

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

**1. Call to Order**

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

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

Visitors Present: Beth Jaeger, Kristi Donlon, Robert Goedken, Mark Hamlett, Rich Newman.

Mark Hamlett was present to speak to the board regarding the FFA banquet. He would like to see the traditional catered meal come back.

The board commends everyone for their help in making state speech run smoothly and for the outstanding number of community members that volunteered their time.

**3. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve Agenda
- b. Approve Minutes – February 13, 2023
- c. Approve Monthly Financial Reports
- d. Approve Monthly Bills – Julie Uhlenkamp audited bills this month
- e. Approve Personnel Recommendations

**Hiring:**

1. Beth Jaeger as Title I/Reading Recovery Teacher
2. Cassie Gruman as Volunteer Track Coach
3. Grace Pitz as 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher for 2023-2024 School Year - \$34,500
4. Emily Schuhmacher as MS Softball Coach - \$2,197
5. Randy Brewer as Bus Driver
6. Kay Behrens as Elementary Nutrition - \$12/hour
7. Terra Corbin as Summer Help - \$12/hour
8. Matt Lee as Summer Maintenance Help - \$12/hour

**Resignation:**

1. Michelle Walker as MS/HS Science Teacher – Thank you for your time, Michelle!
2. Krista Steffens as Elementary Associate (effective March 17, 2023) – Thank you for your time, Krista!

**Transfer:**

1. Todd Quigley from HS Social Studies to MS Social Studies for 2023-2024 School Year
2. Amber Burlage from Elementary Nutrition to Elementary Associate (effective March 20, 2023)

Uhlenkamp would like to pull for separate consideration Grace Pitz as 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher and Beth Jaeger as Title I.

Motion by Powell to approve consent agenda as presented less items pulled for separate consideration. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Moellers to approve Beth Jaegers move to Title I and hiring of Grace Pitz as 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 5-0.

**4. Elementary Presentation on New Math Curriculum, Title I Reading, and MTSS**

Beth Jaeger and Kristi Donlon were present to present the new math curriculum to the board. With this new curriculum, they are hoping it will push student to become problem solvers. It starts with a warm up activity to get students engaged, then will move into lessons including 2-3 activities. Teachers will give instructions, then give students time to solve those problems on their own and work on critical thinking skills. They will finish up with a cool down exercise allowing teachers to determine if a student needs further assistance. Students will engage in centers as an activity to apply what they are learning or will be provided with a supporting center to focus on weaknesses. Each unit provides teachers with a letter to be sent home to parents letting them know what students are currently working on. By next year, K-8 will be on this new curriculum.

Title I teachers are currently doing reading recovery in the morning, followed by working one on one with students and finishing out their afternoon with interventions. We are currently utilizing Kristi Donlon as well as paras to assist students with interventions. By adding an additional Title I teacher, we will allow additional time for these needed interventions and working in small groups with students.

**5. Elementary Principal's Report**

Principal Hesse stated that there has been an increased number of illnesses in the elementary. Staff are currently working on plans to implement new curriculum within the elementary. He would like to thank parents who attended parent teacher conferences – approximate 90% attendance rate.

**6. Secondary Principal's Report**

Principal Koppenhaver provided updated numbers on grades and absences in the secondary.

**7. Activity Director's Report**

Shauna and Cathy will be attending a Varsity Bound training on March 22. Shauna has been working to get the booster club quotes for the following record boards: girls track, boys track, cross country, and volleyball.

**8. Review and Consider Board Policies Second Reading**

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve 700 Board Policy Series and Board Policy 804.5. Seconded by Powell. Motion carried 5-0.

**9. Review and Consider Approving the Purchase of a Suburban**

Motion by Uhlenkamp to purchase a Chevrolet Suburban not exceeding \$47,000. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 5-0.

**10. Review and Consider Approving the Sharing of Cross Country, Boys/Girls Wrestling, and Baseball for the 2023-2024 School Year**

Motion by Moellers to approve sharing agreement with West Central for cross country, boys and girls wrestling, and baseball for the 2023-2024 school year. Seconded by Powell. Motion carried 5-0.

**11. Review and Consider Approving the Audit Results**

Alicia with Hacker Nelson & Co, CPAs was present via phone to go over the FY22 audit findings. Motion by Moellers to approve audit results. Seconded by Uhlenkamp. Motion carried 5-0.

**12. Review and Consider Proposed 2023-2024 Budget**

Taylor reviewed the proposed numbers for the FY24 budget.

**13. Review, Consider and Set Publish Date for 2023-2024 Budget**

The FY24 budget will be published on March 29, 2023 and the public hearing will take place April 11, 2023.

**14. Review, Consider and Set Public Hearing for 2023-2024 School Calendar**

The public hearing for the 2023-2024 school calendar will take place on April 11, 2023.

**15. Review and Consider Proposed 2023-2024 School Calendar**

Benda went through the proposed 2023-2024 school calendar and provided the board with a few suggested changes.

**16. Review and Consider Approving Out of State Travel for DECA**

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve DECA student travel to Orlando April 21-26. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

**17. Review and Consider Approving 2023-2024 Health Insurance Options**

Motion by Moellers to approve 2023-2024 health insurance options as presented. Seconded by Uhlenkamp. Motion carried 5-0.

**18. Review and Consider Approving Makeup Days Due to Inclement Weather**

Motion by Powell to make May 19, May 22, May 23, and May 24 regular days. May 25<sup>th</sup> will be the last day of school and will be a full day. May 26<sup>th</sup> will be a clerical day for staff. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 5-0.

**19. Review and Consider Approving New Makerspace Furniture**

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve Makerspace Furniture in the amount of \$6,284.65 using grant money. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

**20. Review and Consider Approving Quote to Replace Two Water Softeners**

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve Hausers quote for \$12,350 to replace two water softeners. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

**21. Review and Consider Approving Bid to Resurface Gym Floors This Summer**

Motion by Althoff to approve the \$9,800 bid from Capital Sanitary to resurface gym floors during the summer of 2023. Seconded by Uhlenkamp. Motion carried 5-0.

**22. Review and Consider Approving 2023-2024 Agreement between Starmont Community School District and Starmont Support Staff**

Motion by Powell to approve the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 agreements between Starmont CSD and Starmont Support Staff as presented with language remaining for 5 years. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 5-0.

**23. Review and Consider Approving 2023-2024 Agreement between Starmont Community School District and Starmont Education Association**

Motion by Moellers to approve the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 agreements between Starmont CSD and Starmont Education Association as presented with language remaining for 5 years. Seconded by Powell. Motion carried 5-0.

**24. Review and Consider Approving the Student Teaching Agreements**

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve student teaching agreements with Morningside University and University of Northern Iowa. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 5-0.

**25. Review and Consider Approving AEA Purchasing Agreement**

Motion by Moellers to approve the AEA Purchasing Agreement. Seconded by Uhlenkamp. Motion carried 5-0.

**26. Review and Consider Approving the Sharing of SBO between Starmont and West Central Community School Districts**

Motion by Moellers to approve the business official sharing agreement with West Central CSD. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 5-0.

**27. Review and Consider Approving the Mowing Contract for this Summer**

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve the mowing contract with Lakeview Lawn & Ground Maintenance in the amount of \$25,200. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

**28. Superintendent's Report**

The next SIAC meeting will take place on March 22 at 5:30 PM. On April 12<sup>th</sup>, the company that won the bid for the wiring project will do a second walk through. Materials for that are here and they plan to start this summer. Football clocks are here, but need installed and electricity ran.

**29. Adjourn**

Motion by Powell to adjourn. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM. The next board meeting will take place on April 11, 2023 at 6:30 PM. Moellers will audit bills, Althoff will be his backup.

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Tony Recker  
Board President

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Katie Taylor  
Business Manager/Board Secretary