

**St. Johns Public Schools  
St. Johns, Michigan  
Minutes of Regular Virtual Meeting of the Board of Education  
Held on January 25, 2021**

The St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education met in regular session virtually on Monday, January 25, 2021. President Darragh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88350782125?pwd=NDA1Q21NVVNmSkNlVXJlQnpLd1Mxdz09>

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

**ATTENDANCE**

Members Absent: None

Motion by Vice President Drabek, with support by Member Jackson, to approve the agenda. Agenda approved as presented, via a 7-0 show of hands.

**AGENDA APPROVED**

Motion by Member Hallead, with support by Member Nelson, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from the meeting held on January 11, 2021. Motion unanimously approved via a 7-0 roll call vote.

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES**

Superintendent Mark Palmer presented the Board of Education with the latest version of the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan, for re-certification, as required by Michigan law. He reviewed the attendance rates, and that during times when the entire district was on remote learning, attendance actually went down, especially at the elementary level. President Darragh commented on the attendance on the full remote learning days. Superintendent Palmer stated it's more challenging for the younger students to connect, as having someone available to help them connect, is more challenging. Member Jackson asked about how the attendance of our students compares with other surrounding districts when talking to other area superintendents. Superintendent Palmer replied that the superintendents have not talked about attendance with each other for quite some time, and that they are usually consumed with talking about the weekly COVID update.

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

Rich Lund, St. Johns High School science teacher, shared his thoughts on the display of the Confederate flag in the St. Johns Public Schools environment.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Superintendent Mark Palmer provided the members of the Board of Education with information on the 2021-2022 Schools of Choice Program for St. Johns Public Schools. This included both the inter-district and intra-district programs.

**REPORTS AND  
INFORMATION  
SCHOOLS OF CHOICE  
PROGRAM REVIEW**

There were no additional questions from the members of the Board of Education about the plan and re-certification.

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

Curriculum Director Jason Gnegy briefly reviewed the information that was presented at the previous meeting.

**HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT PURCHASE  
REQUEST**

Superintendent Palmer and Director of Business and Finance Kelly Corbett provided the Board of Education with information on the request to provide the Superintendent with the authorization to sign, on behalf of the District, Form 2848 - Power of Attorney for the IRS Closing Agreement. This agreement is for resolution of the 2010 issue where all school employees were required to contribute 3% to their retiree health care, which was eventually ruled unconstitutional. The current deadline for the signing is February 5, 2021 but this deadline may be extended. Vice President Drabek asked a question about former employees that were taxed from 2010 to 2014; these employees were reimbursed in 2018.

**IRS CLOSING AGREEMENT  
AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Motion by Member Jackson, with support by Vice President Drabek, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the consent grouping Number VIII, A1, B1, and C1. Motion unanimously approved via a 7-0 roll call vote.

**APPROVAL OF  
CONSENT  
GROUPING  
ITEMS**

Approved expenditures for the payment of bills for December 2020:

General Fund	\$1,396,450.00
Food Service Fund	\$8,142.39
Activity Fund	\$7,223.96
Energy Bond Construction	\$947,962.14
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$2,359,778.49

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Approved the resignation of the following St. Johns Public Schools employee:  
Roberta Ganong, Bus Driver

**RESIGNATION APPROVAL**

Approved the termination of the following St. Johns Public Schools employee:  
Monica Koch, Oakview South Elementary SSP.

**TERMINATION APPROVAL**

Motion by Member Nelson, with support by Member Hallead, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education re-certify the district's Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan, as presented. Motion unanimously approved via a 7-0 roll call vote.

**ACTION ITEMS  
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 enthusiastically approve the high school science department purchase, as presented, in the amount not to exceed \$56,624.20. Motion unanimously approved via a 7-0 roll call vote.

**HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT PURCHASE  
REQUEST**

Motion by Member Nelson, with support by Member Jackson, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education authorize Superintendent Palmer to sign the IRS Form 2848 Power of Attorney appointing Dykema Gossett, PLLC to represent the district in the matter of the Michigan Public School Closing Agreement. Motion unanimously approved via a 7-0 roll call vote.

**IRS CLOSING AGREEMENT  
AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Superintendent Palmer reviewed his written report. He congratulated elementary art teacher, Josh Gove, as the recipient of the Excellence in Education award. He was nominated for this honor by a parent at Gateway North Elementary. He receives \$1500, plus the building (Gateway North) will receive an additional \$500. He also highlighted the BPA students in their success at the regional competition. The mid-year COVID-19 learning plan is due February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**BOARD  
COMMUNICATIONS  
SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Student Representative Kiel reported that since the last meeting there have not been any changes or interruptions in both learning options that are in place. He provided an update on high school and middle school teams and clubs, including the success of the competition play team taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the district festival; they will proceed to regionals. He also shared the success of the BPA team and their advancement to the state level.

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVE'S  
REPORT**

DJ Logan, Gateway North Elementary kindergarten teacher, thanked those at the district that arranged to get the staff vaccinated.

**PUBLIC AND BOARD  
COMMENTS**

Rich Lund, high school science teacher, shared his efforts to be a voice that advocates for the monarch butterfly population. He also expressed his support of Black Lives Matter.

Several Board of Education members congratulated Mr. Gove, and the BPA students.

President Darragh adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

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