

**Minutes of the March 14, 2022
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, March 14, 2022, at the High School Conference Room. President Powell called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. Members present: Kevin Powell, Tony Recker, Vicki Althoff, Julie Uhlenkamp, and Jacob Moellers. Administration present: Superintendent, Gary Benda; Secondary Principal, Shauna Koppenhaver; Elementary Principal, Heath Hesse; Activities Director, Daren Huisenga; Cristen Bockenstedt, HR Director filled in as Board Secretary.

2. Receive Communications and Visitors (Including Board Members)

Mark Hamlett was present to discuss the use of bulk milk machines in the cafeterias instead of buying pints of milk.

Tony Recker talked to the board about the 5-6 volleyball tournament that was held at Starmont on March 12th. He thought it was nice to see the community come together for an activity.

Kevin Powell spoke on attending the IASB board president conference. Kevin thinks it would be a good idea to have the board take part in a personality test.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Agenda
- b. Approve Minutes – February 14, 2022
- c. Approve Monthly Financial Reports- Tim Blum talked via cellphone about the financial report which was in the packet. The agency fund had a negative balance, which Tim is going to look into. The board would like the reports broken down into the different funds and to continue with the auditing of the bills. Julie thanked Tim for filling in as temporary SBO.
- d. Approve Monthly Bills- There was not an audit this month. A detailed invoice was available in the board packet.
- e. Approve Personnel Recommendations & Resignations

Hiring:

1. Katie Taylor as Business Manager/Board Secretary - \$55,000/annual salary.
2. Cassie Gruman transfer from HS Social Studies to TAG
3. Jill Berger as Paraprofessional - \$10.10/hour
4. Mikhaela Farmer as Paraprofessional - \$10.10/hour
4. Randi Burns as Volunteer Assistant Girls' Track & Field Coach

Resignations:

1. Carmen Swales as Elementary Secretary to transfer to Payroll Specialist.
2. Kelly Grawe as Paraprofessional. Thank you for your service, Kelly!
3. Matt Vagts as High School Girls Basketball Coach. Thank you for your service, Matt!
4. Anita Aurand as Elementary Cook. Thank you for your service, Anita!

Motion by Powell to remove Marcia Powell out of the consent agenda for separate consideration due to conflict of interest. Motion by Powell to remove the resignation of Rachael Stecklein as AG/FFA Teacher out of the consent agenda for separate consideration. Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve the consent agenda with the removal of the two aforementioned items, Recker seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve the resignation of Marcia Powell as ¾ TAG teacher at the end of the school year. Recker seconded, motion carried 4-0. Powell abstained from voting due to conflict of interest.

Motion by Uhlenkamp to change the stipulation of Rachel Stecklein's resignation to reflect the pending of a suitable replacement of AG/FFA and full-time employment in the district. Recker seconded, motion carried 5-0.

4. Elementary Principal's Report

Hesse was present at the meeting and talked that things are going more smoothly than in the previous months with additional support of new hires.

5. Middle School/High School Principal's Report

Koppenhaver also shared her report. She talked about the number of F's with the high school students and all the avenues available for them to get help.

6. Activities Director's Report

Huisenga talked about the boys and girls track and golf seasons starting soon. He reported that Vinnie Otdoerfer is very appreciative of the new weight rack. Daren would like to put a sealed bid in for an older suburban that is no longer being used in the district. He shared that Coach Munger is concerned with the wrestling sharing agreement. Daren has a couple of bids for play clocks for the football field in the event we host a playoff game in the future. Kevin asked about the conference realignment and thinks it's better if both sharing partners are in the same conference. Tri-Rivers has been successful for Starmont. Upper Iowa currently does not have a schedule for MS athletes to play games.

7. Review and Consider Approving the sharing of Cross Country, Wrestling and Baseball for the 2022-2023 school year.

Huisenga talked to Coach Gonzales regarding the shared baseball program and he and a good experience and would like to continue. Coach Gruman was present and expressed to the board that he also had a positive experience sharing cross country. Gruman talked about long term agreements so they can have both schools recognized on uniforms. There was also discussion on how to get a multi-year sharing of activities. Powell thinks we should get a shared identity for the sports that are shared. Huisenga talked to Coach Munger about the wrestling coach and he is concerned about going to a different class because of the total amount of student in the West Central School. Uhlenkamp motioned to approve the sharing of cross country, wrestling and baseball for the 2022-2023 school year. Seconded by Recker, motion carried 5-0.

8. Review and Consider (only) the addition of FCCLA as the Career and Technical Student Organization (CSTO) for FCA.

Maggie Tucker, FCS teacher, would like to start an FCCLA program for Starmont students. There was discussion on what this involves. Benda wants to know questions that the board might have when the club comes and presents to the board.

9. Review and Consider Proposed 2022-2023 Budget.

Blum provided slides that the board could view reflecting what he had been working on. The Local Government PDF that Blum sent needs to go to the newspaper and gets published before the public hearing. The PDF needs to be published to the paper by March 30, 2022.

10. Set Publish Date for 2022-23 Budget as March 31stg and April Board Meeting as April 11 (13 days)

Motion by Uhlenkamp to set the publish date as March 30th and the public hearing as April 11, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Moellers seconded, motion carried 5-0.

11. Public Hearing for the 2022-2023 School Calendar

There were no comments or questions from the public hearing on the 2022-2023 school calendar. Benda had a meeting with the calendar committee. The committee wanted two Wednesday early outs a month instead of a full day PD. Both calendars have plenty of contact hours. Charlie Gruman and Janet Becker talked about the time the

staff would have to collaborate with other peers with the Wednesday early out schedules. At 8:00 pm, Powell declared the public hearing closed.

12. Review and Consider Approving the 2022-2023 School Calendar

Uhlenkamp expressed concern about the cost of running buses everyday with early outs instead of having all day PD's when buses don't have to run. Althoff likes the idea of teachers being able to collaborate with Wednesday early outs. Powell would like to ask the calendar committee to have more all day PD days through the year. Moellers would like the staff to be presented with all the calendar options and not just the calendar committee.

13. Review and Consider Approving the 2022-2023 Technology Plan (Review 2023-2025)

Janet Becker and Jerry Bentley presented the technology plan for the next eight years. The e-rate fund is \$106,000 that can be used in 5 years. \$17,321 has been used to dates. The remaining \$88,679 that is left could be used to pay for updating a wiring project in the school. Other technology the e-rate could be used for is chromebooks, projectors, teacher laptops. Moellers asked about ransom ware. Becker and Bentley explained that a lot of our services that is used for protection come from the AEA. Uhlenkamp motioned to approve the five year technology plan as presented. Seconded by Moellers, motion carried 5-0.

14. Review and Consider the approval of seeking RFP's for removal and replacement of CAT 5/6 Ethernet Cable (deadline to award contract March 22, 2022).

Janet Becker spoke regarding the approval for the RF for the CAT 5/6 Ethernet cable. Becker filed for the contract on February 21st. She explained it has to be signed on or before March 22nd and filed on March 22nd. The contract has been filed and posted. Becker and Bentley met with a gentleman to look at the project and give a bid. Uhlenkamp motioned to approve to seek RFT's for the removal and replacement of the CAT 5/6 Ethernet cable. Seconded by Recker, motion carried 5-0.

15. Review and Consider the approval of RFP for the removal and replacement of CAT 5/6 Ethernet Cable (deadline to award contract is March 22, 2022).

This will be the Special 1 item on the Board Meeting at 6:30 pm on March 22, 2022.

16. Review and Consider the approval of seeking bid to install cable from the Point of Origin in the former ICN room to the main wiring closet to better connectivity.

Janet Becker again discussed with the board the process of the wiring from where the wiring comes into the building to the supply closet. The cost looks lower than what was first thought so no action needs to be taken from the board.

17. Review and Consider approval of copiers for the 2022-2023 school and the succeeding two/four years.

Jerry Bentley was present to present the copier bids. He received three bids and after reviewing all the bids felt the best option was to go with Access. Two representatives from Access were at the meeting to take questions. Motion by Recker to approve leasing copiers from Access. Seconded by Althoff, motion carried 5-0.

18. Review and Consider Approving out of state travel for DECA.

Benda gave updates about the DECA state completion that was held in Des Moines. From this competition, six students qualified for Nationals in Atlanta, Georgia. Troy Northrop is the sponsor of DECA. Uhlenkamp motioned to approve the out of state travel for DECA. Seconded by Recker, motion carried 5-0.

19. Review and Consider FY22 Resolution for the 101% Allowable Growth Regular Program Budget – Under Section 257.14 Code of Iowa.

Benda explained Starmont does not qualify for this program this year but would like it approved in case the need arises in the future. Althoff motioned to approve the budget guarantee resolution as presented. Seconded by Uhlenkamp, motion carried with a roll call vote Moellers, yes; Recker, yes; Powell, yes; Uhlenkamp, yes, Althoff, yes.

20. Review and Consider Approving 2022-23 Health Insurance Options

Benda presented the 2022-23 options that were decided at the NEISIT meeting in February. Uhlenkamp motioned to approve the 2022-23 health insurance options. Seconded by Moellers, motion carried 5-0.

21. Review and Consider Approving the makeup days due to inclement weather.

Benda stated that five days have been missed so far. He suggested that the board make up the days and have the last day be May 26th instead of May 19th. The board had discussion with make-up days not extending past Memorial Day. The board decided to table this until the next board meeting to see if more days will be missed.

22. Review and Consider Approving the 2022-2023 Agreement between the Starmont Community School District and the Starmont Support Staff.

Benda presented to the board that the Starmont support staff was 100% ratified. Althoff talked about the support staff being appreciative of the raise given and the board being appreciative of all their hard work. Althoff stated she will continue to advocate for their future wages. A one year contract was agreed upon with a \$2.00 per hour increase. Uhlenkamp motioned to approve the 2022-23 agreement between the Starmont Community School District and the Starmont Support Staff. Seconded by Althoff, motion carried 5-0.

23. Review and Consider Approving the 2022-2023 Agreement between the Starmont Community School District and Starmont Education Association.

Charlie Gruman was present and expressed his appreciativeness of the process that occurred during negotiations. The district settled with the SEA at an increase of \$1,010 with a one-year contract. Uhlenkamp motioned to approve the 2022-2023 agreement between the Starmont Community School District and the Starmont Education Association. Seconded by Recker, motion carried 5-0.

24. Superintendent's Report

Benda reported his email to the school board. Discussion was made about an informative email that he received regarding a charter school that was coming to the area. Lakeview Mowing wants to continue to take care of the school lawns. Benda talked about the open positions Starmont currently has and upcoming hiring of the transportation director.

25. Closed Session for the Purpose to Evaluate the Professional Competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session Per Iowa Code 21.5(1)(i)

Benda recommended the Board enter into closed session to discuss his formative assessment. Motion by Moellers to move into closed session per Iowa Code 21.5(1)(i). Seconded by Recker. Roll Call. Ayes: Althoff, Uhlenkamp, Powell, Recker, Moellers. Nays: None. The Board entered into closed session at 9:25 PM.

Powell declared the Board out of closed session at 10:56 PM

21. Set Date for March School Board Meeting

The next regular board meeting will take place on April 11, 2011. Powell will audit bills.

22. Adjourn

Motion by Recker to adjourn, Moellers seconded, meeting adjourned at 10:57 PM.

Kevin Powell, Board President

Cristen Bockenstedt, HR Director filling
in in the absence of former Board
Secretary, Robyn Hosch