



Fruitport Community Schools
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, October 21, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Location:

Fruitport Community Schools Central Office
Board of Education Meeting Room
3255 E. Pontaluna Rd.
Fruitport, MI 49415

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President, Dave Hazekamp.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance at the meeting.
- III. **ROLL CALL:** Present – Elroy Buckner, Tim Burgess, Kris Cole, Susan Franklin, Dave Hazekamp, Steve Kelly, JB Meeuwenberg.

IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Item 24-160. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Franklin to approve the agenda, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

V. **PRESENTATIONS:**

- Annual Financial Audit Presentation: Paul Matz, lead public accountant and director of public sector quality management for Rehmann Robson, LLC, presented the annual financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2024. Rehmann Robson, LLC presented the independent auditor's communication and report, the financial statements and supplementary information, the single audit act compliance report, and the audit reports on each of the building and site bonds. Once again, the District received the highest audit opinion, a clean, unmodified opinion with zero findings. The District continues to qualify as a low risk auditee.

VI. **COMMUNICATIONS:** None

VII. **SUPERINTENDENT/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

- **Operating Millage Ballot Proposition - November 5, 2024:** The Board discussed the Operating Millage Ballot Proposition that will be placed on the ballot on November 5, 2024. A website is being developed to assist in educating the community, and more information for the community will be forthcoming. All Michigan school districts must levy 18 mills on non-homestead property to receive their full foundation allowance – the major source of funding for Michigan schools. This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its full revenue per pupil foundation allowance and restores millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963.

The 18-mill levy costs the primary residence homeowner zero dollars (\$0 per year). Owned primary residences do *not* pay the 18-mill tax. If approved, the operating millage proposal would be renewed by 17.9302 mills (\$17.9302 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 4 years, 2025 to 2028, inclusive, and also be increased by 0.5000 mill (\$0.5000 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for 4 years, 2025 to 2028, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes.

The estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and 18 mills are levied in 2025 is approximately \$3,502,941.68 (this millage is to renew the millage that will expire with the 2024 levy and to restore millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the “Headlee” amendment to the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and will be levied only to the extent necessary to restore that reduction).

- **West Michigan Conference Expansion Update:** An update on the West Michigan Conference (WMC) timeline and expansion vote was provided to the Board of Education. Athletic directors within the Conference voted 13-1 to approve expansion; however, the principals in the Conference voted not to expand at this time. Five (5) principals voted yes, while nine (9) principals voted no to expansion in the WMC. The WMC will not be expanding at this time, which means that Fruitport’s application will not be considered for expansion.
- **Potential May 2025 Ballot Proposition: Community Forum Dates and Survey Timeline:** The Board discussed scheduling community forum dates for November 18, 2024 and December 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school media center to

discuss the potential May 2025 ballot proposition. These will be posted as special meetings of the Board of Education so that all Board members can attend and openly discuss the potential bond proposition with the community. A draft of the community survey has been completed and will be shared with the Board for review and editing, with a tentative release date of November 11, 2024.

VIII. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC:

- Sergeant First Class (SFC) Eric Sponaas of the United States Army, and a graduate of Fruitport High School, attended the meeting and spoke during public comment encouraging the Board of Education to consider starting a JROTC program, or partnering with Muskegon to allow Fruitport students to participate in the program, if interested.
- Shannon and Susan Garwood attended the meeting and spoke about concerns that they had pertaining to an incident between a bus driver and Susan's daughter.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

Item 24-161. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Cole to approve the Consent Agenda as listed below:

1. Approval of Bill Listing in the amount of \$1,034,519.42
2. Acceptance of Monthly Financial, Bond, and Capital Projects Report
3. Acceptance of Student Activity Summary Report
4. Acceptance of Credit Card and Utilities Report
5. Approval of Transfers and ACH Transactions Report
6. Approval of Personnel Report (includes confirmation of new hires, resignations, retirees, and transfers)
7. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes from October 8, 2024

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

X. GENERAL BOARD BUSINESS:

1. **Fall 2024 Pupil Membership Count Update:** An update was provided to the Board pertaining to the student enrollment within the District on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, which was the fall pupil membership count date. An enrollment report was provided to the Board showing an increase in enrollment of 17.56 FTE from the fall of 2023 pupil count to the preliminary enrollment report for the fall of 2024. This number is subject to change as the auditing process continues. The total district K-12 enrollment, subject to the auditing process, was 2,657.54 FTE, up from a fall 2023 enrollment count of 2,639.98.

2. **Muskegon County School Board Alliance Fall Dinner Meeting RSVP:** Details and information were provided to the Board as it pertains to the Muskegon County School Board Alliance Fall Dinner Meeting. The dinner and meeting will be held at the Muskegon County Career Tech Center with arrival time and a tour of the CTC starting at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. The program features an update from CTC leaders on CTC program offerings, career readiness, community partnerships, and student success. The meeting will adjourn at approximately 8:00 p.m. Board members wishing to attend must provide their RSVP to Danielle VanderMeulen so that a final count can be provided to the MAISD by November 12, 2024.

3. **Civil Engineering Study: Edgewood Masterplan, Traffic Study, and Soccer Field**

Item 24-162: MOTION by Franklin, SECOND by Cole to approve Proposal PR 24-373 from Spalding DeDecker, as discussed. Projects in the proposal include: \$18,500 for an Edgewood Elementary Feasibility Study, \$19,850 for a traffic study around Edgewood Elementary School and along Pontaluna Rd., \$16,000 to conduct a civil engineering study to make design improvements to the soccer field drainage system, and \$500 to cover reimbursable fee costs. All projects will be funded out of the General Fund.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

4. **Website Accessibility Resolution Agreement with Office for Civil Rights**

- a. **Adoption of Website Accessibility Standard per Agreement**
- b. **Adoption of Website Accessibility Notice per Agreement**

Item 24-163: MOTION by Franklin, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to approve and adopt the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), version 2.1, Level AA as the accessibility standard used by the District, and to approve the website accessibility notice, as discussed by the Board.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

XI. BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

● **Report of committee meeting held on October 11, 2024**

Elroy Buckner reported on a Business and Finance Committee meeting held on October 11, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. Elroy Buckner, Kris Cole, Paul Matz (Rehmann), Mark Mesbergen, and Jessica Wiseman were present. The Committee discussed an update on the annual financial audit with Paul Matz from Rehmann, and it also discussed replacing the portable storage buildings at Beach, which are in need of significant repair, with new prefabricated storage units. The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

1. Annual Financial Audit Report - Year Ending June 30, 2024

Item 24-164. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Cole to approve and accept the 2023-2024 annual financial audit report by Paul Matz, lead public accountant and director of public sector quality management for Rehmann Robson, LLC., as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

2. Prefabricated Storage Buildings

Item 24-165. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Cole to approve the bid from Mast Mini Barns, and to purchase two (2) prefabricated storage buildings for a total cost of \$33,142, with funds coming out of the Eastern Service Unit's budget, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

XII. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Report of committee meeting held on October 14, 2024**

Steve Kelly reported on a Personnel Committee meeting held on October 14, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Steve Kelly, JB Meeuwenberg, and Jason Kennedy were present. The Committee discussed the Personnel Report for October 2024, which included each of the recommendations for new hires, resignations, retirement notices, transfers, and positions that are still posted and vacant in the District. The Committee also discussed an update on a staff member discipline issue, and it also discussed the need to consider increasing the daily standard substitute teaching rate to \$125 per day. The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

1. Substitute Teacher Daily Rate Compensation Increase

Item 24-166. MOTION by Kelly, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to approve the increase in compensation for substitute teachers to a standard daily rate of \$125 per day, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

XIII. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Report of committee meeting held on October 14, 2024**

Susan Franklin reported on a Student Affairs Committee meeting held on October 14, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Tim Burgess, Susan Franklin, and Jason Kennedy were present. The Committee discussed an update on the District's application to the West Michigan Conference, it discussed an interagency agreement with Hackley Community Care for school wellness and nursing services at Edgewood Elementary, it discussed recommendations for the Board to consider pertaining to the adoption of a website accessibility standard and a website accessibility notice, and it discussed a preliminary enrollment update for the fall 2024 pupil membership count. The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

1. Interagency Agreement: Hackley Community Care School Wellness Program

Item 24-167. MOTION by Franklin, SECOND by Burgess to approve the interagency agreement with Hackley Community Care to operate a School Wellness Program at Edgewood Elementary, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

XIV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

Kris Cole shared that the band is holding a fundraising concert on Sunday, October 27, 2024. He also shared that the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was an amazing event with a wonderful turnout. It was estimated that approximately 250 people were in attendance at the event. Tim Burgess wished the best of luck to each of the incumbent board members seeking re-election on November 5, 2024. JB Meeuwenberg issued praise to Vocal Music Director, Adelaide Petersmark for her work in assisting students with their regional performance. All six (6) of the students who competed earned the right to move on to the state competition, and she is to be commended for her outstanding work with the vocal music program in the District.

XV. AGENDA ITEMS for FUTURE MEETINGS & SCHEDULING OF ANY SPECIAL MEETINGS

1. The Business and Finance Committee will meet on November 8, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.
2. The Personnel Committee will meet on November 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
3. The Student Affairs Committee will meet on November 11, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
4. The Board of Education will meet on November 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. for a special meeting to hold a community forum to discuss the potential May 2025 bond proposition.
5. The Board of Education will meet on November 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. for the regular meeting.

XVI. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Item 24-168. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Franklin to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Franklin, Board Secretary

Danielle VanderMeulen, Recording Secretary