

MINUTES - REGULAR BOARD MEETING - DRAFT

St. Joseph County Intermediate School District Board of Education

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

DATE: February 17, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Benjamin Fries, Terry Cropper, Michele Bush

MEMBERS ABSENT: Elizabeth O'Dell, Patricia Keller

OTHERS PRESENT: Teresa Belote, Kelli Dechnik, Ben Daugherty, Jim Berry, Amanda Miller, Pam Panozzo-Jones, Miranda Bourassa..

The Regular Board Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Board Vice President Fries.

Mr. Fries opened the meeting by leading the "Pledge of Allegiance."

Mr. Fries offered time for visitors and guests. He also offered time for Public Participation. None was taken for either..

Jim Berry, Director of Career and Technical Education, presented National CTE Month and local program highlights. The highlights included HVAC, Electrical and Plumbing receiving an invite to the CTE Showcase where Chad Spence received the Mi ACTE award. In addition, Helen Hoffman, program teacher and three students presented on the Aviation Program, which included their favorite part of the program.

Mr. Fries indicated he would like to amend #6 under the action items. It was moved by Mrs. Bush and supported by Rev. Cropper to include Anna Newman and Karrie Frederick to the District Wide Professional Development Advisory Committee, Action Item #6. Ayes: Cropper, Bush, Fries. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-0.

It was moved by Rev. Cropper and supported by Mrs. Bush to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ayes: Cropper, Bush, Fries. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-0. Consent Agenda included Minutes of January 20, 2025 Regular Meeting; Financial Report as of January 31, 2025; and Approval of Monthly Invoices: General Fund (\$926,718.14), CTE (\$569,885.68), Information Services (\$83,640.12), Special Education (\$1,391,069.44); Approve the resignation, termination and/or retirement of the following staff: Erin Petersen, Elementary Support Program Teacher, effective 1/24/25; Lance Berrier, Special Education Assistant Principal, effective 2/7/25; and Nathaniel Gonder, IS Coordinator, effective 3/7/25.

It was moved by Mrs. Bush and supported by Rev. Cropper 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. Non-Federal Share Waiver, includes signing approval letter
- f. Agreements with Child Care Partners, effective March 1, 2025:
 - i. Bright Beginnings - Jessica Argo, 8 spots
 - ii. Building Blocks Preschool and CC Center - New Hope Assembly, 4 spots
 - iii. Christine's Early Learning Center - Christine Sheteron, 9 spots
 - iv. Little Fawn's Daycare - Michelle Smith, 10 spots
 - v. Playschool on 5th - Jasmine Anteau, 3 spots

vi. Wee Kids Daycare - Amanda Ketchum, 10 spots

Informational Only:

- g. January 13, 2025 Policy Council Minutes
- h. ACF-OHS-IM-02 Fiscal Year 2025 Monitoring Process for Head Start Recipients
- i. ACF-OHS-IM-25-01 Supporting Food Security and Access to Indigenous Foods for Children and Families in Tribal Early Childhood Programs

Ayes: Fries, Cropper, Bush. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-0.
(*Quorum established with at least 51% of current members.*)

Mr. Fries indicated he would like to amend the wording of Action Item #3. It was moved by Rev. Cropper and supported by Mrs. Bush to add a zero on the end of the fund balance, reflecting \$2,350,000. Ayes, Bush, Fries, Cropper. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-0.

It was moved by Rev. Cropper and supported by Mrs. Bush to approve the transfer of \$600,000 from the Special Education Fund to the Special Education Committed Fund Balance for Garage/Transportation Facility. *This would bring the fund balance to \$2,350,000 or 10% of Committed Funds.* Ayes: Bush, Cropper, Fries. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-0.

It was moved by Rev. Cropper and supported by Mrs. Bush to approve Elizabeth O'Dell as candidate for the MASB Board of Directors, noting that O'Dell is a certified board member and is more than qualified. Ayes: Bush, Cropper, Fries. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-0.

It was moved by Mrs. Bush and supported by Rev. Cropper to approve Board Policy #3118 Title IX Sexual Harassment revision as recommended by Thrun Law Firm. (This would go back to the 2020 board policy). Ayes: Fries, Bush, Cropper. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-0.

It was moved by Mrs. Bush and supported by Rev. Cropper to approve the District-Wide Professional Development Advisory Committee (as amended, adding Anna Newman and Kerrie Frederick). Ayes: Cropper, Fries, Bush. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-0.

It was moved by Mrs. Bush and supported by Rev. Cropper to approve the purchase of a new bus for special education transportation for \$171,027 from Midwest Transit for the 24-25 school year. Ayes: Bush, Fries, Cropper. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-0.

It was moved by Rev. Cropper and supported by Mrs. Bush to approve the Revised 2024-25 Non-Union Conditions of Employment, effective 2/1/25. Ayes: Cropper, Bush, Fries. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-0.

Dr. Belote's Superintendent's Report information on the Governor's 25-26 budget and noted an increase of 4%; executive orders that are being discussed, Early Childhood's community workshop in March and their offer of free preschool for GSRP; and thanked Ben Daughtery, Information Services Director, and his team with their continued efforts in working on the cyber security PowerSchool issue.

Vice President Fries reviewed the following informational and communication items:

- Other Personnel Updates
- June 2, 2025 Board election details, indicating Mrs. Bush is stepping down from the board as announced in the January meeting.
- Congratulations to the ISD for the Certificate of Excellence from MSP for achieving 100% Pass Rate for School Bus Safety Inspections for 23-24. Dr. Belote indicated it is a big deal, as it is almost impossible to achieve due to the standards.

Vice President Fries declared the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next ISD Board Meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2025.

Minutes were recorded by Kelli Dechnik, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Operations and HR.

Michele Bush, Board Secretary

Elizabeth O'Dell, Board President