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, Grace Rogers, Lowell Stutzman, Kim Cross, and Alan Heisterkamp. 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, Communication Director. Others in attendance: Melanie Wirtz.

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

Director Peterson moved and Director Heisterkamp seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented:

1. The agenda of the October 26, 2026 Board of Education meeting
2. Approval of the October 12, 2026 Regular and October 14, 2026 Special Board of Education minutes
3. Approval of the bills as presented for payment as reviewed by Director Cross
4. Open Enrollment
5. CDW Amplified for Education

OPEN ENROLLMENT REPORT
October 26, 2026

	Charles Woods-Satariano	11th Grade
	Current resident district:	Cedar Rapids
	District requested:	Cedar Falls
	Effective date:	2026-27-C
Out		
	Bronxton Stillwell	8th Grade
	Current resident district:	Cedar Falls
	District requested:	Iowa Virtual Academy
	Effective date:	2026-27

Denied

Kadaijah Reed out to IA Virtual Academy
Lanni Yeager out to IA Connections Academy

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

Item No. 2 – Public Comment

No public comment.

Item No. 3 – Communications

Helen Pang, Student Board Liaison, reported on the following:

- Food Drive
- Pickle Ball Tournament
- Trunk or Treat – Raised just under $700.00
- Kindness Clips
- Food Bank Pantry

Janelle Darst reported on the following District news activities:

- Girls Rugby team were State Champions and went on to place 5th at Nationals
- 8th Grade boys cross Country State Champions
- Boys and Girls Cross Country competing at State
- Volleyball competing at Reginal Final
- Varsity Football into playoffs
- Scheels TPC turf and track installation
- Congratulations to Andrew Goetsch semifinalist in Coca Cola scholars' program
- All State Orchestra & Band
- Congratulations to 38 students chosen for the Opus Honor Choir

- Peet Second Kindness Day
- Holmes family game night
- Holmes Wilderness Survival Skills
- NE Iowa Food Bank contest
  - Daily Dose is donating a $1.00 for every purchase
  - Big Acai donating $1.00 for every item purchased
  - Band Booster Pancake breakfast

Item No. 4 – Secretary's September Financial Reports

Mrs. Gonnerman reviewed with the Board the September 2026 fund balances for general, schoolhouse, student activity, and food service. President Hines stated the report would be filed subject to audit.

Item No. 5 – Approval of Resolution to Set Public Hearing and Notice to Bidders on Holmes/Peet Jr. Highs Additions and Renovations

Dr. Pattee introduced Nick Hildebrandt and Nick Nugent from Emergent Architecture. Mr. Nugent provided an overview and timeline of the much anticipated Peet and Holmes Junior High additions and renovations. After discussion, Director Peterson moved and Director Cross seconded the motion the Cedar Falls Community School District Board of Education set a public hearing on Monday, November 9, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at the City of Cedar Falls City Hall, 220 Clay Street, Cedar Falls Iowa as the date, time and place to hold the public hearing and publish the notice to bidders on the Peet and Holmes Junior Highs additions and renovations. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Gruber, Hines, Rogers, Heisterkamp, Peterson, Cross, and Stutzman. Those voting "no" none. Motion carried.

Item No. 6 – Approval of First Reading of Board Policy

Dr. Pattee reviewed the policy Fiscal Management – Financial Matrix Code No.701.5-R(1). Director Cross moved and Director Stutzman seconded the motion to approve the first of two readings of Board Policies as recommended. Directors voting in favor of the motion Gruber, Hines, Rogers, Heisterkamp, Peterson, Cross, and Stutzman. Those voting "no" none. Motion carried.

Policy Title: Fiscal Management – Financial Matrix Code No. 701.5-R(1)

The following relevant PK-12 public sector indicators will be provided to the Board annually to better understand the financial trends of the district. These indicators will be an accurate depiction as of June 30th of the preceding fiscal year and will depict at a minimum of 3 years of data.
Total revenues and expenditures by fund and major sources;

- Financial Solvency Ratio – assigned plus unassigned fund balances divided by total revenue minus AEA flow through;
- Unspent Authorized Budget Ratio – amount of maximum spending authority left at year end after deducting the general fund expenditures incurred during the year;
- Unspent Authorized Balance Ratio Net of Restricted Fund Balances (Categorical Fund Balances) – amount of maximum spending authority left at year end after deducting both the general fund expenditures incurred during the year and the total restricted fund balances (categorical fund balances) at year end;
- Enrollment Trend – funding follows the student so it is important to understand district enrollment numbers;
- Staff costs as a percent of total general fund

Financial Projections
The general fun is the operating fund of the District where the majority of salaries and benefits are funded. Projections will help the Board determine sustainability of the annual operating budget and help make future budgetary decisions.

The District is committed to utilizing the following financial metrics in determining District financial goals:

1. Unspent Authorized Budget Ratio: Maintain unspent authorized budget ratio within the 7-17% target range. The current year's projected balance will be discussed with the Board before staffing and other spending decisions are finalized for the succeeding year.
2. Unspent Authorized Budget Net of Restricted Fund Balances (Categorical Balances): Maintain unspent authorized budget ratio net of restricted fund balances (categorical balances) within 7-17% target range. The District will attempt to spend the restricted (categorical) annual allocation in the year received to the extent possible.
3. Solvency Ratio: Maintain an unrestricted, uncommitted general fund balance within the 7-17% target range with 5% being the minimum goal, not to exceed 25%. The current year's projected balances will be discussed with the Board before establishing the succeeding year's cash reserve levy and before staffing and other spending decisions are finalized.

Item No. 7 – Board Resolution Discussion and Action

Directors Hines and Rogers reviewed the Board resolution regarding the Iowa Constitution Amendment 1. After discussion, Director Heisterkamp moved and Director Gruber seconded the motion that the Cedar Falls Board of Education approve the school board resolution regarding the Iowa Constitution Amendment 1 as presented. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Gruber, Hines, Rogers, Heisterkamp, Peterson, Cross, and Stutzman. Those voting "no" none. Motion carried.

Version Reflecting Cedar Falls

A SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION REGARDING IOWA CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT 1 ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 ELECTION BALLOT

WHEREAS the Iowa Legislature has required the Secretary of State to include Amendment #1 on the November 2026 General Election Ballot, and

WHEREAS Amendment #1 would amend our Iowa Constitution to require a 2/3rds majority of the Iowa House and Senate members to approve any increases to state incomes taxes, and

WHEREAS Iowa's flat income tax rate has resulted in significantly reduced state general fund revenues, which are directly related to low state funding levels of public schools over the last several years, and

WHEREAS Amendment #1 would make it harder for the Iowa Legislature to overcome a small minority of Senators (17 out of 50) or Representatives (34 out of 100) able to block income taxes on corporations or the wealthiest Iowans to solve a future state budget problem, and

WHEREAS that would only leave sales taxes, property taxes, higher fees and budget cuts as budget solutions available to simple majority consensus, and

WHEREAS the alternatives of sales taxes and property taxes are significantly disadvantageous to lower and middle income families and Iowans on fixed incomes in our urban school district, and

WHEREAS, the Cedar Falls Community School District Board of Education is a nonpartisan, locally elected governing body accountable to the residents of Cedar Falls and Surrounding district communities, and

WHEREAS Iowa's gap in per pupil spending, very close to the national average (within $202 or 1.8% below in 2013-14) has grown exponentially, now estimated to be $4,197 (or 22.2%) BELOW the national average for 2025-26, and Iowa schools have been funded at levels below inflation and labor costs for nearly every year in that comparison, and

WHEREAS state and local funding pay for teachers, para educators, counselors, librarians, bus drivers, custodians and all other staff, to which 80% of school district general fund budgets are directed, and

WHEREAS legislative investments to raise teacher salary were insufficient to move the needle, as Iowa ranks 32 the in average teacher pay in 2026, and

WHEREAS more years of chronic underfunding will increase our schools' challenges in attracting and retaining quality staff, providing individualized and engaging programs and activities for students, and

WHEREAS, the Cedar Fall Community School District's mission is to educate each student to be a lifelong learner and a caring responsible citizen, guided by vision "Every student every day", and

WHEREAS needed investments in the education of Iowa children, including programs for full-day preschool, adequate resources to educate English Learners and students with disabilities, programs for at-risk students and families from low-income households and funding to cover the cost of providing college credit courses to high school students are even less likely to be considered without adequate state General Fund Revenue, and

WHEREAS hundreds of millions of dollars have been simultaneously dedicated to education savings accounts to support families whose students are accepted to and enrolled in private schools, primarily benefitting higher income families in Iowa's urban and suburban centers and further stressing their neighboring public schools, and

WHEREAS, rising costs increase pressure on local school budgets and may reduce resources available for staffing, student services, and educational programming in districts such as Cedar Falls;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CEDAR FALLS COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION:

2. The Cedar Falls Community School District Board of Education encourages parents, staff, and citizens in our school district to carefully consider the impact of this undemocratic constitutional amendment, which is particularly hurtful to urban school districts' abilities to provide a great education for our students, and stakeholders are further encouraged to support our school district by turning the ballot over during the Nov. 3 General Election, and voting NO on Amendment #1.

PASSED AND ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 26, 2026

Item No 8 - Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Pattee shared the following:

- IASB State Convention – November 18-20, 2026
- Delegate Assembly - November 18, 2026. 9:00 a.m.
- Board meeting November 9, 2026
- North Cedar Authentic Learning Project

Item No 9– Questions, Comments and Concerns

Item No 10– Board Work Session

Continue IASB Book Study: The Board entered a formal work session to review book study on Chapters 6 & 7.

Item No 11 – Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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President Secretary