STARMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Monthly Board Meeting
Monday, March 9, 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, March 9th, in the High School Conference Room. President Puffett called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Members present: Jacob Moellers, Nathan Meyers, Tony Recker, Julie Uhlenkamp, Doug Puffett. Absent: none. Administration present: Superintendent, Robert Busch; Elementary Principal, Heath Hesse; Secondary Principal, Jennifer Lange; Co-Athletic Director, Mike Augustine; Business Manager/Board Secretary, Katie Taylor.

2. **Public Forum**
   Vinny Otdoerfer stated that 7th grade boys could join Driftless League if unable to have junior high baseball team. Matt Vagts shared importance of not cutting football coaches for safety concerns and practice efficiency. Puffett shared an update from the Clayton County Conference Board – there will be a budget hearing on Tuesday, March 10th.

3. **Staff and Board Communications**
   Members of the Student Council were present to inform the board of all of their accomplishments throughout the year. One major accomplishment has been their Pay It Forward Campaign – with the help of the entire Starmont CSD, they have raised over $10,000 for families in need. With the help of Nick Corbin, they also created a "Don't Stop bELIvin" video challenging other districts to spread kindness in honor of Eli Belser. This video has spread nationwide with over 260,000 views.

4. **Consent Agenda:**
   a. Approve Minutes – February 4, 2026, February 9, 2026, and February 25, 2026
   b. Approve Monthly Financial Reports
   c. Approve Monthly Bills – Recker audited bills
   d. Approve Personnel Recommendations & Resignations
      i. Hires
         1. Mitch Rosburg – Assistant HS Track
         2. Jake Munger – MS Softball
      ii. Resignations
         1. Carmen Swales as Wrestling Cheerleading Sponsor – Thank you for your service, Carmen!
         2. Caroline Otdoerfer as Nutrition Staff (end of year) – Thank you for your service, Caroline!
         3. Matt Lee as JH Basketball Coach – Thank you for your service, Matt!
      iii. Summer Help
         1. Matt Lee – Maintenance ($16.55/hr)
         2. Terra Corbin – Custodial ($17.05/hr)
         3. Jonathan Davis – Custodial ($12.00/hr)

4. Kaitlyn Wiley – Custodial ($12.00/hr)
5. Keri Thole – Custodial ($16.00/hr)

e. Approve Volunteer Coaches
f. Approve Open Enrollments
g. Approve Fundraisers
h. Approve Special Education Contracts

Motion by Recker to approve consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 4-0 (Uhlenkamp abstained).

5. Elementary Principal's Report

Principal Hesse stated that the Daddy/Daughter dance was great, students raised almost $5,500 for the Kids Heart Challenge with some students getting to pie staff in the face as a reward. Behaviors have peaked in February as to be expected.

6. Secondary Principal's Report

Principal Lange stated that she will be presenting the District Career and Academic Plan (DCAP) next month. They have started registration early in hopes to get done while students and staff are here. We will be hosting a Career Fair on March 24th for sophomores and juniors while 8th graders will be attending a Career Fair on April 1st. Freshman will be attending a "Teen Maze" on March 25th.

7. Activity Director's Report

Co-Activity Director Augustine congratulated our state wrestlers, FFA members competing at districts, basketball players on their All-Conference nominations, and individual speech students moving on to state speech. Thank you to all who made the Variety Show a success.

8. First Reading of Board Policies

No board policies presented at this time.

9. Approve DECA Travel Plan to Atlanta, Georgia

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve DECA traveling to Atlanta, Georgia for International Career Development Conference in April. Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 5-0.

10. Approve School of the Wild 5th Grade Trip

Motion by Meyers to approve 5th grade attending School of the Wild. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

11. Approve Early Retirement Applications

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve early retirement applications from Renee Cantrell and Maggie Tucker. Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Preview 2026-2027 Budget

Superintendent Busch presented proposed tax notice sent to the auditor's office.

13. Approve 2026-2027 Preschool Tuition

Motion by Uhlenkamp to increase preschool tuition to $350/month for 9 months. Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 4-1 (Recker).

14. **Approve Budget Reductions**
Motion by Uhlenkamp as a budget reduction to reduce middle school administrative assistant. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0.
Motion by Uhlenkamp as a budget reduction to reduce a middle school science teacher. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.
Motion by Recker as a budget reduction to reduce a 3rd grade teacher. Seconded by Uhlenkamp. Motion carried 5-0.
Motion by Uhlenkamp as a budget reduction to reduce Spanish teacher from 1.0 FTE to 0.625 FTE plus ELL. Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 5-0.
Motion by Uhlenkamp as a budget reduction to reduce building leadership teams by 6 total members. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0.
Motion by Uhlenkamp as a budget reduction to reduce junior high baseball coach. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.
Motion by Uhlenkamp as a budget reduction to reduce a building principal. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.
Motion by Uhlenkamp as a budget reduction to reduce preschool teachers from 1.0 FTE to 0.9 FTE. Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 5-0.

15. **Consider Budget for HVAC Project**
Motion by Moellers to request bid to get x-ray testing done on existing pipes in elementary and middle school. Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 5-0.

16. **Approve Building and Facilities Improvements**
Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve bid from Furniture Showcase for $24,732.75 for flooring improvements in rooms 110, 219, 303, and 306. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0.

17. **Approve AEA Purchasing Agreement**
Motion by Recker to approve AEA Purchasing Agreement as presented. Seconded by Uhlenkamp. Motion carried 5-0.

18. **Approve Agreement with University of Northern Iowa for Teacher Education Clinical Experience Placements**
Motion by Recker to approve agreement with University of Northern Iowa as presented. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

19. **Approve Sharing of Cross Country, Wrestling, and Baseball for the 2026-2027 School Year**
Motion by Recker to approve sharing cross country, wrestling, and baseball with West Central CSD for the 2026-2027 school year. Seconded by Uhlenkamp. Motion carried 4-1 (Meyers).

20. **Approve the Sharing of the Human Resource Director between Starmont and West Central Community School Districts**
Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve sharing Human Resource Director with West Central CSD at a 60/40 split. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

21. **Approve the Sharing of Business Management between Starmont and West Central Community School Districts**
Motion by Recker to approve sharing Business Manager with West Central CSD at a 60/40 split. Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 5-0.

22. **Approve the Sharing of the Transportation Director between Starmont and West Central Community School Districts**
    Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve sharing Transportation Director with West Central CSD at a 60/40 split. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0.

23. **Approve the Sharing of Superintendent between Starmont and West Central Community School Districts**
    Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve sharing Superintendent with West Central CSD at a 60/40 split. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

24. **Superintendent's Report**
    Superintendent Busch shared that the School Budget Review Committee meeting is scheduled for March 10th to finalize daycare financials. A committee has begun to review and revise the Special Education Service Delivery Plan. The Fire Marshal came March 5th for inspections.

25. **Adjourn**
    Motion by Meyers to adjourn. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Exempt Session per Iowa Code § 20.17(3)

Immediately following the Meeting if time permits.

i. Bargaining sessions, strategy sessions of boards or employee organizations, mediation and the deliberative process of arbitrators in a collective bargaining process are exempt from the open meetings law. IOWA CODE § 20.17(3). *Burlington Community School District v. Public Employment Board.* 268 N.W.2d 517, 524 (Iowa 1978).
ii. To discuss strategy in matters relating to employment conditions of employees not covered by collective bargaining law. Iowa Code 21.9.

Doug Puffett	Katie Taylor
Board President	Business Manager/Board Secretary