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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Columbus Community Schools
Regular Board Meeting
03/16/2026
6:00 P.M.

The Board of Directors of Columbus Community School District convened its regular monthly board meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2026, at the Administration Building in Columbus Junction, Iowa.

Present were President Todd Heckk, Vice-President Jeannene Clark and directors Dan Heindel, Frank Best and Todd Salazar.

In addition, Superintendent Jeff Maeder and Business Manager and Board Secretary Neil Mills were present.

Motion to approve the agenda as presented, except remove personnel items from the consent agenda.

Motion made by Dan Heindel and seconded by Todd Salazar. Unanimously approved.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dan Heindel.

Reading of the Columbus CSD Mission and Vision Statements were read by Frank Best.

Mission: To establish a safe, inclusive, and collaborative learning environment that values diversity and prepares students for life beyond the classroom.

Vision: Students will thrive socially, emotionally, and academically with skills and confidence to pursue their chosen paths.

Public hearing for the review of the 2026-2027 School Calendar as required by Iowa Code 279.10

President Heck opened the hearing to review the 2026-2027 school calendar as required by Iowa Code 279.10 at 6:01 p.m.

Lori Beenen reviewed the proposed calendar.

President Heck asked if there were any public comments concerning the proposed calendar: There were no comments.

He then closed the review of the 2026-2027 school calendar as required by Iowa Code 279.10 at 6:06 p.m.

Consider final approval of the FY27 School Calendar

Motion for the final approval of the 2026-2027 school calendar of Columbus Community School District.

Motion made by Dan Heindel and seconded by Todd Salazar. Unanimously approved.

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

Presentations
ICAN Grant-Theresa Putnam Genz

Theresa informed the board that this is her 9th years at Columbus as the College and Career Counselor and her 18th years as a school counselor. She assists students with developing academic, college, and career goals and plans. We have received an ICAN Grant. ICAN is our partner for Senior FAFSA Completion Night, Freshman Orientation Night, and Junior Financial Aid Night. The grant supports schools and organizations in listing local scholarships online for students to apply for. With this access and Theresa Putnam Genz help Columbus students more access and opportunities than ever before.

BPA State Leadership Conference-Lori Beenen & BPA Students

Mrs. Beenen, Isabel Rendon, and Janelle Jimenez told the board about how BPA students had attended the Fall Leadership Conference, the State Leadership Conference and plan to attend the National Leadership Conference in Nashville, TN. BPA has 22 members this year, and they have competed in 29 different individual and team events several of which are going on to national competition.

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Consider approval of Consent Agenda
Motion to approve the consent agenda as present, except the personnel items.

Motion was made by Dan Heindel and seconded by Todd Salazar. Unanimously approved.

Financial Report
Financials as of February 28, 2026.

Minutes
Approval of minutes for previous meetings as presented:

February 16, 2026, Regular Meeting

February 20, 2026, Special Meeting

March 3, 2026, Special Meeting

Bills
Approved bills:

4-M Plumbing & Heating Purchase Service.....688.33

Agriland FS, INC. Fuel Purchases4,724.00

Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. Legal Services.....372.00

All American Pest Control Pest Control Services.....110.00

Alliant Energy Utilities.....25,618.27

Anderson Erickson Dairy Milk Purchases.....7,002.90

Apple Computer, Inc. Technology1,552.00

Bowker Pinnacle Mechanical Purchase Services.....51,456.04

Capps, Rick Official.....99.60

Carquest of Muscatine Supplies/Repairs.....380.38

Carsten Chiropractic DOT Physicals.....300.00

Cascade Jr/Sr High School Entry Fees.....150.00

CDW Government Inc Technology.....14,238.00

Central Iowa Distributing Supplies.....4,768.00

City of Columbus Junction Utilities.....1,949.59

Clayton Ridge Community School District Open Enrollment.....8,535.25

Clearly District Telephone Services.....1,079.97

Columbus Gazette Publications1,266.10

Columbus Jct. Auto Supply Supplies/Repairs.....582.45

Comfort Inn & Suites Des Moines IA Travel.....2,284.20

Custom Impressions Supplies60.70

Dannco Equipment/Supplies4,063.95

Danville Station Entry Fees.....86.00

Doors Inc Supplies.....39.00

Earthgrains Baking Co's Inc. Bread Purchases.....854.65

Economart Supplies.....155.63

Electronic Engineering Technology.....5,497.37

FBG Service Corporation Janitorial Services.....50,142.00

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Purchases.....14,169.62

Quad Cities Youth Conference Entry Fees.....245.00

Quill Corp. Supplies.....350.97

R.M. Boggs Co. Purchas Services4,490.17

Refreshment Services Pepsi Pop Purchases.....966.99

Rock Valley Physical Therapy Athletic Training Services.....316.25

Schumacher Elevator Company Purchase Services.....1,063.00

Schwab Electric Purchase Services.....1,175.81

Solon Community School District Entry Fees.....70.00

Storm Wind, LLC Professional Development.....1,380.00

Symmetry Energy Solutions, LLC Utilities.....4,062.97

UNI Athletics Entry Fees.....450.00

University of Iowa College of Engineering Entry Fees.....350.00

Vetter Culligan Water Supplies122.49

West Music Company Supplies497.48

Winfield Builders Supplies.....75.59

.....311,000.39

Personnel
Personne items were removed from the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Fundraisers
Student Fundraiser: JH Student Council-Spring Community Night (Social/Dance) for JH Students-Ashlynee Carrington

Contracts and Agreements
Contracts and Agreements

Approved:
RTI (Riverside Technologies, Inc.)-Form 470 E Rate Application

Wemiga Waste-Garbage Collection Service

Morningside University-Student Teacher Agreement

Shive-Hattery, Inc-Amendment to Agreement for Asbestos 3-yr Management Reinspection Plan

After some discussion on resignations a motion to approve the personnel items was made.

Motion to approve the personnel items from the consent agenda.

Resignation-Adam Hargrave
JH Girls Wrestling Coach & JH Girls Softball Coach

Resignation/Retirement Terri Huteschon HS Math Teacher

Resignation/Retirement Lori Beenen Business Teacher

Resignation Illiana Rodriguez Elementary SPED L3 Associate

Hire Patricia Rojas Elementary SPED L3 Associate

Hire Cathy Bright 8th Grade Softball Coach

Hire Eileen Stroud 7th Grade Softball Coach

Hire David Wittmann JH Baseball Coach

Volunteer Jenessa Carpenter Trainer (PT)

Voluntary Transfer Tasha Cantrell For FY27 from Preschool Teacher to ESL Teacher

Motion made by Dan Heindel and seconded by Todd Salazar. Unanimously approved.

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fied as Class 2A. Aragon also reported on an amended baseball sharing agreement with Winfield Mt. Union and the finalization of junior high baseball and softball coaching staffs. Additionally, Aragon recommended a proposed uniform funding partnership between the athletic department, athletic boosters, and individual programs. Aragon concluded by noting that winter sports scheduling has begun and that he will continue monitoring House File 2508, which proposes additional mandatory no contact periods for school athletics.

Liz Goodwin-Director of Instruction

Monthly Board Report Summary-The district has made strong progress this month in curriculum planning, professional learning, and assessment preparation. The K-5 ELA pilot process has concluded, and a curriculum recommendation of Into Reading will be brought forward for board approval in April. Sixth grade will move forward with Into Literature to align with the junior high and secondary curriculum.

Teachers continue LETRS training and PLC work, while teams prepare for ISASP and end-of-year assessments. ELPA21 testing has been successfully completed, thanks to the work of Maureen and the ESL team.

The District Leadership team is developing district goals and building action steps for presentation in April. Additionally, work has begun on grant writing efforts to bring additional resources to the district.

Randy Phillips-Operations Director

Summary: It has been a relatively light month for district operations. Phillips reports that all buildings, grounds, and maintenance work is running smoothly. A few minor plumbing issues occurred at the middle school, but they were addressed and resolved quickly. Additionally, a small programming issue with the geothermal pumps at the high school was identified and repaired. Phillips is currently in the process of accepting quotes for a new district mower. The window for quotes closes on March 20, and he plans to present the collected bids to the board at the April meeting.

The facilities committee met last month for a brief overview and introductions. The team is scheduled to meet again on April 1 to begin reviewing the reports in detail.

In the technology department, operations have been going well overall. The primary outstanding issue is the paging system at the elementary building. A contingency plan is in place, and efforts to resolve the issue are ongoing. The tech team has also begun preparing the computer order for next school year and is currently exploring various device options. E Rate paperwork has been submitted, and pending board approval, all forms will be officially filed after the upcoming board meeting.

The Nutrition Department continues to run excellently, with Tammy staying fully up to date on all required reporting. There are no new updates from the Transportation Department at this time.

Cassie Stewart-Elementary Principal

Summary: Roundy Elementary has had a very productive month as we move into the final quarter of the school year. Staff successfully completed the ELA curriculum pilot and reached consensus on a new resource that teachers are excited to begin using next year. Our second round of parent-teacher conferences saw excellent family participation, reinforcing strong school-home connections.

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Monthly math PLCs continue to support new instructional strategies and structures, and we are seeing promising results in classrooms. Attendance remains a major focus, with a goal of reducing chronic absenteeism by 5% through weekly monitoring, family communication, and targeted support. Our PBIS team also held a half-day work session to further align PBIS systems with Character Strong. As we look ahead, we are beginning early planning for next year's master schedule and professional development.

Paul Kissell-Secondary Principal

Summary-In March, I attended the SEI Principals Meeting and participated in the Leading for Impact Training at Bettendorf AEA, which focused on adult preconditions, organizational culture, and school climate. I also reviewed graduation credit requirements from several area schools, most of which require between 52-55 credits. Currently, 20 of our 52 seniors have open campus, with some having up to four open periods. To encourage greater academic rigor and increased participation in CTE courses, we are considering potential changes such as increasing the math requirement to four credits, adding a computer applications requirement, increasing health credits due to new state guidelines, limiting open campus to two periods, and increasing total graduation credits from 52-54. Additionally, the high school completed required safety drills including a Stay Put, fire, and tornado drill, hosted a county drug dog visit and seniors were reminded of expectations and potential consequences related to Senior Prank and Senior Skip Day.

Jeff Maeder-Superintendent

Summary-The district is finalizing next year's support plan with AEA staff, focusing on service needs, staffing, and alignment with priorities while continuing collaboration with the Department of Education on special education improvements efforts. Elementary special education teachers will receive state-provided SDI training next year to strengthen instructional consistency. Recent superintendent activities included IEP meetings, regional superintendent collaboration, facility and labor-management discussions, and community engagement to support district operations and partnerships.

Board Reports
Dan Heindel-Dan commented that in reviewing the bills he had noticed some bus parts had been purchased from a vendor outside the district, and he encouraged the district to buy locally as much as possible.

Jeannene Clark-Jeannene questioned the possibility of having the meetings online.

Todd Heck- Todd Heck commented on the need for a line item budget.

Frank Best- No report given.
Todd Salazar- No report given

Unfinished Business-None
New Business
Consider WMU Baseball Sharing Agreement

Motion to approve the 28E Baseball Sharing Agreement with Winfield-Mount Union CSD for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion made by Frank Best and seconded by Todd Salazar. Unanimously approved.

Consider Lone Tree HS Boys Track Sharing Agreement

Motion to approve the 28E Sharing Agreement with Lone Tree CSD for 2025-2026 School Year.

Motion made by Todd Salazar and seconded by Frank Best. Unanimously Approved.

Consider New Uniform Pro-

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gram

Motion to approve the new uniform program, where the school would play for 1/3 of new uniforms with a max cost of \$120 per uniform (if the cost exceeds that \$120 per uniform amount the additional cost would have to be fundraised for) on a 5-year rotation set by the school, the athletic boosters would pay for 1/3 of the cost and the remaining 1/3 of the cost would be paid by the coaches/team fundraising. All uniforms will remain the property of the school district. This would exclude wrestling uniforms pending further discussions with CatPac.

Motion made by Frank Best and seconded by Todd Salazar. Unanimously approved.

Consider Therapeutic Classroom Grant

Motion to approve applying for a Therapeutic Classroom Grant.

Motion made by Todd Salazar and seconded by Jeannene Clark. Unanimously approved.

Consider opting out of Dept. of Ed. School Transportation Operator's Program (S.T.O.P) training.

Motion to table considering opting out of Dept. of Ed. School Transportation Operator's Program (S.T.O.P) training.

Motion made by Todd Salazar and seconded by Dan Heindel. Unanimously approved.

Consider calendar change to move April 15, 2026 early out to April 17, 2026 due to ISASP testing.

Motion to move April 15, 2026, Wednesday, early out to Friday, April 17, 2026 due to ISASP testing.

Motion made by Todd Salazar and seconded by Dan Heindel. Unanimously approved.

Consider quote for summer roof repairs

Motion to approve the quote for roof restoration with Weatherproofing Technologies Inc. of Beachwood, Ohio for \$122,149.46.

Motion made by Dan Heindel and seconded by Todd Salazar. Unanimously approved.

Consider High School (9-12) Summer School

Motion to approve summer school for 9th through 12th graders during the month of June 2026.

Motion made by Todd Salazar and seconded by Dan Heindel. Unanimously approved.

Discuss partnership committee with City to work on long-term pool improvements

Dan Heindel and Todd Heck discussed how they had met with Mayor Todd and would like to form a committee for long-term pool improvements, and how one board member will be placed on this committee.

Resolution Honoring Robert "Bob" Curtis

Motion to approve the resolution honoring the life and service to our district of Robert "Bob" Curtis.

Motion made by Dan Heindel and seconded by Jeannene Clark. Unanimously approved.

Adjournment
Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Todd Salazar and seconded by Dan Heindel. Unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Our next meeting will be April 27, 2026 at 6:00p.m.

/s/ Todd Heck, School Board President, /s/ Neil A. Mills, School Board Secretary

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