February 26, 2025
Dike, Iowa

The Dike-New Hartford Board of Education met on this date at 6:00 p.m. for the dual sporting work session with Lotts presiding and members Badker, Horner, McCarter and Petersen. Also present was administrator Stockdale.

Visitors present included Don Betts, Will Reingardt, Matt Dove, Mark Parker, Diane Harms, Cody Eichmeier, Lawrence Harms, Chad Bixby, Scott Connolly, Tom Textor, Travis Druvenga, Alex Tagtow, Biz Martin, Jordan Martin, Jeremy Lotts, John Patterson, Chad Cutsforth, Mike Soppe, Barry Cuvelier, Abbie Banwarth, Curt Johnson, Andi O'Neil, Sully O'Neil, Brian Petullo, Mitzi Petersen, Rachael Cheeseman, Patrick Smith, Alex Pokorny, Dana Foster, Tony Norton, Brian Varney, Michael Schmitz, Tianna Butteris, Reegan Zinkula, and Randy Dieken

The work session agenda was approved on motion of Badker and second of Petersen. Vote all aye.

The school board meeting focused on the topic of dual sport participation for student-athletes. Discussion/s highlighted opportunities and challenges. Some of the challenges noted were scheduling conflicts, balancing practice times, and the potential for overuse injuries. Some opportunities noted included dual-sporting providing valuable opportunities for students to explore multiple sports and increase participation in programs. Discussion also centered around impacts on the physical and mental health of athletes, including the impact on recovery time and the risk of burnout.

There was also conversation on whether allowing dual sport opportunities would enhance or disrupt team dynamics, especially for younger athletes striving for varsity spots. It was noted that some sports that have a more individual component might lend to dual sporting better than others with less. One example was the sport of golf. While some in attendance supported giving students the chance to pursue multiple sports if they were willing, others questioned the long-term impact on coaches, athlete development, and overall program sustainability.

The board acknowledged the need to balance the benefits of offering these opportunities with the potential downsides, stressing that decisions should align with the district's mission to provide meaningful experiences for all students. The Board will be discussing the topic again in upcoming board meetings this spring.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ _____

Christa Lotts, President Kayla Sabbah, Secretary