

MINUTES - REGULAR BOARD MEETING

St. Joseph County Intermediate School District Board of Education

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

DATE: August 19, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Benjamin Fries, Terry Cropper, Theresa Danberry, Patty Keller

MEMBERS ABSENT: Elizabeth O'Dell

OTHERS PRESENT: Teresa Belote, Kelli Dechnik, Ben Daugherty, Jim Berry, Amanda Miller, Pam Panozzo-Jones, Ginelle Boyle, Miranda Bourassa, Stacy Jancasz, DyAnn Steinberger, Lindsey Cox, Kathryn Gesmundo, Nick Vandenbrink, Sara Baker, Kristen De Oliveira, and Theresa Sussdorf

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.

Welcome and introduction of new staff included Nick Vandenbrink, CTE Special Populations Consultant introduced by Jim Berry, Director of CTE; Kathryn Gesmundo, CTE Office Assistant, introduced by DyAnn Steinberger, CTE Executive Assistant; Sara Baker, Nurse, introduced by Stacy Jancasz, Pathfinder Assistant Principal; and Lindsey Cox, Special Education Supervisor, introduced by Pam Panozzo-Jones, Executive Director of Special Education. Vice President Fries welcomed the group to the ISD.

Mrs. Patricia Keller took her Oath of Office, with her term expiring June 30, 2031. She was elected to a 6-year term at the June 2, 2025 ISD Board Election.

Pathfinder Assistant Principal, Stacy Jancasz, presented on new curriculum being implemented for the EI program at Pathfinder Educational Center. The new curriculum, i-Ready Math and Amplify CKLA Reading, is already in use at the two biggest local school districts, which will assist integration and re-integration between districts and the ISD. The curriculum follows all state standards and has proven to improve student outcomes. Stacy provided what some of the print material and workbooks that students will be using.

Mr. Fries ask for a motion to amend the agenda to add action item #5 to recommend the addition of one full time GSRP Associate Teacher, also to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

It was moved by Mrs. Keller and supported by Rev. Cropper, to amend the agenda as recommended by Mr. Fries, and to approve the Amended Consent Agenda. Ayes: Cropper, Fries, Danberry, Keller. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0. Consent Agenda included Minutes of the July 25, 2025 Organizational/Regular Meeting & July 25, 2025 Planning Meeting; Financial Report as of July 31, 2025; and Approval of Monthly Invoices: General Fund (\$1,011,474.39), CTE (\$1,163,561.47), Information Services (\$245,153.56), Special Education (\$1,090,339.30); Approve the hire and contract with the following staff, contingent upon successful return of criminal records check, misconduct form, and recipient of credentials: Christina Flick, Teacher Consultant no caseload, effective 8/4/25; Approve the resignation, termination and/or retirement of the following staff: Jennifer Leosh-Stahl, Special Education Monitor for Accountability and Program, effective 8/9/25; Sarah Bainbridge, Teacher, effective 8/8/25; and Trevor Johnson, Mental Health Consultant/Coach, effective 8/7/25.

It was moved by Mrs. Keller 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
Informational Only:
- e. July 14, 2025 Policy Council Minutes

Ayes: Fries, Cropper, Danberry, Keller. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.
(*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 of the following Board Policies & Revisions as recommended by Thrun Law Firm and the Board Policy Committee:

- 2504 - Public Participation at Board Meetings
- 3110 - Data Breach Response
- 3115 - Non-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment, and Non-Retaliation
- 3115A - Definitions for 3115 Series
- 3118 - Title IX Sexual Harassment
- 3211 - Post-Issuance Tax Compliance
- 3212 - Post-Issuance Disclosure Compliance
- 3301 - Purchasing and Procurement
- 3301A - Purchasing and Procurement with Federal Funds
- 3307 - Construction Administration
- 3402 - Drills, Plans, and Reports
- 3407 - Asbestos Management
- 3408 - Firearms and Weapons
- 4101 - Non-Discrimination
- 4103 - Whistleblowers Protection
- 4105B - Religious Workplace Accommodations for Employees and Applicants
- 4106 - Family and Medical Leave Act
- 4229 - Acceptable Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence
- 4407 - Discipline
- 4408 - Termination
- 4409 - Non-Renewal
- 5104 - Age of Majority
- 5202 - Unlawful Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Against Students
- 5401 - Parent Involvement in Education
- 5406 - Title I Funds
- 5411 - Student Promotion, Retention, and Placement
- 5420 - Sex Education
- 5603 - Section 504
- 5701 - Abuse and Neglect
- 5707 - School Wellness Policy
- 5712 - Concussion Awareness

Ayes: Danberry, Cropper, Keller, Fries. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

It was moved by Mrs. Keller and supported by Rev. Cropper to approve the Pathfinder EI Program curriculum as presented. Ayes: Cropper, Danberry, Fries, Keller. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

It was moved by Rev. Cropper and supported by Mrs. Keller to approve one additional full-time Virtual Learning Primary Support Person. Ayes, Danberry, Fries, Keller, Cropper. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

It was moved by Mrs. Keller and supported by Rev. Cropper to approve one additional full time GSRP Associate Teacher. Ayes: Fries, Cropper, Keller, Danberry. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Fries reviewed the following information and communication items:

- Welcomed our additional new employees, contingent upon successful return of criminal records check, misconduct form, and receipt of credentials:
 - Derrick Halferty, Custodian, effective 8/11/25
 - Elizabeth Halferty-Welborn, Bus Aide, effective 8/18/25
 - Jessica Hohn, Language Facilitator, effective 8/11/25
- Congratulations to the following employee on her retirement:
 - Janet McClain, effective 8/1/25
- Other Personnel Updates
- Reviewed the board member appointments for 2025-26 made by President O'Dell at the July 25, 2025 Organizational/Regular Board Meeting. No changes were recommended.

Dr. Belote's Superintendent's Report included information from the Human Services Commission stating education will continue to see cuts to funding. She has reached out to legislators on the federal law and the requirements for substitute permit requirements for special education classrooms.. She provided legislative updates, including potential cuts to CTE. She has reached out to State Representative Carra and Senator Lindsey, inviting them to the ISD and Superintendent's Meetings for legislative discussions and issues currently impacting education.

Vice President Fries declared the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next ISD Board Meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2025.

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

Board Approved 9-15-25