

**St. Johns Public Schools  
St. Johns, Michigan  
Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
Held on Monday, January 10, 2022**

The St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, January 10, 2022, in the St. Johns High School Auditorium. Superintendent Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83654908063?pwd=cUg5a09vY0treFlkVU1BNUs5SDdxUT09/>

Members Present: Darragh, Drabek, Watson, Jackson, Nelson, Hallead

**ATTENDANCE**

Members Absent: Dedyne

Member Darragh nominated Member Drabek for the office of Board President. Nominations were closed after no other nominations were made, and a unanimous ballot via a 6-0 roll call vote for Member Drabek was cast.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Control of the meeting was given to President Drabek.

Member Nelson nominated Member Watson for the office of Board Vice-President. Nominations were closed after no other nominations were made, and a unanimous ballot via a 6-0 roll call vote for Member Watson was cast.

Member Darragh nominated Member Jackson for the office of Board Secretary. Nominations were closed after no other nominations were made. A unanimous ballot via a 6-0 roll call vote for Member Jackson was cast.

Member Watson nominated Member Nelson for the office of Board Treasurer. Nominations were closed after no other nominations were made. A unanimous ballot via a 6-0 roll call vote for Member Nelson was cast.

Recording Secretary, Michelle Gorby swore in new Member Koenigsnecht to the vacant position of the Board until the next general election.

**OATH OF OFFICE OF  
NEW BOARD MEMBER**

Motion by Member Hallead, with support by Member Nelson, to approve the agenda. Agenda approved as presented.

**AGENDA APPROVED**

Motion by Member Jackson, with support by Member Watson, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from the meeting held on December 13, 2021. Motion unanimously approved via a 6-0 roll call vote.

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES**

The Board of Education received public comments about various topics including, but not limited to, a flu shot video shown to young students, virtual learning letter from the high school, ridding of contact tracing, high school

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

contact tracing issue, bullying, mask wearing. Those that addressed the board in person were Heather Romero, Carla Wardin, and Kelly Havens. Those that addressed the board online were Karen Andrews and Jake Parker.

Director of Business and Finance Kelly Corbett and Operations Director Rob Gleeson presented the Board of Education with information on the air conditioning project for Riley and Eureka Elementary Schools. Nelson from SitelogIQ was also present for the presentation. This item will appear as an action item at the next regular meeting.

**REPORTS AND  
INFORMATION  
RILEY AND EUREKA  
ELEMENTARY AIR  
CONDITIONING**

Secretary Jackson requested that item XI.B1 be removed from the consent agenda. Motion by Secretary Jackson, with support by Member Nelson, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the consent grouping Number XI, A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, C1 and C2. Motion approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF  
CONSENT  
GROUPING  
ITEMS**

Approved the hiring of the following St. Johns Public Schools employees: John Jenkins – Gateway North Custodian, Brooke Rea – Elementary School Social Worker, Betty Hayward – Oakview South SSP, Jacqueline Pattison – Elementary Teacher (Floating), Tessa Link - Little Wings Childcare Provider, MacKenzie Jelinek - Little Wings Childcare Provider.

**NEW HIRE APPROVAL**

Approved the position transfer of the following St. Johns Public Schools employees: Michelle Gorby - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent to Data Management Specialist, Chelsea Peterson - Middle School Principal's Secretary to Executive Assistant to the Superintendent.

**POSITION TRANSFER  
APPROVAL**

Motion by Member Darragh that the St. Johns Board of Education accept the resignation previously labeled as items XI.B1, with sadness. Motion supported by Secretary Jackson.

**ACTION ITEMS  
RESIGNATION OF JASON GNEGY,  
CURRICULUM DIRECTOR**

January is Board recognition month, Superintendent Palmer thanked the members of the Board of Education for their volunteer service and support to the students and staff. All members strive to do continuous support and service to do a thankless job. He also thanked Nick Koenigskecht for returning to the Board for at least the next 9 months.

**BOARD  
COMMUNICATIONS  
SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Superintendent Palmer made the decision to go remote to better assess the high school Covid cases. Despite those who are vaccinated and those already affected, there is another side who are upset if we don't notify close contacts. With 3 or 4 positive cases at the high school we are facing staffing issues, as

well as at other buildings. He stated no one has the desire to go online, but can get things sorted out by going virtual for one day.

Released late today, supporting the CDC guidelines that came out January 6 that isolation is 5 days, can return on day 6 as long as they are symptom free and improving symptoms, and the same for quarantine. Athletic teams were already put on pause due to positive cases on teams.

Superintendent Palmer stated there will hopefully be a meeting in the next few weeks regarding policies from Thrun.

He thinks that it's time to bring on a student representative back to the Board. He also mentioned that the Headstart program moved to GSRP to prevent disruption to the students. It was a wash as far as funding.

All Board members thanked Jason for his years of service and wished him well. Many Board members thanked Rhonda Dedyne for her service to the Board and welcomed Nick and Chelsea.

Member Koenigsknecht agrees that a student representative is a good idea, and noted on the rapid antigen tests being highly selective.

Member Darragh mentioned the Consensus Revenue Conference this week, which is usually followed by the Governor's address.

Member Hallead recognized the emotions are very high right now with a lot of worry about various things

The Board of Education received public comments about various topics including, but not limited to, movies to kindergartners, study that was handed out to high school students, a book called "The 57 Bus", Covid protocols, masks and vaccines, quarantine, mandates, lack of virtual plan for teachers. Those that addressed the board in person were Heather Romero and Kelly Havens. Those that addressed the board online were DJ Logan, Chuck Eldridge, and Nicole Eller.

**PUBLIC AND BOARD  
COMMENTS**

President Drabek adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Jackson, Secretary  
St. Johns Board of Education  
Minutes submitted by: Chelsea Peterson, Recording Secretary

