

**St. Johns Public Schools  
St. Johns, Michigan  
Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
Held on June 12, 2023**

The St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, June 12, 2023, at the High School Orchestra Room. President Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Members Present: Boak, Darragh, Elliott, Jackson, Nelson, Watson, and Student Representative Koenigsnecht

**ATTENDANCE**

Members Absent: Mansfield

Motion by Treasurer Nelson, with support by Member Elliott, to approve the agenda. Agenda approved as presented.

**AGENDA APPROVED**

Motion by Secretary Boak, with support by Member Watson, to approve the regular meeting minutes from the meeting held on May 8, 2023. Motion unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES**

Motion by Member Elliott, with support by Secretary Boak, to approve the special meeting minutes from the meeting held on May 15, 2023. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion by Vice President Darragh, with support by Treasurer Nelson, to approve the special meeting minutes from the meeting held on May 16, 2023. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion by Treasurer Nelson, with support by Member Elliott, to approve the special meeting minutes from the meeting held on May 25, 2023. Motion unanimously approved.

Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Human Resources, Kelly Corbett, provided the 2022-2023 budget amendment information for the general fund, food service fund, and student activity fund. Questions were asked and answered.

**2022-2023 BUDGET  
AMENDMENT FOR GENERAL  
FUND, FOOD SERVICE AND  
STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Human Resources, Kelly Corbett, presented the projected general fund, food service fund and student/school activity fund budgets for the 2023-2024 school year. The presentation included enrollment projections, and a financial overview.

**2023-2024 PROPOSED  
BUDGET FOR GENERAL  
FUND, FOOD SERVICE AND  
SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Human Resources, Kelly Corbett, provided information on the 2023-2024 Tax Levy.

**L-4029 TAX LEVY**

There were no in person or online public comments.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Curriculum Director, Mike Winkel, presented the Board of Education with the recommendations for teachers that should be granted tenure.

**REPORTS AND  
INFORMATION  
TEACHER TENURE  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

As required by law, Superintendent Palmer provided the Board of Education with the 2022-2023 Matt Epling Safe School Law Annual Report.

**THE MATT EPLING SAFE  
SCHOOL LAW**

Curriculum Director, Mike Winkel, provided the Board of Education with an update on the students progress thus far in the school year.

**BENCHMARK ASSESSMENT  
REPORT**

High school teachers Heather Stevons and Joey Hessinger presented the Board of Education with information on the math curriculum they would like to purchase. Questions were asked and answered.

**HIGH SCHOOL MATH  
CURRICULUM PRESENTATION**

Special Education Director, Mary Garrigus, recommended to the Board of Education a family to represent St. Johns that have been approved by CCRESA.

**CCRESA PARENT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REPRESENTATIVE**

Superintendent Mark Palmer shared information with the Board of Education on joining the social media lawsuit, which could get us funds to pay for mental health or future damages.

**SOCIAL MEDIA LAWSUIT  
RESOLUTION**

Curriculum Director, Mike Winkel, shared information to the Board of Education requesting another year of Capturing Kids Hearts, due to the positive feedback. He shared the updates Capturing Kids Hearts would offer.

**CAPTURING KIDS HEARTS  
TRAINING, YEAR 2**

Superintendent Mark Palmer shared a flier with the Board recommending the purchase of ParentGuidance.org to help student mental health in our community. It would be beneficial for both students and parents.

**PARENTGUIDANCE.ORG  
MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES**

Motion by Member Watson, with support by Member Elliott, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the consent grouping numbers IX - A1, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, B8, C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C8, C9, C10, C11, D1, and E1. Motion unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF  
CONSENT GROUPING  
ITEMS**

Approved expenditures for the payment of bills for May 2023:

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

General Fund	\$2,577,621.64
Food Service Fund	\$24,430.99
Activity Fund	\$60,536.22
2010 (QSCB) Series A Debt Fund	\$3,325.00
2010 (BAB) Series B Debt Fund	\$75.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$2,665,988.85</b>

Approved the hiring of the following St. Johns Public Schools employees: Jakob DeGeer - Part-Time Custodian, Kaylin Ewald - Kindergarten Teacher at Eureka Elementary, Shelby Parks - 1st Grade Teacher at Gateway North Elementary, Ciara O'Hare - High School Psychology Teacher, Courtney Pohl - 2nd Grade Teacher at Gateway North Elementary, Marissa Spalding - 2nd Grade Teacher at Riley Elementary, Jonathan Brook - High School Chemistry Teacher, Hayden Dyer - Middle School Family and Life Skills Teacher.

**NEW HIRE APPROVALS**

Approved the resignation of the following St. Johns Public School employees: Linda Sue Gladstone - Librarian at Riley Elementary, Zachery Hatten - High School Teacher, Rachel Hoten - Preschool SSP at Oakview South Elementary, Kathi Hufnagel - Custodian, Sarah Finley - Data Management Specialist, Tamara Bowman - High School Guidance Secretary, Bryce Harger - Program Director of Adventure Club at Gateway North Elementary, Emily Hyzer - Preschool Teacher at Oakview South Elementary, Shawn Gilbert - Preschool Teacher at Oakview South Elementary, Brooke Rea - Social Worker at Riley Elementary, Jill Huff - High School Cafeteria Worker.

**RESIGNATION APPROVALS**

Approved the position transfers of the following St. Johns Public Schools employees: LaTonya Hoort - High School Food Service Manager to Food Service Director, Andrew Fillwock - High School Student Success Coach to Eureka Elementary Principal.

**POSITION TRANSFERS  
APPROVAL**

Approved the termination of the following St. Johns Public Schools employee: Sellenna Weaver - Building SSP at Eureka Elementary.

**TERMINATION APPROVAL**

Motion by Secretary Boak, with support by Treasurer Nelson, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the proposed granting tenure to the following teachers effective at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, or on the anniversary date of their hire: 1. Bernard Barrett, 2. Jeremy Colton, 3. Lukas Feldpausch, 4. Joe Foster, 5. Joshua Gove, 6. Colton Hengesbach, 7. Alyssa Hart, 8. Dana Platte, 9. Alexandria Svoboda, 10. Kathleen Warriner, and 11. Caroline Whitford. Motion unanimously approved. President Jackson asked for clarification on the tenure process, Mike provided the information.

**ACTION ITEMS  
TEACHER TENURE  
RECOMMENDATION  
APPROVAL**

Motion by Vice President Darragh, with support by Secretary Boak, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approves the entry of the employment contract as presented with Anthony Berthiaume for the position of Superintendent of St. Johns Public Schools. Motion unanimously approved via a 6-0 roll call vote.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
CONTRACT APPROVAL**

Motion by Member Watson, with support by Vice President Darragh, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the High School Math Curriculum purchase in the amount of \$101,308.24, as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

**HIGH SCHOOL MATH  
CURRICULUM PURCHASE  
APPROVAL**

Motion by Member Elliott, with support by Secretary Boak, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the recommendation to appoint Mr. Brian Mills and Mrs. Kimberly Mills as the St. Johns representatives on the CCRESA Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). Motion unanimously approved.

**CCRESA PARENT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(PAC) REPRESENTATIVE  
APPROVAL**

Motion by Member Elliott, with support by Secretary Boak, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the resolution supporting the social media lawsuit.

**SOCIAL MEDIA LAWSUIT  
RESOLUTION APPROVAL**

Motion by Vice President Darragh, with support by Treasurer Nelson, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the Capturing Kids Hearts, year 2 program in the amount of \$154,000 using ESSER funds, as presented.

**CAPTURING KIDS HEARTS  
YEAR 2 TRAINING  
APPROVAL**

Motion by Treasurer Nelson, with support by Member Elliott, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the purchase of ParentGuidance.org Mental Health Resources subscription in the amount of \$33,000 using 31aa mental health grant funds.

**PARENTGUIDANCE.ORG  
MENTAL HEALTH  
RESOURCES APPROVAL**

Motion by Vice President Darragh, with support by Member Elliott, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the resolution supporting the MHSAA membership renewal for the 2023-2024 school year.

**2023-2024 MHSAA  
MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION  
APPROVAL**

Superintendent Palmer reviewed his written report. He shared information about the All Sports Camp the Athletics department was running. He mentioned there is a chance students will receive free meals next school year.

**BOARD  
COMMUNICATIONS  
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

He shared information on the bond community forum that took place last Monday and had about 20 residents attend. He shared he will be speaking at Rotary about the bond to spread the information to a new crowd of people.

Secretary Boak asked Superintendent Palmer what the next steps were for the bond, Palmer expressed they are going to make a priority list by continuing to work with the CM and architects for big picture costs, bring in coaches to discuss priorities, and have more meetings with the community.

Student Representative, Ella Koenigsknecht, gave updates on sports, and shared the musical will be Mean Girls. She shared information on high school sports camps, and expressed thanks to the football players for helping with the Soap Box Derby.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S  
REPORT**

The Board received in person public comments from DJ Logan congratulating Mr. Palmer, welcomed new staff, and shared excitement about the new math program as well as the Mean Girls play.

**PUBLIC AND BOARD  
COMMENTS**

The Board received online public comments from Josh Heethuis acknowledging all the retirees, especially Mark Palmer. He shared his excitement about continuing Capturing Kids Hearts, and that the middle school had a great year with new leadership, Andrea Hallead. He acknowledged the work done by the high school math team, and he shared that tenure is earned, not automatic.

President Jackson congratulated all retirees and new hires on behalf of all Board members and the math team was very informative. Member Elliott expressed it was a powerful meeting and happy to end the year on an upbeat note. Additionally, Treasurer Nelson thanked Kelly and the football players for their help at the soap box derby.

Secretary Boak shared his excitement to see the parent guidance move forward. Member Watson thanked the President and Vice President on the Superintendent contract. Vice President Darragh reflected on retiree Judy Larson and thanked her for her help with his daughter in 5th grade.

President Jackson shared the two envelopes with the Board members that were sent from students at Gateway North from their field trip to the zoo.

Member Elliott motioned that the St. Johns Board of Education move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the St. Johns SJEA contract and updates on negotiation status, and was supported by Treasurer Nelson.

**MOVE INTO  
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The motion passed unanimously via a 6-0 roll call vote, and the Board of Education moved into Executive Session at 9:20 p.m.

The Board of Education returned from Executive Session at 10:02 p.m.

**RETURN FROM  
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

President Jackson adjourned the meeting at 10:03 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

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