

Tab 1

Unofficial Minutes  
Muscatine School Board of Education  
Regular Session  
April 14, 2025

To view the board meeting visit the MCSD YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@muscatineschools>.

The Board of Education of the Muscatine Community School District, in the County of Muscatine, State of Iowa, met in regular session on Monday, April 14, 2025, at 6:15 p.m. at the Muscatine Community School District Administration Center in the Boardroom. President Lindsey Phillips called the meeting to order. Directors; Matt Conard, Karen Cooney, John Dabeet, Kim Schneider, Dennis Schuur were present. Director Ken LaRue was absent. Student School Board Representatives, Kira Holler and McKenna Schumaker were absent. Superintendent Clint Christopher, Director of Finance Tom Anderson and Director of Operations Chris Nienhaus were present.

The board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Phillips welcomed visitors and media representatives.

A motion was made by Director Dabeet and seconded by Director Schuur to open the public hearing for the certification of the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget. Roll was called to open the hearing. Ayes: Conard, Cooney, Dabeet, Phillips, Schneider, Schuur; Nays, none. Motion carried: 6:16 pm.

No written or oral comments were received.

A motion was made by Director Schuur and seconded by Director Conard to close the public hearing. Roll was called to close the hearing. Ayes: Conard, Cooney, Dabeet, Phillips, Schneider, Schuur. There were no nays. Motion carried. Time: 6:17 p.m.

The board recognized the Muscatine High School Boys Bowling Team for their first state championship. Coach Triscia Laucamp and team members Derrick Lewandowski and Owen Riley spoke about the bowling season and winning the state championship.

No Student School Board Representative report was given.

No one spoke at Citizen's Speak.

As part of the Board Targets/Goal, "*Muscatine Schools will utilize resources effectively and equitably*", Shane Williams and Kim Hofmann of Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency (MBAEA) reviewed the English Language (EL) Program Audit. The review process included; classroom walkthroughs, data analysis, caseload review, teacher surveys and recommendations. Mr. Williams and Ms Hofmann reviewed the program highlights and recommendations for the EL program.

During the Superintendent Update, Superintendent Christopher thanked the MBAEA for their support in reviewing the EL Program. Superintendent Christopher updated the board on the 2% State Supplemental Aid (SSA) funding. The 2% equates to \$240 million dollars; of that \$100 million is designated for the Education Saving Accounts (ESA) for private schools. Superintendent Christopher stated private schools should follow the same rules as public schools for reporting the use of public funds. Superintendent Christopher shared the Muscatine graduation rate has grown significantly, and continues to have a positive trend line. Superintendent

Christopher thanked Director of Student Services Becky Wichers for her dedication and years of service to the Muscatine Community School District and announced that Jennifer Fridley will be taking over the position in July.

A motion was made by Director Conard and seconded by Director Cooney to approve the consent agenda which includes:

- Minutes of March 10, 2025 regular meeting and the minutes of March 24, 2025 Work Session Meeting;
- Employment Recommendations:
  - **RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS - CERTIFIED:** Brown, Jessica - Special Education Strat II BD Teacher, SCJH, effective EOY 2024-2025, Calderon, Cassandra - Dual Language Support Teacher, Franklin Elementary, effective EOY 2024-2025, Collins, Kelly - Grade 5 Support Teacher, Madison Elementary, effective EOY 2024-2025, Essen, Katrina - Teacher Librarian, Jefferson/Mulberry Elementaries, effective EOY 2024-2025, Fowler, Heather - Grade 2 Teacher, McKinley Elementary, effective EOY 2024-2025, Froelich, Mara - 8th Grade English Language Arts, SCJH, effective EOY 2024-2025, Lugin, Erin - Grade 1 Teacher, Grant Elementary, effective EOY 2024-2025, McKiness, Alyssa - Grade 2 Teacher, McKinley Elementary, effective EOY 2024-2025, Patterson, Abigail - Grade 5 Teacher, Madison Elementary, effective EOY 2024-2025, Randleman, Teresa - Instructional Coach, Franklin Elementary, effective EOY 2024-2025, Smith, Miranda - School Counselor, Mulberry Elementary, effective EOY 2024-2025, Torres Delgado, Jorge - DLIP Grade 1 Teacher, Franklin Elementary, effective EOY 2024-2025, Van Blarcom, Nancy - School Nurse, MHS, effective EOY 2024-25;
  - **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NON RENEWAL OF PROBATIONARY CONTRACT:** Olesu, Melinda - English/Language Arts Teacher, SCJH;
  - **RESIGNATIONS - SCHEDULE C:** Brown, Jessica - Builders Club, SCJH, effective EOY 2024-2025, Comstock, Bailey - Assistant Wrestling Coach, Muscatine High School, effective EOY 2024-2025, Hyink, Katie - Exploratory Department Chair, SCJH, effective EOY 2024-2025, Kress, Elyse - Student Council Advisor, Muscatine High School, effective EOY 2024-2025, Smith, Yoli - Builders' Club Advisor, SCJH, effective EOY 2024-2025, Storjohann, Maddison - Assistant Poms Coach, Muscatine High School, effective EOY 2024-2025;
  - **NEW HIRES - CLASSIFIED PROFESSIONAL:** Meredith, Kaitlin - Food & Nutrition Supervisor, Centralized Production Kitchen, \$68,500 effective July 1, 2025;
  - **NEW HIRES - SCHEDULE C:** Haag, Rebecca - Assistant Softball Coach, Muscatine High School, Schoepf, Andy - Assistant Boys Tennis Coach, Muscatine High School, Alexander, Megan - Head Cheerleading Coach, Muscatine High School, Monroe, Emily - Head POM Coach, Muscatine High School, Puentes-Bueno, Sihisla - Model UN Advisor, Muscatine High School;
  - **ADMINISTRATIVE NEW HIRE:** Jennifer Fridley, Director of Student Services, effective July 1, 2025, salary \$130,000;
- Bills and Claims against the district dated April 14, 2025;
- Policies with no/minimal/required by law policy changes:
  - 401.12 Limitations to Employment References;
  - 102 Equal Education Opportunity
  - 402.1 Equal Employment Opportunity
  - 502.2 Expulsion
  - 502.4 Weapons
  - (NEW) 601.26 Instruction at a Postsecondary Education Institute
  - 804.1 Radon Mitigation
  - 900.14 Community Use of School District Facilities & Equipment

- Interfund Transfer between General Fund and School Nutrition Fund in the amount of \$21,741.00;
- Resource Navigator Agreement between Muscatine Community School District and Unity Healthcare D B A Trinity Muscatine's Public Health Department for 2025-2026;
- Agreement for Teacher Education Clinical Experience Placements with Morningside University and MCSD for student teaching for the 2025-2026 school year;
- Approve the 2024-25 contract between Muscatine CSD and Davenport CSD (student i.d. #\*5892) and 2024-25 contracts between Muscatine CSD and Clayton Ridge CSD (student i.d.#\*8570, student i.d. #\*9270, student i.d. #\*6270) for Special Education Services;
- Approve the 2025-26 Agreement between the Muscatine Community School District (MCSD), Muscatine County Agricultural Extension District (MCAED) and Eastern Iowa Community College District (EICCD)/Muscatine Community College (MCC) for the Latinx Program.

All ayes; motion carried.

A motion was made by Director Schuur and seconded by Director Conard to approve the Collections Services Agreement with Municipal Collections of America, Inc. No discussion. All ayes; motion carried.

A motion was made by Director Dabeet and seconded by Director Cooney to approve certifying the Budget for the 2025-2026 school year with a \$13.92138 levy rate and budget of \$87,039,673. No discussion. All ayes; motion carried.

A motion was made by Director Schuur and seconded by Director Conard to approve the 2025-2026 agreement with the Muscatine Education Association for a 3.05% total package increase. No discussion. All ayes; motion carried.

A motion was made by Director Conard and seconded by Director Schuur to approve the the Collective Bargaining Agreements between Muscatine Community School District and Local 1560, Council of AFSCME for a 2.6% total package increase for the Bus Driver Unit, 2.6% total package increase for the Food & Nutrition Service Unit, and a 2.7% total package increase for the Custodial, Maintenance, Mechanics Unit. No discussion. All ayes; motion carried.

A motion was made by Director Cooney and seconded by Director Dabeet to approve the 2025-2026 salary adjustment of 2.6% for the Classified Professional Employees. No discussion. All ayes; motion carried.

A motion was made by Director Conard and seconded by Director Dabeet to approve the 2025-2026 salary adjustment of 2% for Certified Administrators and Directors. No discussion. All ayes; motion carried.

A motion was made by Director Schuur and seconded by Director Conard to approve the Health and Dental Insurance Rates and Plan Changes for 2025-2026. The board discussed the health and dental insurance. All ayes; motion carried.

Finance Director Tom Anderson reviewed the March financials.

The board held the first reading of the 2025-2026 Student Handbook.

The board held the first reading on policy 502.10 Student Conduct.

The board reviewed the following Administrative Regulations and Exhibits:

1. 504.4E2 Parental Authorization and Release Form for the Administration of Medication or Special Health Services to Students

2. 505.4E3 Diabetes Supply Self Management Consent Form
3. 900.14 R1 Community Use of School District Facilities & Equipment - Admin Regulations
4. 900.14 R2 Community Use of School District Facilities & Equipment - Groups Regulation
5. 900.14 R3 Community Use of School District Facilities & Equipment - Fee Regulation
6. 900.14 E1 Community Use of School District Facilities & Equipment - Exhibit - Indemnity & Liability Insurance
7. 804.1R1 Radon Mitigation - Administrative Regulations

President Phillips announced the following meeting and events:

1. April 18, 2025 - No School - Good Friday
2. April 21, 2025 - No School - Non-Contract Day
3. May 6, 2025 - Riverbend & MCSD Mobile Food Pantry
4. May 12, 2025 - Community Conversation - 5:30PM- MCSD Admin Center
5. May 12, 2025 - Regular School Board Meeting - 6:15 PM - MCSD Admin Center

A motion was made by Director Dabeet and seconded by Director Cooney to adjourn the meeting. All ayes; motion carried. Time: 7:36 p.m.

Lindsey Phillips, President  
Daphne J. Donald, Secretary