

Minutes of Board Meeting

Kind of Meeting

Regular

Place

HS Cafeteria

Date

April 15, 2026

Time

6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:	Board Members Absent:
Glen Foote, President	Christina Schauer
Daniel Dalberg	
Stephen McDermott	
Esta Poulton - Secretary	
Angie Ryan	
David Sendt - Vice President	
Others Present:	Absent:
Darren Sirianni – JH/HS Principal	T.J. Potts - Superintendent
Wes Heiar - Elementary Principal	

1. Call to Order

The East Dubuque Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, April 15, 2026. President Foote called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call with six members present.

2. Consent Agenda

Sendt 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 Ryan McClain spoke on behalf of the shop class program and how expensive it is. Donations were received from a couple of local businesses. Tara Bowman sent out 132 letters to businesses asking for help with donations. Three companies have responded so far with a \$5,000 donation from CVR East Dubuque Nitrogen Plant.

Meredith McNaught & Coal Hofland presented their Memphis & New Orleans trip in June 2027. They are raising money for this trip through continued fundraising.

4. Staff Reports

4.1 Mr. Heiar, Elementary Principal:

The Elementary Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics (STEM) Club is continuing to roll for all our 3rd and 4th grade students (the 5th and 6th groups were in the fall). Mrs. Schneider has been leading two different groups once a week through engineering related activities. We have had strong participation numbers all year and the STEM Club has been a terrific opportunity for our students to explore scientific

concepts and activities. A huge thanks to Elizabeth Schneider for her continued passion for the content and kids.

On March 28, our Elementary and Middle School Archery Teams made the trip to Mattoon, IL for state bullseye and 3D archery competition (a reminder that 4th and 5th are on the Elementary team and our 6th graders are part of the Middle School squad. Both teams shot incredibly well, finishing the day as the top teams in the state for the 3rd year in a row in the bullseye division. James Lange, one of our 5th grade students, came away as the overall Elementary champion shooting an impressive 270. Elementary School standouts: Boys- James Lange 1st place, Christian Eason 6th place and Girls: Elana Staggs 4th place, Aviendha Beecher 7th place and Hadley Freund 9th place. Middle School standouts: (who are in 6th grade) Colin Jackson who took 4th place. A huge shoutout to our incredible coaches and archers for this accomplishment. In the Elementary 3D Division, James Lange (5th grade) finished in 2nd place and Cooper Weimerskirch (6th grade) finished in 5th place.

Our spring Book Fair was held on March 11 and 12 during our spring Parent-Teacher conferences. Mrs. Ward did a great job coordinating the fair and sold \$4022.47 worth of items. We decided to utilize both Scholastic Dollars totaling \$1411.08 to purchase books for classrooms, the library, and for students to have for summer reading. Thanks again to Mrs. Ward for coordinating the fair so seamlessly.

4.2 Mr. Sirianni, JH/HS Principal:

Activities: Archery had a successful State Meet. The Elementary and Middle School teams both took 1st place. Individually, we had 1st place from Daisy Metz in Bullseye and from Magda Riniker in 3D. Spring Activities are in full swing. Baseball, Softball, Track, and Soccer are all getting games in when weather allows.

Testing: All of our State Testing (IAR and ACT) has been in progress. The IAR and ISA (Science) will be completed by April 15 with make-ups to finish after that. The ACT/Pre-ACT is on April 14th.

End of Year: Most of the Seniors last day of school will be on Friday, May 15th. High School Final Exams will take place on May 20th, 21st, and 22nd. A reminder that Commencement takes place on Friday, May 29th at 7:00 pm at the Football Field (weather permitting).

Prom: Prom will take place on Saturday, April 25th at the 7 Hills Event Center in Dubuque. After Prom will be held at the HS/JH following from 11:00 pm until 2:00 am.

4.3 Mr. Potts, Superintendent:

Maintenance: Softball and baseball have started. Thanks to Geoff and Mike for getting the water turned on and the fields ready for play. Big thanks to Weber Concrete for pouring the slabs and sidewalk out by the fields. Big thanks also to Tyler Culbertson who donated the three sets of bleachers by the softball field. Please thank these people if you see them. We are working this week on getting the football concession up and running for JH track practices. The gym boiler was inspected by the fire marshal's office last month. My foot surgery has gone well and hopefully soon, I am back to work without any restrictions. Kudos to my staff for stepping up and covering me in my absence. Also thanks to TJ, Darren, and the office staff for helping as well. Work has started on the cooling tower at the high school, getting it ready for warm temperatures. The drastic temperature swings have been hard on heating and cooling systems but we managed to get by. We are working to get our summer projects lined up and in motion.

Transportation: Spring sports are in full swing. We are doing our best to cover all the trips. While school buses remain incredibly safe, we all know that students are most vulnerable when they are outside the bus in the "danger zone." Illinois is assisting the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation

Services (NASDPTS) in coordinating a national survey to document illegal passing of school buses. The data will help improve safety countermeasures at the state or national level. On TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026, our district's school bus operators will observe and report any instances of motorists illegally passing their school buses. March 26th I was able to speak to the current Driver's Ed class about safety and awareness when sharing the road with school buses as new drivers. We have the "Bus Drivers Wanted" banner back up on the square school and have made posts on social media, but no interest yet. We, along with just about every school transportation department across the country, are searching for drivers. If you know of anyone interested in driving a school bus, we will provide paid training and help them to become an East Dubuque bus driver.

District:

Bridge Closure- FYI, this summer the bridge will be closed for the month of July and will have one way traffic in August and September. Strategic Plan- Belonging- The yearbook staff have taken pictures of all Juniors in HS to hang about the building for their Senior Year. Our plan is to deck the halls literally with photos of our students in action to show that this is their building and this is where they belong.

Prom Attendance- We have a former student that graduated from ED at semester. He really wants to attend Prom as a student. He is currently taking class at NICC which actually makes him a student there. He could have stayed enrolled and taken online classes, but he chose to graduate. We can take a look at the policy, but once a student has graduated, there are certain things that can't happen. For instance, we had a girl graduate this year at semester and she had to decide if she wanted to graduate, or play softball. She cannot do both unfortunately. We do allow students that graduate early to come to Prom as a guest, but he is really wanting to come as a student.

DRA Grant- We have submitted the Final Summary Report to the Dubuque Racing Association to close out the 2025 grant. I want to express our sincere gratitude to the DRA for the generous award of \$20,000 for the Corridor system.

5. Unfinished Business

- 5.1 Darren Sirianni presented the Fall STAR Data for JH students. He reviewed the Fall vs Winter testing in Reading and Math.
- 5.2 Kevin Epperle joined in remotely explaining the changes in the scoring for the FEMA Grant. The cost is \$112,000. \$107,000 goes to FEH to update the design and \$5,000 goes to the grant writer to make adjustments to the application. These changes will increase the district's chances of being awarded the grant at 90% vs 75%.

6. New Business

- 6.1 A motion was made by Sendt to approve the 2027 Tr-State Travel Music trip to New Orleans with a second by Ryan. All voted aye and motion passed 6-0.
- 6.2 Non-Certified and Administrative raises were discussed in Executive Session.
- 6.3 The rescinding of our Prairie State Withdrawal was tabled.
- 6.4 A motion was made by Sendt to approve 4 - 10 hour days for the summer, beginning June 1st with a second by McDermott. All voted aye and motion passed 6-0.
- 6.5 ERI for Non-Certified was discussed in Executive Session.
- 6.6 Resolution Authorizing Non-Re-employment of Full Time and Tenured was tabled.
- 6.7 A motion was made by Sendt to approve funding for the FEMA Grant with a second by McDermott. Five members voted aye with one voting nay. The motion passed 5-1.
- 6.8 A motion was made by Sendt to approve the Corridor Project with a second by Dalberg. All voted aye and motion passed 6-0.
- 6.9 Jo Daviess County Childcare Summit Recap
- 6.10 FOIA Request of District Functional Leadership Contacts - completed
- 6.11 FOIA Request for Purchase Data- completed
- 6.12 TC Networks sent out an advisory regarding unusual FOIA requests potentially AI generated.
- 6.13 TJ will send out dates and times to set IASB Press Plus timeline and participants

7. Personnel

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

8. Executive Session

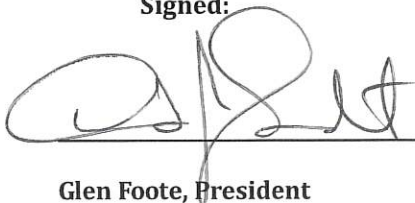
- 8.1 Ryan made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss student matters and Non-certified and Administrative raises with a second by Poulton. The motion carried 6-0. Board entered Executive Session at 6:58 pm.
- 8.2 A motion was made at 8:20 pm to return to Open Session by Sendt with a second by Ryan. Motion carried 6-0.

9. President's Prerogative

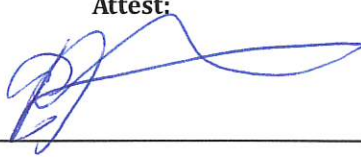
10. Adjourn

Sendt made a motion to adjourn with a second from Ryan. Motion carried 6-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Signed:


Glen Foote, President

Attest:


Esta Poulton, Secretary