

**St. Johns Public Schools
St. Johns, Michigan
Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Held on October 26, 2020**

The St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, October 26, 2020, in the High School Band Room. President Darragh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Darragh, Dedyne, Drabek, Hallead , Jackson, Nelson, Watson, and Student Representative Kiel

ATTENDANCE

Members Absent: None

Motion by Member Nelson, with support by Member Jackson, 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 October 12, 2020. Motion unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

Superintendent Mark Palmer presented the Board of Education with the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan, as required by law. He also briefed the Board of Education on the conversations he and Jason Gnegy have been having with teachers.

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

DJ Logan, Gateway North Elementary Kindergarten Teacher, provided the Board of Education with her perspective and opinion on pandemic instruction. She also shared that this year's online parent teacher conferences were very well received by both parents and teachers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no discussion.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS
2019-200 FISCAL YEAR
AUDIT REPORT**

Several Board members expressed their thoughts on the structure of asynchronous learning days.

**EXTENDED COVID-19
LEARNING PLAN**

There was no discussion.

**SOLAR RELEASE AGREEMENT
RECOMMENDATION**

Several Board members shared their views and opinions on remote participation at meetings.

**REMOTE PARTICIPATION IN
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETINGS**

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

**APPROVAL OF
CONSENT
GROUPING
ITEMS**

Approved the hiring of the following St. Johns Public Schools employee:
Sandra Brewbaker – High School Custodian

NEW HIRE APPROVAL

Approved the resignation of the following St. Johns Public Schools employee:
Steven Brimmer – Oakview South Elementary Teacher

RESIGNATION APPROVAL

Motion by Member Jackson, with support by Member Nelson, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approves the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Audit Report. Motion unanimously approved.

**ACTION ITEMS
2019-2020 Fiscal Year
Audit Report**

Motion by Treasurer Watson, 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.

**Extended COVID-19
Learning Plan Re-
certification**

Motion by Member Hallead, with support by Vice-President Drabek, that the St. Johns Board of Education approves the Solar Lease Agreement with Ecojiva and authorizes the Superintendent to execute the agreement, as recommended. Motion unanimously approved.

**Solar Lease Agreement
Approval**

Superintendent Palmer reviewed his written report. He continues to have weekly meetings with the health department. COVID-19 outbreaks do not appear to be happening at school; they are happening at events outside of school. He credited the teachers for "following the rules" (of personal protection). Studies are showing that school is the safest place to be. He also shared that the district is conducting risk surveys for the social and emotional health of students. The issues we have had with internet outages the past few weeks was addressed. Member Nelson asked for an update on the research of alternate meeting facilities for Board of Education meetings; Superintendent Palmer stated that we are researching a couple of options. Vice-President Drabek asked about the status of the Wilson Center and Director of Business and Finance Kelly Corbett reported that the project is on pace.

**BOARD
COMMUNICATIONS
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Student Representative Evan Kiel provided the Board of Education with an update on high school events. He also shared his concerns about the decline of student grades, and attendance. He also shared his concerns and frustrations with the limitations of using Zoom in the classroom. He shared that the second monitor teachers at the secondary level received appears very helpful to the teachers, and suggested the elementary teachers be provided an extra computer monitor also. He is also concerned about lunch times at the high school and the mental wellness of the students; with colder weather approaching, the students will not be able to go out in the courtyard during lunch. He requested that perhaps the main gymnasium be opened. He shared

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S
REPORT**

that he had a few people ask if they could “Zoom” into tonight’s meeting; they did not want to attend in person for fear of exposure.

Members of the Board of Education relayed their frustrations with incorrect information (about the district) published by local media sources. It was also shared that there are positive media sources too, such as SJIIndy.com. Several of the Board members expressed their gratitude for the entire district’s staff, and that we should make sure the entire district is getting the attention they deserve.

**PUBLIC AND BOARD
COMMENTS**

President Darragh adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

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