

**Riceville Community School
Riceville, IA**

The Board of Education of the Riceville Community School District held their regular board meeting on March 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. The board members present are Guertin, Hale, McCarthy and Baethke. Absent Eastman. Student Board Rep: Kennedy Linkenmeyer. Also, in attendance: Barb Schwamman—Superintendent, Jennifer Dunn- Board Secretary. Heather Suckow & Marcia Grimm- Principals. Cassandra Leff- EJ Newspaper. Staff: Julie Dohlman, Sandy Sullivan, Connie Holmen, Nancy Eastman and Bryce Conway. Students: Hattie Pickar, Luke Shafer, and Lucius Kopp. Parents: Sierra & Alex Hauber, Kara Holstrom, William Kopp, Erica Baethke, Kelsey Byrnes, Samantha Dohlman, Kellie Daughtry, Emily Patek, Sara Strickler, Gage & Tammi Shafer and Shannon Pickar. Community Members: Jerry O'Donnell, Kelly O'Donnell and Chvil Fye.

Public hearing on School Calendar was opened at 6:02 PM. Public presented their comments and concerns on the proposed calendar and four day week parent survey. Public Hearing was closed at 6:47.

Public hearing on Property tax rate was open at 6:47. No one was here to speak on behalf of the tax rates.

Guertin called the meeting to order 6:48 PM.

Motion by Baethke, seconded by McCarthy to approve the amended agenda. 4 Ayes. MC.

Mrs. Dohlman's kindergarten class shared their reading & coding skills using the Tail bot during Spotlight on Education.

Motion by McCarthy, second by Hale to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, and summary of bills. Ayes 4. MC.

Motion by Hale, seconded by Baethke approve three open enrollments in from Howard- Winn. 4 Ayes. MC

Motion by McCarthy, seconded by Baethke to approve the following contracts:

- Rene Retterath- District Secretary- 10 moth position (Starting Aug 1)
- Rene Retterath- Summer Custodian- May 1
- Danielle Stock: JH Volleyball Coach (pending completion of coaching authorization)
- Amiee Low- Nurse

Roll Call Vote: Hale, Guertin, Baethke & McCarthy -Aye. MC

Motion by Hale, seconded by Baethke to approve the following resignations:

- Kayla Harper- Par (Effective 3-20-26)
- Missy McElroy- JH Girls Volleyball
- Bryce Conway- JV Girls Basketball
- Lonnie Beyer- custodian (Effective 3-20-26)
- Gabe Mueller- para (Effective end of school year)
- Jana Harken- para (Effective 3-23-26)

Roll Call Vote: Hale, Guertin, Baethke & McCarthy -Aye. MC

Motion by McCarthy, seconded by Baethke to approve the following resignation and volunteer coaches:

- Sherry Marr. Abby Marr, Amanda Conway, Darcy Fair, Bette Rassmussen- Volunteer Softball Coach
- Trevor Bill- Volunteer Golf Coach
- Aiden Ebert- Volunteer track
- Emily Palmer- Sub Para

Roll Call Vote: Hale, Guertin, Baethke & McCarthy -Aye. MC

Student Rep Linkenmeyer reported on:

- FFA Office interviews
- Spring Sports
- Leader In Me

Mrs. Suckow spoke about business partnerships.

Superintendent Schwamman spoke on:

- Brooklyn Wolthoff received State, Section 4 and the National Arts of Hearts Award
- Superintendent search
- Crossroads Academy
- Keystone AEA Service Plan

Bryce Conway presented Athletic participation numbers along with BEDS numbers from the Iowa Star conference and area schools.

Motion by McCarthy, seconded by Baethke to approve the Lighthouse napkin holder fundraiser of \$2.00 per message for a week. 4 Ayes. MC

Motion by McCarthy, seconded by Baethke to approve the Lighthouse poster fundraiser of \$10.00 per message for a week. 3 Ayes. 1 Nay. MC.

An update was given by President Guertin on the Superintendent search. Guertin noted there are 7 candidates. A special board meeting will be held March 26th @ 6 PM with the Osage Board of Directors to go through the candidate pool.

Motion by McCarthy, seconded by Hale to rescind the vote from February's board meeting on change of insurance agent. 4 Ayes. MC.

Motion by Hale, seconded by McCarthy to approve Form 470 Application on Erate using REAP funds to pay for the upgrades. 4 Ayes. MC.

Motion by Baethke, seconded by McCarthy to set the following public hearings: 4 Ayes. MC.

- Hearing on Amended Fy 2026 Budget -April 20th @ 6:00 PM
- Hearing on FY 2027 Budget- April 20th @ 6:05 PM

Motion by McCarthy, seconded by Baethke to approve the first reading of the following board policies: 4 Ayes. MC.

- 102-Equal Educational Opportunity
- 102.R1- Grievance Procedure
- 102.E1-Annual Notice of Nondiscrimination
- 102.E2-Continuous Notice of Nondiscrimination
- 102.E3- Section 504 Student and Parental Rights
- 102.E4- Discrimination, Anti-Bullying, and Anti-Harassment Complaint Form
- 102.E5- Witness Disclosure Form
- 102.E6-Disposition of Complaint Form
- 710.1R1- School Food Program- School Nutrition Program Civil Rights
- 710.1E1- School Nutrition Program Notices of Nondiscrimination
- 710.1E2- Child Nutrition Programs Civil Rights Complaint Form

Motion by Baethke, seconded by Hale to approve the kindergarten field trip to Byron, MN on May 8th, 2026. 4 Ayes. MC.

Motion by Baethke, seconded by Hale to approve the FACS fundraiser with Pampered Chef. 4 Ayes. MC.

Motion by McCarthy, seconded by Baethke to approve the AEA Purchasing Agreement for 2026-2027 school year. 4 Ayes. MC.

Motion by Hale, seconded by McCarthy to approve Relay Service Agreement & License. 4 Ayes. MC.

Motion by Baethke, seconded by Hale to approve the agreement for teacher education clinical experience between Riceville Community School and Morningside University. 4 Ayes. MC.

Motion by Hale, seconded by McCarthy to approve the cooperative agreement with UNI, with the automatic renewal. 4 Ayes. MC.

Motion by McCarthy, seconded by Baethke to approve the partnership agreement with Mitchell Co. Ag Society, Mitchell Co. Ag Extension & Mitchell CO school districts. 4 Ayes. MC.

Motion by Baethke, seconded by McCarthy to approve the 2026-2027 school calendar with further communication presented to parents. 4 Ayes. MC.

Motion by McCarthy, seconded by Baethke to approve the 2026 graduation list. 4 Ayes. MC.

Motion by McCarthy, seconded by Baethke to approve the E-Rate contract with Omnitel for internet services. 4 Ayes. MC.

Motion by McCarthy, seconded by Baethke to approve the resolution approving the Interfund Loan. 4 Ayes. MC.

Motion by McCarthy, seconded by Hale to approve Certified Salaries. 4 Ayes. MC.

Discussion was held on the Lease Agreement with Little Cats' Daycare. 4 Ayes. MC.

Motion by Baethke, seconded by McCarthy to go into closed session at 8:30 PM to discuss the purchase of real estate under Iowa Code 21.54(1)(i) to discuss the purchase of particular real estate where premature disclosure could reasonably be expected to increase the price the district would have to pay for that property. 4 Ayes. MC.

Motion by Hale, seconded by Hale to come out of closed session -8:41 PM. 4 Ayes. MC.

Announcements:

- Special Board Meeting March 26th @ 6 PM
- Public Hearing on Amended FY 2026 Budget April 20th @ 6:00 PM
- Public Hearing on School Budget for 2026-2027 April 20th @ 6:05 PM
- Daycare Ribbon Cutting on June 15th, 2026 @ 5 PM

Motion by Baethke, second by Hale to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 PM. Ayes 4. MC.

Kyle Guertin
Board President

Jennifer Dunn
Board Secretary