

**Diagonal Community School District
Board of Education Board Meeting**

The Regular School Board Meeting of the Diagonal Community School District was called to order by the Board Chair on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 5:33 p.m. in the District Office. Present at roll call were board members Allee, Parrott, Stamps, and Grace, alongside Superintendent Larry McNutt, School Business Official Rhiannon Tessum and Principal Johnson. Board member Whittington arrived shortly after at 5:37 p.m. Guests in attendance included Denaé O'Kelly, Alta Head, and Matt Stephens.

To open the proceedings, the Board read and reaffirmed the district's vision to empower students in achieving their educational and personal goals, and its mission to foster successful cooperative relationships between students, staff, parents, and community members to prepare responsible citizens through a quality comprehensive education.

Following the opening, a motion was made by Stamps and seconded by Parrott to approve the meeting agenda. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote prior to Whittington's arrival.

During the audience to visitors, Denaé O'Kelly addressed the Board at length regarding the high school softball program. She expressed serious concerns as a parent and assistant coach regarding a lack of communication from leadership, stating that athletes were told the season would not continue before families were formally notified or given an opportunity to discuss alternatives. She emphasized that while attendance and student commitment are ongoing challenges in small schools, accountability must come through support, transparency, and collaboration with families rather than administrative assumptions. While she expressed gratitude that a softball team is ultimately moving forward for the season, she urged the district to improve its decision-making process to preserve community trust. Following her, Alta Head requested that the small playground slide be repaired or replaced due to it being broken, while Matt Stephens was noted as present but did not speak.

Next, the Board reviewed the Consent Agenda, which allows for the collective approval of administrative and recurring items without separate discussion unless requested. On a motion by Grace and seconded by Parrott, the Consent Agenda was approved unanimously with a 5-0 vote. The approved items included:

- **Minutes:** Public Calendar Meeting (April 15, 2026), Public Hearing Meeting (April 15, 2026), and Regular School Board Meeting (April 15, 2026).
- **Financial Reports & Invoices:** As presented.
- **Staff Resignations:** Curt Greene (Bus Driver), John Larsen (9-12 Guidance Counselor & Jr. High Track Coach), and Larry McNutt (Athletic Director).
- **Staff Contracts / Letters of Assignment:** Nikki Head (Summer Custodian, Part-Time, \$18/Hour), Jaela Cox (Co-Prom Sponsor, \$1481.50), Cassidy Becker (Co-Prom Sponsor, \$1481.50), Tina Anderson (Summer SFL, \$15/Hour), Shayna Mason (Summer SFL, \$15/Hour), and Denaé O'Kelly (Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach).
- **Open Enrollment Requests:** As presented.
- **Out of State / Overnight Trips:** As presented.
- **Contracts & Sharing Agreements (with Mount Ayr Community Schools):** Girls Wrestling Contract, Football Contract, Secondary Education Sharing Agreement, Director of Transportation Agreement, Human Resources Agreement, Curriculum Director Agreement, and Special Education Agreement.
- **Other Contracts:** Vista Iowa Agreement.
- **Fundraisers:** As presented.

For the Principal's Report, Principal Johnson updated the Board on recent school activities, highlighting the success of the greenhouse program, a special steak and chicken dinner hosted for the seniors, the elementary graduation walkthrough, and a smooth graduation ceremony featuring two strong student speeches. He also shared that the district had successfully acquired several thousand dollars worth of high-quality government surplus furniture, cabinetry, and storage from Des Moines for free, extending thanks to Shelly for the use of her trailer to transport the items. For upcoming summer and facility work, he noted that elementary teachers had requested a solution for the shaking glass windows in the hallways; the administration is looking into replacing the glass with drywall or plywood covered in corkboard to serve as functional bulletin boards. Lastly, he mentioned that while student scheduling is complete, JMC data entry is ongoing, adding that several students are excited to participate in Mount Ayr's new CTE building courses for auto repair and welding next year. He concluded by noting that he and a few teachers would be attending upcoming STEM and Professional Learning Communities (PLC) conferences this summer.

For the Superintendent's Report, Superintendent McNutt noted that spring sports have wrapped up and summer baseball and softball seasons are underway, with games starting next week. Ball field renovations are largely complete, though the district still needs to adjust the field lights due to wind drift over the years and inspect the scoreboard and speaker system. Regarding facilities, he addressed the broken playground slide brought up by Alta Head, stating that a replacement quote came in at \$5,000; the district will gather more quotes, but in the meantime, the slide will be removed and the opening boarded up for safety. He also noted loose bricks on a building corner that need attention, an upcoming grant application by Shelly for the old stage, and landscaping planned for the south side of the elementary school by Matt. In staffing news, Zach Robinson is lined up as a bus driver, but advertising remains active across multiple local newspapers and Teach Iowa, with further consideration being given to KSIB radio postings or Indeed. Finally, he mentioned the potential purchase of a new mower and noted a final report from SAI stating that allowing 8th graders to play high school sports will remain a local school board decision.

The Board then reviewed four competitive bids for the district's tuckpointing project: R&S Tuckpointing LLC at \$15,750 (which omitted sealant), CoEndeavors LLC at \$30,300, Berry Bros Masonry Inc. at \$38,860, and Tharp's Restoration LLC at \$39,000 (plus an additional \$8,360 for gutters). Based on the superintendent's recommendation, Parrott moved and Stamps seconded to award the tuckpointing project contract to CoEndeavors LLC for \$30,300. The motion carried 5-0. Gutter quotes will be sought out separately.

Next, the annual 2025-2026 District Career and Academic Plan (DCAP) was presented for approval. Stamps moved and Parrott seconded to approve the plan as required by the state, passing with a 5-0 vote.

The Board then evaluated the proposed Ringgold County School Resource Officer (SRO) Agreement, which outlined a cost of \$16,000 for the 2026-2027 school year followed by 5% annual increases for the subsequent two years. Whittington moved and Stamps seconded to table the agreement until the June meeting to gather more details regarding specific job duties and information. The motion passed 5-0.

Following the regular action items, the Board prepared to enter an exempt work session for collective bargaining strategy per Iowa Code Section 20.17(3), which dictates that such deliberative sessions are exempt from open meetings law. Parrott moved and Grace seconded to enter the exempt session at 6:39 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, passing 5-0 with "yes" votes from Parrott, Whittington, Allee, Stamps, and Grace. No official actions or votes were taken during the strategy session. Upon completion of the session, Grace moved and Parrott seconded to exit the exempt work session and return to open session. A roll call vote confirmed the transition back to open session with a 5-0 vote from all members present.

Under communication, correspondence, and comments, no further items or announcements were raised by the Board or administration.

The Board next confirmed the dates for the upcoming regular board meetings. It was decided that meetings will take place at 5:30 p.m. in the District Office on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, and Wednesday, July 15, 2026.

With all agenda business concluded, Whittington moved and Parrott seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0, and the meeting officially adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Pending approval
President Kelly Allee

Rhiannon Tessum
School Business Official