

PUBLIC NOTICE

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
COLUMBUS COMMUNITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Friday, October 24, 2025

The Board of Directors of Columbus Community School District convened a special board meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, October 24, 2025, at the Administration Building in Columbus Junction, Iowa.

Present were, President Carol Zuniga, Vice-President Todd Heck and Directors Dan Heindel, Darin Mapel (by phone) and Andy White (by phone). In addition, Business Manager and Board Secretary Neil Mills was present.

Board Meeting
Agenda
Dan Heindel moved to approve the agenda.

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

New Business
Dan Heindel moved to approve the resignation, release and settlement agreement.

Seconded by Andy White.
Ayes: four Nays: one. Carried. Darin Mapel voted no.

Dan Heindel moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Andy White.
Ayes: five. Nays: none. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

/s/ Carol Zuniga, School Board President, /s/ Neil A. Mills, School Board Secretary

Published Wednesday, November 5th, 2025 in the Columbus Gazette.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR LOUISA COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF REX HARRIS GIPPLE, Deceased.
Probate No. ESPR017597
NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL,
APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To all persons interested in the estate of REX HARRIS GIPPLE, deceased, who died on or about October 16, 2025:

You are hereby notified that on October 28, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of REX HARRIS GIPPLE, deceased, bearing the date of September 14, 2022, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Michelle R. Berry was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the Will must be brought in the District Court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this Notice or one month from the date of mailing of this Notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose

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identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against said estate shall file them with the Clerk of the above-named District Court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by later to occur of four months from the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this Notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated this 29th day of October, 2025.

s/ Michelle R. Berry
Executor of the Estate
209 W Pine St., PO Box 161
Winfield, IA 52659

Phil Parsons
Attorney for Executor
206 West Main Street
P.O. Box 308
Washington, IA 52353

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Do you need help with your heating bill?

Community Action of Southeast Iowa will start taking applications for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) on:

10/1/2025—for the disabled & elderly (60+)
11/1/2025—for all other applicants

This program is not designed to pay a household's total energy costs. The program will provide supplemental assistance based on several factors. Those factors include total household income, household size, dwelling type, and type of heating fuel, among others.

Please note our income guidelines have changed. If you were not eligible last year, you may be eligible this year. Income guidelines are established by the following Federal Household Income Guidelines:

Household Size	1 Month Income	Annual Income
1	\$2,608	\$31,300
2	\$3,525	\$42,300
For each additional Member add	\$917	\$11,000

The following is required for all household members to apply:

- Proof of income for the last 4 weeks or your most recent income tax return (2024 when applicable)
- Current heat bill
- Current electric bill
- Date of Birth
- Social Security Cards for all household members

Please contact:
Louisa County Center
1303 W. Washington St.
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641
319-728-2314
Tuesday & Wednesday

Second Publication Wednesday, November 5, 2025 in the Columbus Gazette.

Published Wednesday, October 22, 2025 in the Columbus Gazette

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOUISA REGIONAL
SOLID WASTE
QUARTERLY MEETING
Thursday, October 23, 2025 –
5:30 PM – Engineer's Office

The Louisa Regional Solid Waste Agency held its Quarterly Meeting on Thursday, October 23, 2025. In attendance were Scot Hunt, Jerry Kirk, Randy Schlutz, Dena Rinnert, Bill Stigge, Kevin Conrad, Lynn Whaley (Wemiga Waste Inc), Jacob Ewart (Louisa County Conservation), Jim Rudisill (Press) and Joellen Schantz.

Chairman, Randy Schlutz called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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Motion by Kirk and Second by Hunt to approve the Regular Quarterly Meeting minutes from July 2, 2025.

Motion carried. All ayes.

Motion by Hunt and Second by Stigge to approve the Special Executive Board Meeting minutes from August 25, 2025. Motion carried. All ayes.

Treasurer's Report
1st Quarter FY26 (July – September 2025)

Expenditures: \$163,319.72
Revenue: \$146,649.01

Motion by Rinnert and Second by Hunt to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried. All Ayes.

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Gene Arnold entered the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Environmental Education - Jacob Ewart was present to discuss the current FY environmental education options for the current year. Motion by Kirk and Second by Rinnert to contract with Louisa County Conservation to provide FY26 Environmental Education not to exceed \$1500. Motion carried. All ayes.

Lynn Whaley of Wemiga attended with a proposal to change recycling storage and hauling by adding a compactor with the intention of reducing the number of hauls out of the transfer station. The compactor and compactor box

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would be furnished by Wemiga. Operation of the compactor would be by a transfer station employee. Schantz will check with our insurance regarding liability and additional cost of using our own operator and Wemiga equipment on site. Electricity would be needed at the current bunker location to operate the compactor. The Board will discuss this at a future meeting.

FY25 Financial Report prepared by Menke & Co. was reviewed by the Board. Schantz reported that the FY25 Audit is complete, and those documents will be distributed once she has them in hand.

Landfill Repairs and Maintenance Update – Scot Hunt reported that Boe McLaughlin mowed the high part of landfill and Jordie Beeding will be sending a bill for repairs of erosion areas.

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Daniel Hay submitted a bid to repair the drain and grate in collection building loading area for \$5800.

Motion by Kirk and second by Stigge to accept the bid. Motion carried. All ayes.

Recently the heat/fire detection system went off in error. After fixing the problem, Per Mar Security suggested a system upgrade to cellular. Parts for the current system are no longer available.

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The new cellular system would include a one-time \$150 fee and a monthly fee of \$94.99. The Board decided to hold off on the upgrade as the current system is working at this time.

There being no further business, motion by Hunt and second by Stigge to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

/s/ Joellen Schantz, Secy/Treas.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 19, 2025 at the Engineer's Office.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

REGULAR MONTHLY
MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
COLUMBUS COMMUNITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Monday, October 27, 2025

The Board of Directors of Columbus Community School District convened its regular monthly board meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 27, 2025, at the Administration Building in Columbus Junction, Iowa.

Present were President Carol Zuniga, Vice-President Todd Heck and directors Andy White (via Teams), Dan Heindel and Darin Mapel.

In addition, interim superintendent Paul Kissell and Business Manager and Board Secretary Neil Mills were present.

Board Meeting
Agenda
Dan Heindel moved to approve the agenda.

Seconded by Todd Heck.
Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.
Citizen's Comments

Wayne Finke addressed the board concerning the care and maintenance of the athletic field and that he believes it can be cared for by the current district staff.

Presentations
Jake McCullough presented information on Jr High PE classes and how he and Jeff Gilmore had attended a lifting clinic and are now scheduling Jr High PE classes to use the weight room for JH workouts.

Liz Goodwin gave two presentations. One presentation on the Iowa School Performance Profile Review and another on an ELA curriculum update. The plan is to purchase new curriculum for the 26/27 school year.

Consent Agenda

Todd Heck made a motion to approve the consent agenda except pulling out the Krafka Lawn and Landscape invoices for approval and striking the word "Court-yard" from the Courtyard/Outdoor Learning Classroom fundraiser request (as placement in the courtyard has not been approved).

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

Consent items were:

- Financial Report
- Minutes for September 22, 2025 meeting, Sept 30, 2025 & Oct 24, 2025 special meetings.
- Bills (removing Krafka Lawn and Landscape)
- Personnel
 - Resignation – Tessa Pugh – BLT Member and Mentor Teacher
 - Resignation – Madison Coleman – HS Assistant Softball Coach
 - Resignation – Kayla Beenen – Assistant Volleyball Coach
 - Hire – Mark Robinson – Mentor Teacher (for Mackenzie Duncan)
 - Hire – Quinten Gerds – Temporary IT Position
 - Voluntary Transfer – Steph-

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anie Ruiz – from Long-term SPED sub to Full time L2 SPED Teacher

• Volunteer Coach – Everett Allee – Robotics coach.

e. Fundraisers

• Jr Class/ Prom – Sell breakfast burritos and baked goods – Ashley Milder & Megan Buckman

• Student Council – Create a hunted hallway – Lizeth Vergara

• Boys Basketball – Free throw shooting fundraiser – Michael Aragon

• Boys Basketball – Sell clothing – Michael Aragon

• Girls Wrestling – Sell clothing – Mike Gronewold

• Cross Country – Sell t-shirts & sweatshirts – Steve Riley

• Outdoor Learning Classroom – Comm Foundation of Louisa Co Grant – Tessa Pugh

School use Fundraisers:

• JH Student Council – Boo basket raffle – Ashlynn Car-rington / Athletic Boosters

• Music Boosters – Carnival, sell desserts/potato bar, sell apparel & Trivia night- Music Boosters/Vicky Guillaume Reports

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

Administrative Summary Reports - October 2025

Michael Aragon - Activity Director

Summary: Mr. Aragon reported that in collaboration with our secondary principal and counseling department, the Secondary conducted a survey to assess student participation in athletics and extracurricular activities to identify barriers for non-participating students. Our Columbus Wildcats were busy last week as they hit the road to compete in the post season. Tyson Foods was very generous and sponsored pep vans/buses to our post-season events. Finally, our music programs held its Fall Concert in which the JH band, JH Choir, and HS Choir performed, boasting strong numbers. This concert was well attended by parents and fans. HS Band performed at the football game.

Liz Goodwin - Director of Teaching

Summary: Ms. Goodwin reported we have shared Iowa School Performance Profile (ISPP) data with teachers and led building discussions to set goals. BLTs will continue this work as we develop a 5-10-year strategic plan. We launched a secondary math intervention pilot using i-Ready, aligning with elementary use to close skill gaps and improve consistency. We hosted a Family ESL Night featuring Summit K12, which extends English learning to families at home. PLCs are fully active and focused on priority standards, common assessments, and data-driven instruction. I work to continue to strengthen staff relationships, support curriculum

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work, and collaborate with TAG and mentor programs to build teacher confidence and student opportunities. Overall, strong collaboration and steady progress are driving positive momentum across the district.

Randy Phillips - Operations Director

Summary: Mr. Phillips reported that operations are running well throughout the district. As cooler temperatures start to set in, a lot of prep work is being completed in preparation for winter. Phillips stated that the small, damaged section of the track should be completed within the next couple of weeks pending weather. Phillips reported that he is still working on project planning for next summer and will provide a summary later in the school year on what improvements the district will be completing after the 2025/2026 school year is complete.

Cassie Stewart - Elem Principal

Summary: Ms. Stewart reported Roundy Elementary has had a productive and positive start to the school year. Staff have completed Unit 5 and part of Unit 6 of LETRS training, strengthening literacy instruction and collaboration during PLCs. A math consultant is working with grade-level teams to enhance math instruction and interventions. The curriculum team is preparing to pilot two ELA programs aligned with the science of reading next semester. Our School-Wide Behavior Intervention Team has launched Tier 2 behavior supports through Character Strong, and staff continue to build strong relationships and momentum heading into Quarter 2.

Paul Kissell - Secondary Principal

Summary: Mr. Kissell focused on one of the building's key goals of improving student attendance. He analyzed and compared first-quarter attendance data from the current and previous school years, highlighting notable gains in both middle and high school attendance rates. The secondary team meets weekly to monitor progress and identify students who may benefit from additional interventions and support.

A board report was given by Todd Heck with an overview of a safety meeting regarding the \$150,000 safety grant and that approximately \$110,000 of the grant has been spent.

Unfinished Business

Todd Heck moved to not approve the \$80,000 bid (with Krafka Lawn & Landscape for the athletic field grow in and maintenance).

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

New Business

Darin Mapel moved approve the Columbus CSD Special Education Services Delivery Plan.

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

Dan Heindel moved to ap-

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prove the second reading of the updated board policies.

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

The New Updated IASB-Aligned Policies are available on the district website.

Todd Heck moved that the district's administration is authorized to submit a request to the School Budget Review Committee for a modified supplemental amount of \$202,798.98 due to excess cost of providing the English Learners program in the prior year.

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

Todd Heck moved to approve the 28E Agreements with Winfield-Mount Union CSD for boys and girls wrestling (for the 25/26 school year).

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

Todd Heck moved to approve the boys and girls Soccer 28E Agreement with Winfield-Mount Union CSD (for the 25/26 school year).

Seconded by Darin Mapel.
Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

Todd Heck made a motion to approve a new playground equipment committee.

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

Darin Mapel moved to have Columbus Community School District cast its weighted vote for Maria Ricaurte-Romza for the board of directors' election of Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency.

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

Darin Mapel moved to adjourn. Seconded by Todd Heck.
Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

The next meeting will be on November 24, 2025, at 6:00pm.

/s/ Carol S. Zuniga, School Board President, /s/ Neil A. Mills, School Board Secretary

Approved Bills:	
4-M Plumbing & Heating Purchase Service.....	2,465.75
Acco Unlimited Corp Supplies	28.50
Agriland FS, INC. Fuel Purchases	3,268.98
Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. Legal Services.....	15,109.00
All American Pest Control Pest Control Services.....	110.00
Alliant Energy Utilities.....	44,445.97
Alvarez, Marco Official.....	265.60
Anderson Erickson Dairy Milk Purchases.....	8,650.38
Apple Computer, Inc. Technology	7,464.99
Apptegy, Inc Technology.....	1,464.00
Archer Appliance and Electronics Equipment	993.00
Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, LLC Insurance	12,868.00
Auto-Jet Muffler Corp. Repairs	1,117.05
Beck Engineering, Inc. Purchase Service.....	644.00

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Black Hawk Roof Company Inc Purchase Service.....	6,085.00
BMO Harris Bank N.A. Supplies/Travel.....	12,739.20
Bowen, Bob Official.....	150.47
Bowker Pinnacle Mechanical Purchase Service.....	1,087.50
BSN Sports Supplies/Uniforms	5,386.40
Business Radio Sales & Service INC. Radio Equipment.....	541.25
Caldwell, Kevin Official.....	149.64
Carstens Chiropractic DOT Physical.....	80.00
CDW Government Inc Technology.....	2,624.45
Central Iowa Distributing Supplies.....	2,268.00
Character Strong Professional Development.....	5,250.00
City Of Columbus Junction Utilities.....	2,631.71
Clearly Telephone Services	1,050.96
Columbus Concrete Construction, Inc Purchase Service.....	6,880.00
Columbus Gazette Publications	1,105.90
Columbus Jet. Auto Supply Supplies.....	753.97
Control Installations of Iowa, Inc. Purchase Service.....	1,718.00
Controlled Access of The Midwest, LLC Purchase Service	749.65
Cotton, Marshall Official.....	266.45
Danforth, Kirk Official.....	245.62
Danville Community School District Entry Fees.....	200.00
Davis, Mike Official.....	268.88
Derlein Scale, Inc Purchase Service.....	150.00
DMACC Scholarships.....	250.00
Duane Rees Construction Snow Removal Services.....	1,308.00
Earthgrains Baking Co's Inc. Bread Purchases.....	1,855.35
eBoardsolutions, Inc Technology	2,925.00
Economart Supplies.....	1,015.39
Electronic Engineering Purchase Service.....	10,210.68
Environmental Services, LLC Supplies.....	190.00
Escher, Larry Official.....	233.92
FBG Service Corporation Janitorial Services.....	27,733.00
Flinn Scientific Inc Supply.....	296.95
Floral Gallery Supplies.....	62.00
Fullmind Purchase Serv.....	11,225.61
Genesis Home Medical Equipment.....	4,676.25
Gopher Sport SDS 12-1069 Supplies.....	851.19
Grainger Supplies	293.30
Grant Wood AEA Technology	10,945.50
Greenwood Cleaning System Supplies.....	6,197.30
Hands Up Communication Purchase Service.....	17,432.50
Hill, Jordon Official.....	247.38
Hillcrest Academy Entry Fees.....	150.00
Holy Trinity Catholic Schools Athletics Entry Fees.....	125.00
Inventory ID Purchase Service	2,875.00
Iowa River Sanitation Garage Services.....	575.00
IP Pathways Technology.....	825.00
J.W. Pepper and Son, Inc Supplies	165.10
Jamison, Samantha Official.....	140.83
Johnson Controls Purchase Ser-	

vice.....	3,572.85
Keltner, Kasey Reimbursement	333.76
Learning Couture, LLC Professional Development.....	1,487.50
Leet's Refrigeration Purchase Service.....	954.88
Louisa County Sheriff 28E Agreement- SRO.....	19,857.23
Mairet Farms Field Trip Admission.....	220.00
Marco Copier Leases	4,812.06
Marco Inc. Copier Supplies.....	420.00
Mediapolis CSD Entry Fees.....	60.00
Medical Enterprises, Inc Drug Testing Kits.....	52.00
Medicom Telephone Services	744.93
Mincer Ford Repairs.....	1,175.77
Mississippi Bend AEA 9 AEA Flowthrough/Professional Development.....	23,815.27
Mt. Pleasant CSD Entry Fee.....	175.00
Muscatine Community College Scholarships.....	300.00
Mystery Science Inc. Supplies	1,140.00
New London CSD Entry Fee.....	75.00
Nolte, Cormman & Johnson P.C. Audit Services.....	14,400.00
OPN Architects Purchase Service	12,078.06
Performance Foodservice Food Purchases.....	25,251.07
PowerSchool Group LLC Technology.....	1,581.75
PSC Distribution Supplies.....	694.92
Quill Corp Supplies.....	434.10
R.M. Boggs Co. Purchase Service	28,568.98
Refreshment Services Pepsi Pop Purchases.....	3,371.98
Riverside Insights Assessments/ Professional Development.....	761.10
Rock Valley Physical Therapy Athletic Training Services.....	206.25
Scholastic, Inc Supplies.....	1,230.43
School Bus Sales Repairs.....	384.39
School Specialty Supply Supplies	268.28
Schwab Electric Purchase Service	609.81
Solis, Marcela Purchase Service	500.00
Southeastern Comm College Scholarships.....	2,000.00
Squiers, Tom Official.....	92.42
Stake's Sports Purchase Service	864.60
State of Iowa- Elevator Safety Inspection Fees/Annual Perm.....	330.00
Summit Companies Purchase Service.....	38,325.00
Symmetry Energy Solutions, LLC Utilities.....	136.29
TCI Curriculum.....	477.75
Triple B Construction Purchase Service.....	14,159.75
Vetter Culligan Water Supplies	172.66
Wapello CSD Entry Fees.....	85.00
Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc Purchase Service.....	10,949.51
West Music Company Supplies/ Repairs.....	623.10
White, Brett Official.....	197.02
Windstream Telephone Services	99.26

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