

**Minutes of the July 12, 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, July 12, 2021, at the High School Conference Room. President Uhlenkamp called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Members present: Julie Uhlenkamp, Douglas Puffett, Tony Recker, Darren West. Absent: Kevin Powell. Administration present: Superintendent, Gary Benda; Business Manager/Board Secretary, Robyn Hosch.

2. Receive Communications and Visitors (Including Board Members)

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Agenda
- b. Approve Minutes – June 14, 2021
- c. Approve Monthly Financial Reports
- d. Approve Monthly Bills- Puffett informed the Board of the 2nd half of the superintendent contract with Tripoli being paid and a year-long supply of boiler chemicals. Hosch mentioned that the cyber liability insurance for the 21-22 school year had increased by \$458.90 since the Board's approval.

Hiring:

1. Cathy Smith as AD Secretary for the 21-22 school year only- \$2,500
2. Marcia Powell as 75% TAG teacher for the 21-22 school year only
3. Lois Goedken as volunteer volleyball coach

Motion by Puffett to approve the consent agenda with the exception of pulling the hiring recommendation of the TAG teacher out for separate consideration, Recker seconded, motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Puffett to table the hiring of Marcia Powell as the TAG teacher until the salary/benefit package was presented as well as the district's plans/needs for the TAG program, Recker seconded, motion carried 4-0.

4. Review and Consider Tuition Reimbursement for Art Teacher (Rae McTaggart) and TAG Teacher (Karla Duff) in Preparation for Employment in Future Years

Benda explained that there is a shortage of art teachers in the State of Iowa, and with a recent resignation, Starmont's previous art teacher will be needed as both an art teacher and TLC coordinator. Benda would like to develop an art teacher by paying for the tuition and books required to finish their art teaching degree, as long as that person signs a contract stating they will immediately work for Starmont upon completing the college requirements. Starmont would pay the full cost of tuition and books as long as that person worked a minimum of 5 years for the district. If the person does not work for the district for the full 5 years, then the district would only pay for their tuition and books at a 20% sliding scale for each year worked. Benda has been communicating with Rae McTaggart as the person to sign this contract for the district. Rae would have about 2 more years of college, and Benda is estimating this would cost the district around \$36,000 or more. He would also like to continue this idea for a new TAG teacher, with Karla Duff being the desired person to sign this contract for Starmont.

Hosch commented that she had spoken to the district's auditors twice in regards to this idea, and the auditors are not understanding how this meets public purpose. In order to avoid an auditing remark in regards to these expenditures, the district would have to furnish proof as to how this expenditure meets public purpose and set a policy on how situations will be handled in the future for other staff and community members. The auditor also felt if the person was already an employee, that would better meet the terms of public purpose; however, it was not concluded that this type of expenditure would still not receive a comment on the audit report.

There were some questions from the board members, as well as some hesitations with not receiving the auditor's approval. They requested to talk to Board Member Powell to gain his opinion of the matter before acting on the issue. There was no motion for an action on this item; therefore, the item died.

5. Review and Consider Purchasing Replacement Chromebook Cases for Grades 6-12

Janet Becker was present to discuss all the changes to the technology plan that was approved last spring. Specifically, new chromebook cases are needed, which are more durable and, therefore, more protective to the actual equipment. Motion by Puffett to approve the technology upgrades with the purchases not to exceed \$95,000 for the 2021-22 school year, Recker seconded, motion carried 4-0.

6. Review and Consider Bids for Early Childhood Playground

The Board reviewed the bids and had a few minor questions/requests, such as inquiring if the surfacing could be done in black and yellow or gold. Hosch will inquire. Motion by West to approve the daycare playground surfacing bid from American Playground in the amount of \$16,554 and the fencing bid from American Fence in the amount of \$4,883, Recker seconded, motion carried 4-0.

7. Review and Consider Agreement Between Starmont and Modern Piping for the Boiler Replacement Project

Motion by Puffett to approve the presented agreement between Starmont CSD and Modern Piping for the boiler replacement project, West seconded, motion carried 4-0.

8. Review and Consider 2021-2022 School Year Fee Schedule

Hosch explained the only two changes were the removal of the required \$25 FFA student fee and an increase of \$0.10 of the adult lunch price, which is a required increase per the State. Motion by Recker to approve the 21-22 school year fee schedule as presented, West seconded, motion carried 4-0.

9. Review and Consider Approving 2021-22 (August) Legislative Resolutions and Priorities

Benda presented his recommendations, to which the Board agreed with. Motion by Puffett to approve mental health, preschool, school funding policy and supplemental state aid as the 4 IASB legislative priorities, West seconded, motion carried 4-0.

10. Review and Consider Approving 2021-22 New Coaching Position Stipends to Schedule C

Motion by West to approve the addition of a Weight Room Strength and Conditioning Coach, Robotics Coach, and Lego League Coach at 4% or \$1,300 per season to the 2021-22 Schedule C, Recker seconded, motion carried 4-0.

11. Superintendent's Report

Benda informed the Board that he and the principals have been revising the current Return to Learn plan, although the only changes made so far have been in regards to transitioning to in-person learning again. This will be an item on the August board agenda. He also explained that he will be holding two public, in-person meetings in regards to the ESSER III expenditure plan during July. Hosch briefly reminded the Board of the upcoming school election in November. There are two seats up for election, and nomination papers will be accepted August 23rd-September 16th at 5:00 PM.

12. Adjourn

The next regular board meeting will be on August 9th, 6:30 PM in the HS Conference Room. Motion by Puffett to adjourn, West seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.