

MEETING MINUTES

East Marshall Community School District
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TENTATIVE AGENDA

NOTICE OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING #1 FOR FY2026 Annual Budget

You are hereby notified that the Board of Education of the East Marshall Community School District will conduct a Public Hearing #1 on the 2025-2026 Annual Budget and conduct the Regular School Board meeting at the District Office in Gilman, Iowa on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 6:00pm.

(The Regular Board Meeting will begin at 6:00pm. The Public Hearing on the FY26 Annual Budget will begin at 6:30pm.)

At the meeting, the tentative agenda will be as follows:

The tentative agenda will follow School Board Policy 210.05. As defined in Board Policy 210.05, additions, adjustments, and updates may occur to the posted agenda up to 24 hours prior to the posted date and time of the board meeting.

Attendees

Voting Members

Lisa Meling, Board President
Megan Ruopp, Board Vice President
Andrea Terrones, Board Member
Elizabeth Crandon, Board Member
AnnDee Bloom, Board Member

Non-Voting Members

Anthony Ryan, Superintendent

1. Call Regular Meeting to Order, Read the Mission Statement, and Approve Agenda

Meling called the Regular meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m. Ruopp read the mission statement.

Motion by Bloom to approve the agenda; second by Ruopp. All in favor.

Those in attendance are: Lisa Meling, Megan Ruopp, Elizabeth Crandon, Ann Dee Bloom, and Andrea Terrones; Board Secretary/Business Manager Allison Frost. Not present: Superintendent Anthony Ryan.

Motion made by: AnnDee Bloom

Motion seconded by: Megan Ruopp

Voting:

Lisa Meling - Yes

Megan Ruopp - Yes

Andrea Terrones - Yes

Elizabeth Crandon - Yes

AnnDee Bloom - Yes

2. Closed Session: Closed Session pursuant to Iowa Code, Section 21.5(1)(i) to evaluate the professional competency of an individual 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.

Roll call to go into Closed Session pursuant to Iowa Code, Section 21.5 (1)(i) to evaluate the professional competency of an individual 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:

Roll Call: Terrones-Aye; Ruopp-Aye; Bloom-Aye; Crandon-Aye; Meling-Aye; Frost-Aye

Grundmeyer Leader Services presented the board with information on all candidates that applied for the Superintendent opening. The board chose four candidates to interview on April 2nd.

Closed Session ends at 6:34 pm. Motion to Adjourn from Closed session by Bloom; second by Ruopp. All in favor.

Motion made by: AnnDee Bloom

Motion seconded by: Megan Ruopp

Voting:

Lisa Meling - Yes

Megan Ruopp - Yes

Andrea Terrones - Yes

Elizabeth Crandon - Yes

AnnDee Bloom - Yes

3. (6:30 p.m.) Call Public Hearing #1 on 2025-2026 Annual Budget to Order and Read the Mission Statement.

6:36 pm Meling called to Order Public Hearing #1 on the 2025-2026 Annual Budget. Ruopp

read the mission statement.

Those present are: Lisa Meling, Megan Ruopp, Elizabeth Crandon, Ann Dee Bloom, Anrdrea Terrones; Superintendent Anthony Ryan; Board Secretary/Business Manager Allison Frost.
Roll call: Meling-Aye; Terrones-Aye; Ruopp-Aye; Crandon-Aye; Bloom-Aye

4. Open Public Hearing #1 on 2025-2026 Annual Budget to the Public.

Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Frost presented the board with the information for the 2025-2026 annual budget. No increase to the tax rate this year. The presented tax rate for FY26 is 10.59. FY25 rate was approved at 10.87. It was explained that the board can only lower the amount and cannot increase it at this point. The second budget hearing is scheduled for April 21st to approve the budget.

No questions from the Public.

5. Adjourn/Close Public Hearing and Move to Continuation of the March 25, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

Motion by Ruopp to Adjourn at 6:39 pm; second by Terrones. All in favor.

Roll Call to close Public Hearing: Ruopp-Aye; Bloom-Aye; Meling-Aye; Terrones-Aye; Crandon-Aye.

Motion made by: Megan Ruopp

Motion seconded by: Andrea Terrones

Voting:

Lisa Meling - Yes

Megan Ruopp - Yes

Andrea Terrones - Yes

Elizabeth Crandon - Yes

AnnDee Bloom - Yes

6. Continuation of the Regular Board Meeting.

Continuation of Regular Board Meeting at 6:40pm. Those in attendance are: Lisa Meling, Megan Ruopp, Elizabeth Crandon, Ann Dee Bloom, and Andrea Terrones; Superintendent Anthony Ryan; Board Secretary/Business Manager Allison Frost; Principals Mark Albertsen, Matt Rasmusson, and Kim Tarbell. Terrones read the mission statement. Motion by Terrones to approve the agenda, omitting agenda item #7 (continuation of closed session, if needed); second by Ruopp. All in favor.

Motion made by: Andrea Terrones

Motion seconded by: Megan Ruopp

Voting:

Lisa Meling - Yes

Megan Ruopp - Yes

Andrea Terrones - Yes

Elizabeth Crandon - Yes

AnnDee Bloom - Yes

7. If Needed, Continuation of Closed Session: Closed Session pursuant to Iowa Code, Section 21.5(1)(i) to evaluate the professional competency of an individual 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.

This agenda was omitted as the board did not need to continue closed session.

8. Discussion of Interview Process with Grundmeyer Services.

Grundmeyer Leader Services stated that there are four finalists that the board would like to interview on April 2, 2025. Interviews will start at 3pm and end around 7pm. The board has stated they do not want the finalists names released to public.

9. Greet Visitors and Hear Citizen Concerns and Comments

One citizen in attendance--no comments shared.

10. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion by Ruopp to approve the consent agenda, as presented; second by Crandon. All in favor.

Motion made by: Megan Ruopp

Motion seconded by: Elizabeth Crandon

Voting:

Lisa Meling - Yes

Megan Ruopp - Yes

Andrea Terrones - Yes

Elizabeth Crandon - Yes

AnnDee Bloom - Yes

A. Good Things in Schools

a. Bells and Whistles

b. Other

B. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Approval of 2/17/2025 regular meeting minutes and 3/3/2025 special board meeting minutes.

C. Approval of Bills, Invoices, and Financial Statements

Approval of Bills, Invoices, and Financial statements-as presented.

D. Approve donations and fundraisers .

Approval of a \$300 donation from Laurel Community Church to the Backpack Program.

Approval of the following fundraisers: Mr. Thurm/HS Girls Basketball requesting Flocking

Flamingos in the month of June. Proceeds to support the HS Girls Basketball program; Haley Breeden/FFA program requesting: Plant Sales in May and June; Slow pitch game in May with a free will donation of ice cream; Easter Egg Hunt in April--all proceeds to support the FFA program activities and events.

E. Approval of Request to Discard Obsolete Equipment per Policy 801.01.

Approval to discard the stove in the middle school concession stand.

F. Approval of AEA Purchasing Agreement for 2025-2026 School Year.

Approval of the annual renewal of AEA Purchasing Agreement for 2025-2026 school year, as presented.

G. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Child, Adolescent, & Parent Support.

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Child, Adolescent & Parent Support. This is an ongoing service for our CTE area. Once per year this organization presents in the classroom.

H. Approval of Interfund Transfers.

No Interfund Transfers to approve.

I. Approve Interagency Special Education Agreement(s).

No Interagency Special Education Agreements to approve.

J. Approvals of Open Enrollment

a. Open Enrollment IN

Approval of the following Open Enrollments IN to East Marshall for 2025-2026:
Myra Bragg--KDG--From Marshalltown; Jakobi Adkins--KDG--From Marshalltown

b. Open Enrollment OUT

Approval of the following Open Enrollments OUT of East Marshall for 2024-2025:
Ashlynn Miller--to MVA; Lillie Dupee to GMG; Paige Dupee to GMG

Approval of the following Open Enrollments OUT of East Marshall for 2025-2026:
Annaliese Randa, 9th grade, to Marshalltown; Parker Keislar, KDG, to West Marshall;
Maelynn Parrish, KDG, to GMG

Rescinded Open Enrollments for 2024-2025:
Shaylee Slifer, 6th grade, to Marshalltown; Aliya Kluck, 12th grade, to MVA; Brooke Morgan, 11th grade, to MVA; Bailey Garland, 8th grade, to Marshalltown

Rescinded Open Enrollments for 2025-2026:

Nicholas Adelmund, 5th grade, to GMG

K. Approvals on Resignations, Retirements & Contracts

a. Resignations

Approval of the following resignations:

Katie Coon as High School cook, effective immediately; Melissa Radmaker as 6-8 Art and 6-8 Future Ready, effective end of 2024-2025 contract; Ashley Holloway as 5th grade teacher, effective end of 2024-2025 contract.

b. Retirements

c. Contracts

Approval of the following contracts:

Haley Breeden as Summer Ticket Taker \$500

Pete Drury as Middle School Boys Track Coach \$3031

Rayne McIlrath as Middle School Softball Coach \$2349

Jodi Fuller as Summer School Teacher \$25/hour

Ruby Hummel as 6-12 Band Director. BA-1 (wages TBD)

Kayla Stone as High School Assistant Softball Coach \$3438

L. Reports from Principals and Directors

a. High School, Middle School, and Elementary Principals

b. Buildings & Grounds Director

c. Technology Director Report

11. Discussion of FEH Architects and Facilities Planning Updates

Tyler Riley with FEH was present, via phone. Tyler gave an update on the tank at the high school and stated that he will be coming next Tuesday to take a look at the leak, fuel tank and boiler room wall and will then come up with a plan for these issues.

12. Approval of the FEMA Grant Application and Resolution.

Tyler explained that there are two different FEMA processes to choose from. If it is decided to pursue the BRIC application, then we can begin moving forward with the Advanced Assistance for scoping. If it is decided to pursue the HMPG application, then we have a little more time, but we will need to approve the Resolution stating the District will cover the 15% eligible costs. Tyler advised that the district would want to use specific language in the 2025 bond referendum, noting that if the district is not approved for the grant, the bond would no longer be necessary for this specific project. If the HMPG is approved, the district would need to pay the \$4500 application fee, but there is a better chance of being approved for the funding with this program vs BRIC. Tyler also stated that the district could turn down the grant later, if the

bond does not pass. Motion by Crandon to approve the resolution; second by Terrones. All in favor.

Resolution: Whereas, the sub-recipient recognizes the fact that this grant is based on a cost share basis with the federal share not exceeding 75%, the state share not exceeding 10%, and the local share being a minimum of 15% of the total proct cost. The minimum 15% local share can be either cash or in-kind match. Therefore, the Subrecipient agrees to provide and make available up to \$4,500.00 dollars of local monies to be used to meet the minimum local requirement for this mitigation grant application.

Roll call vote: Bloom-Aye; Crandon-Aye; Ruopp-Aye; Terrones-Aye; Meling-Aye

13. Discussion of Adding Coaching Position(s).

Mr. Ryan explained that the district has followed past practices regarding the number of coaches per sport but that we can look into a different direction if the board wants. Mr. Ryan explained some history, the philosophy of stated track coaching positions, and relation to contracts. The board would like to look at participation numbers for each sport and then decide if more or fewer coaches are needed. We are specifically looking at the option of another middle school track coach for the current season. The middle school has two coaches and currently the high school has five track coaches, with the fifth being a floater position. The board would like to get a position posted and filled, if possible, for a third middle school coach for this season. The board has also requested that Mr. Ryan meet with Scott Wheeler and for Scott Wheeler, AD, to put together some numbers of coach to athlete ratios for all activities/sports.

14. Discussion of Staffing for 2025-2026 School Year.

Mr. Ryan advised the board that this is a discussion item and not an action item. When addressing the topic of limited fiscal resources we have always attempted to reduce as far away from classrooms as possible. The principals and Mr. Ryan met to discuss the staffing scenarios for the 2025-2026 school year. The enrollment patterns show that attrition is viable at the upper elementary level, middle school, and possibly with high school math. Mr. Rasmusson is working with Mrs. Tarbell to review 8th grade numbers moving into 9th grade for next year. At this time, the administrative team believes that attrition of the elementary teacher resignation is viable, attrition at the middle school, as well as the half-time high school math position.

The UAB decrease estimates are below: (Driven by Revenue Resources minus Expenditures.)

FY24 = \$3,395,330

FY25 = \$2,697,024 estimate

FY26 = \$1,736,921 estimate

15. Approval of Annual Reauthorization of Sharing Agreements with Other LEAs.

Mr. Ryan recommended reauthorizing all current sharing agreements with other school districts and the AEA. It was also recommended to increase the director of special education time from 20% to 40% time in special education costs. We currently have the following sharing

agreements: Curt Sawyer with West Marshall; Jerica Latcham with Grinnell-Newburg; Melissa Blohm with AEA; Delann Soenksen AEA (recommended to increase to 40% time for the 25-26 school year); Theresa S. - AEA; Terri H. - MCC.

Motion by Ruopp to approve the annual reauthorization of sharing agreements with other LEA's, as presented, and with increasing to 40% time for director of special education with AEA; second by Crandon. All in favor.

Motion made by: Megan Ruopp

Motion seconded by: Elizabeth Crandon

Voting:

Lisa Meling - Yes

Megan Ruopp - Yes

Andrea Terrones - Yes

Elizabeth Crandon - Yes

AnnDee Bloom - Yes

16. Discussion and Approval of Reauthorization of Agreement with ISEBA Insurance for the 2025-2026 School Year (Health).

Allison Frost, Business Manager, explained to the board that we have a 4.49% medical insurance increase and a 2% dental increase for the upcoming school year. Discussions with ISEBA, Allison, and two board members on the committee have taken place recently. Board members decided to make some changes to the options available. There will now be three plans available, instead of the previous four plans being offered. The three plans will include an HSA, PPO, and POS. With the three options, there will also now be the option to choose Single, Family, Employee + Spouse, and Employee + Children. Allison is coordinating a date with ISEBA and Advantage Administrators to be present in the buildings to provide information and answer questions for Open Enrollment.

Motion by Crandon to approve the reauthorization agreement with ISEBA insurance for the 2025-2026 school year; second by Ruopp. All in favor.

Motion made by: Elizabeth Crandon

Motion seconded by: Megan Ruopp

Voting:

Lisa Meling - Yes

Megan Ruopp - Yes

Andrea Terrones - Yes

Elizabeth Crandon - Yes

AnnDee Bloom - Yes

17. Approval of Transfer of Funds to Close Out Inactive Activity Fund Accounts.

Allison explained that due to an audit comment of inactive activity accounts, we are requesting to close the following accounts and move the money to the accounts listed below.

MS Activities \$171.92: move to MS Yearbook Account.

Special HS Art \$1,755.46: move to HS Yearbook Account.

Motion by Ruopp to approve the transfers as presented; second by Terrones. All in favor.

Motion made by: Megan Ruopp

Motion seconded by: Andrea Terrones

Voting:

Lisa Meling - Yes

Megan Ruopp - Yes

Andrea Terrones - Yes

Elizabeth Crandon - Yes

AnnDee Bloom - Yes

18. Discussion of Transfer of Funds to Flex Account for a General Fund Purpose.

Mr. Ryan explained that it is being considered to recommend offering another re-signing incentive for the 2025-2026 employment contracts being turned in by the deadline date. This recommendation will be similar to the re-signing incentive for the 2024-2025 school year. In most recent years, the district has used stimulus dollars to cover this incentive. The district no longer has the incentive dollars. Therefore, it may be recommended to create a tentative Flex Fund and transfer balances from other legal Categorical Funds (preschool, PD, and Homeschool) to cover the incentive costs. It is anticipated that this cost will be just under \$100,000.

This is only a discussion item for tonight. If the board wants to move in this direction, it will then be listed as an action item next month.

19. Approval of Award/Bid of Summer Mowing Services.

The renewal of mowing agreements is up this summer. One bid was received: Johnson Lawn Care, now called Milestone. The last two-year agreement has worked out well, and it is recommended to reauthorize a two-year agreement with Milestone at \$77,900.

Motion by Crandon to approve the 2-year mowing bid with Milestone at \$77,900; second by Bloom. All in favor.

Motion made by: Elizabeth Crandon

Motion seconded by: AnnDee Bloom

Voting:

Lisa Meling - Yes

Megan Ruopp - Yes

Andrea Terrones - Yes

Elizabeth Crandon - Yes

AnnDee Bloom - Yes

20. Board Professional Development Dialogue/Activity.

Ruopp lead the discussion on chapter 10 of "The School Board member's Guidebook"

21. Superintendent Report.

Mr. Ryan discussed the following topics:

- *The administrative team met recently to discuss staffing needs for the 2025-2026 school year.
- *The NICL Academic Banquet was March 24th.
- *The EM Honor Society induction ceremony occurred last Tuesday evening. There was a large group of inductees and was a successful evening.
- *The FY26 tax notices were mailed out to patrons. There is a good explanation guide of how to interpret the tax form on the Department of Management's website.
- *Elementary Family night occurred last Tuesday. There was a good turnout at the event and families look forward to this each year.
- *Spring athletics are in full swing and off to a good start.

22. Adjourn

Motion by Ruopp at 8:46pm to Adjourn; Second by Terrones. All in favor.

Motion made by: Megan Ruopp

Motion seconded by: Andrea Terrones

Voting:

Lisa Meling - Yes

Megan Ruopp - Yes

Andrea Terrones - Yes

Elizabeth Crandon - Yes

AnnDee Bloom - Yes

23. Exempt Session to Discuss Negotiations with the EMEA.