

COLUMBUS COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD

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by the committee was to stress general maintenance and housekeeping in the district's bathrooms, sinks, toilets, bottle filters and other areas to ensure they are in daily working order, she added.

The committee identified three major academic general recommendations, which were then split into more detailed actions.

Totemeier said the committee placed major emphasis on effective instruction that focused on the Iowa Core Standards and active student engagement. Student surveys, prioritizing lesson planning around an instructional framework and differentiating instruction to meet student needs were specific actions under this recommendation.

The second academic recommendation stressed that nearly all students can learn at high levels. To achieve this, the committee encouraged efforts that would promote greater

parent/teacher engagement and addressing barriers.

The final academic recommendation was to improve communication and transparency to all stakeholders.

Board members said they appreciated the input and suggested SIAC continue to be utilized in the future.

Volk said the committee had not been particularly active the past several years and he planned to continue using it for future planning.

The board also received a presentation on a student behavior health service offered by Hazel Health. Representative Hannah Olson outlined the services the organization has provided to the district since December. She said there had been 33 referrals since then, six were being processed for enrollment and 16 students were receiving therapy services.

She said the telehealth service would not replace local therapists, but would be able to offer services not locally available and also function as a bridge to help

students obtain additional care.

School board members welcomed the company's involvement with the district's students and said they felt it would provide a needed service.

Members of the district's BPA (Business Professionals of America) chapter also met with the board and described their recent participation in the state convention.

Later in the meeting, the board approved the chapter's request to attend the national conference from May 3-11 in Orlando, FL.

In other action, the board tabled action on adding a dress code policy to the staff handbook. The decision to table action followed a discussion on allowing Fridays to be Spirit Days, which would allow jeans and Wildcat hoodies to be worn to school.

The Spirit Days exception had not been clearly stated in the initial policy.

The board also agreed

to transfer \$2,125 from the General Fund to the PPEL (Physical Plant and Equipment Levy) fund for the sale of a 2012 Ford Fusion. Under school financing rules, the revenue from the sale must be deposited in the General Fund, even though the revenue to purchase the vehicle had originally come from the district's PPEL account.

The board also:

- Agreed to allow the purchase of black pants for the school second set of softball uniforms;

- Approved a waiver of the 90-day ineligibility rule for an open-enrolled out student;

- Approved using the district's General Fund to cover the \$700 cost to hold soccer and track meets at alternate fields while the Columbus athletic complex is renovated;

- Learned 1963 alumnus Bob Curtis had been selected as the 2025 Columbus Distinguished Graduate.

The board also reviewed reports or met

with district staff to discuss administrative reports.

Activity director Paul Kissell indicated in his report that a board policy may need to be created to guide the school concerning the cost of national trips. In her director of instruction report,

Kristen Payne alerted the board to upcoming student assessment testing and said 19 seniors had achieved the Seal of Bilitery.

In addition to his update to the board on the building audit recommendation developed by the district's SIAC group and the sale of the Ford Fusion, Phillips also reported summer project bidding was continuing; a new camera system had been installed at Roundy, collaboration with the Grant Wood AEA on several projects was still progressing; as were repairs to the kitchen, following a small fire that firefighters had been able to contain.

Elementary principal Kristina Murphy said recent conferences had been well attended and that

planning for the new school year had already started.

Secondary principal Mike Wolter also reported in his written update there had been good conference attendance and the district was continuing to seek candidates for several hard-to-staff positions.

In addition to his other agenda items, Volk updated the board on legislative activities, including that there has been no settlement on Supplemental State Aid (SSA) for the the 2025-26 school year. That means the school board may be forced to approve a budget without knowing the full amount of state aid.

Prior to the board's regular meeting, the public hearing for the district's Fiscal Year 2026 Property Tax Levy was held. According to school officials, rd from three people concerned over the proposed tax asking.

Speakers during the hearing included Kathy Richardson, Matt Clark and Wayne Finke.

PUBLIC NOTICE

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
COLUMBUS COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Monday, March 24, 2025

The Board of Directors of Columbus Community School District convened its regular monthly board meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 24, 2025, at the Administration Building in Columbus Junction, Iowa.

Present were President Carol Zuniga, Vice-President Todd Heck (via Teams) and directors Dan Heindel, and Stacy Storm. Andy White was absent.

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

Board Meeting
Agenda
Dan Heindel moved to approve the agenda.

Seconded by Stacy Storm.
Ayes: four Nays: none.
Carried.

Citizen's Comments
There were no citizen's comments at this meeting.

Presentations
Hannah Olson with Hazel Health presented information to the board on a district impact report. Hazel Health is the largest telehealth provider of online mental health therapy. Hannah reviewed referral trends, enrollment/intake trends, care trends/plans of treatment. Hazel Health has served 16 students for a total of 42 completed visits, with 3 students referred for continuation of care to community providers upon discharge of services.

Dr Volk presented an update on the School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) and the information SIAC has gathered by a survey and how the survey was taken by a good cross section of board members, staff, students and community members. Then Kelli Totemeier, one of the committee members, presented the recommendations drafted by SIAC.

Non-academic recommendations included having a full district facility audit and assessment done and review of general maintenance and housekeeping of some areas.

Academic recommendations included to place major emphasis on effective instruction to meet Iowa Core Standards and student engagement in the classroom. All staff and parents must recognize that all students can learn at high levels when barriers are overcome and major improvements can and will be made in student achievement. Promote greater parent/teacher engagement to improve the academic quality of school and student success by addressing barriers that may include low-income, Limited English Proficiency, cultural, racial or ethnic differences, and parents with limited literacy. And improve communications and transparency to all stakeholders.

BPA presentation - Senior - Aracely Garza, Sophomore - Mady Payne, Freshmen Precious Cisneros & Jazmin Montiel, and Advisor - Lori Beenen reviewed the road our BPA (Business Professionals of America) members took to get to nationals.

There are 29 active members with 24 of them deciding to attend nationals in Orlando, FL, May 3 - 11th. This year we qualified 11 students. Two students qualified in 2 events. Jocelyn Hernandez and Daniela Diaz. Others qualifying are Kymila Bacon, Yailleen

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Miranda, Janelle Jimenez, Isabel Rendon, Ariana Vergara, Jessica Del Rio, Mady Payne, Drake Marin, and Juan Alcalá.

Precious, Jazmin, and Mady talked about their experiences competing at SLC and the sessions attended at the Fall Leadership Conference. Aracely thanked the School Board and administration for all their support these last 4 years. She stated she has grown in public speaking.

Mrs. Beenen talked about our current state officer, Ariana Vergara, and her responsibilities at nationals. She also explained the upcoming events our 2025-2026 state officer, Isabel Rendon, will be doing to prepare for her position this fall.

Consent Agenda
Dan Heindel made a motion to approve the consent agenda.
Seconded by Stacy Storm.
Ayes: four Nays: none.
Carried.

Consent items were:
a. Financial Report
b. Minutes for February 24, 2025, Regular Meeting
c. Bills
d. Personnel

- Resignation - Alicia Maxwell - JH Science Teacher
- Resignation - Jesenia Baca-Diaz - Roundy Associate
- Hire - Iliana Rodriguez - Roundy Associate
- e. Fundraisers
 - Girls Basketball - Asking for Sponsorships - Kasey Keltner
 - Girls Basketball - Host a Basketball Camp - Kasey Keltner
 - Girls Basketball - Grant Requests (United Fund & Community Foundation of Louisa County) - Kasey Keltner

- High School Softball - Drive thru Meal - Dustin Traylor
- High School Softball - Hit-a-thon - Dustin Traylor

School use

Fundraisers:
• High School Softball - Bat Raffle - Dustin Traylor / Boosters
• High School Softball - Sell Shirts - Columbus Alumni / Boosters

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 the Columbus speech team had a remarkable performance at the district contest, with all eight entries receiving a top rating and advancing to the state competition—an achievement not seen in the past decade. Several students also qualified for BPA Nationals in Orlando, with the school covering a significant portion of the \$21,102 estimated cost. Concerns were raised about the sustainability of funding national trips through the activity account, with a recommendation to create a board policy to address future funding guidelines. Spring sports participation numbers are strong, with high involvement across track, soccer, and golf. The baseball field requires more extensive repair than anticipated, with proposed solutions ranging in cost and feasibility. Finally, upcoming spring events and a financial overview of fall and winter activities were also shared.

Kristen Payne - Director of Instruction

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- Summary: Payne reported that ISASP testing is prepared and will begin on March 31. Thirteen juniors and seniors passed the STAMP exam earlier this month and will earn the Seal of Bilitery upon graduation. Nineteen seniors will receive this recognition, representing over one-third of the graduating class. FAST parent letters and iReady reports were distributed with report cards during conferences at both buildings. Appreciation is extended to educators supporting students as the final quarter of the school year begins.

Randy Phillips - Operations Director

- Summary: Phillips reported that district operations are running smoothly. Only a few bids remain to be finalized for summer projects, which are on schedule to begin after the school year ends in May. Three applicants have expressed interest in part-time summer positions, with interviews scheduled for the first week of April. Over Spring Break, a new camera system was installed at Roundy, modifications to the records room were completed, and initial work began on the athletic field. IT staff have been enrolled in the Storm Winds online training portal, with training set to begin after the break. In addition to regular responsibilities, the IT department is addressing issues with the TestNav app following recent testing updates. Collaboration with GWAEA continues as they assist IT in uploading the past two years of ISASP scores into Infinite Campus. E-Rate scoring has been completed and returned to GWAEA for submission. Transportation services remain steady, and the sale of the 2012 Ford Fusion has been finalized. The Nutrition Department is functioning effectively. On March 7, a small fire occurred in the high school kitchen office; repairs and replacements are currently underway through insurance. Appreciation is extended to the Columbus Fire Department, Andy Milder, and all others involved for their quick response in containing the incident.

Kristina Murphy - Elem Principal

- Summary: Murphy reported that spring conferences appeared to be well attended, based on the number of families present in the building. More detailed information will be available after the break, as teachers will follow up with families who were unable to attend on the scheduled evenings. Roundy's spring concerts are scheduled for April 1st and 3rd at 6:30 p.m. in the Roundy gym. Murphy invites everyone to attend and enjoy the wonderful programs led by Mr. Ely and our students. An art show will be held concurrently with the concerts, featuring student artwork curated by Mrs. Milder and displayed in the cafeteria. Mrs. Payne has been working diligently to prepare all ISASP testing sessions and to provide teachers with the necessary training and materials. Roundy's Building Leadership Team (BLT) continues to focus on priority areas identified last year, including: strengthening ELA universal instruction (LETRS training provided to all staff and potential curriculum pilots underway), improving the SEBH MTSS system (Character Strong curriculum implemented school-wide, enhanced Tier 2 systems, and appropriate intervention training), and fostering a positive

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building culture and climate. Finally, planning for the next school year is well underway, while staff also work to complete this year's evaluations—most observations are finished, and portfolios have been submitted for review.

Mike Wolter - Secondary Principal

- Summary: Wolter reported that parent-teacher conferences were well attended overall, though slightly lower than last year. The monthly PBIS behavior reward day continues to support positive student behavior. Participation in professional development opportunities, including Leading for Impact and MCC's regular meeting, provided valuable learning and collaboration. Classroom observations highlight strong instructional practices in secondary classrooms. Lastly, the district is actively seeking to fill hard-to-staff positions in Art, High School Math, and Middle School Science.

Michael Volk - Superintendent

- Summary: Volk provided a legislative update, noting that the Legislature continues to delay its statutory deadline for setting Supplemental State Aid (SSA). Volk emphasized the importance of districts receiving the SSA rate—along with the Teacher Salary Supplement (TSS)—as soon as possible, so that Columbus can finalize negotiations and issue contracts in a timely manner. Volk also shared that the Legislature has introduced new Property Tax Overhaul Bills.

These proposals are complex, involve many moving parts, and are progressing slowly through the legislative process. In contrast, several other legislative bills are moving forward more quickly. Volk reported that the School Improvement Advisory Committee has finalized the district's school improvement goals and presented its recommendations to the Columbus Board of Directors. Volk continues to work with Mills on the implementation of new school board policies, which are scheduled for full adoption at the May 27 board meeting. The District Leadership Team continues to work through building the district's At-Risk Program and strengthening the district's Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). Finally, two Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) positions will be filled in the coming month. Interviews are currently being scheduled for both the Director of Teaching, Learning & Special Programs position and the Instructional Coach for MTSS position.

Carol Zuniga gave a board report.

Unfinished Business
Stacy Storm made a motion to approve a transfer from General Fund to PPEL Fund for the sale of a school vehicle (the 2012 Ford Fusion sold for \$2,125).

Seconded by Dan Heindel.
Ayes: four Nays: none.
Carried.

New Business
Stacy Storm moved to approve out of state travel for BPA to travel to Orlando FL for Nationals May 3 - 11.

Seconded by Dan Heindel.
Ayes: four Nays: none.
Carried.

Dan Heindel moved to table considering the Dress Code Policy being added to the handbook pending the policy being updated with Friday information being added.

Seconded by Stacy Storm.

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Ayes: four Nays: none.
Carried.

Todd Heck joined the meeting in person at 7:42.
Stacy Storm moved for the approval of the softball uniform request to purchase black pants.
Seconded by Todd Heck.
Ayes: four Nays: none.
Carried.

Dan Heindel moved to approve waiving the 90-day ineligibility for an open enrolled out student.

Seconded by Stacy Storm.
Ayes: three Nays: one. Carried.
Carol Zuniga voted no.
Stacy Storm moved to approve to pay soccer field rental and track agreement fees from general fund (to reimburse the Activity Fund).

Seconded by Dan Heindel.
Ayes: four Nays: none.
Carried.

Dan Heindel moved for approval of the SIAC recommendations.

Seconded by Todd Heck.
Ayes: four Nays: none.
Carried.

New Business information items discussed:

- The Columbus Distinguished Graduate for 2025 will be Bob Curtis.
- Review of the FY23 Audit.

Stacy Storm moved to adjourn.
Seconded by Dan Heindel.
Ayes: four Nays: none.
Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.
The next meeting will be on April 28, 2025, at 6:00pm.
/s/Carol S. Zuniga, School Board President, /s/Neil A. Mills, School Board Secretary

Approved Bills:
Acco Unlimited Corp Equipment.....6,692.00
ACT Testing Fees.....1,518.00
Agriland FS, INC. Fuel Purchases4,364.43
Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. Legal Services.....4,872.00
All American Pest Control Pest Control Services.....110.00
Alliant Energy Utilities.27,175.03
Anderson Erickson Dairy Milk Purchases.....5,868.89
Archer Appliance and Electronics Purchase Service.....225.65
Auto-Jet Muffler Corp. Repairs.....270.03
Beck Engineering, Inc. Purchase Service.....1,288.00
Beenen, Lori Reimbursement.....2,663.90
Berlin's Pro Shop & Screen Printing Supplies.....87.00
BMO Harris Bank N.A. Supplies/Travel.....11,977.94
BSN Sports Supplies.....1,899.96
Business Professionals Of America Registration Fees.....4,877.00
Carquest of Muscatine Supplies.....14.10
Carstens Chiropractic DOT Physical.....80.00
CDW Government Inc Technology.....13,358.91
Central Iowa Distributing Supplies.....1,596.10
City Of Columbus Junction Utilities.....2,912.42
Columbus Activity Account Reimbursement.....992.29
Columbus Gazette Publications.....1,179.70
Columbus Jet. Auto Supply Supplies.....2,255.14
Custom Impressions Supplies.....267.36
Doors Inc Purchase Service.....485.00
Earthgrains Baking Co's Inc. Bread Purchases.....431.25
Economart Supplies70.32

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Electronic Engineering Purchase Service.....	3,012.23
FBG Service Corporation Janitorial Services.....	24,341.00
First Response Extinguisher Service Purchase Service.....	176.50
Flinn Scientific Inc Supplies.....	1,960.80
Gaylord Palms Resort Travel- BP A.....	15,160.00
Greenwood Cleaning System Supplies.....	1,238.29
Hands Up Communication Purchase Service.....	11,352.50
Hub International Great Plains, LLC Purchase Service.....	3,600.00
Iowa Assn Of Track Coaches Entry Fees.....	200.00
Iowa Dept. Of Education Inspection Fees.....	900.00
Iowa Girls' HS Athletic Union Entry Fees.....	400.00
Iowa High School Speech Assoc. Supplies.....	104.00
Iowa Prison Industries Supplies.....	137.80
Iowa River Sanitation Garbage Services.....	525.00
Iowa Testing Programs Testing Fees.....	1,864.00
IP Pathways Technology.....	75.00
J.W. Pepper and Son, Inc Supplies.....	470.39
L & M School District 28E Agreement.....	17,152.45
Lone Tree CSD Open Enrollment.....	6,894.08
Louisa-Muscatine Activity Fund Entry Fees.....	85.00
Marco Copier Leases.....	2,171.03
Mariet's Garden Center Supplies.....	585.00
Medicom Telephone Service.....	353.06
Mississippi Bend AEA 9 Purchase Service.....	63,412.39
Nolte, Cornman & Johnson P.C. Audit Services.....	9,600.00
Norte Dame Music Boosters Entry Fees.....	77.00
Office of Auditor of State Audit Fees.....	625.00
Pella Community School District Entry Fees.....	150.00
Performance Foodservice Food Purchases.....	17,427.19
Phonak Inc. SPED Equipment.....	534.27
Plumb Supply Company Supplies.....	50.41
Quill Corp Supplies.....	215.21
R.M. Boggs Co. Purchase Service.....	15,680.88
Refreshment Services Pepsi Pop Purchases.....	1,046.17
Rock Valley Physical Therapy Athletic Training Services.....	398.75
School Bus Sales Supplies.....	448.98
Schumacher Elevator Company Purchase Service.....	1,028.00
Soccer.com Supplies.....	2,987.69
Solon Community School District Entry Fees.....	50.00
Staats Awards Supplies.....	40.30
Storm Wind, LLC Professional Development.....	1,380.00
Symmetry Energy Solutions, LLC Utilities.....	2,461.34
Triple B Construction Purchase Service.....	66,519.00
Trophies Plus Supplies.....	1,920.20
Uline Supplies.....	289.22
Underwood Distributing Co. Supplies-Gear Up 3.0.....	5,731.25
UNI Athletics Entry Fees.....	400.00
Van Meter Industrial Inc Supplies.....	511.39
Vetter Culligan Water Supplies.....	46.68
West Music Company Supplies.....	1,586.57
Westel Greenhouse, LLC Supplies.....	925.58
Wilson Community Schools Entry Fees.....	80.00
Windstream Fax Services.....	89.04
	416,003.06

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