June 17, 2026
Dike, Iowa

The Dike-New Hartford Board of Education met on this date at 5:00 p.m. for the regular monthly meeting with President Lotts presiding and board members Badker, Horner, and Petersen present. Board member McCarter was absent from the meeting. Also present was administrator Stockdale.

Visitors present included Cody Eichmeier, Reegan Zinkula, Waylon Bern, David Kelley, Amy Seitz, Brian Petullo, Tom Textor, Val Bovy, Wayne Slack, Greg Schmitz, Ruby Varney, Anne Varney, Brian Varney, Drew Destival, and Micah Destival.

Val Bovy - Requested that the district consider livestreaming and/or recording board meetings and making them available for public viewing. She shared that both community members and staff may have difficulty attending meetings in person and noted that the district already livestreams many events, which could make implementation relatively simple. She stated that providing access to meetings may help stakeholders better understand board discussions, decision-making processes, and context. She clarified that her request was not based on concerns regarding transparency, but rather as an opportunity to strengthen communication and connection with the community.

Greg Schmitz - Expressed support for the comments shared by Val Bovy. He noted that because athletic and fine arts events are already livestreamed, extending similar capabilities to board meetings may involve minimal additional costs. He shared that stakeholders have many activities competing for their time and that livestreaming meetings could provide another avenue for receiving information directly from the district. He commented that the potential benefits appear to outweigh any possible drawbacks.

The regular meeting agenda was approved on motion of Petersen and second of Badker. Vote all aye.

The consent agenda was approved on the motion of Badker and second of Horner. Vote all aye. The consent agenda includes the following: May 20, 2026 and May 22, 2026 meeting minutes; Principal, Technology, Building & Grounds, and Athletic Reports; June bills; May 2026 Financial Reports; Resignations from Abbie Banwarth (JH Track Coach), Cassidy Myers (Basketball Cheer Coach), John Patterson (Head Golf Coach, Assistant Boys Basketball Coach), and Ashawntae Brown (Football Cheer Coach); Contracts for Alaina Flater (Dike Elementary Associate) and Zoie Callan (JH Cross Country Coach).

Superintendent Stockdale and David Kelley provided an update on the 2026–27 EMC insurance premiums. Premium costs are projected to increase by approximately $28,000, representing an increase of about 10% over the prior year. An update was also provided on the FFA greenhouse project. Planning efforts are underway, and additional progress updates are expected in the coming months. Additionally, work has begun on the August professional development calendar. The schedule will be finalized in the coming weeks in preparation for staff returning for the 2026–27 school year.

Focus on Learning - Cody Eichmeier presented to the Board on the first year of implementation of the district's dual sport participation option. There were no applicants during the fall season and eight applicants during the spring season. As a part of the process, students are required to submit an application prior to the season. Cody then meets individually with each student and their parents to ensure all parties understand and support participation in dual sports. Student-athletes also shared their experiences. Drew participated in both track and golf, with track designated as his primary sport. He shared that balancing the two sports went well and noted that transitioning between track and golf was manageable, particularly because golf is an individual sport. He indicated he would participate in dual sports again next year. Ruby participated in both soccer and track, with track designated as her primary sport. She highlighted the positive communication between coaches and stated that overall the experience went well. While she noted that managing the number of weekly practices required an adjustment, she felt the experience was manageable and plans to participate in dual sports again next year.

The 5-year facility plan was reviewed with the board to discuss both current and future projects for the district.

The assistant tennis coach position for the 2026 fall season was approved on motion of Horner second of Badker. Vote all aye.

The assistant high school play director position for the 2026 fall play was approved on motion of Badker and second of Petersen. Vote all aye.

The quote from EPIC for new classroom furniture for 6th, 7th and 8th grade English-Language Arts classrooms at DNH Junior High was approved on motion of Horner and second of Petersen. Vote all aye.

The Apple quote to purchase new iPads for the 2026-27 school year for the PK-1 grade levels was approved on motion of Horner and second of Badker. Vote all aye.

The 2026-27 Waterloo Career Center 28E Agreement was approved on motion of Badker and second of Petersen. Vote all aye.

The 2026-27 Cedar Falls Activities Agreement was approved on motion of Horner and second of Petersen. Vote all aye.

The 2026-27 shared staff agreements with Central Rivers AEA was approved on motion of Badker and second of Horner. Vote all aye. The shared staff contracts include: Work Experience Coordinator, Work-based Learning Coordinator, EL Instructional Services, Special Education Enhancements, Technology Services, and Curriculum Coordinator.

Revisions to the handbooks for 2026-27, tabling the certified staff handbook until July, was approved on motion of Horner and second of Badker. Vote all aye.

The flexible rate fuel bid from AgVantage was approved on motion of Badker and second of Horner. Vote all aye.

IASB Legislative Priorities high-quality teacher workforce, supplemental state aid, and safe & secure environment were selected on motion of Horner and second of Badker. Vote all aye.

Due to State Nutrition guidelines, the increase in adult meal prices from $5.00 to $5.15 for the 2026-27 school year was approved on motion of Petersen and second of Horner. Vote all aye.

The Central Rivers AEA flow through dollars' resolution was approved on motion of Badker and second of Petersen. Vote all aye.

The board discussed the option of offering virtual board meetings going forward. After discussions around the positives and negatives, it was decided that they needed additional time to gather more data and explore all options before making a decision. Motion by Badker and second by Horner to table the decision until the July board meeting. Vote all aye.

Motion by Petersen, second by Horner, to approve the regular board meeting dates and times for the 2026–27 school year. Meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month with a revised start time of 5:30 p.m. Two meetings will also be scheduled in New Hartford, one in the fall and one in the spring. Vote all aye.

The depository resolution under Section 453.6 of the Code of Iowa sustaining and designating People's Savings Bank as depository for the Dike-New Hartford Community School operating funds in an amount not to exceed $12,000,000 was approved on motion of Petersen and second of Badker. Vote all aye, with Horner abstaining.

The second reading of policy 406.5 was approved on motion of Horner and second of Badker. Vote all aye.
Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ _____

Christa Lotts, President Kayla Sabbah, Secretary