

**St. Johns Public Schools  
St. Johns, Michigan  
Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
Held on March 11, 2024**

The St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education and the City of St. Johns Commission met in regular session on Monday, March 11, 2024, in the High School Orchestra Room. President Jackson called the Board of Education meeting and Mayor Dzurka called the City of St. Johns Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board of Education Members Present: Boak, Darragh, Elliott, Jackson, Mansfield, Nelson, Watson, and Student Representative Koenigsknecht

**ATTENDANCE**

Members Absent: None

City of St. Johns Commissioners Present: Dzurka, Gurski, Hufnagel, Hyzer, Ruestman

Members Absent: None

Motion by Secretary Boak, with support by Treasurer Nelson, to approve the board of education agenda. Agenda approved unanimously.

**AGENDA APPROVED**

City Commissioners agenda was approved.

Motion by Member Mansfield, with support by Member Elliott, to approve the regular board of education meeting minutes from the meeting held on February 12, 2024. Motion unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES**

City Commissioners minutes were approved.

There were no in-person or online public comments.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Superintendent Berthiaume gave an update on the bond proposals, reminding community members there is a zero millage increase and this is an investment for the community and for our students. He thanked the district steering committee for volunteering their time. Questions were asked and answered.

**JOINT BOARD AND  
COMMISSION MEETING  
AGENDA ITEMS  
UPDATE ON BOND PROPOSAL**

Superintendent Berthiaume and City Manager Gamble shared a map of the city sidewalks and gave the Board of Education and City Commissioners an overview of the Safe Routes to School Program and what it entails. Questions were asked and answered.

**SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL  
(SRTS) PROGRAM OVERVIEW  
AND DISCUSSION**

City Manager Gamble gave the Board of Education and the City Commissioners an update on the Wilson Community Center by presenting a slideshow sharing what the Wilson Center will be used for. Questions were asked and answered.

**WILSON COMMUNITY CENTER  
CONSTRUCTION UPDATE AND**

**USE/PROGRAMMING  
DISCUSSION**

City Manager Gamble gave the Board of Education and the City Commissioners an update on the Fantasy Forest project. Questions were asked and answered.

**FANTASY FOREST 2.0 UPDATE**

The Board of Education and the City Commissioners went around the room and shared thoughts on the joint meeting. Many members shared their excitement about the joint meeting and the topics that are being discussed.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION ON  
IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR GREAT COLLABORATION  
BETWEEN THE BOARD AND  
COMMISSION**

City Manager Gamble thanked the Board of Education for hosting the joint meeting. He shared the importance of the partnership and committed to sustain the relationship.

**MANAGER COMMENTS**

The City Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m. The Board of Education took a short break and reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

**CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
ADJOURNMENT**

**REPORTS AND  
INFORMATION**

Middle School Principal, Andrea Hallead introduced Molly and Jessie from Set Seg. They presented Middle School Teacher, Katy White, with a 2024 excellence award and a check for the LINKS program to help further the program's success.

**EDUCATION EXCELLENCE  
AWARD PRESENTATION**

Director of Finance, Daniel Romzek, gave an overview of the Section 127 Plan, also known as the student loan forgiveness for educators who work directly with students. He shared this will be on the April agenda for approval. Questions were asked and answered.

**SECTION 127 PLAN**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Superintendent Berthiaume shared the recommendation from Thrun Law Firm of having only one section of public comment during a board meeting. Members agreed to continue having two options for public comment.

**ONE SESSION OF PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

Superintendent Berthiaume opened the conversation about changing the meeting start time to 6:30 p.m. to accommodate Members' work schedules. Members agreed to discuss the start time during the Organizational Meeting in July.

**MEETING START TIME**

Motion by Member Watson, with support by Treasurer Nelson, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the consent grouping number IX A1, B1, B2, and C1. Motion was approved.

**APPROVAL OF  
CONSENT GROUPING  
ITEMS**

Approved expenditures for the payment of bills for February 2024:

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

General Fund	\$1,938,091.22
Food Service Fund	\$87,937.06
Activity Fund	\$39,647.37
Public Improvement Fund	\$244,480.00
2020 Energy Bond	\$24,326.62
<i>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</i>	<i>\$2,334,482.27</i>

Approved the resignation of the following St. Johns Public Schools employees: Shara Adams – Custodian at the Middle School and Thomas Streeter – Physics and Math Teacher at the High School (with the intent to retire).

**RESIGNATION APPROVAL**

Approved the leave of absence request of the following St. Johns Public Schools employee: Allison Zuke-Osika – World History Teacher at the High School.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE APPROVAL**

**ACTION ITEMS**

Motion by Vice President Darragh, with support by Member Elliott, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the high school band trip to Hawaii March 26-April 2, 2025, as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

**BAND TRIP TO HAWAII APPROVAL**

There was no motion on this item.

**ONE SESSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT APPROVAL**

Motion by Secretary Boak, with support by Vice President Darragh, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the registration for Member Elliott’s attendance at MASB Spring Institute courses CBA 106, 108, 253, 365, and 261 on April 19 and 20, 2024. Motion unanimously approved.

**MASB SPRING INSTITUTE 2024 REGISTRATION APPROVAL**

**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

Executive Directors gave updates to the Board of Education within their departments.

**SUPERINTENDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT**

Superintendent Berthiaume expressed his thanks to the admin team, board of education, staff, and community. He reminded to share factual information to the community regarding the bond. He shared that he and Mr. Winkel have been working to make summer school more efficient and user friendly.

Student Representative Koenigsnecht provided members of the Board of Education with updates including sports, princess tea party, choir, band and orchestra festival. She shared that Superintendent Berthiaume helped out at senior interviews, and that the middle school is doing Frozen Jr. for their upcoming musical in April.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

The Board of Education received in-person public comments about the upcoming bond from Chris DeLiso and Kathy George.

**PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS**

There were no online public comments.

Member Mansfield shared her opposition for the upcoming bond. Other members shared why they support the bond. Many members congratulated the LINKS program, as well as thanking the City for the joint meeting. Vice President Darragh shared that he watched the band and orchestra perform.

President Jackson adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Boak, Secretary  
St. Johns Board of Education  
Minutes submitted by: Chelsea Peterson, Recording Secretary