



MINUTES - REGULAR BOARD MEETING

St. Joseph County Intermediate School District Board of Education

PLACE: St. Joseph County ISD Administration Building, Centreville, Michigan
DATE: September 21, 2026
MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth O'Dell, Theresa Danberry, Patricia Keller, Rev. Terry Cropper (arrived 4:40)
MEMBERS ABSENT: Benjamin Fries
OTHERS PRESENT: James Berry-Superintendent, Pam Panozzo-Jones, Ginelle Boyle, Lucas Schrauben, Miranda Bourassa, Jamie Eymer, and DyAnn Steinberger

The Regular Board Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Board President Elizabeth O'Dell.

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

Ms. O'Dell offered time for visitors and guests. She also offered time for Public Participation. None was taken.

Welcome and introduction of new staff included Jamie Eymer, Career & Technical Education (CTE) Work-Based Learning Coordinator, introduced by CTE Executive Director Lucas Schrauben.

Presentation:

Ben Daugherty, Director of Technology, gave a presentation on a Regional Feasibility Study that was conducted for the St. Joseph County ISD, Heritage Southwest, KRESA, Allegan and Van Buren to collaborate on cybersecurity and engineering services within our regions. Mr. Daugherty answered several questions from board members with regard to artificial intelligence, possible elimination of Federal e-rate funding, technology department staffing, and district support.

Consent Agenda:

It was moved by Mrs. Keller and supported by Rev. Cropper to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented:

1. Minutes of August 17, 2026, Regular Meeting
2. Financial Report as of August 31, 2026
3. Monthly Expenditures:
 - a. General Fund in the amount of \$855,839.44
 - b. Career-Technical Education in the amount of \$167,086.71
 - c. Information Services in the amount of \$170,971.09
 - d. Special Education in the amount of \$1,356,760.58
4. Approve the hire and contract with the following staff, contingent upon successful return of criminal records check, misconduct form, and recipient of credentials:
 - a. Jamie Eymer, CTE Career Prep/Work-Based Learning Coordinator
 - b. Amanda Knauss, CTE Health Science Teacher
 - c. Erik Lindberg, CTE HVAC, Electrical & Plumbing Teacher
 - d. Timothy Garbine, CTE Construction Trades Teacher
 - e. Jena Berlin, GSRP Leader Teacher-Constantine
 - f. Heather Schmeling, Teacher
 - g. Alexandra Hooker, Special Education Assistant Teacher

5. Approval of the resignation, termination and/or retirement of the following staff:
 - a. Kayle Mills, GSRP Lead Teacher
 - b. Caitlin Baldwin, GSRP Associate Teacher
 - c. Jennifer Schott, GSRP Aide-Part-Time

Ayes: O'Dell, Danberry, Cropper, Keller. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Action Items:

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

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

Information Only:

- e. No August 2026 Policy Council Meeting due to lack of quorum.

Ayes: O'Dell, Danberry, Cropper, 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 Ms. Keller to approve the new job description for a Virtual Learning Primary Support Person-Part-Time.

Ayes: O'Dell, Danberry, Cropper, Keller. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

It was moved by Mrs. Danberry and supported by Ms. Keller to approve one additional Technology Coordinator.

Ayes: O'Dell, Danberry, Cropper, Keller. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

It was moved by Ms. Keller and supported by Rev. Cropper to approve the St. Joseph County Intermediate School District Behavioral Threat Assessment Team Guidance.

Ayes: O'Dell, Danberry, Cropper, Keller. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Informational & Communication Items:

The board reviewed other personnel updates.

Superintendent Berry provided an update on the status of a new strategic plan for the ISD. Due to the CTE millage scheduled to end in December 2028, we will pause moving forward on a strategic plan in order to initiate efforts on a CTE millage renewal. The ISD will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new playground equipment at the Pathfinder Educational Center on Monday, September 28, at 10:00 a.m. New CTE Work-Based Learning Coordinator Jamie Eymer has been making connections with business and industry partners. The next CTE Community Leadership Council meeting is scheduled for October 6 and Ben Fries will be there to represent the board. Mr. Berry and Ms. O'Dell have reviewed his 90 day plan and Mr. Berry has completed his initial self-assessment. Mr. Berry also recognized recent accomplishments by several ISD Directors and stated the ISD has had a great start to the school year.

Mr. Berry shared copies of the new St. Joseph County ISD informational brochure and thanked Kaylee Swift and ISD Directors for their work on the project.

Ms. O'Dell reminded the board that the ISD will host the St. Joseph County School Board Association Fall program on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, and encouraged everyone to attend.

President O'Dell declared the meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

The next ISD Board meeting will be on Monday, October 19, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes were recorded by DyAnn Steinberger, Administrative and Pupil Auditing Manager.

Board Approved: October 19, 2026