



# SPIRIT LAKE

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SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA — The Spirit Lake Community School District has released the following statement today:



Teresa Beck will step down as President of the Spirit Lake Board of Education effective May 11, 2026, after serving as a member of the Spirit Lake School Board for 15 years, including 9½ years as Board President. She has demonstrated unwavering dedication to serving the students, staff, and Spirit Lake community. She has always skillfully balanced immediate needs with a clear, strategic vision for the district's long-term success. Her service to our district is marked by deep commitment to educational excellence, forward thinking, and prioritizing what is best for students. Her background in finance has been an exceptional resource for our district in consistently demonstrating fiscal responsibility and confronting the complex challenges of school finance.

## Comments from Teresa Beck:

“Serving on the Spirit Lake Board of Education for the past 15 years has brought me so much joy. It has been an honor to serve our community as a member of the Board of Education, including the last 9 years as Board President. This role has provided a unique opportunity to support a district that continually strives for excellence and puts students at the center of every decision. I am incredibly proud of the work we have accomplished together. My life has significantly changed since joining the board in 2011. Our family has grown, our children are getting older and are very active in many activities. At this time, it is the right thing personally for me to step away. The school district is as strong as it has ever been with outstanding leadership and teachers, a very strong financial condition, steady enrollment and a bright future!”

## Dr. David Smith, Superintendent, comments:

“Teresa embodies the very best of what leadership should be. She led with purpose, conviction and unwavering commitment to students, always asking the question that mattered most: *what is best for kids?*”

Her character is exceptional. Teresa led with honesty and fairness, anchored by a strong moral compass, especially when decisions were difficult or met with criticism. She had the courage to stand firm and stay focused on what mattered most. What truly set her apart was her ability to pair genuine empathy with clear accountability. She listened with intent, valued people, and made decisions that served students and strengthened our district.

Teresa’s legacy is not just in the decisions she helped shape, but in the culture she helped build. Because of her leadership, our system is stronger, our direction is clearer, and our students are better served. That impact will be felt for many years to come.

To Brad and her daughters, Ella, McKenna, and Olivia, thank you. Your support and sacrifice made her service possible, and our entire community is better because of it.”

## Sonja Hamm, School Board Vice President, comments:

“True leadership isn’t just about making decisions; it’s about making a difference. Teresa’s tireless advocacy and unwavering commitment to our students has been a cornerstone to our growth as a school district. We are grateful for the years of partnership and for the lasting positive influence Teresa has had on our students and community while serving on the school board. We will miss working alongside Teresa on the board, and we know she will continue to be a valued part of the Spirit Lake community in many ways.”

The Board intends to fill the vacancy created by Beck’s resignation in accordance with district policy. Information regarding the application and appointment process will be provided in a legal publication this week.