

Minutes of Board Meeting

<u>Kind of Meeting</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Regular	HS Library	February 18, 2026	6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:	Board Members Absent:
Glen Foote, President	Stephen McDermott
Daniel Dalberg	
Esta Poulton - Secretary	
Christina Schauer	
Angie Ryan	
David Sendt - Vice President (virtually)	
Others Present:	Others Absent:
Darren Sirianni – JH/HS Principal	
Wes Heiar - Elementary Principal	
Grover Priebe - Maintenance Director	

1. Call to Order

The East Dubuque Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, February 18, 2026. President Foote called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call with six members present.

2. Consent Agenda

Dahlberg moved to approve the Consent Agenda with a second by Poulton. Roll call, all present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

3. Recognition of Visitors and Correspondence

3.1 Student Council did not present.

3.2 Paige Johnston presented a Food Service update. One of the biggest improvements we’ve seen is breakfast participation at the junior high and high school. Prior to me stepping into the role, we were only seeing about 3 to 6 students eating breakfast on an average day. This year, that number has grown significantly, and we are now serving an average of 34 students daily. That’s a huge shift, and it shows that when meals are consistent, accessible, and inviting, students respond.

Another really important area we’ve worked through is supporting families with free and reduced meal applications, as well as addressing overdue lunch balances. These applications are crucial for families who may be experiencing financial hardship, and they help ensure students have access to meals throughout the day. We’ve also realized that some families hesitate to apply. Sometimes parents feel like they make too much, or they carry shame or discomfort in filling out the forms. With the help of both school secretaries, we’ve tried our best to make these applications more accessible during registration and throughout the year. We’ve had some success, but we know there are still families who could benefit and may not be applying yet. And these forms don’t just help individual

families—they help the district. The more students who qualify, the more funding and resources our school can receive overall, which strengthens the support systems we can provide.

When it comes to overdue balances, we know they often reflect real financial hardship, and we always try to approach that with compassion and responsibility. I want to give a sincere thank you to Sonic and Frentress Lake Marina for their generous donations toward helping cover overdue lunch accounts. That support has meant a lot. At the same time, it's a bittersweet situation—we are grateful, but we also want families to understand the importance of keeping accounts current and not becoming dependent on outside organizations stepping in long-term. Our goal is always partnership, while still making sure students are cared for.

We've also introduced more homemade meal components overall. One example is pizza—we're making it in-house now, which honestly tastes better for students and is also more cost-effective than relying on outside products. Those kinds of changes help us improve quality while still being mindful of the budget. Another change we've reintroduced this year is offering some à la carte options. These aren't meant to replace a full meal, but they do give students a little more flexibility and choice while still keeping balanced meals as the foundation of what we provide.

Another major improvement this year has been the significant reduction of food waste. We've taken intentional steps to ensure that excess food isn't just thrown away when it can still serve a purpose. Through partnerships with the local rescue mission and a low-income retirement home, we're able to donate food items that can't be rewarmed again or that we don't have enough of to repurpose into another meal. In some cases, we've also been able to discreetly send food home with students experiencing extreme food insecurity.

We also recognize that food service is about more than nutrition—it's about helping students build healthy relationships with food emotionally as well. Nationally, nearly 1 in 5 young women and 1 in 10 young men report struggling with disordered eating behaviors or unhealthy habits with food. For many students, food is connected to much deeper things happening in their lives. Food service becomes more than a transaction. It becomes part of the support system caring for the whole child.

4. Staff Reports

4.1 Mr. Heiar, Elementary Principal:

Beginning last month, we have begun a new community partnership with The Workshop, located in Galena, and our 3rd grade classrooms. The Workshop is a community organization that promotes the general welfare of individuals with disabilities in Jo Daviess County by running a day program to help teach basic life skills to these individuals by providing job training opportunities. Once a month, individuals from The Workshop will be meeting with our 3rd grade classes and help work with our students on various classroom projects and initiatives. In January, some of their members helped work with our kids during a Science lesson. Our Elementary School looks forward to this continued partnership.

The Anderson Auto Teacher of the Month is Ms. Julie Hartmann. Julie is one of our dedicated 4th grade teachers and a deserving recipient of this unique honor.

The Elementary, Junior High, and High School staff have partnered together to financially support the Wernimont family. Over Christmas break, Jerrod Wernimont (one of our ED parents) passed away from an unexpected heart attack. A true tragedy especially at only 41 years old. Staff members from our district raised over \$1100 to help support Brandon (5th grade) and CJ's (7th grade) family. Thanks to the staff for their efforts to help one of our own.

The 5th and 6th grade Anthology Team is underway. Each year, a small group of dedicated students (we have 14 students who have been selected) apply to join the Anthology Team. This group edits and organizes all the 5th and 6th grade student poems into one final Anthology Book that is gifted to each 5th and 6th grade student. The editing team is responsible for final editing, the layout, design, illustration and construction of the books. This is an

awesome group of individuals who put together this final edition to be published for all to enjoy. A huge thank you to Sarah Hinderman for coordinating this student opportunity.

4.2 Mr. Sirianni, JH/HS Principal:

5Essentials Survey: This next week, all 7-12 grade students will take the survey during the school day. Teachers/Staff will also be completing this. The Parent Survey link will be sent out over the weekend to hopefully get enough parents to participate to give us the ability to use their results as well.

Activities: Winter Activities are winding down. HS Girls Basketball was Conference Champions. They lost in the Regionals in a tough game to Galena. HS Boys Basketball is Co-Conference Champions along with Galena. They begin Regionals this next week. Archery has had a great season with a couple of meets remaining. The Elementary and Middle School teams have taken 1st place in every tournament so far. The High School team has had some good finishes and hope to finish strong. State coming up down in Mattoon, IL later this spring. Scholastic Bowl has a couple of meets remaining before they begin their Regionals the second week of March. HS Wrestling is finished. Congratulations to Jordan Donahue for advancing to the Sectional Meet this year!

4.3 Mr. Potts, Superintendent:

Maintenance

We have been very busy this last month with many games, meets, events, with many happening on the same nights. Thanks to Bill, Dave, Geoff and myself for getting these events to go on with little issues and their hard work and efforts.

The illness bug has been bouncing around this year as you know. My guys are still doing extra spraying and disinfecting every classroom twice a week.

Working with the Corridor project. Wearables have arrived and they are working on them in the building. Hopefully we will be able to get things up and running soon.

Working with Mr. Potts and Mr. Sirianni on updating our emergency plans.

Baseball and Softball will be starting here before you know it. Will be trying to coordinate on getting the fields and batting cages ready for play.

Will be working with the Super and the principals on Health, Life, Safety projects and other projects that need to be done over the summer. I have to get quotes and possible bid projects ready.

Transportation

Our fleet has passed its bi-yearly State inspections in Lanark.

We will be transitioning to spring sports before you know it. With the driver shortage we are experiencing, we will do our best to cover all the away trips for JH Quiz Bowl, JH Track, HS Boys and Girls Track, Boys Baseball, Girls Softball, and Soccer.

Dave Glab is currently testing to obtain his bus driving license.

Fleet miles for January are attached.

We are in desperate need of bus drivers along with just about every school across the country, and are searching for drivers. So please, if you know of anyone interested in driving a school bus let me know, we will provide training and help them become an East Dubuque bus driver.

District

Finance committee- We will plan to meet in April prior to the regular board meeting. This meeting will be on Apr 15, 2026 at 5:00 pm. We will discuss the end of the year finances and start looking at FY'27.

Parent Advisory on Bullying- We are looking at hosting a follow up meeting at the end of March on possibly Thursday, March 26 at 6:00 pm. We will go through the data we have collected this year and review the, "See something, Say something" procedures we have to help students, staff, and families feel great about being in school.

Strategic Plan- Now that it is approved I will share this first with all staff so they know what our mission and goals are. Then we will share it with our community. The first "State of the District" address will really be rolling this out for our community with some updates as to where we are. Each year will be an evaluation of how we are doing on this plan.

5. Unfinished Business

6. New Business

- 6.1 A motion was made by Ryan to approve the Intent to Withdraw from PSIC with a second by Poulton. All voted aye and motion passed 6-0.
- 6.2 A motion was made by Dalberg to approve the 2026-2027 school calendar with a second by Ryan. All voted aye and motion passed 6-0.
- 6.3 A motion was made by Poulton to approve the first reading of the policies with a second by Ryan. All voted aye and motion passed 6-0.
- 6.4 Board members please keep an eye out for information coming regarding the Statement of Economic Interest due May 31st.
- 6.5 Pam Oney spoke regarding the See Something Say Something flyers that will be placed throughout each school as well as accessible on the school website. The flyers include a QR code for students to report bullying by accessing a google form that will be sent directly to Mr. Potts.
- 6.6 FOIA Request Vendor Contract - All contracts have been submitted.
- 6.7 IASB Policy Press Plus discussion about upgrading to a more efficient version for Policy updates.

7. Personnel

- 7.1 A motion was made by Schauer to accept all personnel items with a second by Ryan. All voted aye and motion passed 6-0.

8. Executive Session

- 8.1 Dalberg made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss student discipline with a second by Poulton. The motion carried 6-0. Board entered Executive Session at 6:52 pm.
- 8.2 A motion was made at 7:30 pm to return to Open Session by Dalberg with a second by Schauer. Motion carried 6-0.

9. President's Prerogative

10. Adjourn

Dalberg made a motion to adjourn with a second from Schauer. Motion carried 6-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Signed:

Attest:

Glen Foote, President

Esta Poulton, Secretary