

DUBUQUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Educational Programs/Policy Committee

BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

This form is used by all multimember committees established by the Board of Education. Before any meeting is held, be sure you have met the requirements of Chapter 1037 Laws of the 67th G.A., 1978 Session, Official Meetings Open to Public.

- I. Complete the Following Before Starting the Meeting
- A. Date agenda was posted for meeting: July 11, 2025
 - B. Date media was emailed agenda: July 11, 2025
 - C. Board Committee: **Educational Programs/Policy Committee**
 - D. Date and Time of Meeting: **July 16, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.**
 - E. Place of Meeting: **The Forum**
 - F. Attach the agenda to this form. Verify that a copy of the agenda has been filed with the Secretary of the Board and the Administrator holding the Committee meeting. If any of the above data does not comply with the open meeting law, do not begin the meeting.

Board members present: Dirk Hamel, Nancy Bradley, Kate Parks, Anderson Sainci and Lisa Wittman. District representatives present: Amy Hawkins, Brian Kuhle, Becky Fellenzer, Mike Cyze and Rob Powers.

Nancy Bradley chaired the meeting and called it to order at 4:00 p.m.

Superintendent Hawkins asked that the agenda be changed to allow Rob Powers to update the Board after the Champions presentation.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Kreg Lensch from Champions updated the committee on the before and after school program offered at most of the district's elementaries. In addition to before and after school programming, Lensch mentioned that they also provide a summer camp called Champ Camp Great Outdoors. Approximately fifty students are currently participating at Kennedy and Prescott Elementary. Goals for the 25-26 school year are to open before and after school programs at Prescott and Lincoln Elementary as well as grow student enrollment by offering high quality programming for families in the district.

Other Items

Rob Powers provided an update to the committee that after reviewing the quotes for the Hempstead High School Shed Project, the quotes came in higher than expected. The project is considered a public improvement and will instead go out for competitive bidding since it is close to the \$200,000.00 threshold.

Purchase/Professional Contracts

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services for Transition Alliance Program (TAP) which implements services to youth with disabilities for an estimated cost of \$237,363.94, with half reimbursed by the state. Board 07.21.25
iJAG for Jobs for America's Graduates Program at Jefferson, Washington, Hempstead, Senior, and ALC at an estimated cost of \$150,000. Board 07.21.25

STRATEGIC PLAN

Becky Fellenzer, director of student services for the district, shared PK-12th grade attendance data for the 2024-25 school year. Data revealed that chronic absenteeism has improved at every level. The district as a whole saw students chronically absent at 24%, which is down from the previous year when it was 30%. In addition, the district had gains in the percentage of students with satisfactory attendance rise to 47% compared to 40% in the previous year. Reasons for the improvement include increased levels of communication with families along with meetings that create better relationships between parents/guardians and the school. At the elementary level, there were also incentives that were implemented to get students to be on time and attend school. Fellenzer said that a variety of barriers exist in general that contribute to chronic absenteeism. She added that they will continue to meet students where they are at. Next steps include modifying the chronic absenteeism and truancy policy to align with state law, continuing family engagement events and home visits that create relationships and adding the dashboard to parent teacher conferences. Another change in the law this year is that the district will no longer send certified mailings to parents when their student hits the ten percent chronic absent threshold. This change will save the district money as the cost of this exceeded \$11,000 last school year.

Policy #1001 – Anti-Bullying/Anti-Harassment

Revised – Board 07.21.25

Policy #1005 – Anti-Discrimination

Revised – Board 07.21.25

Policy #2300 – Meetings of the Board

Revised – Board 07.21.25

Policy #4100 – Recruitment and Selection

Revised – Board 07.21.25

Policy #4606 – Abuse of Students by School District Employees

Revised – Board 07.21.25

Policy #5107 – Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy

Revised – Board 07.21.25

Policy #5111 – International F-1 Visa Students

Recommend Removing Policy – Board 07.21.25

Policy #6109 – Health Education

New – Board 07.21.25

Policy #6110 – Career Education

New – Board 07.21.25

Policy #6217 – District to District Open Enrollment/Insufficient Classroom Space

Annual Review – Board 07.21.25

Policy #7003 – School Nutrition Program

New – Board 07.21.25

Next meeting will be held on August 6th, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Carolyn Mauss

Board Secretary