

**St. Johns Public Schools  
St. Johns, Michigan  
Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
Held on September 11, 2023**

The St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 11, 2023, at the St. Johns High School Orchestra Room. President Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Members Present: Boak, Darragh, Elliott, Jackson, Mansfield, Nelson, Watson, and Student Representative Koenigsknecht

**ATTENDANCE**

Members Absent: None

Motion by Treasurer Nelson, with support by Member Mansfield, to approve the agenda. Agenda unanimously approved as presented.

**AGENDA APPROVED**

Motion by Secretary Boak, with support by Member Elliott, to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes from the meeting held on August 24, 2023. Motion unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board of Education received in person public comments regarding the schools bathroom policy and classroom sizes. Those who addressed the Board were Julie Barlage, Carolyn Smith, and Jennifer Parker.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The City of St. Johns Mayor, Scott Dzurka, and City Manager, Chad Gamble, shared their interest in a city and school district partnership.

The Board of Education received online public comments from DJ Logan. She shared her positive experience with the Kindergarten Kickoff that took place before school started.

Superintendent Berthiaume reviewed information for the 2023 MASB Annual Leadership Conference and the need for the Board to elect up to 3 voting delegates who will represent the district at the assembly. This item will be an action item at the October 9, 2023 meeting.

**REPORTS AND  
INFORMATION  
2023 MASB ANNUAL  
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND  
DELEGATE ASSEMBLY**

Curriculum Director, Mike Winkel, gave the Board of Education a proposal for using one professional development day as an instructional day, and shared that there has to be a professional development advisory committee to make it possible.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Superintendent Berthiaume gave the Board of Education an update on the lacrosse program.

**LACROSSE PROGRAM UPDATE**

Superintendent Berthiaume gave the Board of Education an update on the upcoming bond for a May 2024 vote. He thanked Mark Palmer, Kelly Corbett,

**BOND UPDATE**

and Rob Gleeson for setting the foundation of the bond. He shared there will be community forums and a Board Workshop for further discussion.

Motion by Secretary Boak, with support by Treasurer Nelson, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the consent grouping Number VII A1, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, C1, C2, D1, D2, D3, and E1. Motion approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT  
AGENDA ITEMS**

Approved expenditures for the payment of bills for August 2023:

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

General Fund	\$2,326,751.47
Food Service Fund	\$10,411.32
Activity Fund	\$25,426.49
<i>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</i>	<i>\$2,362,589.28</i>

Approved the hiring of the following St. Johns Public Schools employees:  
Rebecca Green - Eureka Building SSP, Shannon Nobis - High School Engage SSP,  
Debra Cuthbert - Riley Kitchen Assistant, Patricia Judge - Middle School Kitchen  
Assistant, Sheela Hoy - Riley SSP, and Jill Pierce - Gateway & Riley Social  
Worker/Counselor.

**NEW HIRE APPROVAL**

Approved the resignation of the following St. Johns Public Schools employees:  
Becky Swender - Media Center SSP at Oakview South and Gateway North  
Elementaries, and Amanda Chapko - Child Care Program Director at Adventure  
Club and Little Wings.

**RESIGNATION APPROVAL**

Approved the position transfers of the following St. Johns Public Schools  
employees: Katelyn Post - Seasonal Childcare Worker to 3rd Grade Teacher at  
Riley, LaTeasha Wright - Sub Food Service to High School Kitchen Manager, and  
Fred Wright - Sub SSP to High School Building/Special Education SSP.

**POSITION TRANSFER  
APPROVAL**

Approved the termination of the following St. Johns Public Schools employee:  
Michael Lance - Custodian.

**TERMINATION APPROVAL**

Motion by Vice President Darragh, with support by Member Elliott, that the St.  
Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the recommendation to  
appoint Mike Winkel, Tammy VanNorman, Josh Heethuis, Jennifer Guenther,  
Aimee Payment, Katie Goff, and Nicole Toft to the St. Johns Professional  
Development Advisory Committee. Motion unanimously approved.

**ACTION ITEMS  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
APPROVAL**

Motion by Member Mansfield, with support by Vice President Darragh, that  
the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the registration for  
Member Kathie Elliott's attendance at the Michigan Association of School  
Boards' Superintendent Evaluation Training on September 6, 2023. Motion  
unanimously approved.

**MASB CONFERENCE  
REGISTRATION -  
SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION  
TRAINING**

Motion by Member Elliott, with support by Treasurer Nelson, that the St.  
Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the registration for Member  
Christi Mansfield's attendance at the Michigan Association of School Boards'  
Superintendent Evaluation Training on October 3, 2023. Motion unanimously  
approved.

**MASB CONFERENCE  
REGISTRATION -  
SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION  
TRAINING**

**BOARD  
COMMUNICATIONS  
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

District Executive Directors gave the Board of Education a brief update for their departments.

Superintendent Berthiaume shared with the Board of Education that the Administrative team has been working on updating the roles, responsibilities, and protocol. He also mentioned the community being very welcoming, and he touched on firming up class sizes for next year.

Student Representative Koenigsknecht shared with the Board of Education her experience attending the National School Board training for students. She shared a few things she learned and shared a high school sports update.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S  
REPORT**

Superintendent Berthiaume shared a visual on numbers from our social media posts.

The Board of Education received in person public comments regarding lacrosse, and kindergarten classroom sizes. Those who addressed the Board were Cara Renfrow and Carolyn Smith.

**PUBLIC AND BOARD  
COMMENTS**

There were no online comments.

Member Elliott shared her 9/11 experience and acknowledged suicide prevention month. Treasurer Nelson thanked Scott and Chad from the City for potential partnership. He commended Ella for attending the NSBA, and shared the reason his son, Andrew, joined the military was because of 9/11.

Vice President Darragh shared information from the workshop he attended and recognized a student athlete on her running time.

President Jackson thanked Andrew Jenkins for his help with the professional images of the Board.

President Jackson adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Boak, Secretary  
St. Johns Board of Education  
Minutes submitted by: Chelsea Peterson, Recording Secretary