

The Board of Directors of the Cedar Falls Community School District in the County of Black Hawk, State of Iowa, met in regular session pursuant to the laws and rules of said Board at the City of Cedar Falls City Hall, 220 Clay Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the President and the roll being called there were present Susie Hines in the chair, and the following named Directors: Nate Gruber, Bett Peterson, Lowell Stutzman, Kim Cross, Grace Rogers and Jeff Orvis. Others in attendance were: Dr. Andrew Pattee, Superintendent, Denelle Gonnerman, Chief Financial Officer/Board Secretary, Amber Youngblut, Executive Director of Human Resources, Dr. Jill White, Director of Student Services, and Janelle Darst, Communications. Also, in attendance: Linda Fitzgerald

**Item No.1 – Approval of the Following Consent Agenda Items:**

Director Orvis moved and Director Peterson seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

1. Approval of January 13, 2025 agenda
2. Approval of the December 8, 2025 Board of Education meeting minutes
3. Approval of the bills as presented for payment as reviewed by the designated Board member, Director Orvis
4. Open Enrollment
5. Human Resources Report
6. Early Graduation Requests: Fatema Abeer  
Milo Fitzgerald  
Lana Greenleaf

**Open Enrollment Report  
January 12, 2026**

Darius Mickelson, Jr.	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Current Resident District:	Waterloo
District Requested:	Cedar Falls
Effective Date:	2025-2026 – C
Taleah O’Neal	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade
Current Resident District:	Waterloo
District Requested:	Cedar Falls
Effective Date:	2025-2026 – C
Landen Eric Thompson	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Current Resident District:	Cedar Falls
District Requested:	Red Oak – IA Virtual School
Effective Date:	2025-2026
Billie Jo Schmidt	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Current Resident District:	Cedar Falls
District Requested:	CAM – IA Connections Academy
Effective Date:	2025-2026
Lily Grace Palmieri	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade
Current Resident District:	Cedar Falls
District Requested:	Clayton Ridge – IA Virtual Academy
Effective Date:	2025-2026
Olivia Rose Schmitz	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Current Resident District:	Cedar Falls
District Requested:	Iowa City Online School
Effective Date:	2025-2026

**Human Resources Report  
January 12, 2026**

**Resignations – Recommended for Approval**

**Teacher:**

KaraAnn Johnson	Southdale	Second Grade	01/16/2026
Cynthia Spore	North Cedar	Fifth Grade	EOSY 2025-26
Alissa Ortega	OH/SD/CH	Physics	EOSY 2025-26

Pursuant to Iowa Code 279.19A, 8(b) termination of or resignation from a contract with a teacher constitutes an automatic termination of or resignation from an extracurricular contract in effect between the teacher and the Board.

**'EOSY': End of School Year is the final day of teacher service, as determined by the official school calendar. In the event the school year is extended due to weather make up days, or other unanticipated causes, the Superintendent may, at his sole discretion, approve an employee request to terminate employment prior to the end of the school year if the request had been previously approved by the Board to take effect at the end of the school year.**

Directors voting in favor of the motion: Gruber, Hines, Peterson, Cross, Rogers, Stutzman, and Orvis. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

#### Item No. 2 – Public Comment

No public comments.

#### Item No. 3 – Communications

Janelle Darst reported on the following District news activities:

- Preschool Registration January 30, 2026 at 12:00 pm
- Tiger Perks
- Demo Day - CAPS
- All State Choir 2025
- High School won Student Food Drive with a total raised of \$8,257.81
- State Cross Country
- State swimming
- Women’s wrestling
- Coaches vs Cancer

#### Item No. 4 – Secretary’s November Financial Reports

Mrs. Gonnerman reviewed with the Board the November 2025 fund balances for general, schoolhouse, student activity, and food service. President Stutzman stated the report would be filed subject to audit.

#### Item No. 5 – Approval of 2026/27 Allowable Growth for Drop-Out/At-Risk Prevention Application

Dr. White reviewed the application for modified allowable growth for Drop-Out/ At-Risk prevention for the 2026-27 school year. Dr. White provided an overview of the different ways in which the District provides resources and support specifically intended to mitigate the risk some students face of dropping out of school. After discussion, Director Orvis moved and Director Peterson seconded the motion that the Cedar Falls Community School District Board of Education approve the 2026-2027 application to the School Budget Review Committee for Dropout prevention and At-Risk modified supplemental aid in the amount of \$1,077,401 as presented. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Gruber, Hines, Peterson, Cross, Rogers, Stutzman, and Orvis Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

#### Item No. 6 – Approval of 2026/27 Allowable Growth for Drop-Out/At-Risk Prevention Plan

After discussion, Director Rogers moved and Director Cross seconded the motion that the Cedar Falls Community School District Board of Education approve the At-Risk/Drop Out Plan for the 2026-2027 school year as presented. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Gruber, Hines, Peterson, Cross, Rogers, Stutzman, and Orvis Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

Item No. 7 – Board Committee Assignments

Dr. Pattee reviewed the information submitted by individual Board members for board committee assignments for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year. It was the general consensus of the Board to accept the committee assignments as presented.

**2025-2026 Board Committee Assignments**

IASB Legislative Network	Kim Cross
IASB Delegate Assembly	Nate Gruber
School Improvement Advisory Committee	Susie Hines
County Conference Board	Lowell Stutzman
District Facility Committee	Nate Gruber / Kim Cross
District Foundation Representative	Susie Hines
Wellness Committee	Jeff Orvis
Board Policy Review	Lowell Stutzman/ Grace Rogers/ Nate Gruber
Board Goal Committee	Lowell Stutzman/Jeff Orvis
Superintendent Goal Committee	Bett Peterson/ Susie Hines/Kim Cross
Dry Run Creek Representative	Susie Hines
CAPS Advisory	Jeff Orvis
North Cedar Steering Committee	Lowell Stutzman
Safety Committee	Jeff Orvis

Item No. 8 – Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Pattee reported on the following:

- Next Board meeting will be January 26, 2026
- Legislative Update: First day of Legislation session starts today January 12, 2026.
- Day on the Hill is January 26, 2026

Item No. 9 – Questions, Comments, and Concerns

Director Rogers inquired on the schedules for committee times and days.

Director Rogers inquired on procedures of ICE. Dr. Pattee reported Administrators have been through training and there are internal protocols in place.

Director Rogers inquired about the “Public School Strong” resolutions. Dr. Pattee stated those priorities set by IASB and ISEA.

Director Stutzman reported Board members will begin visiting Parent Teacher Organization meetings.

Director Rogers reported there are two Iowa Association of School Boards webinars for Condition of the State.

Item No. 10 – Closed Session of the Board of Education Under Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(i)

Director Cross moved and Director Stutzman seconded the motion that the Cedar Falls Board of Education enter into closed session to evaluate the professional competency of individuals 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 under 2011 Code of Iowa 21.5(1) (i). Directors voting in favor of the motion: Gruber, Hines, Peterson, Cross, Rogers, Stutzman, and Orvis Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

Board room was cleared at 6:25 p.m.

Board entered closed session at 6:30 p.m.

Board returned to open session at 6:55 p.m.

Item No. 11 – Action on Recommendation for Classifies Employee

Director Gruber moved and Director Peterson seconded the motion that the Cedar Falls Community School District Board of Education accept the Administration’s recommendation to terminate the employment of Mr. Dale Wille, effective January 12, 2026. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Gruber, Hines, Peterson, Cross, Rogers, Stutzman, and Orvis Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

Item No. 12 – Adjournment

Director Peterson moved and Director Orvis seconded the motion to adjourn Directors voting in favor of the motion: Directors voting in favor of the motion: Gruber, Hines, Peterson, Cross, Rogers, Stutzman, and Orvis Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

---

President

---

Secretary