

STARMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Monthly Board Meeting
Monday, January 12, 2026
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, January 12th, in the High School Conference Room. President Puffett called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Members present: Jacob Moellers, Nathan Meyers, Doug Puffett, Julie Uhlenkamp, Tony Recker. Absent: none. Administration present: Superintendent, Robert Busch; Elementary Principal, Heath Hesse; Secondary Principal, Jennifer Lange; Business Manager/Board Secretary, Katie Taylor.

2. Approve Agenda

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve agenda as presented. Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Receive Communications and Visitors (Including Board Members)

4. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approve Minutes – December 8, 2025
- b. Approve Monthly Financial Reports
- c. Approve Monthly Bills – Uhlenkamp audited bills
- d. Approve Personnel Recommendations & Resignations
 - i. Hires
 1. Alaurah Alderson – Elementary Para
- e. Approve Volunteer Coaches
- f. Approve Special Education Contracts
- g. Approve Open Enrollments
 - i. Aubrey Kruger (3rd) from East Buchanan
 - ii. Josie Kruger (7th) from East Buchanan
- h. Approve Fundraisers
- i. Annual Agreements

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

5. Elementary Principal’s Report

Principal Hesse stated that they are working their way back in from break and are working on staffing to get support where it’s needed. FAST testing will begin January 19th through January 30th. Preschool pre-registration has been sent out. New drop off and pickup procedure are going well.

6. Secondary Principal’s Report

Principal Lange stated that she has been working on the 2026-2027 Curriculum Guide – change to English requirements, adding Employability Skills, AP Economics classes, Internship, and Social Studies Electives.

7. Activity Director's Report

Co-Activity Director Augustine was absent, but informed the board that winter sports are off to a great start. The dance team will be hosting an elementary dance camp this week and will perform at halftime of the basketball game. We will be hosting Tri Rivers Conference girls wrestling tournament on 1/23. National Honor Society induction will be 1/26 at 7:00pm.

8. First Reading of Board Policies

Board reviewed board policies as presented.

9. Accept 2024-2025 Audit

Motion by Moellers to approve 2024-2025 audit as presented by Neil Schraeder with Hacker Nelson. Seconded by Uhlenkamp. Motion carried 5-0.

10. Consider Study Tables and Summer School

Motion by Uhlenkamp to discontinue study tables and summer school. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0.

11. Consider Early Separation Incentive

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve early separation incentive for certified staff with at least 20 consecutive years of service and are 55 years or older by June 30, 2026. Seconded by Meyers. Motion by Moellers to amend original motion to include deadline to state "no later than 4:00 pm on February 27, 2026." Seconded by Recker. Motion to amend carried 5-0. Motion to approve amended motion carried 5-0.

12. Approve Request for New Bus

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve request for new bus. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0.

13. Approve Request for Mowing Bids

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve request for mowing bids. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0.

14. Consider Building Improvements

Board will plan a work session for a building walkthrough with Maintenance Director, Eric Bond.

15. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Busch shared with the board that upcoming legislative forums in Arlington will be February 28th and March 21st at 9 am. He recently attended Iowa Superintendents Finance and Leadership Consortium conference attending classes on the rapidly evolving role of artificial intelligence in education. Budget preparation is underway and will be attending a budget workshop on January 29th. He has also started a tentative calendar for next school year.

16. 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)*

Motion by Moellers to move into closed session at 7:50 PM. Seconded by Recker. Roll call vote: Ayes – Uhlenkamp, Puffett, Moellers, Recker, Meyers. Nays – none. Motion carried 5-0.

Puffett declared the board out of closed session at 8:14 pm.

17. Adjourn

Motion by Recker to adjourn. Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Doug Puffett
Board President

Katie Taylor
Business Manager/Board Secretary