

MINUTES - REGULAR BOARD MEETING - **AMENDED**

St. Joseph County Intermediate School District Board of Education

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

DATE: November 18, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Benjamin Fries, Elizabeth O'Dell, Michele Bush, Patricia Keller, Terry Cropper

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Teresa Belote, Kelli Dechnik, Miranda Bourassa, Ginelle Boyle, Jim Berry, Pam Panozzo-Jones, Amanda Miller, Peter Gardner, Britni Tyler, Ian Reese, and Theresa Sussdorf.

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

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

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

President O'Dell asked if there were any visitors and guests. With none being present, Peter Gardner, Facilities and Transportation Supervisor, introduced a new hire to his department, Britni Tyler, Bus Aide.

Ian Rees, CPA from Gabridge & Company, presented the St. Joseph County ISD 2023-2024 Financial Audit Report. He reported that Kelli Dechnik, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Operations, & H.R., along with her team, always does a nice job. It was a clean opinion audit with no findings.

President O'Dell opened the Public Hearing for the Content Filtering Annual Review at 4:47 p.m. As noted on the agenda, the information for the two content filtering systems were available for public review today from 4:00-4:30 p.m. Dr. Belote reported there were no visitors or guests that attended the public hearing. President O'Dell asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. The public hearing closed at 4:49 p.m.

It was moved by Mrs. Bush and supported by Mrs. Keller to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ayes: Copper, Bush, Fries, O'Dell, Keller. Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0. Consent Agenda included Minutes of October 21, 2024 Regular Meeting; Financial Report as of October 31, 2024; and Approval of Monthly Invoices: General Fund (\$958,161.22), CTE (\$211,150.44), Information Services (\$274,226.30), Special Education (\$2,101,840.80); Approve the hire and contract with the following staff: Kayla Gonzalez, Early Head Start Associate Teacher; Deborah Thompson, Social Worker; Patricia Ahrens, Brailist; Kelsi Steiner, GSRP Associate Teacher; Approve the termination of the following staff: Julie Lantz, GSRP Lead Teacher, effective 11/5/24.

It was moved by Rev. Cropper and supported by Mr. Fries 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. PC Personnel Report
- e. EHS Continuation Application, **including the Non-Federal Share Waiver (within the Application)**
- f. Policy Council Approval Letter for Continuation Grant  
Informational Only:
- g. October 28, 2024 Policy Council Minutes
- h. ACF-OHS-IM-24-05 Use of Federal Early Childhood Program Funds to Improve Access to Housing-Related Supports for Early Childhood Workforce in Tribal Communities
- i. ACF-OHS-PI-24-06 Final Rule on Supporting the Head Start Workforce and Consistent Quality Programming - Technical Updates

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

It was moved by Mrs. Keller and supported by Mr. Fries to approve the 2023-2024 Financial Audit for St. Joseph County ISD. Ayes: Bush, Cropper, Keller, Fries, O'Dell. Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Keller made a motion recommending the board not approve the Insulin Litigation Resolution and Contract with Thrun Law Firm, P.C., Mr. Cropper supported the motion. Ayes: Bush, Cropper, Keller, Fries, O'Dell. Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

It was moved by Mr. Fries and supported by Mrs. Keller to approve a RFP for a CTE Mobile Fab Lab (truck, trailer, equipment and required items). Ayes: Bush, Cropper, Keller, Fries, O'Dell. Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

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

- Welcomed our additional new employees, contingent upon successful return of criminal record check, misconduct form, and receipt of credentials:
  - Britni Tyler, Bus Aide
  - Brian Wiggins, Diesel Technician
- Other Personnel Updates

President O'Dell reported on the MASB Annual Conference she attended in Lansing, October 24-27, 2024.

Dr. Belote thanked Pam Panozzo-Jones, Director of Special Education, for soliciting the donation of a beverage cart for Pathfinder, helping students with their fundraising goals.

Dr. Belote gave her superintendent's report which included board goals. On November 12th, along with the director of MASA, she distributed winter care bags to Pathfinder & GSRP students, which were received as part of a MASA Impact drawing winning entry. They also presented a donation check to Pathfinder's Operation Reindeer as part of the winnings. That same evening, she hosted the first Women in Leadership event in St. Joseph County. It was well attended and gained positive feedback. She congratulated CTE on receiving a grant to expand pathways for medical occupations. She informed the board of her invitation from MDE and acceptance to participate in a small task force to review, analyze and make suggestions on improving the current seclusion and restraint law.

President O'Dell declared the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes were recorded by Theresa Sussdorf, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent.

Board approved 1-20-24