

**St. Johns Public Schools
St. Johns, Michigan
Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Held on May 10, 2021**

The St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, May 10, 2021, in the St. Johns High School Band Room. There was also a virtual option for public participation:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86393955174?pwd=RWRFc2l1bEdiT3hGUzJ1M3o5Z3dkQT>

President Darragh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ATTENDANCE

Members Absent: Student Representative Kiel

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

AGENDA APPROVED

Motion by Treasurer Watson, with support by Member Hallead, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from the meeting held on April 26, 2021, and the Special Meeting minutes from the meeting held on April 26, 2021. Motion unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

Superintendent Palmer reviewed the Extend COVID-19 Learning Plan. He updated the members of the Board of Education on the attendance component of the plan. In response to President Darragh's question about how students would be identified for summer school, Superintendent Palmer explained the identification criteria.

**REPORTS AND
INFORMATION
EXTENDED COVID-19
LEARNING PLAN AND RE-
CERTIFICATION**

Members of the audience expressed their thoughts, frustrations, and concerns about the requirements for students to wear masks at school, athlete COVID-19 testing, and availability of vaccinations. Some, including Kelly Havens, district parent, and Jeff Simpson, district parent, also shared studies on the negative effects of wearing masks. Other audience members that identified themselves and spoke were Mike Gibson, district parent, Nicki Kirby, Raquel Diethrich, district parent, a bus driver from DeWitt, Gina Gibson, district parent, Brenda DeLiso, district parent, Emily B., Mishelle Pagels, district parent, Amber Jarvis, district parent, Rachel Atkinson, district parent, Danielle Thomas, district parent. Josh Heethuis, St. Johns Middle School teacher and SJEA president, shared his thoughts on working as a teacher in the district.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Director of Curriculum Jason Gnegy provided the members of the Board of Education with information and the plans for summer school across the district.

**REPORTS AND
INFORMATION
SUMMER SCHOOL**

Director of Business and Finance Kelly Corbett provided the members of the Board of Education with a financial update.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Superintendent Palmer provided the Board of Education with information on the CCRESA Biennial Election. The Board of Education must designate a representative for the election.

**CCRESA BIENNIAL
ELECTION**

Motion by Member Nelson, with support by Secretary Dedyne, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the consent grouping Number VII, A1, A2, A3, and B1. Motion approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF
CONSENT
GROUPING
ITEMS**

Approved the resignation of the following St. Johns Public Schools employees: Vicky Morgan - Riley Elementary SSP, Scott Feldpausch - District Maintenance, Mindy Voisinet - Gateway North Elementary Behavior Support SSP.

RESIGNATION APPROVAL

Approved the position transfer of the following St. Johns Public Schools employee: Jamie Ettinger – Middle School SSP to Middle School Special Education Teacher

**POSITION TRANSFER
APPROVAL**

Motion by Member Jackson, with support by Member Hallead, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education re-certify the district's Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

**ACTION ITEMS
EXTENDED COVID-19
LEARNING PLAN RE-
CERTIFICATION**

Motion by Member Jackson, with support by Member Nelson, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education denies the Property Transfer Petition dated April 15, 2021, for the property located at 1240 W. Cutler Rd, DeWitt, MI 48820, to be transferred from the St. Johns Public School District to DeWitt Public Schools, as presented. Motion approved, via a 6-1 vote, with Vice President Drabek voting nay.

**PROPERTY TRANSFER
APPROVAL**

Motion by Member Nelson, with support by Treasurer Watson, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the recommendation to purchase 106 Epson Powerlite X49 projectors in the amount of \$51,196.94, using funds budgeted for 2020-2021 Technology Capital Projects, as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

**PROJECTOR REPLACEMENT
APPROVAL**

Motion by Treasurer Watson, with support by Member Hallead, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the recommendation to purchase computers for the high school business lab in the amount of \$89,810.90, with funds from the State Aid Voc Ed Added Cost dollars, as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

**HIGH SCHOOL BUSINESS
LAB COMPUTER
REPLACEMENT APPROVAL**

Motion by Member Nelson, with support by Member Hallead, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the recommendation to purchase student and staff replacement devices in the amount of \$361,550.98, with funds budgeted for 2020-2021 Technology Capital Projects, as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

**STUDENT/STAFF DEVICE
REPLACEMENT APPROVAL**

**BOARD
COMMUNICATIONS
SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Superintendent Palmer informed the members of the Board of Education that the second round interviews for the Eureka Elementary Principal position have been completed, and a decision has been made. He also reminded the Board of Education that this is the first year the Read By 3 Law takes effect. It is our understanding that the State will notify parents via a letter of how students scored on the reading portion of the M-STEP. We're not sure if parents will be notified if their child should be retained or not. Our plan is not to retain anyone, but to put supports in place where necessary. There is legislation to change this, but it would have to be passed by June 1st. Vice President Drabek asked what will happen if a parent wants to dispute their student from being retained. Superintendent Palmer replied that they have 30 days to contact the district to appeal, and the Superintendent will make the final decision, based on information from the building principal. He also updated the Board on the results of last week's school bond elections. He also thanked Wendy Andrzejewski for the new equipment allowing remote participation. He reminded the Board that the high school musical performance of Footloose is this weekend.

Anne Marie Potter, Eureka Elementary Principal, shared her gratitude and respect for the members of the Board of Education, and appreciates their time and commitment to the students of St. Johns. She believes the day-to-day business of education has gone very well this year.

**PUBLIC AND BOARD
COMMENTS**

Several audience members, including Rebecca Hagerman, district parent, Christian Lehner, SJPS graduate, and DJ Logan, Gateway North Elementary School teacher, expressed their frustration and disappointment with the disrespect and behavior exhibited during the first public comment period of tonight's meeting.

Amber Jarvis, district parent, asked for clarification on online students not taking state assessments.

Member Nelson shared his thoughts on statements about mask requirements made during the first public comment period.

Secretary Dedyne shared her thoughts on tonight's meeting.

Treasurer Watson also has tickets to Footloose this weekend, and complimented President Darragh for his oversight of tonight's meeting.

Vice President Drabek expressed his view on the public comment periods, and the importance of community input. He also thanked the administration for the virtual meeting option.

President Darragh congratulated Rachel Rustad for her honorable mention All-State in girl's basketball. He also congratulated Mark Lasceski for his many years of coaching, commented on the teams' successes and disappointments,

and Mr. Lasceski's role as the coach. He wished him well. President Darragh recognized Anne Marie Potter and her upcoming retirement from the district, and stated that, "You are an educator." He also appreciates the passion exhibited at tonight's meeting, and acknowledged that although we may disagree, passion without restraint is dangerous.

President Darragh adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Dedyne, Secretary
St. Johns Board of Education
Minutes submitted by: Michelle Gorby, Recording Secretary