

**St. Johns Public Schools  
St. Johns, Michigan  
Minutes of Regular Virtual Meeting of the Board of Education  
Held on Monday, March 8, 2021**

The St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 8, 2021, virtually using Zoom. President Darragh called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84714302729?pwd=bzVVRXhOUFJsQnAvNDQwS29pVEhhdz09>

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

**ATTENDANCE**

Members Absent: Dedyne, Watson

President Scott Darragh appointed Member Nelson as acting secretary for the meeting, as Secretary Dedyne was not in attendance.

**ACTING SECRETARY  
APPOINTED**

Motion by Member Hallead, with support by Member Jackson, to approve the agenda. Agenda unanimously approved as presented via a 5-0 show of hands vote.

**AGENDA APPROVED**

Motion by Member Hallead, with support by Member Nelson, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from the meeting held on February 22, 2021. Motion unanimously approved via a 5-0 show of hands vote.

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES**

Adel DiOrio, St. Johns Middle School Principal, stated this meeting is usually the one where she invites everyone to come to the middle school for the Read-A-Thon, and read with the students, but this is not happening this year. You can however go the middle school's website or Facebook page and send a message to the office, which will be given to the student, in support of March Is Reading Month.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Director of Business and Finance Kelly Corbett provided the members of the Board of Education with information on the 2021 Refunding Bond. She answered questions from the Board of Education.

**REPORTS AND  
INFORMATION  
2021 REFUNDING BOND**

Director of Business and Finance Kelly Corbett provided the members of the Board of Education with information on the revisions to the 2020-2021 General Fund budget. She answered questions from the members of the Board of Education.

**2020-2021 GENERAL  
FUND BUDGET REVISION**

Curriculum Director Jason Gnegy provided the members of the Board of Education with information on an elementary classroom library purchase the district would like to make for each elementary classroom in the district.

**CLASSROOM LIBRARIES  
PURCHASE REQUEST**

Treasurer Watson joined the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

**ARRIVAL OF BOARD MEMBER**

Superintendent Palmer reviewed that 2021-2022 CCRESA budget hearing notice and the need to designate a representative from the Board of Education to attend on its behalf.

**CCRESA 2021-2022 BUDGET HEARING AND DESIGNATION OF REPRESENTATIVE**

Motion by Member Jackson, with support by Vice President Drabek, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the consent grouping Number VI, A1 and B1. Motion approved unanimously via a 6-0 roll call vote.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT GROUPING ITEMS**

Approved the resignation of the following St. Johns Public Schools employee: Aleksandra Litwiller – Daycare Provider.

**RESIGNATION APPROVAL**

Approved the leave of absence for the following St. Johns Public Schools employee: Elizabeth Hurren – Oakview South Elementary Teacher.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE APPROVAL**

Superintendent Palmer provided members of the Board of Education with an update on district operations. The update included information in the areas of athletics, custodial/maintenance, food service, special education services, technology and transportation.

**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Student Representative Kiel provided an update to the Board of Education that included events in the fine arts, and senior interview day. He thanked Mr. Horak and Mr. Veale for their help with senior interview day.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

DJ Logan, Gateway North Elementary teacher thanked Curriculum Director Jason Gnegy for the work on the classroom libraries.

**PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS**

Kevin Collins, parent, expressed his frustration in how the school year is going, and the amount of school the students have missed this year. He would like to see them in school five days a week next year.

Andrea Ryan – resident and St. Johns High school alumni, thanked Jason Gnegy for his presentation. She realizes students in our district do not experience a lot of diversity but thinks we should be teaching the students about it anyway. It helps to make our children well rounded.

Josh Heethuis, St. Johns Middle School teacher, shared his perspective as a teacher on asynchronous Fridays. He understands and respects the frustration and work the parents have. He shared examples of difficulties in supporting the online learners in his classroom, in contrast to those in-person in the classroom. He also shared the teachers are having a difficult time too with the instructional platforms. He commended the work his colleagues have done to try and maintain our traditions in new and different ways this year.

Members of the Board of Education thanked everyone for the presentations and updates, and the parents and staff that spoke tonight.

Member Jackson motioned that the St. Johns Board of Education move into Executive Session to discuss the student support personnel contract and was supported by Member Hallead.

**MOVE TO EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

The motion passed unanimously via a 6-0 roll call vote, and the Board of Education moved into executive session at 8:44 p.m.

The Board of Education returned from Executive Session at 8:51 p.m.

**RETURN FROM  
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Member Jackson, with support by Vice President Drabek, to approve the contract with the St. Johns Student Support Personnel.

**ACTION ITEMS  
ST. JOHNS STUDENT  
SUPPORT PERSONNEL  
CONTRACT APPROVAL**

The motion was unanimously approved via a 6-0 roll call vote.

President Darragh adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Nelson, Acting Secretary  
St. Johns Board of Education  
Minutes submitted by: Michelle Gorby, Recording Secretary