or the idea of the FFA getting goats to maintain the grass in the lagoon area, and an update on the requested salary of the weight room coach. Hosch explained that the PTO has requested to become their own entity in order to not have to follow the

many school finance rules, to which the Board has requested a presentation from them at the June board meeting.

20. Set June Board Meeting Date

The next regular board meeting will take place on June 14th at 5:30 PM. This is a change from the normal 6:30 PM, as the Board plans to conduct a facility walkthrough from 5:30 PM to *approximately* 6:30 PM, with the normal board meeting beginning after the facility walkthrough.

21. Adjourn

Motion by Puffett to adjourn, West seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Julie Uhlenkamp, Board President

Robyn Hosch, SBO/Board Secretary