

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, Kim Cross, Grace Rogers, Jeff Orvis and Lowell Stutzman. Others in attendance were: Dr. Andrew Pattee, Superintendent, Denelle Gonnerman, Chief Financial Officer/Board Secretary, Amber Youngblut, Executive Director of Human Resources, and Janelle Darst, Communications. Also, in attendance: Jason Lang, Bonnie Wulfekuhle, and Justin Hunt.

Item No. 1 – Public Hearing to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 School Year Certified Budget

President Hines reported that she had in her possession an affidavit of publication showing the notice of time and place of the hearing for the 2026-2027 school year budget having been published in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier on April 16, 2026. The Board opened the public hearing for the budget summary for fiscal year 2026-2027. No public comments were offered. No written comments were received. President Hines then declared the public hearing closed.

Item No. 2 – Public Hearing to Amend the 2025-2026 School Year Budget

President Hines reported that she had in her possession an affidavit of publication showing the notice of time and place of the hearing for the proposed school budget amendment for fiscal year 2025-2026 having been published in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier on April 16, 2026. The Board opened the public hearing on the proposed budget amendment for fiscal year 2025-2026. No public comments were offered. No written were received. President Hines then declared the public hearing closed.

Item No. 3 – Approval of the Following Consent Agenda Items:

Director Stutzman moved and Director Peterson seconded the motion to approve the following items:

1. The agenda for the April 27, 2026 Board agenda as presented
2. Approval of the April 13, 2026 Board of Education meeting minutes
3. Approval of the bills as presented for payment as reviewed by the designated Board member, Director Cross
4. Approval of open enrollment requests
5. Human Resource report
6. 2026-2027 Orchard Hill Church Preschool Agreement

Open Enrollment Report

April 27, 2026

Ollivander E. Cole	Current Resident District: District Requested: Effective Date:	Kindergarten Cedar Falls Red Oak – IA Virtual School 2026-2027
Alaynna LeeAnn Dell	Current Resident District: District Requested: Effective Date:	12 th Grade Cedar Falls Waterloo 2026-2027
Fayth Joens	Current Resident District: District Requested: Effective Date:	6 th Grade Cedar Falls Clayton Ridge – IA Virtual Academy 2026-2027

Human Resource Report

April 27, 2026

New Contracts – Recommended for Approval

Teacher:

Justin Rathjen	ESC	Special Education	BA30 18	2026-27 SY	*\$70,505
Zachary Woolley	Senior High	Special Education	BA15 3	2026-27 SY	*\$51,120
Sara Knutson	Senior High	Art	MA 20	2026-27 SY	*\$77,815

*NOTE: Salary amounts are projections based on placement on the 2025-26 CFEA Total Salary Schedule; actual salary will be finalized once the 2026-27 schedule is determined through collective bargaining

Resignations - Recommended for Approval

Teacher:

Christine Phillips Senior High/TAP Special Education Teacher End of SY 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: Hines, Gruber, Orvis, Peterson, Stutzman, Cross, and Rogers. Those voting "no" none. Motion carried.

Item No. 4 – Public Comments

President Hines reviewed the following public comment policy:

An open meeting means the meeting is open to the public to observe and listen to the proceedings of the meeting. At the public comment section of the agenda time is granted for citizens to make brief statements to the Board. To make a public comment, the District needs to be notified by 4:00 p.m. the day of the Board meeting, comments will be less than 3 minutes and comments should be germane to school district business.

Cedar Falls member Jason Lang provided comment on the ISEA Educator Bill of Rights and organizational goals.

Item No. 5 – Communications - News Letter

James Pang Student Board Liaison reported on the following:

- 3on3 Basketball tournament
- Staff Appreciation breakfast
- 9th grade tours
- Do Better Be Better 5K fundraiser
- Officer elections for 2026-2027
- Walker Wash
- Homecoming

Ms. Darst reported on the following:

- National Youth Poet Laureate – Daniel Umemezie
- High School Science Olympiad to Nationals
- Gold Star Teachers – Kevin Kuker, Traci Wildeboer, and Kimberly Willmert
- Drake Relays
- State Solo Ensemble Festival
- Give and Grow Foundation
- 150th Commencement
- State Physics
- Holmes students – Iowa Science Olympiad
- Natatorium Ribbon Cutting
- Ripple Effect Award – Urban storm water management
- Justin Urbanek Golden Eagle Award
- School Match Grant

Item No. 6 – Approval of the Scheels Tiger Performance Center Phase II Bids

Dr. Pattee reviewed the progress on the Scheels Tiger Performance Center. After discussion, Director Rogers moved and Directors Stutzman seconded the motion that the Cedar Falls Board of Education approve the bid for Phase II of the Scheels Tiger Performance Center from Peters Construction, Waterloo Iowa in a base bid amount of \$3,268,470. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Hines, Gruber, Orvis, Peterson, Stutzman, Cross, and Rogers. Those voting "no" none. Motion carried.

Item No. 7 – Approval of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Certified Budget

Mrs. Gonnerman reviewed the 2026-2027 proposed budget with the Board of Education including information on operating fund revenues from local, state, federal sources and required expenditures for these funds. The proposed tax rate for the 2026-2027 school year is estimated to be \$14.11009 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. After discussion, Director Orvis moved and Directors Peterson seconded the motion that the Cedar Falls Board of Education approve the proposed 2026-2027 school year budget as presented and the use of the 1% income surtax as required by Iowa Code. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Hines, Gruber, Orvis, Peterson, Stutzman, Cross, and Rogers. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

	2026-27 Estimated Expenditures	Est. Amount Necessary to be Raised by Property Taxation
General Operating Fund	\$78,660,826	\$21,923,513
Student Activity Fund	\$1,550,551	\$0
Management Fund	\$1,737,086	\$2,154,350
Fiduciary Funds	\$63,636	\$0
Capital Projects	\$0	\$0
Capital Projects (SAVE)	\$10,882,760	\$0
Physical Plant & Equipment Levy	\$10,571,696	\$4,566,791
Debt Service Fund	\$11,385,860	\$7,484,375
Nutrition Fund	\$4,056,100	\$0
Total	\$118,908,515	\$36,129,029

Item No. 8 – Approval of Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 School Year Budget

Mrs. Gonnerman reviewed the proposed expenditure amendment to the 2025-2026 school year. After discussion, Director Gruber moved and Director Orvis seconded the motion that the Cedar Falls Board of Education approve the proposed amendment of the 2025-2026 school year budget expenditures as presented. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Hines, Gruber, Orvis, Peterson, Stutzman, Cross, and Rogers. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

	From	To	
Instruction	\$56,583,352	\$57,572,247	Network equipment
Total Support Services	\$25,259,506	\$0	
Non-Instructional Programs	\$3,357,326	\$3,939,259	Increase in supplies, and food
Total Other Expenditures	\$26,056,920	\$0	

Item No. 9 – Approval of Regular Program Adjustment

After discussion, Director Cross moved and Director Peterson seconded the motion that, if necessary, the Board of Education of the Cedar Falls Community School District, will levy property tax for the fiscal year 2026-2027 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Hines, Gruber, Orvis, Peterson, Stutzman, Cross, and Rogers. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

Item No. 10 – Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Pattee reported on the following:

- Service Recognition: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at Cedar Falls High School Jungle Room at 5:00 p.m.
- Commencement is May 24, 2026.
- Next board meeting is May 11, 2026

Item No. 11 – Questions, Comments, and Concerns

Director Orvis inquired about any damage to the facilities from the recent storms. Dr. Pattee reported on certain damages to the facilities and roofs.

Director Peterson inquired on the possibility of Mr. Umemezie reading at graduation.

Director Stutzman inquired on having a board work session to review screen and nutrient practices.

Director Gruber reported on the Dry Run Creek Watershed improvement board meeting.

Director Rogers inquired about an on-boarding outline.

Item No. 12 – Adjournment

Director Cross moved and Director Rogers seconded the motion to adjourn. Directors voting in favor of the motion Hines, Gruber, Orvis, Peterson, Stutzman, Cross, and Rogers. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

President _____

Secretary _____