

**St. Johns Public Schools
St. Johns, Michigan 48879
Minutes of Regular Virtual Meeting of the Board of Education
Held on September 14, 2020**

The St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 14, 2020, at a virtual meeting using ZOOM. President Darragh called the meeting to order at 7: 05 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83650707965?pwd=LzU4SzBnWDdVR2Z4d3Vod01zQkFOZz09>

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

ATTENDANCE

Members Absent: Dedyne (technical difficulties- video established but no sound)

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

AGENDA APPROVED

Motion by Member Jackson, with support by Vice President Drabek, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from the meeting held on August 24, 2020. Motion unanimously approved via a 6-0 roll call vote.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

Susie Fromson, representative of the Sea Lions swim club, addressed the Board of Education and shared her concerns that their fall season was postponed. They had 80 children registered. She requested clarity on how to meet the criteria for 10 people in an area, and a possible timeline when they can return to the pool at the high school. Superintendent Palmer stated the clearance to participate is for school MHSAA sports. Also anything outside, such as Junior Redwing Football, etc., is good to go.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Secretary Dedyne phoned in for the meeting at 7:15 pm. Video was already established.

**BOARD MEMBER
ENTERED MEETING**

Superintendent Mark Palmer provided the Board of Education with the required Extended COVID-19 Leaning Plan. A copy of the plan was included in the board packet. This plan must be established by September 15, 2020, and submitted to CCRESA no later than October 1, 2020. The plan also requires the district to indicate what we will use as information to determine if we need to shut down face-to-face instruction, and when to bring it back. He also informed the Board of Education that we are using i-Ready for K-8 benchmark assessments. We will test 3 times a year, so we can see our growth and weaknesses throughout the school year, not just the beginning and end of the year. Curriculum Director Jason Gneyg explained how the assessment would be done for online learners. A

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

couple Board of Education members asked questions about the assessments, and the questions were addressed.

Superintendent Palmer explained the need to approve a resolution to grant emergency powers to the district's superintendent, per a recommendation from NEOLA.

Motion by Member Jackson, with support by Secretary Dedyne, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the consent grouping Number VII, A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11, A12, A13, A14, B1, B2, and B3. Motion approved unanimously via 7-0 roll call vote.

Approved the hiring of the following St. Johns Public Schools employees: Sarah Nevins- Middle School Teacher, Ryan Nevins – Middle School Teacher, Hallie LeBlanc de Smith – Middle School Teacher, Brittini Belbeck – Middle School Teacher, Olivia Bouck – Gateway North Teacher, Chelsea Peterson – Middle School Principal's Secretary, Jose Guajardo – Custodian, Emily Eldred – Custodian, Zachary Cole – Maintenance, Elissa Ryan – Oakview South SSP, Hannah Fuller – Middle School SSP, Teri Baker – High School Food Service, Tabor Vits – Middle School Records Secretary, Tamara Jackson – Riley SSP.

Approved the resignation of the following St. Johns Public Schools employees: Beth Stevenson – Eureka Elementary Food Service, Mandi Moore – High School Custodian, Stephanie Barnett- Bus Driver.

Motion by Member Nelson, with support by Member Hallead, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approves the resolution to grant emergency powers to the Superintendent for the duration of the 2020-2021 school year, as presented. Motion approved via 7-0 roll call vote.

Superintendent Palmer reviewed his written report. He shared that the online learning this past Thursday and Friday went well and student attendance was great. The Chromebook distribution at the elementary buildings went smoothly; the technology department has gone above and beyond to ensure everyone was ready for this fall. Also, there will be 5 days of remote learning scheduled in the first trimester for all students in the district. We continue to look to the State for guidance on when to close a building or school, but we are not receiving any information. We are working with the local health department to establish guidelines for how to handle an increase in student and staff that test positive for COVID-19, and those that have been in contact with those that have tested positive. He added that we are down 31 students from our projections, but the state has said that there will be no reduction in funding as of now.

DISCUSSION ITEMS
RESOLUTION TO GRANT
EMERGENCY POWERS TO THE
SUPERINTENDENT

APPROVAL OF
CONSENT
GROUPING
ITEMS

NEW HIRE APPROVAL

RESIGNATION APPROVAL

ACTION ITEMS
RESOLUTION TO GRANT
EMERGENCY POWERS TO THE
SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL

BOARD
COMMUNICATIONS
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Student representative Evan Kiel provided a report that included how well the technology and material drop-off and pick-up went. Fall sports have been given the green light to start, but Theatre is not yet able to start.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S
UPDATE**

**PUBLIC AND BOARD
COMMENTS**

St. Johns Middle School Principal Adel DiOrio shared that the staff bent over backwards and made teaching amazing. The students were great, and the parents read everything and did whatever they needed to do to help with the start back to school.

The members of the Board of Education commended the entire staff on how well everything has gone. Many also welcomed the newly hired staff. Curriculum Director Jason Gnegy wished Superintendent Palmer and Mrs. DiOrio a happy birthday.

President Darragh adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Dedyne, Secretary
St. Johns Board of Education

Minutes submitted by: Michelle Gorby and Janet Thelen, Recording Secretary