

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 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 and Janelle Darst, Communications. Also, in attendance: Linda Fitzgerald, Melanie Wirtz, Chuck Wellman, and Jason Long.

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

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

1. The agenda for the January 26, 2026 Board agenda as presented
2. Approval of the January 12, 2026 Board of Education meeting minutes
3. Approval of the bills as presented for payment as reviewed by the designated Board member, Director Orvis
4. Approval of open enrollment requests
5. Human Resource report
6. First Semester Transportation Reports
7. Contracts:
 - CCG Professional Services Proposal for North Cedar and Hansen Roof Replacement
 - TK Essential Agreement – Preventative Maintenance Agreement
 - Green State Family Fieldhouse Agreement
 - Barr & Company LLC Auditing Services

Open Enrollment Report

January 26, 2026

Issac Richard Joe Johnson	1 st Grade
Current Resident District:	Waterloo
District Requested:	Cedar Falls
Effective Date:	2025-2026 – C
Athena Leigh Winchester	6 th Grade
Current Resident District:	Janesville
District Requested:	Cedar Falls
Effective Date:	2025-2026
Amira Zajnic	2 nd Grade
Current Resident District:	Janesville
District Requested:	Cedar Falls
Effective Date:	2025-2026 – C
Aki Peters	9 th Grade
Current Resident District:	Cedar Falls
District Requested:	Waterloo
Effective Date:	2025-2026 – C
Mercy Jo Reeves	10 th Grade
Current Resident District:	Cedar Falls
District Requested:	Oelwein – Online Program
Effective Date:	2025-2026

Human Resource Report

January 26, 2026

Resignations - Recommended for Approval

Shane Williams	Administrator	Peet Jr. High	EOSY 25-26
Jack Sole	Teacher	Cedar Falls High School	EOSY 25-26

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, Cross, Hines, Orvis, Peterson, and Rogers. Those voting "no" none. Motion carried.

Item No. 2 – 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.

The following Cedar Falls citizens spoke in support of the “Public School Strong” resolution: Linda Fitzgerald, Rene Quint, and Liz Conklin.

Item No. 3 – Communications - Newsletter

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

- Student Senate: Coaches vs Cancer
- Community Main Street
- 3on 3 Basketball tournament
- House of Hope
- Flower and Bake sale

Ms. Darst reported on the following:

- Preschool Registration
- Gold Star Nomination open
- Foundation Scholarship Application
- STEM Best Grant
- Pack the Dome and Back Pack Program
- Large Group Speech
- North Cedar 5th & 6th students sang National anthem at Black Hawks hockey
- Kids Clinic Dance Team
- Winter sports

Item No. 4 – Secretary’s November Financial Reports

Mrs. Gonnerman reviewed with the Board the December 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 – Resolution to Set Public Hearing and Publish Notice to Bidders for 2026 Roofing Bids

Mr. Garrett Brown of Confidence Consulting Group reviewed the scope of the roofing projects for Hansen and North Cedar Elementary buildings. After discussion, Director Peterson moved and Director Orvis seconded the motion that the Cedar Falls Community School District Board of Education set a public hearing on March 9, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. for the 2026 summer roofing/tuck pointing as presented. Directors voting in favor of the motion, Gruber, Hines, Orvis, Peterson, Cross and Rogers. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

Item No. 6 – Approval of School Bus Bids

After discussion, Director Gruber moved and Director Rogers seconded the motion that the Cedar Falls Community School District Board of Education approve the school bus bids from School Bus Sales of Waterloo, Iowa for three Bluebird conventional school busses in the amount of \$446,676 as presented. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Gruber, Hines, Orvis, Peterson, Cross and Rogers. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

Item No. 7 – Public School Strong Resolution

After discussion, Director Rogers moved and Director Cross seconded the motion that the Cedar Falls Community School District Board of Education approve the resolution for “Public School Strong” as presented. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Gruber, Hines, Orvis, Peterson, Cross and Rogers. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

A SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION URGING THE IOWA GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE TO FULLY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PHASE OUT THE EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

WHEREAS, 91% of Iowa students are enrolled in public schools; and

WHEREAS, public schools are universally accessible and do not discriminate; and

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

WHEREAS, public schools are accountable to local communities through nonpartisan, democratically-elected school boards; 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, the state of Iowa has underfunded public schools for decades averaging just a 2.0% annual increase of State Supplemental Aid (SSA) since 2012; and

WHEREAS, Iowa is experiencing one of the worst teacher shortages in the country ; and

WHEREAS, private schools receiving ESAs are not held to the same accountability, transparency, and legal standards as public schools; and

WHEREAS, Iowa's ESAs defund our public schools and have cost Iowa taxpayers \$129 million in 2023-24, \$218 million in 2024-2025, and is estimated to cost \$315 million in 2025-26 with all income eligibility caps removed; and

WHEREAS, rising ESA 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; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of private schools in Iowa are religious, and publicly funding them blurs the line between separation of church and state; and

WHEREAS, independent studies in Indiana, Louisiana, Ohio, and Washington DC show that student performance and achievement go down as private school voucher programs expand ⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, all of us – including future generations – benefit from strong public schools because they have helped to make our country far more equal, educated, and democratic.

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

1. The Cedar Falls Community School District Board of Education do hereby urge the Governor of Iowa and the State Legislature to fully fund public schools by an annual 5% increase of State Supplemental Aid rate (indexed to inflation); and
2. The Cedar Falls Community School District Board of Education do hereby petition the Governor of Iowa and the State Legislature to keep the income cap in place for ESAs, phase the program out over the next 5 years, and use public funds for public schools only.

PASSED AND ADOPTED ON _____ 2026

i Data compiled by the National Conference of State Legislatures

ii How School Voucher Programs Hurt Students (2023), Professor Josh Cowen

<https://time.com/6272666/school-voucher-programs-hurt-students/>

Item No. 8 – Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Pattee reported on the following:

- Day on the Hill
- Legislative Updates: Several bills introduced to include Property Tax Reform, Curriculum and SSA

Item No. 9 – Questions, Comments, and Concerns

Director Hines asked for clarification specific to weather related district decisions; Dr. Pattee stated multiple factors considered with priority of safety of students and staff.

Director Rogers thanked Pattee and community for allowing her to attend the Day on the Hill. In addition, asked for clarification for policy review.

Director Peterson thanked the individuals that spoke during public comment and mentioned for Cedar Falls High School seniors, the application is now open for the scholarships through the Foundation and other community sources.

Item No. 10 – Adjournment

Director Peterson moved and Director Cross seconded the motion to adjourn. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Gruber, Hines, Orvis, Peterson, Cross and Rogers. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

President_____

Secretary_____