

**St. Johns Public Schools
St. Johns, Michigan
Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Held on November 9, 2020**

The St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, November 9, 2020, in the St. Johns 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, and Watson

ATTENDANCE

Members Absent: Student Representative Kiel

Motion by Member Nelson, with support by Member Jackson, 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 October 26, 2020, and the special meeting minutes from October 26, 2020. Motion unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

Kevin Kirk was recognized for his almost 25 years of combined service as a member of the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education. President Darragh presented Mr. Kirk with a certificate. The members of the Board of Education thanked Kevin for serving on the Board of Education. Kevin also shared his experiences as a Board Member during his tenure.

**BOARD MEMBER
RECOGNITION**

Jordan Schafer, parent of children in the district, shared a letter written by his wife, regarding the concerns and frustrations they have with online instruction.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Policy Committee Chairman Rick Drabek provided the Board of Education with the changes requested for the latest set of NEOLA policies. They will be reviewed again before they are approved by the Board of Education.

**REPORTS AND
INFORMATION
NEOLA POLICY REVISIONS
– 1ST READING**

Superintendent Palmer reviewed the resolution regarding the Open Meetings Act, specifically remote participation at meetings. The current resolution allows remote participation for any reason through December 31, 2020. January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, allows remote participation for those on military duty, and those with certain medical conditions. There is no need to change any of our current policies. Superintendent Palmer added that he is still researching viable options to allow remote public participation. President Darragh also added that he believes the Board should take advantage of remote meetings as much as possible at this time.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS
RESOLUTION REGARDING
THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT
AND REMOTE
PARTICIPATION AT BOARD
OF EDUCATION MEETINGS**

Superintendent Palmer provided the Board of Education with information about the process for completing the Superintendent's evaluation.

**BOARD QUESTIONS ON
SUPERINTENDENT**

**EVALUATION PROCESS AND
SUPPORT INFORMATION**

Motion by Treasurer Watson, with support by Secretary Dedyne, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the consent grouping Number VIII, A1 and B1. Motion approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF
CONSENT
GROUPING
ITEMS**

Approved the hiring of the following St. Johns Public Schools employee: Christi Neller – Oakview South Elementary Teacher

NEW HIRE APPROVAL

Approved the resignation of the following St. Johns Public Schools employee: Emily Eldred – Riley Elementary Custodian

RESIGNATION APPROVAL

Motion by Member Nelson, with support by Member Jackson, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approves remote participation at its meetings, as indicated in the Resolution Regarding the Open Meetings Act, as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

**ACTION ITEMS
Resolution Regarding
the Open Meetings Act
and Remote
Participation at Board of
Education Meetings
Approval**

Superintendent Palmer reviewed his written report. He provided an update on COVID-19 in schools, and reasons for switching to online instruction through the Thanksgiving holiday. He also asked for Board member input on suspending in person instruction through December 2020, resuming after the holiday break. The Board of Education members provided him with their thoughts and concerns.

**BOARD
COMMUNICATIONS
SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Members of the Board of Education thanked those in attendance for their comments.

**PUBLIC AND BOARD
COMMENTS**

President Darragh adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

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