REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

BOARD OF EDUCATION

COLUMBUS COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monday, August 25, 2025

The Board of Directors of Columbus Community School District convened its regular monthly board meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 25, 2025, at the Administration Building in Columbus Junction, Iowa.

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

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

**Board Meeting**

**Agenda**

Andy White moved to approve the agenda.

Seconded by Dan Heindel.

Ayes: four Nays: none. Carried.

**Citizen’s Comments**

There were no citizen’s comments at this meeting.

**Consent Agenda**

Todd Heck made a motion to approve the consent agenda with pulling out the NHS fundraiser.

Seconded by Andy White.

Ayes: four Nays: none. Carried.

Consent items were:

1. Financial Report

b. Minutes for July 28, 2025 meeting, August 7, 2025 special board meeting and the August 13, 2025 work session.

c. Bills

d.  Personnel

* Hire – Arlette Campa – SPED Associate
* Hire – Samantha Rendon – SPED Para
* Hire – Josie Roberts – Sped Associate
* Hire – Ashlynne Carrington - Freshmen class sponsor
* Hire – Michael Aragon – Junior class sponsor
* Hire – Stephanie Ruiz – Strat II long term sub
* Hire – Deena Christy – Roundy Building Sub

e. Fundraisers

* Cheerleaders – Sell homecoming spirit supplies – Ashley Milder
* HS Volleyball – Pig toss at VB home games – Lori Beenen
* FCCLA – Blood Drive – Rachel Hahn
* FCCLA – Bake sale during fall and spring conferences – Rachel Hahn
* FCCLA – Sell rubber ducks during fall and spring conferences – Rachel Hahn
* FCCLA – Sell wildcat socks – Rachel Hahn

Todd Heck moved to deny the NHS fundraiser for selling reserved parking spaces.

Seconded by Andy White.

Ayes: four Nays: none. Carried.

**Reports**

Written administrative reports were submitted by Michael Aragon, Liz Goodwin, Randy Phillips, Cassie Stewart, Paul Kissell and Dr. Volk.

Administrative Summary Reports - Information

Administrative Summary Reports - Aug 2025

Michael Aragon - Activity Director

Summary: Aragon reported that the first two weeks of practice have been well-run by our coaches and well-attended by our athletes. Aragon has worked with Muscatine High School officials to relocate our first game. Finishing touches have been put on the first month of activities, including stocking concessions, and issuing contracts. All class sponsor roles have been filled for the coming school year. Aragon attended his first conference AD meeting and built strong working relationships with other conference ADs. Finally, Aragon has started pre-season meetings with coaches and sponsors, and they remain ongoing.

Liz Goodwin - Director of Teaching

Summary: Goodwin reported that in her first weeks as Director of Teaching, Learning, and Special Programs, she has focused on building relationships and becoming familiar with district systems. She has connected with the administrative team through conferences and leadership meetings, noting a strong foundation and shared vision within the group. Early projects have included creating communication tools for required trainings, organizing curriculum materials, and coordinating professional development opportunities. She also welcomed new teachers and mentors, supporting a positive start marked by strong energy and collaboration. Professional development sessions and classroom preparation helped set the stage for a smooth school year opening. Overall, Goodwin is gaining valuable insight into staff, curriculum, and resources while working to strengthen supports for teaching and learning across the district.

Randy Phillips - Operations Director

Summary: Phillips reported that the Operations Department has been busy this summer completing a wide range of projects to prepare for the new school year. Progress continues on the athletic field, with irrigation completed and seeding underway as we wait for grass to be fully established. Major summer projects such as roof work, window replacements, fire and burglar alarm updates, fence and gate installations, and the new phone system are nearly all complete, with only a few final tasks in progress. OPN has also begun the district-wide facilities assessment, and new student laptops, iPads, and CTE computers are being set up. Transportation inspections are complete, and bus routes are finalized. In Nutrition Services, new kitchen equipment has been installed, staff training is finished, and all kitchens have been thoroughly cleaned. Additionally, new landscaping at the Roundy entrance has provided an impressive upgrade to the campus.

Cassie Stewart - Elem Principal

Summary: Stewart reported that the past two weeks at Roundy Elementary have been filled with preparation and collaboration as staff get ready for the new school year. New teachers participated in orientation and training to ensure a successful start, while all staff engaged in professional development focused on instructional strategies, student engagement, and school priorities. Teachers have also been busy setting up classrooms and finalizing schedules to create a smooth first day for students. In addition, one-on-one and team meetings provided opportunities to build connections, align goals, and address needs. Overall, it has been a productive and positive start, and we look forward to welcoming students back soon.

Paul Kissell - Secondary Principal

Summary: Kissell reported that the secondary staff have been busy preparing for the 2025–26 school year with a strong focus on instructional alignment and student engagement. Professional Learning Communities, supported by Liz Goodwin, are connecting curriculum to Iowa Core Standards and guided by the Building Leadership Team’s reassessment plan. Teachers collaborated to define what student engagement looks like, and administrators will use these descriptors during walkthroughs to guide professional conversations. Secondary staff also participated in AI training with Aaron Maurer to enhance instructional practices. On the policy front, updates to the Professional Leave Policy, a new Field Trip/Transportation Request Form, and reinforcement of the district’s phone policy were completed. In addition, staff achievements were celebrated, with Kortney Orr and Lori Beenen receiving state-level recognition. Looking ahead, student orientation will reinforce expectations, while the focus remains on engagement, instructional improvement, and family communication.

Michael Volk - Superintendent

Summary: Volk reported that the district kicked off the 2025–26 school year on August 18 with the Back-to-School presentation, which focused on professional expectations, equity, and district priorities. Staff reviewed ethical standards, reporting requirements, dress code expectations, new legislation on student cell phone use, and the Employee Expression Policy, along with Title IX and equity responsibilities. Superintendent Volk’s Welcome Presentation emphasized self-awareness, positive thinking, and professional integrity, introducing “The Frame” concept to encourage curiosity and accountability over blame. He also stressed the importance of strong school culture by focusing on helping others succeed, honoring the absent, and taking ownership of challenges, while cautioning against negativity and entitlement. OPN Architects conducted a districtwide facility assessment on August 19–20 with staff input sessions on August 22, and a final report will provide recommendations for facility improvements. Updated student handbooks have been finalized for board approval, and the first draft of the district’s new Wordmark was shared as part of the logo update. Board policy updates aligned with IASB recommendations are scheduled for a first reading on September 22. The District Leadership Team attended the SAI 50th Annual Conference, and the district continues to seek candidates for open JH/HS Choir and Elementary ESL positions.

A board report was given by Carol Zuniga.

**Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business at this meeting.

**New Business**

Andy White moved to accept the RM Boggs Co. bid to replace the high school cafeteria heat pump compressor for $10,870.71.

Seconded by Dan Heindel.

Ayes: four Nays: none. Carried.

Andy White moved to approve the 2025-2026 Roundy & Secondary Student Handbooks.

Seconded by Todd Heck.

Ayes: four Nays: none. Carried.

Todd Heck moved to approve the sale of bus #1 on public surplus.

Seconded by Dan Heindel.

Ayes: four Nays: none. Carried.

Andy White moved to approve the 2025-26 BLT stipends of $500 for BLT members as listed.

Seconded by Dan Heindel.

Ayes: three Nays: none. Carried. Todd Heck abstained.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Roundy Teacher Names |  | Secondary Teacher Names |
| Eileen Heck |  | Lori Beenen |
| Mary Best |  | Chris Wulf |
| Jody Schmitz |  | Ben Masterson |
| Codi Lekwa |  | Tessa Pugh |
| Tera Rees |  | Wendy Watson |
| Nicole Kitchen |  | Karlie Hunter |
| Emily Crow |  |  |
| Emma Tee |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

Dan Heindel moved to approve the 2025-26 mentor teacher stipends as listed.

Seconded by Andy White.

Ayes: three Nays: none. Carried. Todd Heck abstained.

Teacher Name 1st Year Mentor $1,500

Tasha Cantrell Eileen Heck

Emilee Rooney Nicole Kitchen

Annette Hoffer Sarah Davis

Christina Wiebel Rose McIntyre

Andrea Rhum Codi Lekwa

Taylor Stogdill Wendy Watson

Mackenzie Duncan Tessa Pugh

Sylvia Headington Sarah Milder

Teacher Name 2nd Year Mentor $1,000

Calie Schwartz Kim Wilson

Alexa Wenger Jody Schmitz

Jenna Yoder Emma Tee

Alex Ely Michelle Tolub

Ressa Meyer KarlieAnn Hunter

Todd Heck moved to approve a $6,500 stipend for Maureen Mincks as the 2025-26 Instructional Coach.

Seconded by Dan Heindel.

Ayes: four Nays: none. Carried.

Todd Heck moved to accept Marvin Hardy Jr (to fill the board vacancy). The motion died for lack of a second.

Todd Heck moved to accept Todd Salazar (to fill the board vacancy). The motion died for lack of a second.

Andy White moved to accept Darin Mapel (to fill the board vacancy).

Seconded by Dan Heindel.

Ayes: three Nays: one. Carried. Todd Heck voted no.

Andy White moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Dan Heindel.

Ayes: four Nays: none. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

The next meeting will be on September 22, 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:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 4-M Plumbing & Heating | Purchase Service | 3,724.98 |
| Acco Unlimited Corp | Supplies | 1,021.60 |
| AgEdNet.com | Curriculum | 465.00 |
| Agriland FS, INC. | Fuel Purchases | 1,774.49 |
| All American Pest Control | Pest Control Services | 220.00 |
| Alliant Energy | Utilities | 30,398.92 |
| Apple Computer, Inc. | Technology | 9,750.00 |
| Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, LLC | Insurance | 2,472.00 |
| Audas, Milton | Official Fees | 135.00 |
| BMO Harris Bank N.A. | Supplies/Travel | 16,307.22 |
| Broadcast Music, LLC | Music License | 312.04 |
| BSN Sports | Supplies | 6,044.27 |
| Carquest of Muscatine | Supplies | 201.36 |
| Carstens Chiropractic | DOT Physicals | 480.00 |
| Central College Volleyball Team Camp | Entry Fees | 1,470.00 |
| Central Iowa Distributing | Purchase Service | 3,818.00 |
| Character Strong | Curriculum | 2,699.00 |
| City Of Columbus Junction | Utilities | 877.49 |
| Clearfly | District Telephone Services | 1,639.42 |
| Columbus Community School District | Reimbursement- VB Equipment | 4,886.10 |
| Columbus Concrete Construction, Inc | Purchase Service | 1,740.00 |
| Columbus Gazette | Publications | 369.00 |
| Columbus Jct. Auto Supply | Supplies | 2,508.21 |
| Curriculum Associates | Curriculum | 478.46 |
| Department of Administrative Services | Administration Fees | 600.00 |
| Earthgrains Baking Co's Inc. | Bread Purchases | 224.25 |
| Economart | Supplies | 365.32 |
| Electric Motors of Iowa City | Purchase Service | 225.44 |
| FBG Service Corporation | Janitorial Services | 24,341.00 |
| First Response Extinguisher Service | Purchase Service | 2,428.92 |
| Generation Genius, Inc. | Curriculum | 1,395.00 |
| Grainger | Supplies | 281.02 |
| Greenscape | Purchase Service | 15,000.00 |
| Greenwood Cleaning System | Supplies | 10,844.54 |
| Inventory ID | Purchase Service | 5,750.00 |
| Iowa Girls' Coaches Association | Membership Dues | 105.00 |
| Iowa High School Speech Assoc. | Membership Dues | 100.00 |
| Iowa River Sanitation | Garbage Services | 560.00 |
| IP Pathways | Technology | 825.00 |
| KCII | Purchase Service | 227.04 |
| L.J. Roth | Purchase Service | 6,487.91 |
| Lexia Learning Systems, LLC | Professional Development | 16,059.00 |
| Louisa County Public Health | Inspection Fees | 270.00 |
| Lucas Communications Inc | Purchase Service | 26,247.82 |
| Marco | Copier Leases | 2,406.03 |
| Martin, Jennifer | Refund- Lunch Account | 297.20 |
| Medicom | District Telephone Services | 696.86 |
| Mid-American Research Chemical | Supplies | 4,471.22 |
| Muscatine Running Club | Entry Fees | 156.00 |
| OPN Architects | Purchase Service | 2,925.00 |
| Paper Corporation, The | Bulk Paper Order | 8,711.60 |
| Performance Foodservice | Food Purchases | 7,333.54 |
| Quill Corp | Supplies | 2,213.43 |
| R.M. Boggs Co. | Purchase Service | 5,303.49 |
| Refreshment Services Pepsi | Pop Purchases | 686.73 |
| Riverside Technologies Inc | Technology | 31,561.15 |
| Savvas Learning Company | Curriculum | 5,290.38 |
| Scholastic, Inc | Supplies | 79.64 |
| School Bus Sales | Supplies | 390.37 |
| School Specialty Supply | Furniture | 2,253.23 |
| Sinclair Tractor | Supplies | 183.69 |
| Staats Awards | Supplies | 43.75 |
| State Hygienic Laboratory | Water Testing Fees | 30.00 |
| Summit Companies | Purchase Service | 26,250.00 |
| Summit K12 | Curriculum | 8,996.25 |
| Symmetry Energy Solutions, LLC | Utilities | 117.20 |
| TCI | Curriculum | 751.00 |
| Trophies Plus | Supplies | 246.20 |
| Van Diest Supply Company | Supplies | 1,823.90 |
| Vetter Culligan Water | Supplies | 105.47 |
| Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc | Purchase Service | 8,590.63 |
| West Music Company | Supplies | 429.18 |
| Wiele Motor | Supplies | 203.70 |
| Windstream | District Telephone Services | 88.97 |
| Winfield Builders | Supplies | 1,258.55 |
| Winfield-Mt. Union CSD | 28E Agreement | 4,613.89 |
|  |  | 334,638.07 |