

STARMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Monthly Board Meeting
Monday, May 11, 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, May 11th, in the High School Conference Room. President Puffett called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Members present: Julie Uhlenkamp, Doug Puffett, Jacob Moellers, Nathan Meyers, Tony Recker. Absent: none. Administration present: Superintendent, Robert Busch; Secondary Principal, Jennifer Lange; Co-Athletic Director, Mike Augustine; Business Manager/Board Secretary, Katie Taylor.

2. Public Forum

3. Staff and Board Communications

The school board would like to recognize our staff members that will be retiring at the end of the school year. We greatly appreciate your years of service to the district.

Erin Friedley with Northeast Iowa Community College presented to the board on NICC’s College and Career Connection program and how it benefits our district and students.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Agenda
- b. Approve Minutes – April 13, 2026
- c. Approve Monthly Financial Reports
- d. Approve Monthly Bills – Meyers audited bills
- e. Approve Personnel Recommendations & Resignations
 - i. Hires
 1. Beth Jaeger – Mentoring Coordinator
 2. Cassie Gruman – Mentor
 3. Linda Sneed – Mentor
 4. Tatum Rau – Mentor
 5. Kelly Lyon – Mentor
 6. Jill Weber – Nutrition
 7. Jell Aldrich and Katie Bockenstedt – Co Wrestling Cheer Sponsors
 - ii. Transfers
 - iii. Resignations
 1. Alaurah Alderson – Para
 2. Heather Schoulte – Special Education Teacher
 3. Sue Klett – Librarian
 4. Julia Gamm – Secretary
 5. Vincent Otdoerfer – Assistant JH Boys Basketball
- f. Approve Volunteer Coaches
- g. Approve Open Enrollments

- i. Evelyn Lyon in from Oelwein (K)
 - ii. Alyvia Postel to Ed-Co (5th)
 - iii. Finn Northrop to Central Elkader (4th)
- h. Approve Fundraisers
- i. Approve Special Education Contracts
- j. Approve Annual Agreements
 - i. Sergeant Laboratories – Aristotle K12 Classroom Management Software (\$8,729.98)
 - ii. Software Unlimited – Accounting Software (\$7,550.00)
 - iii. Iowa Association of School Boards – Membership Dues (\$2,745.00)
 - iv. Iowa Association of School Boards – Policies Reference (\$800.00)
 - v. World’s Finest Chocolate
 - vi. GeoComm
 - vii. Morningside University (Clinical Experience)
 - viii. PowerSchool

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

5. Elementary Principal’s Report

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

6. Secondary Principal’s Report

Principal Lange shared working on putting together a threat assessment. ISASP testing has wrapped up for the year. Two FCCLA students will be traveling to Washington DC for Nationals and have been working hard to fundraise to cover expense for the trip. Prom and post prom went really well. Senior awards night will be Tuesday with graduation to follow on Sunday. Attendance continues to be a concern, but plans will be put in motion for next year in hopes to lessen attendance issues.

7. Activity Director’s Report

Co-Activity Director Augustine shared that four students competed at DECA International Career Development Conference in Atlanta at the end of April. Softball and baseball seasons have started. Choir and band performed at large group contest in Decorah with both receiving Division II (Excellent) ratings. Junior high girls track competed at JH State Track over the weekend with 7th grade tying for 13th and 8th grade tying for 3rd. 7th grader, Janna Ottesen, came home a state champion in the discus throw.

8. Public Hearing for Update to 2025-2026 School Calendar

President Puffett opened the public hearing for the 2025-2026 school calendar at 7:02 pm. Public comments were heard. Puffett closed the public hearing at 7:03 pm.

9. Approve Change to 2025-2026 School Calendar

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve May 22nd as the students last day with a 12:30 dismissal and teachers last day being Tuesday, May 26th. Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 5-0.

10. Approve Fuel Bids

Motion by Recker to approve 2026-27 DOT rack price fuel bid from Three Rivers FS. Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 5-0.

11. Approve Nutrition Bids

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve 2026-27 milk bid from Prairie Farms as presented. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Approve Agreement with Starmont Classified Association

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve Starmont Classified Association agreement as presented. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

13. Approve Classified Staff Letters of Assignments

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve classified staff letters of assignments as presented. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

14. Approve AD Contracts

Motion by Moellers to approve AD contracts as presented. Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 5-0.

15. Consider whether to issue a notice of consideration of termination of administrator contract to Heath Hesse, administrator.

Motion by Moellers to approve the board issuing a notice of consideration of termination of administrator contract to Heath Hesse, administrator for the following reasons: declining enrollment, budgetary restrictions and problems, reduction of positions(s), and realignment of school organizations. Seconded by Uhlenkamp. Roll call vote: Aye – Moellers, Puffett, Uhlenkamp, Recker, Meyers. Nay – none. Motion carried 5-0.

16. Consider Modification of Administrative Contract

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve modification of administrative contract with Jennifer Lange as presented. Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 5-0.

17. Consider Recommendation to Terminate Contract (Iowa Code Section 279.15): Allie Koch

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve the board terminating the teaching contract of Allie Koch for the following reasons, any of which constitutes just cause: budgetary considerations, declining enrollment, realignment of staff resources, compliance with the staff reduction procedures of the District. Seconded by Meyers. Roll call vote: Aye – Uhlenkamp, Puffett, Meyers, Moellers, Recker. Nays – none. Motion carried 5-0.

18. Consider Recommendation to Terminate Contract (Iowa Code Section 279.15): Roger Reed

Motion by Meyers to approve the board terminating the teaching contract of Roger Reed for the following reasons, any of which constitutes just cause: budgetary considerations, declining enrollment, realignment of staff resources, compliance with the staff reduction procedures of the District. Seconded by Recker. Roll call vote: Aye – Puffett, Moellers, Recker, Uhlenkamp, Meyers. Nays – none. Motion carried 5-0.

19. Approve Recommendation to Move to Junior Varsity Girls' Basketball

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve continuing to play a junior varsity basketball schedule for 2026-27. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0

20. Approve Continued Participation in the Storm Protection Fund

Motion by Recker to approve continued participation in the Storm Protection Fund for the 2026-27 school year. Seconded by Uhlenkamp. Motion carried 5-0.

21. Approve Elementary Wilson Language Training Quote

Motion by Moellers to approve Wilson Language Training quote in the amount of \$17,160.34 for elementary foundations workbooks (board secretary will check in with 4th and 5th grade teachers making sure they have supports in place for new addition). Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 5-0.

22. Approve Elementary Kendall Hunt Quote

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve Kendall Hunt quote in the amount of \$6,312.72 for elementary math workbooks. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0.

23. Approve Contract with Keystone AEA for Transfer of State Funding

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve contract with Keystone AEA to transfer of state funding as presented. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

24. Approve Student Therapist Agreement with RT Counseling

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve agreement with RT Counseling as presented. Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 5-0.

25. Approve Tuckpointing from SMI

Motion by Recker to approve routine tuckpointing from SMI not to exceed \$75,000. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 4-0 (Uhlenkamp abstained).

26. Approve Bid for School Bus

Motion by Recker to approve bid from School Bus Sales for a 65-passenger bus in the amount of \$142,760. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 4-1 (Meyers).

27. Approve Repair of High School Water Pump

Motion by Uhlenkamp to approve emergency repair of high school water pump costing \$16,775.01. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0.

28. Approve Purchase of Furniture

Motion by Recker to approve quote from Honey Creek Furniture for \$4,914.00 and Value Inspired Products for \$12,133.00. Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 5-0.

29. Approve Smart Pass Agreement

Motion by Meyers to approve Smart Pass Agreement for \$1,550.49. Seconded by Moellers. Motion carried 5-0.

30. Approve Ahler's Joint Representation and Conflict Waiver

Motion by Moellers to approve Ahler's Joint Representation and Conflict waiver relating to the drafting of a 28E Agreement for the proposed Bridges Consortium School. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0.

31. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Busch thanked the board for all they do. He has been working on follow up paperwork with the closing of Crossroads in Decorah as well as the process of searching for an alternative placement. He also continues to look for options to support the PK-12 principal.

32. Adjourn

Motion by Recker to adjourn. Seconded by Meyers. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Doug Puffett
Board President

Katie Taylor
Business Manager/Board Secretary