December 17, 2025
Dike, Iowa

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

Visitors present included Travis Druvenga, Brian Petullo, Tom Textor, Waylon Bern, Chad Boxby, Cody Eichmeier, Reegan Zinkula, Amy Seitz, Jenny Connolly, and Val Bovy.

The annual meeting agenda was approved on motion of Badker and second of McCarter. Vote all aye.

The Board reviewed the 2024-25 certified annual report, along with other annual financial reports, which were all approved on motion of McCarter and second of Petersen. Vote all aye.

Being no further business, the annual meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Following the annual meeting, Secretary Sabbah called the organizational meeting to order with board members Badker, Horner, Lotts, McCarter and Petersen. Also present was administrator Stockdale.

Visitors present included Travis Druvenga, Brian Petullo, Tom Textor, Waylon Bern, Chad Boxby, Cody Eichmeier, Reegan Zinkula, Amy Seitz, Jenny Connolly, and Val Bovy.

The organizational meeting agenda was approved as amended on motion of Horner and second of Badker. Vote all aye. The agenda was amended to include the approval of the 2025 school election results and to administer the oath of office to those elected.

Results of the November 2025 school board election were approved on motion of Horner and second of Petersen. Vote all aye. Sabbah administered the oath of office to Badker, Lotts, and McCarter. This amended addition to the agenda required board action before moving forward with remaining items on the organizational meeting agenda.

Lotts was elected president for 2025-26 and McCarter vice president. Sabbah administered the oath of office and Lotts assumed the chair. Sabbah was re-appointed secretary for 2025-26 on motion of Horner and second of Petersen with a stipend increase of 3.31%. Vote all aye.

On motion of McCarter and second of Badker, Swisher & Cohrt and Ahlers & Cooney Law Firms were approved as general legal counsel for 2025-26. Vote all aye.

Badker was appointed to serve on the Butler County Conference Board, McCarter for Grundy County, and Lotts for Black Hawk County. Horner, Badker. Aye

Being no further business, the organizational meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Following the organizational meeting, Lotts called the regular meeting to order with board members Badker, Horner, McCarter and Petersen. Also present was administrator Stockdale.

Visitors present included Travis Druvenga, Brian Petullo, Tom Textor, Waylon Bern, Chad Boxby, Cody Eichmeier, Reegan Zinkula, Amy Seitz, Jenny Connolly, and Val Bovy.

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

Minutes of the November 19, 2025 regular meeting were approved on the motion of McCarter and second of Petersen. Vote all aye.

Focus on Learning - Mr. Druvenga reviewed the concurrent enrollment profile from Hawkeye Community College outlining the number of students who participated in college courses at the Western Outreach Center during the 2024-25 school year. Dike-New Hartford's post-secondary readiness score was 87.3, which is the highest in the conference.

Principal, Technology, Building & Grounds and Athletics Reports were reviewed with no action taken.

On motion of Horner and second of Badker, the request to the School Budget Review Committee for 2025-26 modified supplemental growth for Open Enrollment Out funds in the amount of $110,958 was approved. Vote all aye.

On motion of Petersen and second of Horner, the DNH At-Risk/Drop Out Prevention Program Plan was approved. Special thanks to Jessica Klahsen; School Social Worker for leading the way on the plan's completion. Vote all aye.

On motion of Badker and second of McCarter the application to the School Budget Review Committee in the amount of $166,170 for modified supplemental growth for At-Risk/Dropout for the 2026-27 school year was approved. Vote all aye.

Resignations were approved on motion of McCarter and second of Horner:

- Tim Castle - HS Assistant Golf Coach
- Elli Eiklenborg - JH Track Coach

Vote all aye.

Contracts were approved on motion of Horner and second of Badker:

- Cassidy Benschoter - Assistant JH Play Director
- Noah Epley - New Hartford Associate

Vote all aye.

The addition of an assistant JH football coach position for the 2026-27 school year was approved on motion of McCarter and second of Petersen. Vote all aye. This will be a permanent position offered each year.

The addition of an assistant JH boys basketball coach position for the 2025-26 season was approved on motion of Horner and second of Badker. Vote all aye.

The Board discussed options for filling the Dike Elementary Principal position beginning with the 2026–27 school year. Options included hiring a new principal and maintaining the current administrative structure, or creating a shared superintendent/principal position with the addition of an Academic and Behavioral Coach to provide support. The potential general fund cost savings of $75,000 (annually) associated with the shared role were also reviewed. Discussions surrounding the preliminary work activity lists for the shared option were also held. The Board agreed to table the decision until the January meeting to allow for further discussion.

On the motion of Horner and second of Badker, the Grundy Register was designated as the official newspaper for 2026. Vote all aye.

The second reading of board policy 708 was approved on motion of Petersen, second of McCarter. Vote all aye.

Bills of the General, Activity and Nutrition funds were approved for payment on motion of Badker and second of McCarter. Vote all aye.

Financial Reports of the General, Activity and Nutrition funds were approved as presented on motion of McCarter and second of Petersen. Vote all aye.

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

Badker and Horner were appointed to represent the Board for the upcoming teacher negotiations process. Other items of discussion with no action taken included DNH Staff Culture/Climate Survey results, an update from the maintenance department in needing to purchase a new snow blower for the tractor, and a review of the district state performance rating. Dike-New Hartford earned a high performing rating and ranked 19th in the State of Iowa. Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the high school library.

APPROVED: _____ _____

Christa Lotts, President Kayla Sabbah, Secretary