

## MINUTES - REGULAR BOARD MEETING

St. Joseph County Intermediate School District Board of Education

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

DATE: June 16, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth O'Dell, Benjamin Fries, Michele Bush, Patricia Keller, Terry Cropper (arrived at 5:14 pm)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Teresa Belote, Kelli Dechnik, Amanda Miller, Pam Panozzo-Jones, Ginelle Boyle, Miranda Bourassa, Howard Bush, and Theresa Sussdorf.

The Regular Board Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm. by Board President Elizabeth O'Dell.

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

President O'Dell offered time for visitors and guests. Howard Bush, Michele Bush's husband, was present as a guest, with her board term expiring. President O'Dell also offered time for Public Participation. None was taken..

President O'Dell opened the Public Tax Hearing for 25-26 Budgets at 5:02 pm. After review of the information, she provided an opportunity for input and questions. After no input or questions were provided by the board or the public, President O'Dell closed the Public Tax Hearing at 5:03 pm.

It was moved by Mr. Fries and supported by Mrs. Keller to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ayes: Bush, Fries, Keller, O'Dell. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0. Consent Agenda included Minutes of May 19, 2025 Regular Meeting; Financial Report as of May 31, 2025; and Approval of Monthly Invoices: General Fund (\$1,016,153.82), CTE (\$365,805.80), Information Services (\$93,987.96), Special Education (\$1,573,268.96); Approve the hire and contract with the following staff, contingent upon successful return of criminal records check, misconduct form, and receipt of credentials: Jessica Konkle, SLP, effective 8/11/25; Lindsey Cox, Special Education Supervisor, effective 7/1/25; and Sara Baker, School Nurse RN, effective 6/16/25; Approve the resignation, termination and/or retirement of the following staff: Elisha Morales, School Nurse, effective 8/8/25; Ben Cunningham, Teacher Consultant - ASD, effective 5/30/25; and Bradley Prater, Special Education Supervisor, effective 6/30/25. Recommend approval of cabinet level contracts 2025-2026 for: Teresa Belote, Superintendent; James Berry, Director of CTE; Ginelle Boyle, Director of Early Childhood Services; Lindsey Cox, Special Education Supervisor; Ben Daugherty, Director of Information Services; Kelli Dechnik, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Operations, and Human Resources; Stacy Jancasz, Special Education Assistant Principal; Jennifer Leosh-Stahl, Special Education Monitor for Accountability & Program Improvement; Amanda Miller, Director of Instructional Leadership and Social Emotional Learning; Pam Panozzo-Jones, Executive Director of Special Education; Sandra Spicher, Special Education Principal; and Alexander Stieve, Early Childhood/K-12 Special Education Supervisor.

It was moved by Mrs. Bush 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. PC Personnel Report
- e. Non-Federal Share Waiver Requested Grant #05HP000520-01 & Letter Informational Only:
- f. May 12, 2025 Policy Council Minutes

Ayes: Fries, Bush, O'Dell, Keller. None. Motion carried 4-0.  
(*Quorum established with at least 51% of current members.*)

It was moved by Mr. Fries and supported by Mrs. Keller to approve the 2024-25 Budget Revisions and approval of 2025-26 Proposals for General Fund, Career & Technical Education, Information Services, and Special Education. Ayes: Bush, Keller, Fries, O'Dell. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

It was moved by Mrs. Bush and supported by Mr. Fries to approve the 25-26 Conditions of Employment for Non-Union Employees. Ayes: Bush, Fries, Keller, O'Dell. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

It was moved by Mrs. Keller and supported by Mr. Fries to approve the 2025-26 Parent-Student Handbook for Pathfinder Educational Center and Off-Site Programs. Ayes: Keller, Fries, Bush, O'Dell. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

It was moved by Mrs. Bush and supported by Mr. Fries to approve a new position of Language Facilitator. Ayes: O'Dell, Fries, Keller, Bush. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

It was moved by Mr. Fries and supported by Mrs. Keller to approve one additional IS Support Specialist. Ayes: Bush, Fries, Keller, O'Dell. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

It was moved by Mrs. Bush and supported by Mrs. Keller to approve the on-going agreement with the local districts for 2025-2026 as follows: a) Nottawa Community School - Fiscal (Business Manager, Payroll, Accounts Payable/Receivable); b) Nottawa Community School - Maintenance Services. Ayes: Fries, Bush, Keller, O'Dell.. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

It was moved by Mr. Fries and supported by Mrs. Keller to approve a 3% increase based on 24-25 hourly/salary amount for the 25-26 school year for all non-union employees and administration, including the superintendent. Ayes: Bush, O'Dell, Keller, Fries. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

President O'Dell reviewed the informational and the communication items welcoming new employees, contingent upon successful return of criminal records check, misconduct form, and receipt of credentials: Danielle Puorro, part time IS Intern, effective 5/27/25 and Isaiah Lawson, part time IS Intern, effective 6/9/25; and other personnel updates.

President O'Dell gave special recognition to Mrs. Michele Bush, board member whose term expires at the end this month and who did not seek re-election. Mrs. Bush has served on the St. Joseph County ISD School Board for 18 years. She also served on White Pigeon Community Schools School Board for 17 years, and dedicated more than 23 years of service as a teacher of special education in the county to students PreK through 12th grade. The board presented her with appreciate gifts and Mrs. O'Dell presented her with a special pin, Outstanding Performance, and thanked her for her years of service and advocating for children.

Dr. Belote closed out the meeting with her Superintendent's Report that provided information on CTE's automotive 5-year accreditation renewal, EMC/CTE Science grant, the move of Mendon's Pathfinder program to Sturgis and Three Rivers, technology update, a new Early Child Hood partner, to name a few. She also went over the House fiscal budget and changes that are concerning cuts in a lot of the categoricals.

President O'Dell declared the meeting adjourned at 5:27 pm.

Minutes were recorded by Theresa Sussdorf, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Pupil Accounting Auditor.

Board Approved 7-25-25