

STARMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Work Session, Annual, and Organizational/Regular Monthly Board Meeting
Monday, December 11, 2023
Starmont High School Conference Room
6:00 PM

“Empowering all students with knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for responsible, productive, and fulfilling lives.”

1. Call to Order Work Session

The Starmont Community School District Board held a work session on Monday, December 11, 2023, at the High School Conference Room. President Recker called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Members present: Kevin Powell, Jacob Moellers, Vicki Althoff, Julie Uhlenkamp, Tony Recker. Absent: none. Administration present: Superintendent Robert Busch; Elementary Principal, Heath Hesse; Secondary Principal, Kris Martin; Business Manager/Board Secretary, Katie Taylor.

2. Discussions with Area Legislators

Area legislators present for today's work session include: State Representative Anne Osmundson of District 64, State Representative Craig Johnson of District 67, State Senator Dan Zumbach of District 34, State Senator Mike Klimesh of District 32, and State Representative Chad Ingels of District 68. Representative Johnson is currently serving as Vice Chair on the Education Committee with both Representative Osmundson and Representative Ingels also serving on this committee. Key points brought up during this work session include preschool funding, AEA funding, Iowa worker shortages, boosting teacher salaries outside of SSA amounts, and recruiting and competing against larger schools.

Please be advocates for public education and contact our area legislators about your concerns.

3. Adjourn

Tony Recker
Board President

Katie Taylor
Business Manager/Board Secretary

1. Call to Order 2023-2024 Annual School Board Meeting

President Recker called the annual board meeting to order at 6:56 PM. Members present: Jacob Moellers, Vicki Althoff, Tony Recker, Julie Uhlenkamp, Kevin Powell.

2. Receive Communications and Visitors (including Board Members)

Art teacher, Amanda Knox, and a few students presented to the board their ideas on making the school a more inviting space through varying student-run efforts and the use of a \$2,500 Rural Place Grant. They would like to create large scale paintings on canvas to display throughout the building, a school spirit wall displaying student achievements, and spirit magnets to place on doors and lockers.

Amanda Knox also presented on a STEM Best Grant that is being written that requires a 2:1 school match. This will include the purchase of a new kiln as the current kiln is 20+ years old, a raku kiln, pug mill, clay, workshops for students and the community, new ceramic wheels, kiln furniture, glazes, tools, and the usage of a local kiln that the students would get the opportunity to help build.

Kristi Donlon, Sonni Norberg, and Heidi Wemark shared information on a requested Geodes Decodable Texts purchase to be used in addition to our current Foundations curriculum in our K-2 classrooms.

Mark Hamlett shared with the board that he would like to see his bulk tanks used within the district, as well as his concerns for the FFA annual banquet being a catered meal or a potluck.

Board Member Powell thanked everyone on the board and the staff he has worked with over his 16-year tenure. He stated that *"Things change but one thing that stays the same is the commitment people have to the district."*

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Agenda
- b. Approve Minutes – November 13, 2023
- c. Approve Monthly Financial Reports
- d. Approve Monthly Bills – Powell audited bills for the month
- e. Approve Personnel Recommendations & Resignations
 - i. Hires
 1. Marticela Velsasquez as Nutrition Staff
 2. Kari German as Girls Wrestling Coach
 - ii. Resignations
 1. Elisa Brady as Head Volleyball Coach. Thank you for your time, Elisa!
 2. Alexandria Burgin as Assistant Volleyball Coach. Thank you for your time, Alley!
- f. Approve Volunteer Coaches
 - i. Aimee Cunningham – Wrestling Cheer
 - ii. Amanda Becker – Speech
 - iii. Troy Northrop – Basketball
- g. Approve Open Enrollments
- h. Approve Fundraisers
- i. Approve Special Education Contracts

Motion by Althoff to approve consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Elementary Principal's Report

Principal Hesse stated that sickness has been running rampant this month between both staff and students. There will be a Mad Scientist Show on Thursday, December 14th celebrating a successful chocolate fundraiser. Has asked staff members for volunteers to head PBIS activities for students.

5. Secondary Principal's Report

Principal Martin will be taking a smaller sub group of the Building Leadership Team to work closely with our support team at Keystone to align goals with our ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) designation and work on an action plan. Has started working on implementing the new school

messaging system. She also pointed out that Tracy Curtis has had around 190 students come to her for extra academic support this month.

6. Activity Director’s Report

Activity Director Curtis was absent, but has started doing end of season surveys with coaches.

7. Review, Consider, and Approve Board Policies (2nd Reading)

Motion by Moellers to approve 200 series of board policies and 710.04 as presented with recommended changes to 202.05 changing “may” to “shall”. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Review, Consider, and Approve Preschool Tuition

Districts only receive half the district cost per pupil for preschool students and in turn, causes the districts expenses to exceed our revenue year after year. Families can fill out forms to potentially qualify for financial assistance to cover tuition expenses. After discussion and amendment, a motion by Moellers to set FY25 Monthly Preschool Tuition at \$150/month, \$75/month for students qualifying for reduced meals, and \$0/month for students qualifying for free meals. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Examine and Settle Books for Previous Year

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve financial books for 2022-2023. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

10. Review of Election Results

The Clayton County Board of Canvassers declare that Jason Gearhart, Julie Uhlenkamp, and Anthony Recker are duly elected to the office of Starmont School Directors for the term of four years beginning Monday, December 11, 2023.

11. Adjourn

Motion by Powell to adjourn. Seconded by Uhlenkamp. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Tony Recker
Board President

Katie Taylor
Business Manager/Board Secretary

1. Call to Order Organizational Meeting

Board Secretary Taylor called the organizational meeting to order at 8:41 PM. Members present: Tony Recker, Julie Uhlenkamp, Jacob Moellers, Vicki Althoff, Jason Gearhart.

2. New Board Members Take the Oath of Office

Oath of office was administered to newly elected board members by Board Secretary Taylor.

3. Approve & Elect Board President

Board Secretary called for nominations for Board President. Uhlenkamp nominated Recker. Seconded by Gearhart. Recker abstained, motion carried 4-0. Oath of office was administered to Recker as newly elected President.

4. Approve & Elect Board Vice President

President Recker called for nominations for Board Vice President. Uhlenkamp nominated Althoff. Seconded by Moellers. Althoff abstained, motion carried 4-0. Oath of office was administered to Althoff as newly elected Vice President.

5. Appoint Board Secretary/Treasurer

Uhlenkamp nominated Taylor as Board Secretary/Treasurer. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

6. Appoint IASB Legislative Area Network (LAN) Representative

Althoff nominated Uhlenkamp as IASB Legislative Area Network Representative. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

7. Appoint IASB Delegate Assembly Representative

Uhlenkamp nominated Althoff as IASB Delegate Assembly Representative. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Appoint Buchanan, Fayette, Clayton, and Delaware County Conference Board Representatives

Uhlenkamp nominated Moellers as Fayette County Conference Board Representative, Gearhart for Clayton County, and Althoff for Delaware County. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Appoint Dollars for Scholars Representative and Negotiations Committee Representative

Uhlenkamp nominated Recker as Dollars for Scholars Representative and Recker and Moellers as Negotiations Committee Representatives. Seconded by Gearhart. Motion carried 5-0.

10. Appoint Starmont CSD's School Attorney

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve Ahlers & Cooney as the district's general legal counsel. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 5-0.

11. Review, Consider, and Approve Date, Time, and Location of Board Meeting pursuant to Policy 210.02.

Motion by Gearhart to approve regular school board meetings to take place the 2nd Monday of every month at 6:30 PM in the HS Conference Room. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Review, Consider, and Approve Official Publication

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve the Press Journal as the district's official publication. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

13. Review, Consider, and Approve Depositories

Motion by Moellers to approve a \$9,500,000 depository resolution in total for Citizens State Bank of Strawberry Point, Farmers Savings Bank of Strawberry Point, Bank Iowa of Lamont, WC Financial of Independence, and ISJIT of Des Moines. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 5-0.

14. Board Resolution of Appreciation in Recognizing the Public Service Rendered by Retiring Board Member

It is with heartfelt appreciation that we thank Kevin Powell for 16 years of leadership and dedicated service to the Starmont Community School District. You will be missed!

15. Board resolution to define the operating rules and practices that will be followed by the new board.

Motion by Althoff to approve board resolution as presented. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

16. Board resolution to authorize the interim payment of bills pursuant to policy 705.03.

Motion by Uhlenkamp to authorized interim payment of bills pursuant to policy 705.03. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 5-0.

17. Review, Consider, and Approve Recommended Daycare Changes

Expenditures are currently outpacing revenues within the daycare fund. The Daycare Board met and provided the board with the following recommendations: raising rates to \$4.85 per hour (no additional child discount), 32 hours per week minimum, and staying ratio efficient with paras having the choice to be reassigned or allowed to go home without pay. It is also highly encouraged that parents fill out daycare assistance forms whether they think they'll qualify or not. Motion by Althoff to approve these presented recommendations. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

18. Review, Consider, and Approve Purchase of Additional Reading Supports

No action taken at this time.

19. Review, Consider, and Approve Secondary RTI Scheduler

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve the RTI Scheduler Contract in the amount of \$1,306.00. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 5-0.

20. Review, Consider, and Approve STEM Grant Application

Motion by Gearhart to approve the STEM Grant Application with the school's 2:1 committed cost being \$11,500. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

21. Review, Consider, and Approve Rural Place Grant Projects

Motion by Moellers to approve projects planed by students and funded by the Rural Place Grant in the amount of \$2,500. Seconded by Uhlenkamp. Motion carried 5-0.

22. Review, Consider, and Approve SBRC Request for Increasing Open Enrollment Out (not in) Fall of 2023 (\$64,497.64), LEP Instruction Beyond 5 Years (\$0), and Increased Enrollment (\$0)

Taylor explained that this is to receive funding authority (not additional funding) to account for open enrolled out students this year. Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve SBRC Application for Open Enrollment Out for \$64,497.64, LEP Instruction Beyond 5 Years for \$0, and Increased Enrollment for \$0. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 5-0.

23. Review, Consider, and Approve SBRC Application for LIED Center Administrative Costs for the 2024-2025 School Year

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve SBRC Application for Lied Center Administrative Costs for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$1,976.61. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

24. Review, Consider, and Approve Return to Learn Plan

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve Return to Learn Plan as presented. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

25. Approve the Use of Signature Stamp for Board President

Motion by Moellers to approve the used of signature stamp for board president. Seconded by Gearhart. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Busch will be attending ISFLC Conference in Ankeny December 13th & 14th and attending a workshop on attracting and retaining staff. He joined in on ISFIS's webinar this afternoon regarding certified budget changes. Keystone AEA representatives recently came in to meet regarding the district's crisis plan and what to do after a crisis. There will be a new board member onboarding workshop held in Oelwein on January 25, 2024. We are still working on safety grant.

13. Adjourn

Motion by Althoff to adjourn. Seconded by Uhlenkamp. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM. The next board meeting will take place on January 8, 2024 at 6:30 PM. Recker will audit bills.

Tony Recker
Board President

Katie Taylor
Business Manager/Board Secretary