

STARMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Public Hearings and Regular Monthly Board Meeting  
Monday, April 13, 2026  
Starmont High School Conference Room  
6:30 PM

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

**Public Hearing for 2026-27 Calendar**

**1. Call to Order (Quorum)**

The Starmont Community School District Board held a public hearing for the 2026-27 calendar on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, in the High School Conference Room. President Puffett called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Members present: Nathan Meyers, Jacob Moellers, 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. Approval of Agenda**

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

**3. Opening Statement – Board President**

**4. Presentation of Calendar**

Superintendent presented calendar along with feedback from staff.

**5. Receive Written Comments**

**6. Receive Oral Comments**

It was mentioned that in the future it would be nice to present the proposed calendar to the public to view prior to the meeting. It is also confusing to have a mix of full professional development no school days and early out professional development days throughout the year – would like consistency.

**7. Adjourn**

Motion by Recker to adjourn. Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM.

**Public Hearing for FY27 Budget**

**1. Call to Order**

The Starmont Community School District Board held a public hearing for the FY27 budget on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, in the High School Conference Room. President Puffett called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

**2. Roll Call**

Members present: Doug Puffett, Jacob Moellers, Nathan Meyers, Julie Uhlenkamp, Tony Recker.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

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

**4. Opening Statement – Board President**

**5. Budget Presentation**

**6. Receive Written Comments**

No written comments were presented.

**7. Receive Oral Comments**

Oral comments were heard.

**8. Adjourn**

Motion by Meyers to adjourn. Seconded by Uhlenkamp. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM.

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**1. Call to Order (Quorum)**

The Starmont Community School District Board held its regular board meeting on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, in the High School Conference Room. President Puffett called the meeting to order at 6:43 PM. Members present: Julie Uhlenkamp, Nathan Meyers, Tony Recker, Jacob Moellers, Doug Puffett. Administration present: Superintendent, Robert Busch; Secondary Principal, Jennifer Lange; Co-Athletic Director, Mike Augustine; Business Manager/Board Secretary, Katie Taylor.

**2. Approve Agenda**

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

**3. Public Forum**

Mark Hamlett shared information on "*The Whole Milk for Health Kids Act.*"

**4. Staff and Board Communications**

President Puffett shared a volunteer appreciation letter that board members received from Lamont Mayor, Mike Cook.

**5. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve Minutes – March 9, 2026; March 23, 2026; March 30, 2026
- b. Approve Monthly Financial Reports
- c. Approve Monthly Bills – Moellers audited bills
- d. Approve Personnel Recommendations & Resignations
  - i. Hires
    1. Lily Fettkether – Teacher (Secondary Science)
    2. Rae McTaggart – Teacher (FCS)
    3. Claire Knepper – Teacher (Business)
    4. Keelie Curtis – JH Softball
    5. LaTosha Raber – Girls Asst JH Basketball
    6. Kaitlyn Wiley – Custodial (\$16.55/hr)
  - ii. Resignations
    1. Tyler Nielsen – Assistant Football
    2. Jake Munger – JH Softball
    3. Christina Pillard – Prom Sponsor
    4. Megan DeBack – Teacher (Spanish)
    5. Danielle Schuman – Teacher (Business)
- e. Approve Volunteer Coaches
  - i. Kristi Moeller – Softball
  - ii. Kristi Moeller – JH Track
  - iii. LaTosha Raber – JH Softball
  - iv. Sara Hawkins – HS Track
  - v. Hunter Fletcher – Track

- f. Approve Open Enrollments
  - i. Grace Engel to NFV (2026-27)
  - ii. Raelynn Michael in from NFV (2026-27)
- g. Approve Fundraisers
- h. Approve Special Education Contracts
- i. Approve Annual Agreements
  - i. Agreement with Northeast Iowa Community College for Alternative School (2026-27)
  - ii. Agreement with Upper Iowa University
  - iii. Agreement with Morningside University
  - iv. Agreement with Northwestern College (already approved through July 2027)
  - v. Harris School Solutions (eTriton) - \$2,624.06

**6. Elementary Principal's Report**

Principal Hesse was absent, but presented the board with updates.

**7. Secondary Principal's Report**

Principal Lange shared the District Career and Academic Plan (DCAP) which includes implementing work-based learning course offerings, increasing middle school involvement, improving career readiness, and increased engagement with Xello lessons and allowing time for reflection/feedback. Grades 8-12 will be allowed a career exploration event each year such as a career fair. Additionally, plans are underway to establish a Real Life Academy for seniors. These opportunities allow for students to build relationships with stakeholders in the community. She also stated that Industry-Recognized Credentials will now be added to student's transcripts.

**8. Activity Director's Report**

Co-Activity Director Augustine shared that spring sports are underway. Congratulations to State Speech students and to Vincent Recker for qualifying for All-State Speech. Congratulations to State FCCLA students and to Memphis Knox for qualifying for Nationals in Repurposing and Redesign. Thanks to all volunteers who helped the HS Girls Track Meet run smoothly.

**9. First Reading of Board Policies**

No first readings presented.

**10. Approve 2026-2027 Budget**

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve 2026-2027 budget as presented. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

**11. Consider Preschool and Junior Kindergarten Options**

Motion by Moellers to offer 5-day preschool including junior kindergarten with both teacher positions at 100%, tuition at \$350/month for 9 months, current preschool students not given opportunity to be eligible for JK (would need to move onto kindergarten and repeat kindergarten if necessary), but newly enrolled students would be eligible and would be reevaluated next May. Seconded by Recker. Motion failed 2-3 (Meyers, Puffett, Uhlenkamp).

Motion by Uhlenkamp to offer 5-day junior kindergarten, 4-day preschool with JK students going into kindergarten classroom on Wednesday. Preschool teachers remain at 90%, tuition at \$400/month for 9 months. Seconded by Meyers. Motion by Uhlenkamp to amend motion to state

tuition rate being \$350/month for 9 months. Seconded by Meyers. Motion to amend carried 4-1 (Recker). Motion to approve amended motion failed 2-3 (Puffett, Moellers, Recker).

Motion by Moellers to offer 5-day preschool including junior kindergarten with both teacher positions at 100%, tuition at \$400/month for 9 months, and would be reevaluated next May. Seconded by Recker. Motion by Moellers to amend motion to include under the condition that we have at least two additional junior kindergarten enrollments for the 2026-27 school year and current preschool students have the option to attend JK. Seconded by Recker. Motion to amend carried 4-1 (Uhlenkamp). Motion to approve amended motion carried 4-1 (Uhlenkamp).

**12. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Association**

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve Memorandum of Understanding with the Association allowing for Master Contract language about noon dismissal at end of 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter be switched to early outs on conference days. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0.

**13. Approve 2026-2027 School Calendar**

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve 2026-2027 school calendar as presented. No second. Motion fails. Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve calendar removing early outs on January 13, January 27, February 10, and February 24 and replacing them with one full no school day on February 15 for professional development. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0.

**14. Approve Agreement with Starmont Education Association**

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve agreement as presented. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 4-0 (Meyers abstained).

**15. Approve Teacher and Extra-Curricular Contracts for 2026-27**

Motion by Moellers to approve contracts as presented including preschool teachers. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 4-0 (Meyers abstained).

**16. Approve 2026-27 Health Insurance Options**

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve 2026-27 health insurance options as presented. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 4-0 (Meyers abstained).

**17. Approve 2025-26 Graduating Class**

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve 2025-26 graduating class as presented pending successful completion of graduation requirements. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0.

**18. Approve Request for Nutrition Bids**

Motion by Recker to approve request for nutrition bids including the addition of whole milk on our bid request. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

**19. Approve FY26 Technology Service Agreement with Keystone AEA**

Motion by Moellers to approve FY26 technology service agreement with Keystone AEA as presented. Seconded by Uhlenkamp. Motion carried 5-0.

**20. Consider Public Relations Agreement**

Motion by Moellers to consider in house options. Seconded by Meyers. Motion failed 0-5.

**21. Approve Colts Drum Corps Stay**

Motion by Recker to approve Colts Drum Corps use of facilities at the rate of \$175 per day/night pending insurance approval. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

**22. Update Sick Bank Procedures**

Motion by Moellers to approve sick bank procedures to include classified staff and immediate family members. Seconded by Uhlenkamp. Motion carried 4-0 (Meyers abstained).

**23. Approve Bus Repair**

Motion by Recker to approve bus repair in the amount of \$17,800. Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 5-0.

**24. Approve Social Studies Textbook/Curriculum**

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve purchase of new social studies curriculum for sixth and seventh graders to meet current standards in the amount of \$15,633.52. Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 5-0.

**25. Approve Budget for Booster Club Field Improvement**

Motion by Recker to approve contributing \$6,074.40 with the grant awarding a matching \$6,074.40 to tile the baseball outfield and plant a tree wind barrier. The booster club will donate \$2,000 to the school activity fund. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

**26. Approve Contract with A&J Bounce House**

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve contract with A&J Bounce House for \$640 pending insurance approval. Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 4-0 (Moellers abstained).

**27. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Busch shared the importance of advocating for public education with local legislatures. He is working with area schools to share teachers and find ways to save both districts money. He also shared that his goals continue to be facilities improvement, financial management, and community communication.

**28. Adjourn**

Motion by Uhlenkamp to adjourn. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

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Doug Puffett  
Board President

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Katie Taylor  
Business Manager/Board Secretary