

MINUTES - REGULAR BOARD MEETING

St. Joseph County Intermediate School District Board of Education

PLACE: St. Joseph County ISD Administration Building, Centreville, Michigan.

DATE: October 20, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth O'Dell, Benjamin Fries, Terry Cropper, Theresa Danberry, Patricia Keller

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Teresa Belote - Superintendent, Benjamin Daugherty, Jim Berry, Pam Panozzo-Jones, Miranda Bourassa, Amanda Miller, Kim Pavsek, Pete Gardner, Amanda Clark, Helenia Robinson, Theresa Sussdorf and Yvonne Vanderwiel.

The Regular Board Meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Board President Elizabeth O'Dell.

Mrs. O'Dell opened the meeting by leading the "Pledge of Allegiance."

Mrs. O'Dell offered time for Public Participation, none was taken.

Introduction of new staff: Pete Gardner Facilities/Transportation Supervisor welcomed Amanda Clark, Bus Aide; Pam Panozzo-Jones, Executive Director Special Education welcomed Helenia Robinson, Special Education Supervisor.

It was moved by Mrs. Keller and supported by Mr. Fries to add to the Consent Agenda amended September 15, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes and adding September 15, 2025 Closed Session minutes, as presented. Ayes: O'Dell, Fries, Danberry, Cropper, Keller Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0. Consent Agenda included the Minutes of September 15, 2025 Regular Meeting (Amended) and Closed Session Minutes (added); Financial Report as of September 30, 2025; and Approval of Monthly Expenditures: General Fund (\$543,892.34), CTE (\$181,366.71), Information Services (\$327,909.96), Special Education (\$1,437,875.40); Approve the hire and contract with the following staff: Jalynn Rootes, Early On/Early Childhood School Social Worker, effective 9/22/25, Patricia Mitchell, Part Time Early On SLP, 10/9/25; Approve the resignation, termination and/or retirement of Jessica Bates, Marketing/Communication Specialist, effective 10/10/25.

It was moved by Mr. Fries and supported by Mrs. Keller to approve the following Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) information as presented:

- a. Program Report
- b. Average Daily Attendance
- c. Purchase Card Statements
- d. Personnel Report

Information Only:

- e. September 8, 2025 Policy Council Minutes

Ayes: O'Dell, Fries, Danberry, Cropper, Keller. Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.
(*Quorum established with at least 51% of current members.*)

It was moved by Rev. Cropper and supported by Mrs. Keller to approve the Second Reading and Adoption of the following Board Policies & Revisions as recommended by Thrun Law Firm and the Board Policy Committee

- a. 4221 Employee Search

b. 5407 Instructional Program and Curriculum Development

Ayes: O'Dell, Fries, Danberry, Cropper, Keller. Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

It was moved by Mrs. Keller and supported by Rev. Cropper to approve the appointment of Sandy Zapata (Constantine Public Schools) to the St. Joseph County Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) for a term of October 20, 2025 - August 31, 2027.

Ayes: O'Dell, Fries, Danberry, Cropper, Keller. Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

It was moved by Mrs. Keller and supported by Mr. Fries to approve the layoff of personnel for the following employees, due to funding elimination, effective December 31, 2025:

- a. Stephanie Zann, Great Start Collaborative Coordinator
- b. Amanda Johnson, Great Start Parent Liaison

Ayes: O'Dell, Fries, Danberry, Cropper, Keller. Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Superintendent Belote gave additional information including how this will leave work unfinished, Great Start Collaborative will need to shift funds, and she will give feedback to the Legislature regarding the loss to communities. President O'Dell requested that letters be written and sent to the Legislature, State Senators, and the Governor asking for support.

President O'Dell reviewed the following informational and communication items:

- Welcomed additional new employees, contingent upon successful return of criminal records check, misconduct form, and receipt of credentials:
 - a. Tru Rosen-Hunter, Virtual Learning Primary Support Person, effective 9/15/25
 - b. Marnie Smith, Virtual Learning Primary Support Person, effective 10/7/25
 - c. Isabella Nowak, Assistant Teacher, effective 10/2/25
 - d. Olivia Divittorio, Early Childhood/Special Education Assistant Teacher, effective 10/7/25
 - e. Patricia Mitchell, Part Time Early On SLP, 10/9/25
 - f. Jalynn Rootes, Early On/Early Childhood School Social Worker, effective 9/22/25 2.
- Other Personnel Updates

Dr. Belote's Superintendent's Report reflected an update on budget cuts and its effect on the GS Collaborative, Performance Profile Update: Pathfinder administrative team performance profile update. Board Goal update: CTE Road Shows are in process with positive feedback on the new brochure.

President O'Dell declared the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next ISD Board Meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes were recorded by Yvonne Vanderwiel, Administrative and Pupil Auditing Manager.

Board approved 11-17-25