

**St. Johns Public Schools
St. Johns, Michigan
Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Held on November 23, 2020**

The St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, November 23, 2020, online using Zoom. President Darragh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82719402003?pwd=YkNDb1JqL0hPNzR6NUIEMGloUW96QT09#success>

Members Present: Darragh, Dedyne, but with audio difficulties, Drabek, Hallead, Jackson, Nelson, Watson, and Student Representative Kiel

ATTENDANCE

Members Absent: None

Motion by Vice President Drabek, with support by Member Hallead, to approve the agenda. Agenda approved as presented, via a 6-0 roll call vote.

AGENDA APPROVED

Motion by Member Jackson, with support by Member Hallead, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from the meeting held on November 9, 2020. Motion unanimously approved, via a 6-0 roll call vote.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

Superintendent Palmer reviewed the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan, including the attendance statistics since the last report. It is necessary to re-certify this plan every 30 days, and must include an opportunity for public comment before the Board recertifies the plan. President Darragh commented on the attendance rates – they are very similar to the last reporting. Member Hallead asked for what the process is if a student does not check in twice a week. Superintendent Palmer replied that this is handled at the building level, and that the building principal or assistant principal does the follow up. The truancy officer is contacted when necessary. The truancy office was involved in 11 cases last month.

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

Several members of the teaching staff, including Amy Dow, DJ Logan, Schalla Swab and Sarah Nevins thanked the Board of Education and administration for listening to their concerns, and the asynchronous days. Several of them also appreciate the opportunity to participate in the Board of Education meetings virtually. SJEA President, Josh Heethuis, thanked Superintendent Palmer and the Central Offices team for listening to their concerns, and making it easy to talk with them about their concerns. He also shared that teachers are concerned about “Zoom fatigue” for students.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

**REPORTS AND
INFORMATION**

Superintendent Palmer reviewed the need to have this policy in place to cover the MIOSHA executive order. Our legal consult, Thrun Law Firm, believes we should adopt this policy.

**POLICY 8450.05 –
EMERGENCY TEMPORARY
TELECOMMUTING POLICY**

Superintendent Palmer presented the latest NEOLA policy update, Vol 35 No 1. These are straight forward policies to comply with law. There were no questions from the Board of Education.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS
POLICY REVISIONS – SECOND
READING**

Member Hallead asked if teachers were still allowed to come into the buildings. Director of Business and Finance Kelly Corbett stated that teachers are asked to follow the order, but can come into the building if there is something they need access to, or if they are having internet access issues at home.

**POLICY 8450.05 –
EMERGENCY TEMPORARY
TELECOMMUTING POLICY**

There were no questions.

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

Motion by Member Jackson, with support by Member Nelson, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approves consent agenda items VII – A1, A2, B1, B2, B3 and C1. Motion approved via a 6-0 roll call vote.

**APPROVAL OF
CONSENT
GROUPING
ITEMS**

Approved expenditures for the payment of bills for September 2020:

PAYMENT OF BILLS

General Fund	\$1,536,457.95
Food Service Fund	46,377.57
Activity Fund	7,730.07
Public Improvement Fund	3,748.44
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,594,314.03

Approved expenditures for the payment of bills for October 2020:

PAYMENT OF BILLS

General Fund	\$1,540,093.80
Food Service Fund	10,118.56
Activity Fund	25,162.56
1998 Debt Fund	216,270.00
2020 Refunding	179,432.23
2013 Refunding	22,485.00
2014 Refunding	874,812.50
2010 (QSCB) Series A Debt Fund	490,075.00
2010 (BAB) Series B Debt Fund	2,520.00
Energy Bonds	47,057.62
Public Improvement Fund	152,696.43
Energy Bond Construction	1,028,960.04
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$4,589,683.74

Approved the hiring of the following St. Johns Public Schools employees:
Selena Hart – Childcare Provider, Shannon Wissel – Accounting Technician,
Lorie Heupel – High School SSP.

NEW HIRE APPROVAL

Approved the resignation of the following St. Johns Public Schools employee:
Mark Williams – District Maintenance

RESIGNATION APPROVAL

Motion by Member Jackson, with support by Vice President Drabek, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approves the new, revised, and rescinded policies listed in tonight’s Board Packet, under Item VII –Discussion Items, Letter A.1 – NEOLA Policy Updates – Vol 35 No 1. Motion unanimously approved via a 6-0 roll call vote.

ACTION ITEMS
NEOLA Policy Update and Revision Approval

Motion by Member Nelson, with support by Member Hallead, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approves Policy 8450.05, as presented. Motion unanimously approved via a 6-0 roll call vote.

**Policy 8450.05
Emergency Temporary Telecommuting Policy Approval**

Motion by Member Nelson, with support by Member Jackson, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education re-certify the district’s Extended COVID-19 Plan as presented. Motion unanimously approved via a 6-0 roll call vote.

Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan and Re-Certification Approval

Superintendent Palmer reviewed his written report. He highlighted the consideration of the Thrun Policy Service, and the concerns we have with our current policy provider. He reported that the Boy’s Cross Country team finished second in the state this year, and this has been their highest finish at the state level since 1963. He also encouraged the members of the Board of Education to take the MASB survey on the importance of what the state legislature is doing for you. Please contact Superintendent Palmer if you need him to resend the survey link to you.

**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS
SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Student Representative Kiel also reported on the success of the Boy’s Cross Country team at the state finals. He also reported on current activities at the high school. He stated that the asynchronous learning days are definitely beneficial to students, as well as the staff.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT

Many members of the Board of Education thanked those in attendance at tonight’s meeting. Member Hallead thanked Mr. Williams for his many years of dedicated service to the district. Vice President Drabek would like to have the district investigate remote participation at meetings, even after we go back to in-person meetings.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS

Member Hallead motioned that the St. Johns Board of Education move into Executive Session to discuss negotiations, and the evaluation of the Superintendent. Member Jackson supported the motion.

MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

The motion passed unanimously by a 6-0 roll call vote at 7:55 p.m.

The Board of Education returned from Executive Session at 9:19 p.m.

**RETURN FROM
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

President Darragh adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

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