

**St. Johns Public Schools
St. Johns, Michigan
Minutes of Regular Virtual Meeting of the Board of Education
Held on Monday, January 11, 2021**

The St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, January 11, 2020, virtually. Due to technical difficulties, Superintendent Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83502324334?pwd=dzc0SWYxcUpYQm8vMnplcDhjNm dWZz09>

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

ATTENDANCE

Members Absent: None

Member Drabek nominated Member Darragh, with support by Member Jackson, for the office of Board President. Nominations were closed after no other nominations were made, and a unanimous ballot via a 7-0 roll call vote for Member Darragh was cast.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Control of the meeting was given to President Darragh.

Member Dedyne nominated Member Drabek, with support by President Darragh, for the office of Board Vice-President. Nominations were closed after no other nominations were made, and a unanimous ballot via a 7-0 roll call vote for Member Drabek was cast.

Member Watson nominated Member Dedyne, with support by Member Hallead, for the office of Board Secretary. Nominations were closed after no other nominations were made. A unanimous ballot via a 7-0 roll call vote for Member Dedyne was cast.

Member Drabek nominated Member Watson, with support by Secretary Dedyne, for the office of Board Treasurer. Nominations were closed after no other nominations were made. A unanimous ballot via a 7-0 roll call vote for Member Watson was cast.

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

AGENDA APPROVED

Motion by Member Hallead, with support by Member Jackson, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from the meeting held on December 14, 2020, and the Executive Session minutes from the meeting held on December 14, 2020. Motion unanimously approved via a 7-0 roll call vote.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

High School Science Teacher Rich Lund stated that the student group wishing to form a formal group several years ago, mentioned at the previous meeting, was of the LGBTQ+ community.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Curriculum Director Jason Gnegy and High School Science Teacher Derrick Veale presented the Board of Education with information on a science department purchase.

**REPORTS AND
INFORMATION
HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT PURCHASE
REQUEST**

Motion by Member Jackson, with support by Member Nelson, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the consent grouping Number VIII, A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3 and B4. Motion approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF
CONSENT
GROUPING
ITEMS**

Approved the hiring of the following St. Johns Public Schools employees: Megan McNamara – Technology Department Secretary, Zachery Hatten – High School Chemistry Teacher, Kevin Montes – Network Specialist, Justin McConnell – Maintenance Head of Grounds.

NEW HIRE APPROVAL

Approved the resignation of the following St. Johns Public Schools employees: Delaney Sullivan – Elementary Counselor, Toree Rewerts – Childcare Provider, Joann Prohaska – High School SSP, Theresa Sopocy – Gateway North Elementary Teacher.

RESIGNATION APPROVAL

Motion by Member Nelson for Superintendent Palmer to provide the Board of Education with more information on this item. The motion was supported by President Darragh, and approved unanimously via a 7-0 roll call vote.

**ACTION ITEMS
ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT
REVISION APPROVAL**

Motion by Member Hallead, with support by Treasurer Watson, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approves the administrator contract for Chris Ervin, as presented. Motion unanimously approved via a 7-0 roll call vote.

**BOARD
COMMUNICATIONS
SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Superintendent Palmer thanked the members of the Board of Education for their service. He provided an update on the energy performance project, administrator and teacher evaluations, and his recent meetings with the local health department regarding the COVID-19 vaccination. He also shared that the return to in-person learning today went well, and that the students are glad to be back to school.

Student Representative Kiel reported that the break was nice. He also shared that student events at all levels are still suspended.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S
REPORT**

Secretary Dedyne asked Student Representative Kiel if he could provide an idea of the level of disappointment with the suspension of events, and if there is any way we can do something with the means that we currently have. He replied with information on the last-minute idea from the student council of the homecoming game and election of class representatives, and court for king and queen, but they have not had the clearance since then to have a student council meeting. Superintendent Palmer also provided information on some events happening in the near future, and of conversations he had with Josh Heethuis regarding high school and middle school musicals. Mr. Veale applauded Student Representative Kiel on the return of the (daily) announcements at the high school.

Rich Lund, High School Science teacher, shared his concerns on cyberbullying, and his recent personal experience with cyberbullying.

**PUBLIC AND BOARD
COMMENTS**

DJ Logan reported that she is glad to be back with students but shared her concerns about mask wearing, sanitizing and social distancing in her classroom.

Many of the members of the Board of Education thanked and commended those presenting the science presentation and expressed their support of the purchase.

Member Jackson and Member Hallead appreciate the effort of the administration to provide space for community vaccinations and appreciated the turn out at tonight's meeting.

Vice President Drabek asked Superintendent Palmer if he had any idea on when the Board would be able to meet in person again. Superintendent Palmer provided information on the state's restrictions on public meetings. He also understands the need and supports the science department purchase.

President Darragh reflected on the work and role of kindergarten teachers in our district. He wished kindergarten teacher, Theresa Sopocy well in her retirement. He is saddened that we currently are not able to provide sentiments in person and looks forward to the day that we can do so again.

President Darragh adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

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