

STARMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Monthly Board Meeting
Monday, February 10, 2025
Starmont High School Conference Room
6:30 PM

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

1. Call to Order (Quorum)

The Starmont Community School District Board held its regular board meeting on Monday, February 10th, in the High School Conference Room. President Uhlenkamp called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Members present: Jacob Moellers, Vicki Althoff, Tony Recker, Douglas Puffett. Members absent: Julie Uhlenkamp. Administration present: Superintendent, Robert Busch; Elementary Principal, Heath Hesse; Secondary Principal, Kris Martin; Athletic Director, Tracy Curtis; Business Manager/Board Secretary, Katie Taylor.

2. Receive Communications and Visitors

The robotics team was present to show off their current setup and skills they have been competing with this year. They currently have 8 active members with a record of 33 wins and 2 losses. They placed 3rd this past weekend at league championship as well as winning the innovative award, which double qualified them for state.

Rylynn Shepley shared about their Spanish trip to Spain last summer. Their 10-day trip took them through Barcelona seeing the largest church in the world, Madrid, Toledo, Zaragoza, Costa Del Sol to see the Rock of Gibraltar, and Granada.

Kevin Halder with Network Computer Solutions and Technology Director, Jerry Bentley, explained the current issue of devices being randomly dropped throughout the district. After troubleshooting this issue, they have narrowed it down to networks switches needing to be replaced. They are at the end of their life and are being overran.

Doug Puffett provided an update on recent Clayton County Conference Board meeting regarding the assessor’s proposed budget.

Judy Weston and Abby Schumacher shared their maintenance concerns. Weston also voiced concern regarding combining kitchens.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Agenda
- b. Approve Minutes – January 13, 2025
- c. Approve Monthly Financial Reports
- d. Approve Monthly Bills – Puffett audited bills for the month
- e. Approve Personnel Recommendations & Resignations
 - i. Recommendations
 1. Amanda Baker – Secondary Para
 - ii. Resignations
 1. Lisa Pope – Secondary Para. Thank you for your time, Lisa!

- f. Approve Volunteer Coaches
 - i. Colton Jansen – Baseball
 - ii. Sara Hawkins – Track & Field
- g. Approve Open Enrollments
 - i. Henry Carbone Kruger – West Delaware
- h. Approve Fundraisers
- i. Approve Special Education Contracts

Motion by Puffett to approve consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Elementary Principal's Report

Principal Hesse shared that FAST testing data is available and staff will be going over it during PD day next week. Behavior is down compared to this time last year. The daddy/daughter dance went well. They are now preparing for spring ISASP testing.

5. Secondary Principal's Report

Principal Martin shared that they too will be going over FAST testing data during PD day next week. Attendance has reset for the new semester. Will be starting to go through curriculum, handbooks, and master schedule for next year.

6. Activity Director's Report

Activity Director Curtis shared that winter activities are wrapping up. Middle School girls wrestling is underway with 6 participants. Jr high boys basketball is also off to a strong start. Is currently working on finalizing spring and summer sports schedules.

7. Second Reading of Board Policies 900 Series

Motion by Puffett to approve 900 Board Policy Series as presented. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 4-0.

8. Approve Spanish/Puerto Rico Trip in the Summer of 2026

Motion by Puffett to approve Summer 2026 Spanish trip to Puerto Rico as presented. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 4-0.

9. Approve Technology Upgrade

Motion by Puffett to table item until more information is available. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 4-0.

10. Accept 2023-2024 Audit

Motion by Puffett to accept 2023-2024 audit as presented. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 4-0.

11. Approve Budget Guarantee Resolution

Motion by Moellers to adopt the following resolution: Resolved, that the Board of Directors of Starmont Community School District, will levy property taxes for fiscal year 2025-2026 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa. Seconded by Puffett, followed by roll call vote. Ayes: Althoff, Moellers, Puffett, Recker. Nays: none. Motion carried 4-0.

12. Set Time and Date for 2025-2026 Budget Hearings

Motion by Puffett to set first public hearing on March 24th at 6:30 pm and second public hearing on April 14th at 6:30 pm. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 4-0.

13. Preview 2025-2026 Budget

Superintendent Busch provided board with information on upcoming budget process changes.

14. Consider 2025-2026 Calendar Options

Superintendent Busch provided an updated status of 2025-2026 calendar and asked for guidance on making up snow days.

15. Approve Donovan Group Proposal

Motion by Moellers to approve Donovan Group Proposal as presented for the months of February, March, and April. Seconded by Puffett. Motion by Puffett to amend original motion to include the months of February, March, April, and May. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 4-0 to adopt amended motion. Vote on new motion carried 4-0.

16. Approve Summer Help

Tabled awaiting further information.

17. Approve Refinishing of Gym Floors for Summer 2025

Motion by Puffett to approve refinishing of gym floors with bid to be approved at a later date. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 4-0.

18. Approve Bid for Mowing

Motion by Puffett to approve bid from Keppler Landscaping in the amount of \$25,500. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 4-0.

19. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Busch shared that recent boiler issues caused by a leaking pipe have been repaired. Additional pipes need replacing due to deteriorating from the outside. Went through additional information for upcoming PPEL vote. Forecasting a 2% state supplemental aid increase. Went through the 5-year Projection Tool.

20. Closed Session: To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance or discharge is being considered when a closed session is necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session per Iowa Code 21.5(I)(i)

Board did not go into closed session.

21. Adjourn

Motion by Puffett to adjourn. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Julie Uhlenkamp
Board President

Katie Taylor
Business Manager/Board Secretary