

The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

Class of 2026 bids farewell to high school

The gym was filled with pomp and circumstance last Wednesday night as the MV class of 2026 was presented with their diplomas.

The students speakers were valedictorian Rachael Hoefler and senior class president Grace Richter.

Per tradition, the band and choir performed.

The school board presented the Five Star Award to Andy Schuster with Delhi Landing for his continued support of students and school programs. Over the years, he has donated countless hours of volunteer work and well-appreciated meals to students and staff.



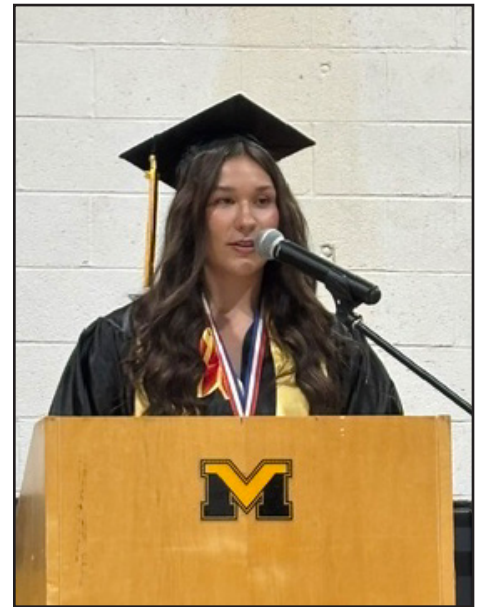
Students in the top 20% of the class received special recognition: Maya Smith, Colin Smith, Grace Richter, Arianna Nolan, Derrick Mohr, Jocelyn Kelchen, Dylan Knipper, Tyler Hoeger, Rachael Hoefler, Taryn Burbridge and Lanni Beaman.



Above: Andy Schuster was awarded the Five Star Award.



Rachael Hoefler, valedictorian



Grace Richter, senior class president



Right: Students earning their Wildcat Star Service Award were recognized: Maya Smith, Preston Salow, Grace Richter, Jocelyn Kelchen, Tyler Hoeger, Rachael Hoefler and Meleah Burr.

Class of 2026: Scholarships & Award Recipients

Kenyon Baker: Dollars for Scholars, Maquoketa Valley Senior Athletic Silver Level Award

Lanni Beaman: Dollars for Scholars, E. Wayne Cooley Award, Maquoketa Valley Senior Athletic Gold Level Award, Global BILiteracy Seal Recipient

Taryn Burbridge: Dollars for Scholars, Bi-Literacy Seal, Maquoketa Valley Senior Athletic Gold Level Award, Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award, Lisa Brinkmeyer Award, Northeast Iowa Community Scholarships

Meleah Burr: Dollars for Scholars

Lukas Chesnut: Maquoketa Valley Senior Athletic Silver Level Award

Morgan Clemen: Dollars for Scholars, Bi-Literacy Seal, Maquoketa Valley Athletic Academic Honors Award

McKenna Conrad: Dollars for Scholars

Lainey Deutmeyer: Dollars for Scholars

Dexter Dietiker: Kirkwood Academy Certificate of Achievement and Medallions

Trish Dietiker: Dollars for Scholars, Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence

Carly Dirks: Dollars for Scholars

Kalynn Freiburg: Dollars for Scholars, Allen F. and Ruth Remling Family Scholarship

Willow Fuller: Dollars for Scholars, BiLiteracy Seal

Braden Gardner: Dollars for Scholars

Rachael Hofer: Dollars for Scholars, Farm Bureau Scholarship, Governor's Scholars



Recognition Program, Delaware County 4-H Foundation Scholarship, Seth Sellner Memorial Scholarship, Northeast Iowa Community Scholarships

Tyler Hoeger: Dollars for Scholars, Delaware Soil & Water Conservation Scholarship, Delaware County Fish & Game Protective Association Scholarship, Farm Bureau Scholarship, Maquoketa Valley FFA Alumni Scholarship, Delaware County Dairy Promoters Scholarship, Delaware County Pheasants Forever, Combat Vets Memorial Scholarship, Manchester Masonic Lodge #165 scholarship, River Valley Cooperative Scholarship, Delaware County 4-H Foundation Scholarship, David Kunde Scholarship, Three Rivers FS Scholarship, Northeast Iowa Community Scholarships

Mylee Hoffmann: Dollars for Scholars
Anderson Holtz: Dollars for Scholars, Maquoketa Valley Senior Athletic Silver Level Award, 2026 Hixson Award

Olivia Hunter: Dollars for Scholars
Haylee Jones: Dollars for Scholars, The Hartwick Husky's Water Ski Team Scholarship

Jocelyn Kelchen: Dollars for Scholars, Bi-Literacy Seal

Karly Kerch: Dollars for Scholars, Maquoketa Valley FFA Alumni Scholarship, Delaware County Dairy Promoters Scholarship

Dylan Knipper: Dollars for Scholars, Farm Bureau Scholarship, Bernie Saggau Award, Maquoketa Valley Senior Athletic Gold Level Award, Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award

Elizabeth Kraft: Dollars for Scholars

Zachary Leytem: Dollars for Scholars

Derrick Mohr: Dollars for Scholars, BiLit-

eracy Seal

Teagan Monk: Dollars for Scholars

Arianna Nolan: Dollars for Scholars, BiLiteracy Seal, Global BiLiteracy Seal

Macee Nolan: Maquoketa Valley Senior Athletic Gold Level Award

Keely Recker: Dollars for Scholars

Grace Richter: Dollars for Scholars, Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award, Northeast Iowa Community Scholarships

Alexa Ries: Dollars for Scholars

Emily Rudd: Dollars for Scholars, BiLiteracy Seal

Preston Salow: Dollars for Scholars, Maquoketa Valley Senior Athletic Silver Level Award, Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award, BiLiteracy Seal,

Taylor Saunders: Dollars for Scholars

Jackson Schnittjer: Dollars for Scholars

Colin Smith: Dollars for Scholars, ISL Education Lending Scholarship

Maya Smith: Dollars for Scholars, BiLiteracy Seal, Global BiLiteracy Seal, Maquoketa Valley Athletic Academic Honors Award, Des Moines Register 2026 Academic All-State, River Valley Cooperative Scholarship, Des Moines Register 2025 Academic All-State, Delaware County 4-H Foundation Scholarship, Delaware County 4-H Food Stand Scholarship, Northeast Iowa Community Scholarships

DaShawn Strickland: Dollars for Scholars, Maquoketa Valley Senior Athletic Silver Level Award

Madison Thompson: Dollars for Scholars

Brady Wall: Dollars for Scholars, Maquoketa Valley Senior Athletic Gold Level Award

McKayla Weber: Dollars for Scholars, Maquoketa Valley FFA Alumni Scholarship



FFA members show off knowledge at contest

Last Tuesday, 15 MV FFA members traveled to Ames to compete in Milk Quality, Agronomy, Ag Mechanics, and Meats Evaluation contests. MV had a strong showing with the following results:

The Milk Quality team of Kayla Hoeger, Jefferson LeGassick and Morgan Hoeger earned a Gold and 6th place team finish.

The Agronomy team of Natalie Ries, Ty Hoeger, Kyle Engelken and Abby Nieman received a Gold and 10th place team finish. Ty Hoeger received 9th place individually and top individual written test.

The Ag Mechanics team of Shanahan Smith, Kael Engelken, Ethan Crowley and Jace Leytem received a Silver. Shanahan Smith received 9th place individually and top electrical systems.

The Meats Evaluation team of Tyler Beitz, Linken Stansberry, Billy Krapfl and Karl Zumbach received a Silver.

Abby Nieman, Natalie Ries, Kyle Engelken and Ty Hoeger received a Gold and 10th place team finish in Agronomy.



The Milk Quality team of Kayla Hoeger, Jefferson LeGassick and Morgan Hoeger received a Gold and 6th place team finish.



Student Council Members Class Officers 2026-2027

Student Body President- Ella Reicher

Seniors:

President- Ava Knipper
Vice President- Alaina Mead
Sec/Treas- Jeanie Teymer
Representative- Natalie Ries

Juniors:

President- Lylah Billmeyer
Vice President- Taylor Salow
Sec/Treas- Aubrie Althoff
Representative- Lylah Billmeyer

Sophomores:

President- Owen Salow
Vice President- Kourtney Hatfield
Sec/Treas- Alaina Connolly
Representative- Maggie Recker

Freshmen:

President- Anthony Banks
Vice President- Attalie Slocum
Sec/Treas- Emalynn Althoff
Representative- Natalie Zietlow

Student Council Sponsor: Kurt Palmer

Jaelyn's Journeys



photo by Jaelyn Butikofer

Where in the school can you find this object? Be the first one to correctly name the place to Mrs. Temple to win something from the prize box!

Saying farewell: A year in the U.S. comes to a close

We often say, “Once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat,” and while foreign exchange student Magdalena Petermann’s stint as a Wildcat may appear to be over, she’ll take a piece of Delhi with her as she returns to her home May 31.

Petermann, 16, hales from Rostock, a city of approximately 250,000 residents in northern Germany.

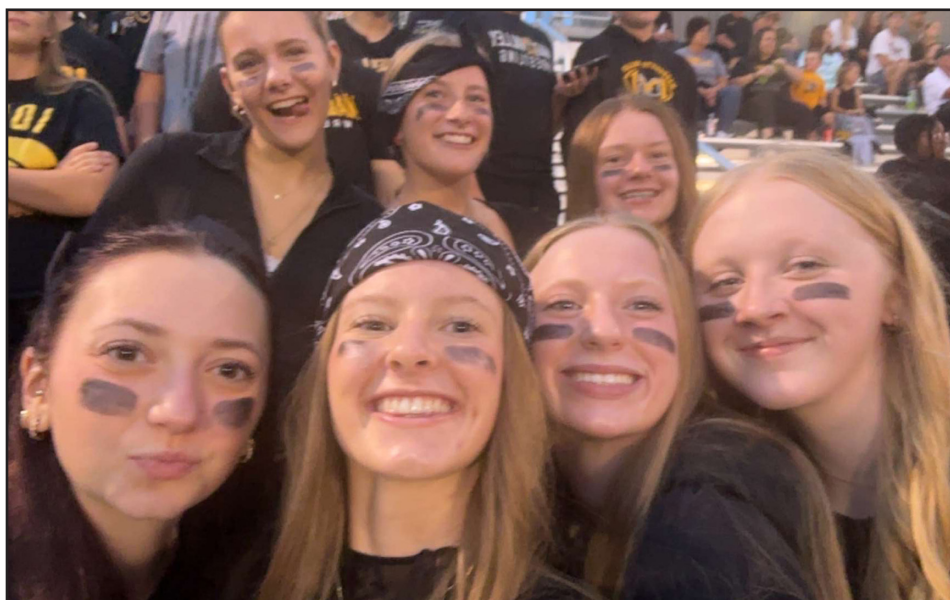


Magdalena has spent the year living in Delhi with Ben Davis and Nicole Ball and their five children. Magdalena explained that she chose to spend the year in the U.S., largely because of the “vibe” she felt the country had from the various TikTok videos she watched. She ruled out Australia because of the long flight and her fears of spiders, and she said England was not far enough away. She let fate decide where in the U.S. she would be assigned, and while at first she was not excited about Iowa, the more she learned about the area and school, the better she felt. She said her host family chose her, and they have been a good match, especially with their dogs and horses and big family.

With her host family, she has been able to see some of the Midwest, including the Wisconsin Dells, Des Moines (with a trip to the mall!), and area cities.

She comes from a fairly large family (she has two older sisters and a younger brother), but she has not been able to see them while she’s been here. She said her family was concerned about visiting because of the political climate toward foreigners and fears that some of her family members would be able to get in and others would not. “It’s complicated,” she added.

One of her older sisters inspired her to become a foreign exchange student after she spent the 2022-23 school year in



Magdalena Petermann (back row, far left) poses with some friends at a football game. Missouri.

As a Wildcat, Magdalena participated in volleyball, track and FCCLA. She said some of her favorite memories are going to football games, “getting into a random car and driving around,” dressing up for homecoming and other events, and getting to know her teammates in volleyball and track.

The difference in school spirit and sports is one change from back home. In Germany, sports are run through private clubs and are not school-affiliated. Although Germany has a climate similar to that of Iowa, she noted that the amount of snow we get and tornadoes were new for her as well.

She also learned about “Iowa nice”: “People here are nice and talk to you and wave. Apparently, that’s what you do. People stop and talk to you for a few minutes. It’s nice. In Germany, we don’t do that.”

Another difference she noted was the amount of food served here. She did learn the joys of ranch dressing, Crumbl cookies, Dairy Queen and Chick-fil-A, especially the sauce which she said she’s going to take some back home with her.

When she gets home, she’ll have a few months before she starts school again. In late August, she’ll have to repeat junior year since her year here did not count toward her graduation. Several of her friends also spent this year as foreign exchange students, so she will get to have some of her friends in her class again; others will be seniors.

Despite having to repeat her school year, Magdalena said she is glad she came, mainly because of the new friends she’s made and her new knowledge of another culture. She said she is grateful for everyone here.

“Thank you for being so open and nice and including me,” she said.

Overall, she said one of the biggest lessons she learned was about resilience. She said while she was here, she had some “ups and downs” and times when she was worried, but she said she learned that “everything turns out good.”



Magdalena poses with Natalie Ries on the prom bus.

Dougherty on to State!



Junior Eli Dougherty has extended his golf season by qualifying for the state meet with a 78 at the May 18 district meet held at Gate Park Golf Course in Waterloo.

Dougherty said he prepared himself mentally for the meet. "I made sure that I felt confident in all aspects of my game. I made sure that I went in with the mentality of focusing on one shot after the other"

This particular site is a par 72 course. Dougherty let his determination to make it to State guide his play: "I was focusing on one shot after the other, and if I had a bad shot or a bad hole I put it in the past and moved on."

The 2A State meet is May 26-27 at South Hills Golf Course in Waterloo.

Begle earns spot at districts

The MV girls golf team competed in the regional golf meet at Buffalo Creek Golf Club May 15, and the highlight of the event was freshman Olivia Begle finishing sixth, good enough to move on to districts.

The team finished fourth with a 385. Beckman won the meet with a 365.

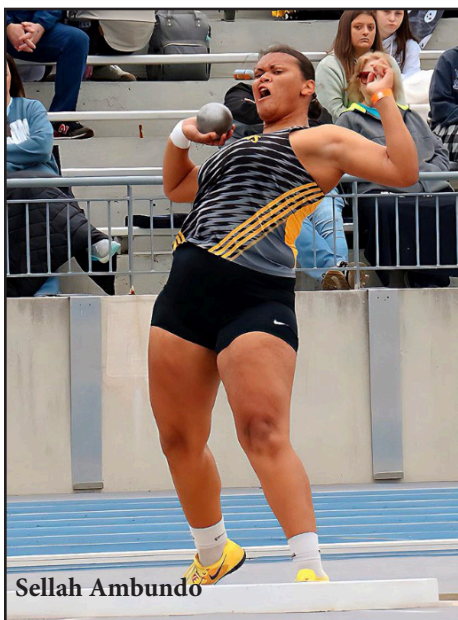
"We knew our Regional was going to be difficult with the top 4 schools fairly close statistically," stated Coach Zietlow. "We shot a possible school record 385 and placed 4th which shows how difficult it was. Seeing Olivia Begle place 6th individual and advancing was great. This team has a lot to be proud of: winning conference, 21 wins, and shooting a possible school record 385."

Individual scores:

Olivia Begle: 91, sixth
 Maya Smith: 96
 Macee Nolan: 97
 Ever Botos: 101
 Morgan Clemen: 110
 Eva Mensen: 123

Begle competed at districts May 20 at Silver Springs Golf Course in Ossian. She finished 33rd out of 53 with a 106.

Track athletes make it count at State



Mild temps led to some solid performances at the state track meet last Thursday through Saturday.

The MV girls team finished 10th overall with 27 points. Ed-Co won the team title with 57 points.

Results (events earning points are in bold):
 BOYS:

Shot put: Preston Salow, 9th, 48-02.5
 200m dash: Macoy Stone, 20th, 23.05
 4x400 relay: Carter LeClere, Kash Hunt, DaShawn Strickland, Macoy Stone; 21st; 3:32.38



Macoy Stone competes in the 200M dash.



Lilly Kraft gets the baton from Mallori Ambundo in the finals of the 4x100 relay. (photos courtesy of the Kraft family)

Sprint Med: Dylan Knipper, Kash Hunt, Macoy Stone, DaShawn Strickland; 20th; 1:37.65

GIRLS:

Discus: Sellah Ambundo, 4th, 122-0 (personal best)

Shot Put: Sellah Ambundo, 4th, 37-10.75

100m dash: Lilly Kraft, 18th, 13.38

400m dash: Lanni Beaman, 7th, 58.96 (season best time)

800m dash: Audra Burbridge, 16th, 2:21.74

Shuttle Hurdle relay: Haydin Flannagan, Taylor Salow, Natalie Ries, Alaina Mead; 21st; 1:13.60

4x100 relay: Mallori Ambundo, Lilly Kraft, Taryn Burbridge, Camryn Paris; 8th; 50.73 (50.22 prelim time) (personal best time, new school record)

4x200 relay: Rylee Reed, Lilly Kraft, Taryn Burbridge, Camryn Paris; 5th; 1:46.52 (personal best time, new school record)

4x400 relay: Taryn Burbridge, Anna Feldmann, Audra Burbridge, Lanni Beaman; 10th; 4:11.91 (personal best time)

Sprint Med: Camryn Paris, Rylee Reed, Audra Burbridge, Lanni Beaman; 5th, 1:50.83

Distance Med: Camryn Paris, Lanni Beaman, Taryn Burbridge, Audra Burbridge; 3rd; 4:13.14 (personal best time, new school record)

Back to back: Girls are district track champs



The girls track team poses with the district champion banner. The team scored 153, beating the second place team by over 50 points.

May 14 was a great day to be a Wildcat at the state-qualifying track meet at Lisbon. Not only did the girls win the meet, but 15 events also qualified for the state meet held this past weekend. Additionally, several athletes and relays had their personal best performances.

The girls team scored 153 points. Second place Lisbon earned 101.5 points. The boys team finished sixth as a team with 57 points. Lisbon boys won with 142 points.

Scorers from district meet (state qualifiers are in bold):

Girls

100M Dash: **Lilly Kraft, 5th, 13.10 (Season best time)**; Mallori Ambundo, 7th, 13.24 (Personal best time)
 200M Dash: Rylee Reed, 5th, 28.30
 400M Dash: **Lanni Beaman, 1st, 59.84**; Payton Lanning, 8th, 1:08.18
 800M Run: **Audra Burbridge, 1st, 2:23.88**; Jaxyn Weber, 7th, 2:52.93 (Personal best time)
 1500M Run: Breanna Bush, 7th, 6:06.40
 3000M Run: Breanna Bush, 6th, 14:16.39
 100M Hurdles: Natalie Ries, 4th, 17.73 (Personal best time); Haydin Flannagan, 6th, 17.75 (Personal best time)
 400M Hurdles: Taylor Salow, 3rd, 1:13.31 (Personal best time); Magdalena Petermann, 8th, 1:18.59

Shuttle Hurdle relay: Haydin Flannagan, Taylor Salow, Natalie Ries, Alaina Mead
4x100 relay: Mallori Ambundo, Lilly Kraft, Taryn Burbridge, Camryn Paris; 2nd; 51.02 (Personal best time)
4x200 relay: Rylee Reed, Lilly Kraft, Taryn Burbridge, Camryn Paris; 1st, 1:49.20 (Personal best time)
4x400 relay: Taryn Burbridge, Anna Feldmann, Audra Burbridge, Lanni Beaman; 1st; 4:12.02 (Personal best time)
 4x800 relay: Jaxyn Weber, Jena Hofer, Kourtney Hatfield, Maleah Freiburger; 4th; 12:35.85 (Personal best time)
Sprint Med: Camryn Paris, Rylee Reed, Audra Burbridge, Lanni Beaman; 1st, 1:49.47 (Personal best time)
Distance Med*--Camryn Paris, Lanni Beaman, Taryn Burbridge, Audra Burbridge; 1st, 4:20.26 (Personal best time)
Shuttle hurdle relay: Haydin Flannagan, Taylor Salow, Natalie Ries, Alaina Mead, 3rd, 1:12.29 (Personal best time)
 Shot put: **Sellah Ambundo, 1st, 36'8.25**; Morgan Hoeger, 4th, 29'10.5
 Discus: **Sellah Ambundo, 1st, 114'6**; Grace Richter, 6th, 88'1
 Long jump:
 High jump: Taylow Salow, 4th, 5'0; Haydin Flannagan, 8th, 4'4

Boys

200M Dash: Macoy Stone, 4th, 22.97
 400M Dash: Owen Smith, 4th, 54:35 (Personal best time)
 800M run: Kenyon Baker, 8th, 2:15.53
 1600M run: Owen Smith, 4th, 5:00.66
 4x100 relay: Keegan Rahe, Colin Smith, Dylan Knipper, Jaxson LeGassick; 8th; 49.19 (Personal best time)
 4x200: Dylan Knipper, Carter LeClere, Kash Hunt, Macoy Stone; 5th, 1:34.03 (Personal best time)
4x400: Carter LeClere, Kash Hunt, DaShawn Strickland, Macoy Stone; 5th, 3:30.71 (Personal best time)
 4x800: Owen Smith, Jaxson LeGassick, Owen Salow, Colt Haas; 8th; 9:42.82 (Personal best time)
Sprint medley relay: Dylan Knipper, Kash Hunt, Macoy Stone, DaShawn Strickland; 3rd; 1:37.00 (Personal best time)
 Distance medley relay: Dylan Knipper, Kash Hunt, DaShawn Strickland, Kenyon Baker; 5th; 3:45.30 (Personal beset time)
 Shot put: **Preston Salow, 1st, 50'2.5**; Gabe Halweg, 6th, 41'8 (Personal best)
 Discus: Preston Salow, 4th, 123'11; Tyler Beitz, 8th, 103'1 (Personal best)

May school board minutes

Regular Board Meeting – May 18, 2026 – 5:30 p.m. High School Library, Delhi, Iowa
The regular meeting of the Maquoketa Valley Board of Education was called to order by President Donna Kunde at 5:30 p.m. on May 18, 2026, in the High School Library in Delhi. All motions carried unanimously unless otherwise noted.

Board Members Present –Feldmann,

Kunde, Overman, Smeins, Zietlow

Board Members Absent – None

Staff Present – Supt. Troy Osterhaus, Brian Mangold, Brenda Becker, Jackie Moorman, Craig Wilson and Erika Vanderloop

Visitors Present – Mike Putz

Motion was made by Zietlow, seconded by Overman to approve the meeting agenda as presented. All ayes. Carried.

In a motion by Overman, second by Smeins the consent items were approved. All ayes. Carried.

Jackie Moorman and Brian Mangold shared a presentation with the Board regarding the District Career and Academic Plan which helps prepare students for post-secondary plans.

The following personnel recommendations were approved in a motion by Feldmann, seconded by Zietlow:

Alison Scherrman – resignation and Middle School Girls Basketball Coach

Heidi Putz – employed and Middle School Girls Basketball Coach

Bonnie Nurre – resignation as Food Service

Adrienne Thompson – resignation as Elementary School Counselor

Kelly Pasker – resignation as Paraprofessional

Ann Cooksley – resignation as Spring Play Director

Danielle Schuman – employed as DECA Advisor

Luci Wulfekuhle – employed as Elementary School Counselor

All ayes. Carried.

Student fees and prices for the 2026-2027 school year were reviewed. There was no adjustment to any fee and all fees will remain the same. The following student fees were set for the 2026-2027 year: Student Materials Fee (PS) \$20.00
Student Materials Fee (JK-5) \$60.00
Student Materials Fee (6-12) \$75.00

Technology Fee (9-12) \$40.00

Musical Instrument Rent \$50.00

Second Musical Instrument Rent \$25.00

Music Uniform Cleaning \$25.00

Instrument Music Lesson Book Our Cost

Student Athletic 10-Punch Pass \$50.00

Senior Citizen Pass \$60.00

2026-2027 fees and prices were approved in a motion by Overman, seconded by Feldmann. All ayes. Carried.

Troy Osterhaus was appointed to serve as the district's representative on Greater Delaware County Community Foundation in a motion by Smeins, seconded by Overman. All ayes. Carried.

In a motion by Feldmann, seconded by Overman the following Operational Sharing Agreements were approved for the 2026-2027 school year with Edgewood-Colesburg:

Superintendent and Maquoketa Valley will hold the contract

School Business Official and Maquoketa Valley will hold the contract

Operations and Maintenance and Edgewood-Colesburg will hold the contract.

Human Resources and Edgewood-Colesburg will hold the contract.

All ayes.

The following Teacher Leadership Compensation positions were approved in a motion by Overman, seconded by Feldmann:

Tech Lead – Alison Scherrman

6-12 Intervention Coach – Jackie Moorman

Early Childhood District Teacher Leader – Courtney Freeze

PK-K District Teacher Leader – Beth Zietlow

1-2 District Teacher Leader – Jessica Wessels

3-5 District Teacher Leader – Hannah Jahn

6-8 District Teacher Leader – Christina Rudd

6-8 District Teacher Leader– Audrey Moenck

9-12 District Teacher Leader– Jennifer Ries

9-12 District Teacher Leader – Steve

Heugel

PK-12 Special Education District Teacher Leader – Brianna Kluesner

All ayes. Carried.

In a motion by Overman, seconded by Feldmann the 2026-2027 Certified and Classified Handbooks were approved. All ayes. Carried.

The 2026-2027 lease agreement with Keystone AEA for the rental of the administration building was approved in a motion by Zietlow, seconded by Smeins. Keystone AEA will pay the district \$700 per month for the rental of this building. All ayes. Carried.

For FY27, the state will continue to send the district funds for special education support services under Iowa Code Section 257.10(7). In a motion by Feldmann, seconded by Overman the Board approved the contract for the Transfer of State Funding for 90% to the AEA for special education support services. All ayes. Carried.

The District Teacher Leadership Compensation Committee (TLC) met on May 5, 2026, and the Teacher Quality Compensation Committee (TQC) met on April 20, 2026. In a motion by Overman, seconded by Feldmann the minutes from these meetings were approved. All ayes. Carried.

In a motion by Feldmann, seconded by Overman the Board approved the 2026-2027 PowerSchool Access Agreement with Grant Wood. All ayes. Carried.

The Board approved the Joint Representation & Conflict Waiver from Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. in a motion by Zietlow, seconded by Feldmann. This will allow Ahlers to draft a 28e agreement for the proposed Bridge Learning Center at the Keystone AEA building in Elkader. All ayes. Carried. Pam Overman and Mike Feldmann will serve on the May audit committee.

Graduation will be held at 7:30 on May 20th.

The June board meeting will be held on June 22nd at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. in a motion by Overman, seconded by Feldmann. All ayes. Carried.