

STARMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR MONTHLY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023  
STARMONT HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM

**1. Call to Order**

The Starmont Community School District Board held its regular board meeting on Monday, February 13, at the High School Conference Room. President Recker called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Members present: Tony Recker, Jacob Moellers, Kevin Powell, Julie Uhlenkamp, Vicki Althoff. Administration present: Superintendent, Gary Benda; Secondary Principal, Shauna Koppenhaver; Business Manager/Board Secretary, Katie Taylor.

**2. Receive Communications and Visitors (Including Board Members)**

The Board would like to thank everyone that participated in superintendent interviews earlier this month. It was helpful having the input of our students, staff, and community.

**3. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve Agenda
- b. Approve Minutes – January 9, 2023
- c. Approve Monthly Financial Reports
- d. Approve Monthly Bills – Kevin Powell audited bills this month
- e. Approve Personnel Recommendations

**Hiring:**

1. Jake Munger as HS Head Softball Coach - \$3,279

**Resignation:**

1. Jake Munger as JH Softball Coach. Thank you for your time, Jake!
2. Jay Tommasin as MS Football Coach – Thank you for your time, Jay!
3. Suzy Hamlett as HS Student Council Sponsor – Thank you for your time, Suzy!
4. Jane Pope as HS Associate – Thank you for your time, Jane!
5. Gary Benda as Shared Superintendent – Thank you for your time, Gary!

**Transfer:**

1. Tracy Curtis from Middle School Social Studies to Activities Director/At-Risk for 2023-2024 School Year (pending hiring suitable replacement).

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve consent agenda with both Tracy Curtis and Suzy Hamlett's resignations be pending the hiring of suitable replacements. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

**4. Review and Consider Approving a two-year superintendent sharing agreement between Starmont and West Central Community School Districts.**

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve the sharing agreement between Starmont CSD and West Central CSD for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years. Seconded by Powell. Motion carried 5-0.

**5. Review and Consider Approving the hire of Rob Busch as the Shared Superintendent of Starmont and West Central Community School Districts beginning July 1, 2023.**

Motion by Powell to approve the hire of Rob Busch beginning July 1, 2023. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

**6. Elementary Principal's Report**

Principal Hesse absent, but submitted a report on assessment, behavioral and cultural goals, as well as attendance and discipline data.

**7. Secondary Principal's Report**

Principal Koppenhaver spent the morning at Keystone AEA. The middle school has received an ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) designation. They will be looking at what we need to do internally to get these students to where they need to be.

**8. Activity Director's Report**

Congratulations to wrestlers advancing to state – Keaton Moeller, Avery Vaske, and Lane German. Ian Otdoerfer and Madelyn Otdoerfer moving onto All-State Speech. Moving onto DECA International are Anita Vaske, Addison Popham and Addi Munger.

**9. Review and Consider Approving adding Dance Team Sponsor to Schedule C.**

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve adding dance team sponsor to Schedule C. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

**10. Review and Consider Approving the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade School of the Wild Proposal**

Jake Munger, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, presented the School of the Wild Program to the board. It will be a 4-day experience (May 1<sup>st</sup> – May 4<sup>th</sup>) for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students with learning connected to a different theme each day focusing on habitats, wildlife, and connecting with the land. Funding for this program is covered through a grant. Eric Boehm of Wadena, has graciously volunteered to host Starmont's group this year. On top of the planned School of the Wild Program, Munger would like to provide the students with the opportunity to build their own shelters and allow them to spend the night on the last day to put those shelters to the test. Motion by Moellers to approve the proposed School of the Wild Program. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 5-0.

**11. Review and Consider Approving the changes made to the Starmont Curriculum Guide for FY 2022-2023.**

Motion by Powell to approve the FY23 Starmont Curriculum Guide as presented. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

**12. Review and Consider Approving the proposed District Special Education Service Plan**

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve the District Special Education Service Plan as presented. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 5-0.

**13. Review and Consider Board Policies**

Currently no changes have been proposed.

**14. Review and Consider Approving the Budget Guarantee Resolution for the 2023-2024 School Year**

Motion by Moellers to approve the Starmont School Board request for additional funding – 101% Allowable Growth Regular Program Budget Guarantee allowed under Iowa Code Section 257.14. Seconded by Uhlenkamp. Motion carried 5-0.

**15. Review and Consider Approving the purchase of a car through SPED funds and a Suburban through Capital Project funds**

Motion by Moeller to purchase a Chevy Malibu up to \$25,000 using special education funds. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 5-0.

**16. Review and Consider Approving the Starmont Support Staff and the Starmont Education Association intentions to negotiate**

Motion by Powell to approve both Starmont Education Support Association and Starmont Education Association's intent to negotiate. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

**17. Review and Consider Approving adding law firm Ahlers and Cooney.**

Motion by Powell to add Ahlers and Cooney as an official legal counsel for Starmont CSD and that any pertinent documents be transferred from Lynch Dallas to Ahlers and Cooney. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

**18. Superintendent's Report**

Pam Vaske with Smith Insurance has provided our annual report to review. The School Voucher Bill has passed and the Governor is recommending a 3% SSA increase. The next SIAC meeting will be on February 15 at 6:00 PM.

**19. Request to go into Exempt Session to discuss upcoming Negotiations. 1) Negotiations sessions, strategy meeting of public employers or employee organizations, mediation and the deliberative process of arbitration. Iowa Code 20.17(3).**

Motion by Powell to go into exempt session for negotiating sessions, strategy meetings of public employers or employee organizations, mediation and the deliberative process of arbitration, per Iowa Code 20.17(3). Seconded by Uhlenkamp. Roll Call Vote - Ayes: Althoff, Powell, Uhlenkamp, Moellers, Recker. Nays: None. The Board entered into exempt session at 8:21 PM.

Recker declared the Board out of exempt session at 8:44 PM.

**20. Adjourn**

Motion by Powell to adjourn. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM. The next board meeting will take place on March 13, 2023 at 6:30 PM. Uhlenkamp will audit bills.

---

Tony Recker  
Board President

---

Katie Taylor  
Business Manager/Board Secretary