

STARMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Regular Monthly Board Meeting  
Monday, March 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, March 10<sup>th</sup>, in the High School Conference Room. President Uhlenkamp called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Member present: Vicki Althoff, Doug Puffett, Tony Recker, Julie Uhlenkamp. Members absent: Jacob Moellers. Administration present: Superintendent, Robert Busch; Elementary Principal, Heath Hesse; Secondary Principal, Kris Martin; Athletic Director, Tracy Curtis; Business Manager/Board Secretary, Katie Taylor.

**2. Public Forum**

**3. Staff and Board Communications**

Starmont Student Council members were present to provide the board with a background of who they are and what fundraisers, community service projects, and activities they are involved in as Student Council members. Abbie Schuhmacher and Suzy Hamlett also mentioned that \$3,800 was raised this year for PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports). This money will be used to reward students with an outing such as Gilbertson Nature Center, Upper Iowa Rec Center, Camp Klaus, Fontana, or EWALU.

**4. Consent Agenda:**

- a. Approve Agenda
- b. Approve Minutes – February 10, 2025 and February 14, 2025
- c. Approve Monthly Financial Reports
- d. Approve Monthly Bills
- e. Approve Personnel Recommendations & Resignations
  - i. Hires
  - ii. Resignations
    1. Vinny Otdoerfer – Assistant Football Coach. Thank you for your time, Vinny!
- f. Approve Volunteer Coaches
- g. Approve Open Enrollments
  - i. Lyle Lawson (K) to Oelwein
  - ii. Rigley Opitz (K) from East Buchanan
- h. Approve Fundraisers
- i. Approve Special Education Contracts

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

**5. Elementary Principal's Report**

Principal Hesse shared that Muffins with Moms will be coming up on Friday, elementary PBIS celebration will be next Friday, teachers and students are preparing for upcoming ISASP testing.

**6. Secondary Principal's Report**

Principal Martin shared that she has been working on a work based learning program for next school year. Attendance took a hit last month with sickness and state wrestling. Has been having meetings with students to keep them on track for graduation.

**7. Activity Director's Report**

Activity Director Curtis shared that winter sports are wrapping up and is finishing end of season meetings with players and coaches.

**8. First Reading of Board Policies**

No first readings presented.

**9. Public Hearing for 2024-25 Calendar Changes**

The board opened the meeting for public comment regarding the 2024-25 calendar.

**10. Approve 2024-25 Calendar Changes**

Motion by Recker to approve April 21<sup>st</sup> being a staff PD day, April 22<sup>nd</sup> will be a student make up day, May 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the students last day, May 27<sup>th</sup> will be staff development pending future weather events. Seconded by Puffett. Motion carried 4-0.

**11. Approve Summer Help**

Motion by Recker to approve summer help as presented. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 4-0.

**12. Approve Insurance Agent Change to Backbone Insurance**

Motion by Recker to approve insurance agent change from Smith Insurance to Backbone Insurance with no changes to the school's insurance. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 4-0.

**13. Approve Summer School**

Motion by Puffett to approve summer school certified staff at \$35/hour and classified staff at \$16/hour. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 4-0.

**14. Approve DECA Travel Plan to Orlando, Florida**

Motion by Recker to approve DECA to travel to Orlando, Florida for DECA International in April. Seconded by Puffett. Motion carried 4-0.

**15. Approve 2025-26 Health Insurance Options**

Motion by Recker to approve 2025-26 health insurance options as presented. Seconded by Puffett. Motion carried 4-0.

**16. Consider an Elementary Kitchen Water Heater**

No action taken.

**17. Preview 2025-26 Budget**

Board members review budget information as presented.

**18. Approve AEA Purchasing Agreement**

Motion by Recker to approve AEA Purchasing Agreement for 2025-26 as presented. Seconded by Puffett. Motion carried 4-0.

**19. Approve Agreement with Northeast Iowa Community College for Alternative School for 2025-26**

Motion by Puffett to approve agreement with NICC as presented. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 4-0.

**20. Approve Agreement with University of Northern Iowa for Teacher Education Clinical Experience Placements**

Motion by Puffett to approve agreement with UNI as presented. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 4-0.

**21. Sharing of Cross Country, Wrestling, and Baseball for the 2025-26 School Year**

Motion by Puffett to approve sharing agreement with West Central for wrestling and baseball as presented. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 4-0.

**22. Approve School of the Wild 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip**

Motion by Recker to approve 5<sup>th</sup> grade School of the Wild trip as presented. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 4-0.

**23. Approve TimeClock Plus Agreement**

Motion by Puffett to approve TimeClock Plus Agreement's 5-year agreement with a flat rate for first 3 years and 2% increased rate last 2 years. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 4-0.

**24. Approve the Sharing of Human Resource Director between Starmont and West Central CSD's**

Motion by Recker to approve Human Resource Director sharing agreement with West Central at a 60/40 split. Seconded by Althoff. Motion carried 4-0.

**25. Approve the Sharing of Business Management between Starmont and West Central CSD's**

Motion by Althoff to approve Business Manager sharing agreement with West Central at a 60/40 split. Seconded by Puffett. Motion carried 4-0.

**26. Approve the Sharing of Transportation Director between Starmont and West Central CSD's**

Motion by Recker to approve Transportation Director sharing agreement with West Central at a 70/30 split. Seconded by Althoff. Motion by Puffett to amend original motion to a 60/40 split. Seconded by Recker. Motion to amend carried 4-0. Motion to approve amended motion carried 4-0.

**27. Approve the Sharing of Superintendent between Starmont and West Central CSD's**

Motion by Puffett to approve Superintendent sharing agreement with West Central at a 60/40 split. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 4-0.

**28. 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(l)(i)*

At 7:44 pm, Superintendent Busch chose not to go into closed session for his annual evaluation. He stated that his goals for the next year will be facility improvements and student achievement.

Uhlenkamp appreciates his advocating for public schools and would like him to not take the blame for others. Puffett likes that lower elementary students know who Mr. Busch is and would like Starmont and West Central to bridge gaps where each school has academic holes. He would also like to see a weekly updates from the Superintendent. Althoff stated that Mr. Busch is doing a great job, would like more transparency at the teacher level as to why things are being done, and would like people to be held accountable. Recker also stated that he would like to see people be held accountable for doing their job. He likes that Mr. Busch is always willing to take a phone call or answer emails.

#### **29. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Busch stated that he had a SIAC meeting prior to the board meeting. They appreciate that coaches have moved away from using Snapchat to communicate with players and are utilizing a proper messaging service. Student would like to see long tables added to the high school cafeteria to discourage students from being left out of an 8-student round table. Students also were in favor of HVAC improvements with future facility updates. There will be a Facilities Task Force Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. He took a few students to a legislative forum last Friday to advocate for public schools.

#### **30. Adjourn**

Motion by Puffett to adjourn. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.