

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES JANUARY 22, 2024

100: CALL TO ORDER & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

The Linn-Mar Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM in the boardroom of the Learning Resource Center (2999 N 10th St, Marion). Roll was taken to determine a quorum. Present: Buchholz, Foss, Lowe Lancaster, Morey, Walker, and Wall. Absent: Rollinger. Administration present: Kortemeyer, Galbraith, Wear, Read, Christian, and Frick. Absent: Ramos.

200: ADOPTION OF AGENDA – *Motion 116-01-22*

MOTION by Wall to adopt the agenda as presented. Second by Morey. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

300: AUDIENCE COMMUNICATIONS

(Strategic Plan Priorities 1.0)

1. Ben Pease, parent, energy policy
2. Joe Stutler, resident, policy

400: INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/UPDATES/DISCUSSIONS

401: FY23 Auditor's Report – Exhibit 401.1

(Strategic Plan Priority 5.0; Board Goal 3.c)

Mia Frommelt, Partner with Bohnsack & Frommelt, reported that the fiscal year 2023 audit was good across the board with no substantial compliance findings to report.

402: Elementary Teaching & Learning Report – Exhibit 402.1

Karla Ries, Director of Elementary Teaching & Learning, reported on the elementary-level curriculum highlighting the structure of the elementary buildings and sharing information on High Reliability Schools, Iowa Core Standards, literacy materials, a simple view of reading, PLC questions on assessing student learning, and support/monitoring of viable curriculum.

2.b)

(Strategic Plan Priority 2.0; Board Goal

403: Board Visit Report

(Board Goal 2.b)

Buchholz shared that the full board was in attendance for their visit to Indian Creek Elementary on January 11th. Lowe Lancaster stated it was great to see the innovative ways that vibrant learning was being offered.

404: Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Committee Report

(Strategic Plan Priority 1.0; Board Goal 2.c)

Lowe Lancaster reported that during the January 15th DEI Committee meeting a good conversation was had regarding their goals.

405: Lion Learning Report

(Strategic Plan Priority 1.0; Board Goal 1.c)

Morey reported that there was a good turnout and questions raised on PPEL during the January 17th Lion Learning session. Superintendent Kortemeyer shared that she continues to make visits around the district to share information on the PPEL and that the slideshow on the district website will be updated next week.

406: Marion City Council Report

(Strategic Plan Priority 1.0)

Morey reported that there were no topics related to the district discussed during the January 18th Marion City Council meeting.

407: Legislative Update

(Board Goal 3.c)

Morey provided the board with information on the education bills being considered during the current legislative session. The board discussed several bills to focus on including the Governor's recommendations regarding AEA funding cuts and the direct effects on the district. Morey shared the board is currently working on a letter to legislators requesting 4% supplemental state aid funding.

408: Superintendent's Update – Exhibit 408.1

Superintendent Kortemeyer congratulated Mike Shipley on being named Class 5A Assistant Coach of the Year and congratulated Kim Buelt, LM High School Assistant Principal, on her upcoming retirement at the end of June and shared thanks for her service. Kortemeyer also thanked the students, families, and staff for their support and understanding with all the inclement weather days and shared that, due to extra hours being built into the school calendar, none of the missed hours will need to be made up.

500: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

501: Board Discussion on Proposed Indoor Activities Center

(Strategic Plan Priority 5.0; Board Goal 3.c)

Jon Galbraith, Chief Financial/Operating Officer, shared an overview of the needed changes to the proposed indoor activities center at the high school. Changes highlighted were the need for a space for girls wrestling, modifications to the auxiliary gym, and an additional storm shelter space required by the City due to the construction of another performance arts venue. After some discussion, the consensus of the board was to put a pause on the project to reassess the original intent of the project and the current needs before moving onto the design phase.

502: Early Separation Discussion

(Strategic Plan Priority 5.0; Board Goal 2.d)

Superintendent Kortemeyer reported that 21 early separation packages were offered and, as of the deadline to submit, only 7 letters of intent were received; which results in a lower savings for the district that was going to assist with the recommended budget cuts. Kortemeyer recommended considering offering less packages (15 instead of 21) at a higher amount (\$50,000 instead of \$35,000), which would result in the need to amend the wording in Policy 401.10 [Early Separation]. Kortemeyer clarified that even with the recommendation, there is no guarantee that positions will not need to be cut. The board discussed issues that would result if the recommendation was approved and the process of amending board policy.

600: NEW BUSINESS

601: First Reading of Policy Recommendations – Exhibit 601.1 (Board Goal 1.c)

MOTION by Morey to pull policy 401.10 [Early Separation] for separate discussion. Second by Walker. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried. **Motion 117-01-22**

The board discussed potential revisions to the early separation policy to allow administration to reoffer early separation this year at a lower number of packages and a higher rate.

MOTION by Morey to approve the first reading of policy 401.10 [Early Separation] as presented in Exhibit 601.1 with the additional revisions of (1) Removal of items A & B under Compensation and the additional wording of "*based on the recommendation of the administration and board approval*" and (2) change the January 12th date under Communication Process to "*the date set by the board*". Second by Foss. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried. **Motion 118-01-22**

MOTION by Morey to pull policies 600.2 [Objectives of the Education Program] and 701.3 [Transportation of Non-School Groups] for separate discussion. Second by Wall. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried. **Motion 119-01-22**

Kortemeyer clarified that 600.2 needs to have the legal reference removed as it is out of date and that, after speaking with legal counsel, the stricken line in policy 701.3 stating "*the school bus signs will be covered*" needs to remain as it is part of Iowa Code. **MOTION** by Morey to approve the first reading of these two policies with the changes as clarified. Second by Walker. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Motion 120-01-22

MOTION by Morey to approve the first reading of the policy recommendations presented in exhibit 601.1, excluding policies 401.10, 600.2, and 701.3, as presented. Second by Lowe Lancaster. Morey shared concerns on policies 602.17 [Career Education] regarding state required DCAP and 603.6 [School Ceremonies and Observances] regarding adding clear guidance on procedures to opt out and requested the Policy Committee give these two policies further consideration. Walker requested that the Policy Committee give further consideration to adding the wording "*for religious or personal reasons*" to the last paragraph of policy 603.6. Foss shared concerns on policy 602.29-R regarding use of staff time and the word "*member*." Discussion was shared on using the word "*member*" versus "*resident*." Morey suggested using an asterisk to define "*member*" at the end of the policy. The consensus of the board was to approve the first reading of policies 603.6 and 602.29-R as originally presented in Exhibit 601.1 and bring the discussed changes back for consideration as part of the second reading. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried. **Motion 121-01-22**

Policy #	Title
203.2	Adoption of Board Policy
400.1	Educational and Employment Equity
401.10	Licensed Personnel Early Separation
502.1	Student Conduct
502.1-R	Regulations Regarding Student Conduct Procedures and Due Process
502.2	Expulsion
502.15-R	New – Student Threats of Violence and Incidents of Violence Regulation
801.4	General Fund Reserves and Fund Balance Reporting
600.2	Objectives of the Education Program
601.1	School Organization
602.2	Competent Private Instruction
602.3	Dual Enrollment
602.4	Summer School Programming
602.10	Curriculum Development
602.12	Curriculum Evaluation
602.17	Career Education
602.18	Instruction at a Post-Secondary Educational Institution
602.23	Open Enrollment-Procedures as a Receiving District
602.24	Open Enrollment-Procedures as a Sending District
602.29-R	Objection to Instructional and Library Materials Regulation
603.2	Class Size-Class Grouping
603.6	School Ceremonies and Observances
603.7	Homework
603.9	Religion in Schools
603.9-R	Regulations Regarding Religion in Schools
603.13	Digital Communication
603.13-R	Regulations Regarding Digital Communication/Web Page Development
603.14	Copyright Compliance
603.14-R	Regulations Regarding Copyright Compliance
604.4	Talented and Gifted Program
604.5	Program for Students At-Risk
605.1	Student Progress Reports and Conferences
605.2	Testing Program
605.3	Graduation Requirements
605.5	Student Promotion and Retention
605.7	Multicultural/Gender-Fair Education
701.1	Local and State Transportation Regulations
701.2	Student Conduct on School Transportation
701.2-R	Regulations Regarding Student Conduct on School Transportation
701.3	Transportation of Non-School Groups
701.12	Use of District Vehicles and Fuel

602: Open Enrollment Request – *Motion 122-01-22*

MOTION by Wall to approve the open enrollment request as presented. Second by Foss. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Approved IN	Student Name	Grade	Resident District
	Zyler Severs	9 th	Cedar Rapids CSD

700: CONSENT AGENDA – Motion 123-01-22

MOTION by Morey to approve the consent agenda as presented. Second by Walker. Congratulations were shared with Kim Buelt on her retirement. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

701: Personnel

Certified Staff: Resignation

Name	Assignment	Dept Action	Reason
Buelt, Kim	HS: Associate Principal	6/30/24	Retirement

Classified Staff: Assignments/Reassignments/Transfers

Name	Assignment	Dept Action	Salary Placement
Liberty, Rachel	NS: From BP to BW General Help	1/3/24	Same
Peck, Megan	IC: Student Support Associate	1/17/24	LMSEAA II, Step 1
Rodriguez Claudio, Kiara	NS: BP General Help	1/17/24	PTNS, Step 1

Classified Staff: Resignation

Name	Assignment	Dept Action	Reason
Arnold, Wendy	TR: Van Driver	12/28/23	Personal
Finke, Kayla	IC: Student Support Associate	1/5/24	Personal
House, Eileen	BW: Health Assistant	2/6/24	Personal
Krause, Rhonda	BP: Student Support Associate	1/15/24	Personal
Postel, Skyler	HS: Student Support Associate	1/8/24	Personal

Co/Extra-Curricular Staff: Assignments/Reassignments/Transfers

Name	Assignment	Dept Action	Salary Placement
Ginty, Natalie	OR: Assistant Girls Track Coach	1/11/24	\$3,083

Co/Extra-Curricular Staff: Resignation

Name	Assignment	Dept Action	Reason
Freese, Keirsten	HS: Head 9 th Gr Volleyball Coach	1/5/24	Personal
Hackett, Jacqueline	OR: Head Girls Tennis Coach	1/17/24	Personal

702: Approval of January 8th Board Minutes – Exhibit 702.1

703: Approval of January 11th Board Closed Session Minutes – Exhibit 703.1

704: Approval of Bills/Warrants – Exhibit 704.1

705: Approval of Contracts/Agreements – Exhibits 705.1-3

1. Newsela renewal for the 2024-25 school year for grades 7/8
2. Bryce Airy farm lease
3. GameTime agreement for Westfield playground equipment and installation (*paid for using PERL funds*)
4. Interagency agreements for special education instructional services with Alburnett CSD (8), Anamosa CSD (1), Cedar Rapids CSD (1), College CSD (1), Grant Wood AEA (1), Marion Independent (2), Springville CSD (3), and Woodward-Granger CSD (1). *For student confidentiality, exhibits are not provided.*

706: Overnight Trip Request – Exhibit 706.1

Varsity Baseball to attend College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska on June 15, 2024.

707: Fundraising Requests – Exhibits 707.1-2

1. Show Choir to host makeup Super Nova concert and dinner since original event was cancelled due to weather
2. ALO to host sale of Valentine’s Day items to raise funds for educational materials

708: Disposition of Obsolete Equipment

Per Iowa Code (§§ 297.22-25) and school board policy 902.6, the district will list for sale obsolete equipment and furnishings on GovDeals.com. Items for sale are:

- Toro 2-cycle, single stage, power clear snow blower – Quantity: 1

709: Informational Financial Reports – Exhibits 709.1-2

1. School Finance and Cash Balance Reports as of 12-31-22
2. School Finance and Cash Balance Reports as of 12-31-23

800: BOARD CALENDAR/COMMUNICATIONS/COMMITTEES

801: Board Calendar & Communications

Date	Time	Event	Location
Jan 25	Noon	Board Visit	Echo Hill Elementary
Date	Time	Event	Location
Feb 1	8:30 AM	Finance/Audit Committee	Boardroom
Feb 1	Noon	Linn County Conference Board	City of CR Admin Bldg
Feb 5	5:00 PM	Board Meeting	Boardroom
Feb 7	4:15 PM	Career & Technical Education Advisory	LRC Room 304/305
Feb 8	8:40 AM	Board Visit	Linn Grove Elementary
Feb 8	5:30 PM	Marion City Council (<i>Buchholz</i>)	City Hall
Feb 12	5:00 PM	Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Committee	Boardroom
<i>Feb 12-13</i>	--	<i>IASB Day on the Hill</i>	<i>Des Moines</i>
Feb 19	5:00 PM	Board Meeting	Boardroom
Feb 22	9:00 AM	Board Visit	Novak Elementary
Feb 22	5:30 PM	Marion City Council (<i>Walker</i>)	City Hall

900: ADJOURNMENT – Motion 124-01-22

MOTION by Morey to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 PM. Second by Wall. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Barry Buchholz, Board President

Jon Galbraith, Board Secretary/Treasurer

**BOARD CLOSED SESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2024**

100: CALL TO ORDER & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

A closed session of the Linn-Mar Board of Directors was called to order at 7:20 PM in the boardroom of the Learning Resource Center (2999 N 10th St, Marion). Roll was taken to determine a quorum. Present: Buchholz, Foss, Lowe Lancaster, Morey, Walker, and Wall. Absent: Rollinger. Administration present: Kortemeyer.

200: ADOPTION OF AGENDA – *Motion 125-01-22*

MOTION by Wall to adopt the agenda as presented. Second by Walker. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

300: CLOSED SESSION

301: Move into Closed Session – *Motion 126-01-22*

MOTION by Walker to move into closed session at 7:20 PM as provided by Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(i) of the open meetings law, *"to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session"*. Second by Wall. Roll call vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

302: Return to Open Session – *Motion 127-01-22*

MOTION by Morey to return to open session at 8:45 AM. Second by Walker. Roll call vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

400: ADJOURNMENT – *Motion 128-01-22*

MOTION by Morey to adjourn the session at 8:45 PM. Second by Lowe Lancaster. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Barry Buchholz, Board President

Jon Galbraith, Board Secretary/Treasurer