

Minutes
Joint Council Meeting
Muscatine School Board of Education
Muscatine City Council
Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
June 17, 2025
6:00 p.m. – Muscatine School District Administrative Center

The Muscatine School District Board of Education, the Muscatine City Council, and the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors in the County of Muscatine, State of Iowa, met in a work session on Tuesday, June 17, 2025. Mayor Brad Bark called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. City Council members Don Lampe, Angie Lewis, Peggy Gordon and Nadine Brockert were present. School Board Directors Matt Conard, Karen Cooney, Lindsey Phillips and Denny Schuur were present. Board of Supervisors members Jeff Sorensen, Scott Sauer, Danny Chick and Kurt Kirchner were present. Also present were Superintendent Clint Christopher and Muscatine City Administrator Matt Mardesen.

Mayor Bark welcomed everyone to the meeting and started by introducing Megan Francis with Live Muscatine.

Live Muscatine: Megan Francis gave a presentation on a program created to help new community members connect in Muscatine. Ms. Francis shared how the program was developed and has evolved over the past few years. She stated the program was piloted in 2022 and shared with community leaders and HR directors in the community. In 2024 two presentations were held and two are scheduled for 2025 as well. The community presentation gives new community members information on What there is to do within Muscatine, where to find resources within the Community and how-to live-in Muscatine. Ms. Francis stated she would like to see the program grow and offer more presentations at local businesses. The next presentation or community members is schedule for Oct 7, 2025 at the YMCA.

Trail System: City Administrator Mardesen shared information on the Muscatine Trail System. He stated he has had conversations with Bi State regarding a regional trail system that would connect Davenport along with Muscatine, West Liberty, Wilton and Durant. Mr. Mardesen shared that the city is also working to include more local trails within the new neighborhoods that are being developed and will be working with the school districts to help ensure walkability for access to schools in the area. Mr. Mardesen stated that if the County, City and School can work together on building the trail system it would open up better grant opportunities.

Traffic: Councilmember Lampe shared information regarding traffic concerns in the community and how the traffic is affected by school start and ending. He stated he would like to see discussion on ways of dealing with the school traffic in the community. The city is purchasing equipment to be able to study traffic patterns in areas that are troublesome. Lindsey Phillips and Clint Christopher shared information regarding the schools discussion on traffic around the schools and how they communicate with residents regarding the proper flow of traffic for school drop off and pick up.

Law Enforcement Training Facility: Police Chief Anthony Kies shared that the proposed training facility at the Municipal Airport has been denied by the FAA. He states that all areas in Muscatine County have been exhausted and if anyone has any ideas of a location to build he would appreciate the feedback.

Collaborate Muscatine: Clint Christopher, School Superintendent, shared information regarding Collaborate Muscatine Priorities. He stated there is a goal for 2000 new homes by 2033 and an increase of 5% in school enrollment by 2033.

School Year Summary: Clint Christopher, School Superintendent gave an update on the 2024/2025 school year. Mr. Christopher shared the following statistics: Graduation rate is up to 85.3%, test scores have increased by a minimum of 5% across the board, chronic absenteeism is steadily decreasing yearly. Mr. Christopher explained Project Search allowing students to take an extra year of High School and work for Unity Point in order to gain work experience. The transitioning of the Food Pantry from the School Board Office to the Church was discussed and there was much gratitude for all those that have helped make the food pantry such a success.

County Board Updates: Danny Chick introduced the new Budget & Administrative Services Director, Kala Naber and stated she has taken over for Nancy Schreiber. Mr. Chick updated the group regarding the Deep Lakes Campground progress, new Community Center at the Muscatine County Fairgrounds, the Triathlon in August and a new business proposal for the County that would use wood waste to create a bio-char soil additive. This proposed business would create 50+ jobs in the community if Muscatine County is chosen as the location.

Closing Discussion: There was discussion regarding the need for the joint meeting and the frequency at which they should be scheduled. Suggestions included once/year, twice/year, having a social hour or meal prior for informal discussion, an end of year wrap up for the community at which each entity would share accomplishments from the current year. No formal decision was made.

Councilmember Lampe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 pm.

City Clerk, Cinda Hilger

Mayor Brad Bark

City Administrator Matthew Mardesen

Muscatine School Board

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors