REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

BOARD OF EDUCATION

COLUMBUS COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monday, April 28, 2025

The Board of Directors of Columbus Community School District convened its regular monthly board meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 28, 2025, at the Administration Building in Columbus Junction, Iowa.

Present were President Carol Zuniga, Vice-President Todd Heck and directors Dan Heindel, Andy White, and Stacy Storm.

In addition, Superintendent Dr. Michael Volk and Business Manager and Board Secretary Neil Mills were present.

**Board Meeting**

**Agenda**

Todd Heck moved to pull out the TLC Positions outside of the consent agenda.

Dan Heindel seconded the motion.

Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

Todd Heck moved to approve the adjusted agenda.

Seconded by Stacy Storm.

Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

**Presentations**

Mark Panther with Estes Construction and ICAT (Iowa Construction Advocate Team) presented on how their firm works with small to middle sized districts on construction projects. ICAT works with the district to learn the needs and wants of the district, then does an assessment and provides options, then engages a design team and works with stakeholders to move the project onto the construction and build phase.

**Citizen’s Comments**

There were no citizen’s comments at this meeting.

**Consent Agenda**

Andy White made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Seconded by Stacy Storm.

Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

Consent items were:

1. Financial Report

b. Minutes for March 24, 2025, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting

c. Bills

d. Personnel

* Resignation – Paul Kissell – Activity Director
* Resignation – KarlieAnn Hunter – JH Volleyball Coach
* Resignation – Addison Six – 4th grade teacher & HS Assistant Volleyball Coach
* Resignation – Scott Teater – Secondary Band & Choir Teacher
* Resignation – Michelle Hernandez – Preschool Associate
* Hire – Taylor Stogdill – JH Band/Choir Music Teacher
* Hire – Jason Woepking – JH Track Coach
* Hire – Madison Rogers – HS Assistant Softball Coach
* Hire – Cael Phillips – JH Baseball Coach
* Hire – Mason Hardy – Part-Time Summer Help (24 hours per week)
* Hire – Trevor Phillips – Part-Time Summer Help (24 hours per week)
* Volunteer – Hunter Traylor - HS Softball Volunteer
* Volunteer – Bree Randall – HS Softball Volunteer

e. Fundraisers

* BPA – Aramark Concessions (U of Iowa Events) – Lori Beenen
* BPA – Various Meal Fundraisers – Lori Beenen
* BPA – Grant Requests (United Way & Louisa County Comm. Foundation) – Lori Beenen
* BPA – Social Media Marketing – Lori Beenen
* Cross Country – Setup for Downtown Iowa City Association – Steve Riley
* Special Ed Strat 2 – Sell Popcorn and Caramel Corn – Stephanie Gonzalez-Bravo

School use Fundraisers:

* None

**TLC Positions**

Todd Heck moved to retain Kristen (Payne) in her (current) position and also Mareen Mincks as MTSS Instructional Coach.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Andy White moved to table the TLC Positions.

Seconded by Dan Heindel.

Ayes: four Nays: one. Carried. Carol Zuniga voted no.

**Reports**

Written administrative reports were submitted by Paul Kissell, Randy Phillips, Kristen Payne, Kristina Murphy, Mike Wolter and Dr. Volk.

Administrative Summary Reports - information

Paul Kissell - Activity Director

* Summary: Kissell reported that activity pass prices, unchanged since 2015, are proposed to increase to $50 for students and $225 for families. Columbus Wildcats Cross Country and Track/Field have had a strong season, with boys' teams earning multiple championships and several athletes qualifying for the Drake Relays. To avoid a scheduling conflict with the State Qualifying Track Meet on May 15th, the Spring Concert will be moved to May 14th. This adjustment minimizes conflicts for student athletes, despite overlapping with the Boys Sectional Golf meet. The season wraps up with several key events in early to mid-May, including golf, track, and soccer competitions. Policy updates are in progress, focusing on district funding for national events and limiting professional days for extracurricular activities.

Kristen Payne - Director of Instruction

* Summary: Payne reported that the district is entering the final week of ISASP testing. Overall, testing is going very well—students are focused on their testing environments. Thank you to the proctors of smaller groups that required specialized accommodations. Thanks to Roundy PTO and Tyson who provided snacks across the district—students are very appreciative. Kristina Murphy and Mike Wolter have completed 6 of the 9 state monitoring observations for ISASP while the other three will occur this week. End-of-year tasks are being completed.

Randy Phillips - Operations Director

* Summary: Phillips reported that district operations have been busy. With the changing weather, upcoming graduation, and the start of summer sports, grounds operations are in full swing. Athletic field maintenance is currently on schedule, pending weather conditions. Irrigation installation and final grading are set to begin in the middle of next week. All other summer projects are expected to begin after school concludes at the end of May. Phillips also noted that all E-rate bids have been submitted. The district is currently waiting for the final award letter in order to proceed with both Category 1 and Category 2 services. Phillips, along with other district staff and GWAEA, is working on online registration for the 2025–26 school year, which is progressing well. Transportation continues to operate smoothly. A new bus is scheduled to arrive on April 28. Before it can be placed on a route, cameras and a radio system must be installed. Additionally, the district will be moving forward with installing new cameras in all SUVs and passenger vans. The Nutrition Department has also been performing exceptionally well. This month, it participated in a national food study survey, which went smoothly. The district is now awaiting the results. Pending application approval, the summer food program is expected to run through the end of June again this year.

Kristina Murphy - Elem Principal

* Summary: Murphy reported that Dr. Mickolyn Clapper, School Improvement Consultant, and Janel Lesan, Regional Special Education Director-Mississippi Bend, both visited the district recently on behalf of the Department of Education. Both celebrated the “good things” that are happening and the work of district educators. ISASP tests are going smoothly due to the preparation of Kristen Payne, the tech department, and the facilitation done by proctors. Many end of the year events are planned including field trips, assemblies, preschool graduation, and the celebration of Karen Drinkall’s retirement after 40 years with the district. Finally, Roundy BLT continues their work with the process of curriculum review and adoption of a new ELA curriculum for the 2026-27 year as well as developing the 2025-26 school year’s master schedule.

Mike Wolter - Secondary Principal

* Summary: Wolter reported that the month of April has been filled with celebrations and continued progress. From the success of the band’s California trip, a smooth ISASP testing process, and a memorable Scholarship Night and a fantastic prom, Columbus students and staff continue to shine. Hiring efforts are underway for next school year, PBIS Reward Day is on the horizon, and planning for professional development has already begun. Columbus High School is also proud to recognize Terri Hutcheson for her recent honor as the Masonic Lodge Teacher of the Year. Thank you to everyone who continues to support Columbus students and the school community.

Michael Volk - Superintendent

* Summary: Volk provided a legislative update, noting that a 2% increase in Supplemental State Aid (SSA) has been agreed upon, pending the Governor's signature that is two weeks overdue. The legislation also includes additional funding for transportation equity and operational sharing. Property tax overhaul bills have been introduced in both chambers, proposing significant changes to rollback systems, credits, and school levies, which could impact districts’ capital funding. Key education-related bills are progressing, including measures on online assessments, open meetings, and a new civics test requirement in 2026-27. At the district level, the final draft of the new Columbus Wildcat side facing logo is complete, with helmet decal and branding designs underway. Board policy updates are progressing, with the full 100–900 series targeted for adoption at the May 27 meeting. The District Leadership Team continues to develop the At-Risk Program and MTSS supports, with summer planning for new SEBH Tier I, II, and III supports in grades K–8. Offers have been accepted for both the Director of Teaching, Learning & Special Programs and the Instructional Coach for MTSS roles. Planning for additional TLC positions, including Model Teachers and Mentors Teacher, is also underway. Lastly, with instructional hours above the state minimum for Columbus CSD, the District Leadership Team recommends adjusting the last day of school dismissal time from 1:30 PM to 12:00 PM to accommodate for a staff luncheon to celebrate retirees and honor staff members.

Todd Heck & Carol Zuniga gave board reports.

**Unfinished Business**

Todd Heck moved to approve the Dress Code Policy.

Seconded by Dan Heindel.

Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

**New Business**

Public Hearing for the review of the 2025-2026 calendar.

President Carol Zuniga opened the hearing to review the 2025-2026 school calendar as required by Iowa Code 279.10 at 7:07 p.m.

Lori Beenen (via phone) reviewed and explained the proposed calendar.

President Carol Zuniga asked for any public comments concerning the proposed calendar.

Mary Best commented on the need for extra days for room clean out at the elementary. Lori Beenen commented that there are additional contract days from weather days that the board in the past have not required the staff to be here and that those days are available at the end of the year for such task.

President Carol Zuniga closed the hearing for the review of the 2025-2026 school calendar as required by Iowa Code 279.120 at 7:15 p.m.

Todd Heck moved to approve the 2025-2026 school calendar.

Seconded by Stacy Storm.

Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

Andy White moved to approve the 28E shared personnel agreement with Louisa-Muscatine CSD and Eastern Iowa Community College/MCC for a College and Career Counselor for the 2025-26 school year.

Seconded by Dan Heindel.

Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

Andy White moved to approve the memorandum of agreement for college credit courses/career academies with EICC.

Seconded by Todd Heck.

Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

Todd Heck moved to approve the sale of the old stage.

Seconded by Andy White.

Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

Todd Heck moved to approve Black Hawk Roof Company for the middle school roof P replacement for $60,850.

Seconded by Stacy Storm.

Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

Todd Heck moved for the approval of the roof restoration for roof sections D, E, F, G and N by Weatherproofing Technologies Inc. for $102,295.14.

Seconded by Stacy Storm.

Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

Andy White moved to approve the athletic field laser grade and seeding quote from Krafka Lawn & Landscape for $50,000.

Seconded by Dan Heindel.

Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

Todd Heck moved to approve (quotes for district fencing with) D&N Fence for $49,335.

Seconded by Stacy Storm.

Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

Dan Heindel moved to table the consideration of increasing activity passes prices pending more information.

Seconded by Todd Heck.

Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

Andy White moved to approve the Anderson Erickson Dairy’s bid to be the 2025-2026 milk supplier.

Seconded by Dan Heindel.

Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

Todd Heck moved to approve the list of 2025 Graduates pending meeting all graduation requirements.

Seconded by Dan Heindel.

Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

List of 2025 graduates:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Matthew | Best |  | Matthew | Miranda |  |
| Olivia | Calderon |  | Yocelyn | Miranda |  |
| Carlo | Cavazos |  | Ty | Muniz |  |
| Juan | Chairez-Ambriz | | Daniel | Nunez |  |
| Dawson | Clark |  | Jazmin | Nunez |  |
| Keaton | Clark |  | Maximino | Nunez |  |
| Lily | Coil |  | Melanie | Nunez-Romo | |
| Ryan | Coil |  | Tracy | Par |  |
| Daisy | Cole |  | Brian | Portillo |  |
| Giselle | Espinoza |  | Melany | Ramirez |  |
| Djenn | Eugene |  | Edgar | Rivas |  |
| Manuel | Gallegos |  | Kira | Sanders |  |
| Genesis | Garcia |  | Aliana | Saninocencio | |
| Abraham | Garcia Jr |  | Gracie | Schrier |  |
| Aracely | Garza |  | Nahomi | Silerio Morales | |
| Samarah | Garza |  | Jakolby | Sipes |  |
| Bryce | Grimm |  | Anabel | Solis |  |
| Mason | Heck |  | Frannie | Sosa |  |
| Ramon | Hernandez | | Bryan | Tlatenchi |  |
| Cael | Howell |  | Maritza | Tovar |  |
| Madeleine | Howell |  | Mirel | Valencia |  |
| Claire | Humphreys | | Ariana | Vergara |  |
| Juan | Inarritu-Cruz | | Payton | White |  |
| Riley | Kaalberg |  | Itai | Zapiensz |  |
| Luis | Mendoza |  | Markel | Zapiensz |  |
| Johnathan | Miranda |  |  |  |  |

Todd Heck moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Andy White.

Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

The next meeting will be on May 27, 2025, at 6:00pm.

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Carol S. Zuniga, School Board President

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Neil A. Mills, School Board Secretary

Approved Bills:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 4-M Plumbing & Heating | Purchase Service | 624.60 |
| Agriland FS, INC. | Fuel Purchases | 3,620.65 |
| Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. | Legal Services | 2,491.00 |
| All American Pest Control | Pest Control Services | 110.00 |
| Alliant Energy | Utilities | 21,387.84 |
| Anderson Erickson Dairy | Milk Purchases | 6,225.97 |
| Anderson's Awards/Recognition | Supplies | 279.01 |
| Apple Computer, Inc. | Technology | 249.99 |
| Archer Appliance and Electronics | Equipment | 968.99 |
| Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, LLC | Insurance | 709.00 |
| ASPi Solutions, Inc. | Purchase Service | 96.00 |
| Avant Assessment, LLC. | Assessments | 10.00 |
| Awards Program Services, Inc | Supplies | 157.00 |
| Beck Engineering, Inc. | Purchase Service | 8,372.00 |
| BMO Harris Bank N.A. | Supplies/Travel | 12,138.90 |
| BPA Iowa Association | Supplies | 525.00 |
| BSN Sports | Supplies | 743.58 |
| Business Radio Sales & Service INC. | Equipment | 432.36 |
| CDW Government Inc | Supplies | 617.56 |
| Central Iowa Distributing | Supplies | 2,633.00 |
| City Of Columbus Junction | Utilities | 2,020.51 |
| Coe College Bands | Entry Fees | 15.00 |
| Columbus Community School District | Reimbursement | 2,132.04 |
| Columbus Concrete Construction, Inc | Purchase Service | 4,465.00 |
| Columbus Gazette | Publications | 1,321.15 |
| Columbus Jct. Auto Supply | Supplies | 260.32 |
| Durant Comm Schools | Entry Fees | 80.00 |
| Dusty Nelson Masonary | Purchase Service | 6,600.00 |
| Earthgrains Baking Co's Inc. | Bread Purchases | 1,152.75 |
| Economart | Supplies | 299.32 |
| Edmentum | Renewal | 6,997.50 |
| Electronic Engineering | Safety/Security | 81,527.38 |
| Elite Sports | Fundraiser | 365.00 |
| Expert's Edge, LLC | Inspection Fees | 1,908.00 |
| FBG Service Corporation | Janitorial Services | 25,621.00 |
| Floral Gallery | Supplies | 78.00 |
| Ft. Madison CSD | Entry Fees | 390.00 |
| General Binding Corporation | Supplies | 184.07 |
| Grainger | Supplies | 234.41 |
| Hands Up Communication | Purchase Service | 12,777.50 |
| Hines, Perry | Official | 186.24 |
| Humphreys Sound | Purchase Service | 1,430.00 |
| Iowa City West High School | Entry Fees | 55.00 |
| Iowa Department of Education | Reimbursement | 211.87 |
| Iowa Division of Labor Services | Inspection Fees | 240.00 |
| Iowa High School Music Assoc | Entry Fees | 150.00 |
| Iowa River Sanitation | Garbage Services | 550.00 |
| IP Pathways | Technology | 75.00 |
| J&M Family Tree Service & Lawn Care | Purchase Service | 800.00 |
| J.W. Pepper and Son, Inc | Supplies | 138.70 |
| Joly, Brandon | Official | 185.12 |
| Jones School Supply | Supplies | 20.99 |
| Jostens | Supplies | 500.98 |
| JourneyEd.com, Inc. | Renewal | 13,485.92 |
| Junior Achievement of the Heartland | Field Trip | 1,335.00 |
| Krafka Lawn & Landscape | Purchase Service | 25,000.00 |
| L.J. Roth | Purchase Service | 18,412.24 |
| Lara, Maximo | Official | 155.04 |
| Louisa County Conservation Bd | Archery Rental Fee | 25.00 |
| Louisa County Sheriff | 28E Agreement- SRO | 16,482.49 |
| Marco | Copier Leases | 4,342.06 |
| Medicom | Telephone Services | 742.10 |
| Menards Muscatine | Supplies | 406.85 |
| Menards West Burlington | Supplies | 770.68 |
| Mississippi Bend AEA 9 | Professional Development | 251.48 |
| Movie Licensing USA | Renewal | 504.00 |
| Mt. Vernon Community School District | Professional Development | 300.00 |
| Muscatine Community College | Scholarship | 1,350.00 |
| Neal, Bill | Official | 250.00 |
| Nolte, Cornman & Johnson P.C. | Audit Services | 9,600.00 |
| Parraguez, Luis | Official | 150.00 |
| Performance Foodservice | Food Purchases | 26,621.91 |
| Pro-Vision | Equipment | 2,673.68 |
| Quill Corp | Supplies | 8.73 |
| R.M. Boggs Co. | Purchase Service | 4,764.80 |
| Refreshment Services Pepsi | Pop Purchases | 497.52 |
| Renaissance | Renewal | 2,660.16 |
| Rock Valley Physical Therapy | Athletic Training Services | 165.00 |
| Scholastic Book Fairs-15 | Spring Book Fair | 2,058.86 |
| Scholastic, Inc | Supplies | 107.14 |
| School Bus Sales | 2025 Bus/Repairs | 139,998.90 |
| Schwab Electric | Purchase Service | 240.00 |
| Silvia, Guillermo | Official | 190.16 |
| Southeastern Comm College | Scholarship | 500.00 |
| Staats Awards | Supplies | 169.95 |
| Stout Seed Sales | Supplies | 275.00 |
| Summit Companies | Purchase Service | 52,500.00 |
| Symmetry Energy Solutions, LLC | Utilities | 1,404.26 |
| TNT Greenhouses | Supplies | 291.00 |
| Triple B Construction | Purchase Service | 254,132.60 |
| Two Rivers Market | Fuel Purchases | 67.00 |
| Vetter Culligan Water | Supplies | 472.92 |
| Waco Community School | Entry Fees | 285.00 |
| Wapello CSD | Entry Fees | 260.00 |
| Washington CSD | Entry Fees | 125.00 |
| Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc | Purchase Service | 7,698.00 |
| West Branch Community School District | Entry Fees | 96.00 |
| West Music Company | Supplies | 518.47 |
| Westel Greenhouse, LLC | Supplies | 154.52 |
| Windstream | Fax Services | 99.33 |
| Woodward, Bret | Official | 170.00 |
|  |  | 808,134.07 |