

MINUTES OF THE EAST UNION COMMUNITY SCHOOL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The East Union Community School District Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Collaborative Learning Center at the Middle/High School. Board President Adam Tallmon called the meeting to order. Directors present were Adam Tallmon, Sam McKnight, and Jamie Buffington. Directors Amber Tate and Carol Eckels were absent. Also present were Superintendent Tim Kuehl and School Business Official Rhiannon Tessum.

A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Buffington, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

Visitors were welcomed, and the public comment process was reviewed. No public comments were received.

The board approved the consent agenda by a motion from Buffington, seconded by McKnight. Motion carried 3-0. Items approved included:

- **Meeting Minutes:** Approval of minutes from February 17, 2025 (amended), April 21, 2025 (public hearing and regular meeting), and April 29, 2025.
- **Financial Reports and Invoices**
- **Staff Resignations:**
 - Barbara Tomas, Food Service Cook – effective May 23, 2025
 - Stephanie Auten, Elementary Paraprofessional – effective May 1, 2025
 - Ashley Mitchell, Elementary Paraprofessional – effective May 30, 2025
 - Alyssa Love, Elementary Paraprofessional – effective May 30, 2025
- **Staff Contracts/Assignments:**
 - Stacey Cass – Elementary Paraprofessional, \$14/hour, 2025–2026
 - Tess Cochran – Concessions Purchasing Agent (6% of base: \$2,175) and Manager (11% of base: \$3,988), 2025–2026
 - Rebecca Thummel – District Administrative Assistant (\$50,000 + single insurance), 2025–2026
 - Debbie Aldrich – Prom Sponsor (3% of base: \$1,088), 2025–2026
 - Allison Cheers – Prom Sponsor (3% of base: \$1,088); HS Student Council Sponsor (7% of base: \$2,538), 2025–2026
 - Mia Williams – JH Softball Coach (6% of base: \$2,133), 2024–2025
- **Open Enrollment Approvals:**
 - 2024–2025: One 8th grade and one 11th grade student OUT to Murray
 - 2025–2026: One Kindergarten student IN from Creston and one 1st grade student IN from Murray
- **Other Approvals:**
 - Out-of-state/overnight trips
 - Fundraisers
 - Contracts:
 - iJAG Memorandum of Understanding for 2025–2026
 - Vista Iowa Agreement
 - 2025–2026 Athletic Trainer Agreement with Greater Regional Health (auto-renewal, no changes)
 - Green Hills AEA Contract for Special Education State Funding Transfer

Board and Administrative Reports

Early Childhood Center (ECC) – Director Hardy provided a detailed update including new enrollments, recent events such as “Mums with Moms,” and plans for upcoming activities. Staff transitions and visits from licensing authorities were noted. ECC preschoolers participated in transition and field trip activities. Grants totaling over \$13,000 were received, with additional funding opportunities submitted or in process. Director Hardy noted continued efforts to align funding strategies with enrollment growth and sustainability.

Elementary School – Principal Gordon highlighted ongoing testing, professional development, concerts, transition activities, and end-of-year celebrations. She shared updates on PBIS initiatives and preparations for summer programming.

Middle/High School – Principal Riley reported on staffing needs, especially for a special education position. Teachers received YACC grants, students participated in career events, and Molly Gennaro was named a 2025 Governor’s Scholar. Prom was held May 3 with Ty Tallmon and Natalee Millsagle crowned King and Queen. Athletic accomplishments included track and golf state qualifications. National Honor Society inductees were recognized, and end-of-year celebrations were reviewed.

Business Office – Board Secretary and School Business Official Rhiannon Tessum provided updates on nonpublic transportation claims, insurance enrollment, retiree processing, federal/state reporting and categorical fund management.

Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Ken Kuehl shared legislative updates, introduced new administrative hire Rebecca Thummel, and discussed board responsibilities for graduation and upcoming field trips.

Board member - Jamie Buffington inquired about a previously discussed memorial bench for the softball field; Superintendent Kuehl will follow up with the family to coordinate placement.

A number of aging Chromebooks were declared obsolete, as they no longer support necessary software updates or meet instructional standards. In accordance with Board Policy 803.1, these devices will be offered to staff at no cost as a gesture of appreciation. Unclaimed devices will be responsibly recycled. Motion carried unanimously with a 3-0 vote. Motion by McKnight, seconded by Buffington.

The board approved the use of the district’s transportation fleet for summer school programming in 2025. While not required by law, this service supports equitable access to summer learning opportunities. Motion carried unanimously with a 3-0 vote. Motion by Buffington, seconded by McKnight.

A district school bus will undergo transmission replacement by School Bus Sales Co. at an estimated cost of \$11,400. The repair, funded through the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL), will ensure safe and reliable student transportation. Motion carried unanimously with a 3-0 vote. Motion by Buffington, seconded by McKnight.

Curriculum purchases to support literacy and math instruction in grades K–5 were approved. Materials from Really Great Reading in the amount of \$11,357.50 will be funded entirely through Title I. Materials from Curriculum Associates totaling \$19,521.67 will be funded through a combination of Title I and general curriculum funds. Motion carried unanimously with a 3-0 vote. Motion by McKnight, seconded by Buffington.

The district’s updated Affirmative Action Plan, outlining diversity goals and hiring progress, was approved for submission to the Iowa Department of Education. Related updates to Policy 102 and its sub-policies were also adopted. Motion carried unanimously with a 3-0 vote. Motion by McKnight, seconded by Buffington.

In response to new legislation (House File 782), the board approved the first reading of a new student cell phone policy, effective July 1, 2025. The policy prohibits the use of personal electronic devices during instructional time, with limited exceptions for medical or disability-related needs. Motion carried unanimously with a 3-0 vote. Motion by McKnight, seconded by Buffington.

Kaitlyn (Pieten) Miller was granted a one-year unpaid leave for the 2025–2026 school year. Although she has not met the five-year employment requirement outlined in the staff handbook, the board made an exception based on her strong performance and the superintendent’s recommendation. Motion carried unanimously with a 3-0 vote. Motion by McKnight, seconded by Buffington.

The board approved early graduation requests for two students: Tristan Harjo and Zayley Martin. Approval is contingent upon each student successfully completing all graduation requirements. Motion carried unanimously with a 3-0 vote. Motion by Buffington, seconded by McKnight.

The next regular board meetings will be held on June 16 and July 21, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Collaborative Learning Center.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m. following a motion by McKnight, seconded by Buffington. Motion carried unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

Adam Tallmon, Board President
Pending Approval

Rhiannon Tessum, Board Secretary

Board goals remain focused on Growth & Achievement, Engaging Partnerships, Optimal Climate (Culture), Quality Staff, and Resources.