

**St. Johns Public Schools
St. Johns, Michigan
Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Held on August 9, 2021**

The St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, August 9, 2021, at the St. Johns High School Auditorium. President Darragh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Darragh, Drabek, Hallead, Jackson, Nelson, and Watson

ATTENDANCE

Members Absent: Dedyne

President Darragh appointed Member Nelson as acting secretary for the meeting, as Secretary Dedyne was absent.

**ACTING SECRETARY
APPOINTED**

Motion by Vice President Drabek, with support by Member Jackson, to approve the agenda. Agenda approved as presented.

AGENDA APPROVED

Motion by Member Hallead, with support by Member Jackson, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from the meeting held on July 1, 2021. Motion unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

James Sills, district parent, expressed concern for how students will maintain their studies if we are in quarantine, and also asked to what degree critical race theory will be taught in our curriculum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gayle Griggs, district parent, was thankful for allowing parents to make the choice for their children to wear masks. She also shared concerns on how children deal with having to wear masks.

Armando Gutierrez, parent of future children in the district, has questions as to what is taught in the district's sexual education curriculum.

Brenda Thelen, district parent, shared her concerns about the lack of timeliness of posting grades, the lack of follow up she received, and the effect this had on her student.

Karen Andrews, district parent, shared her concerns of teaching critical race theory.

Raquel Dietrich, community member, shared statistics, and her concerns about the effects of wearing masks.

Dan Davenport, district parent, expressed his views on wearing masks. While speaking, President Darragh paused the meeting due to an audience member who was out of order.

President Darragh declared the meeting shall stand at ease at 7:25 pm.

STAND AT EASE

President Darragh called the meeting back to order at 7:30 pm.

MEETING RESUMED

Dan Davenport continued with his comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

William Hooks expressed his concerns for the feelings of those in the room, and the lack of information he receives.

Cheryl Schulze shared her concerns on the health of students and wearing masks.

Kevin Collins, district parent, expressed his concern with again limiting visitors to the buildings for the new school year. He also would like the district to revisit the possibility of a before and after school daycare program in the Riley area.

Online participation:

Kelly Havens, district parent, expressed her concerns for a mask mandate. She also has concerns about bullying.

Tamara Bellinger, district employee and grandparent, shared her thoughts on wearing masks in school.

Iphone user identified as Sara Johnson, district parent, had concerns with the new principal.

Sherry Anderson, community member, thanked the Board for their proposed plan, and for their courteous and kind answers to her questions and concerns.

Superintendent Palmer reviewed the 2021-2022 Back to School Plan.

**REPORTS AND
INFORMATION
2021-2022 BACK TO
SCHOOL PLAN**

Superintendent Palmer provided an overview of the handbooks and curriculum guides. There were no questions from the members of the Board of Education.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS
BUILDING HANDBOOKS
AND CURRICULUM GUIDES**

Motion by Treasurer Watson, with support by Member Nelson, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the consent grouping Number VII, A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, C1 and C2. Motion approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF
CONSENT
GROUPING
ITEMS**

Approved the hiring of the following St. Johns Public Schools employees:
Kathleen Warriner -St. Joseph Catholic and St. Peter Lutheran Music Teacher,
Lauren Plotzke – Middle School Life Skills Teacher, Mark Dobson – High School Principal, Christine Zehr – Technology Department Secretary, Savannah Buzinski – Riley Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher, Amy Fedewa – Middle School Food Service, and Tonia Denslow – High School Food Service.

NEW HIRE APPROVAL

Approved the resignation of the following St. Johns Public Schools employees: Hannah Fuller – Middle School SSP, Sandra Brewbaker – Technology Department Secretary, Beth Hurren – Oakview South 4th Grade Teacher, Mike Wiley – Middle School Special Education Teacher, and Nicole Everts – STRIVE Academy Food Service.

RESIGNATION APPROVAL

Approved the termination of the following St. Johns Public Schools employees: Sherry Lindquist – Wilson Center Custodian, and Tiffany Hull – Summer Food Service Staff.

TERMINATION APPROVAL

Motion by Member Hallead, with support by Member Jackson, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approves the 2021-2022 Building Handbooks, Curriculum Guides, and Course Guides, as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

**ACTION ITEMS
BUILDING HANDBOOKS AND
CURRICULUM GUIDES**

Motion by Vice President Drabek, with support by Member Hallead, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the 2021-2022 Back to School Plan as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

**2021-2022 BACK TO
SCHOOL PLAN**

Superintendent Palmer provided the Board of Education with an update on staffing, the energy project, and technology purchases and installations.

**BOARD
COMMUNICATIONS
SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Gary Schnepf shared his concerns about wearing masks, the COVID-19 virus, and the socio-emotional health this is having on students.

**PUBLIC AND BOARD
COMMENTS**

Charli Langlois shared her concerns on wearing masks, bullying, and offered alternatives on how to deal with bullying.

Members of the Board of Education welcomed the new staff and thanked those present at tonight's meeting. They also commented on mask wearing, and the need and importance of communication and followup.

President Darragh adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

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