



Fruitport Community Schools
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, August 19, 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. Absent: None.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Item 24-132. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Buckner to approve the agenda, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.
- V. **PRESENTATIONS:** None
- VI. **COMMUNICATIONS:**
 - The District received notification from the Office of Special Education that a complaint that had been filed on June 12, 2024, by the parents of a student enrolled in a preschool program that is run by the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD), had been withdrawn on July 15, 2024. The communication indicated that complaint 24-0158 had been withdrawn and closed by the Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education.
 - The District received a communication from the Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO) indicating that accountant, Jessica Wiseman, had completed more than 150 hours of professional development in their Chief Financial Officers training program to renew her credential. Jessica has earned the Chief Financial Officers designation

from the Association and her certification is valid through June 30, 2029. MSBO encouraged the Board to recognize Jessica for all of her hard work and dedication to professional development within her field.

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).

- **Middle School Drain Field Failure - Emergency Repair**
An update on the repair of the failed drain field in the middle school parking lot was discussed with the Board. John Winkas, Director of Maintenance and Operations, was present to discuss this with the Board. While the drain field has been restored, and the section of pavement that was removed to make the repair has been paved over, it has been determined that additional repair work will need to be performed in the hallway from the media center to the main office. More information will be provided to the Board at a later date.
- **Update on Summer Work Projects**
John Winkas provided a brief update on the progress of work projects that have been taking place and completed in the District over the summer.

- **Facilities Assessment and Master Plan Update: Capital Bond Planning:** The Board continued to discuss a process and work plan to update the master facilities assessment while also beginning the process of seeking Board and community feedback regarding the next phase of the District’s bond planning efforts. The District is able to seek voter approval in May of 2025, which is one year earlier than originally planned. A work session will be scheduled to further review the work plan with Tower Pinkster and Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. and decide upon next steps in a public meeting. The original master plan called for the construction of a new Edgewood Elementary School with voter approval. Sample test fit models developed by Tower Pinkster were shared with the Board of Education.

VIII. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC:

- Teacher and Fruitport Education Association (FEA) President, Deeann Skov, addressed the Board during public comment. She shared her appreciation as it pertains to the recent contract negotiations process. She shared that the Association has great trust in the Board of Education, Superintendent Kennedy, and Director Mesbergen. She stated that her members felt valued, supported, and seen as professionals, and she thanked the Board of Education for this. She shared a number of positive comments that were made by Association members to the Board and Superintendent Kennedy, and she shared that the Association membership is ready to help take the District from “Good to Great,” as presented to all staff during the open remarks by Superintendent Kennedy at the all-staff meeting earlier in the day on Monday, August 19, 2024.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

Item 24-133. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Franklin to approve the Consent Agenda as listed below:

1. Approval of Bill Listing in the amount of \$740,300.04
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 August 7, 2024

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

X. GENERAL BOARD BUSINESS:

1. **2024 - 2025 Course Offerings /MCVA Course Catalog and Course Offerings**

Item 23-134. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Kelly to approve the 2024-2025 Course Offerings Guide, and the MCVA Course Catalog and Course Offerings for the 2024-2025 school year pursuant to requirements under Michigan's Pupil Accounting Manual, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

XI. BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Report of committee meeting held on August 13, 2024**

Elroy Buckner reported on a Business and Finance Committee meeting held on August 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Kris Cole, Elroy Buckner, Dave Hazekamp, Jason Kennedy, Mark Mesbergen, and Jessica Wiseman were present. The Committee discussed the need to replace the mechanical lifts in the transportation garage. An RFP was issued with one (1) bidder responding. The Board will be asked to approve the purchase of two (2) new lifts for the transportation garage. The Committee also discussed the need to purchase a van with a wheelchair lift to accommodate a wheelchair bound student, who will be attending Fruitport High School and the Career Tech Center. The Committee also discussed the tentative agreements that have been reached with each of the Associations in the District, with the need to formally approve those at the Board meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

- 1. Transportation Garage Lifts**

Item 24-135. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Cole to approve the purchase of two (2) garage lifts from American Hoist Air & Lube Equipment, Co., LLC, in the amount of \$118,000, with funds coming out of the Building and Site Fund, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

- 2. Purchase of a Van with Wheelchair Lift**

Item 24-136. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Cole to approve the purchase of a van with a wheelchair lift from New Mobility Solutions in the amount of \$39,900 coming out of the Building and Site Fund, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

XII. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Report of committee meeting held on August 12, 2024**

Steve Kelly reported on a Personnel Committee meeting held on August 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Steve Kelly, Dave Hazekamp, JB Meeuwenberg, Jason Kennedy, and Mark Mesbergen were present. The Committee discussed the Personnel Report for August 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 discussed tentative agreements with the Fruitport Clerical Association, the Fruitport Instructional Assistants Association, the Fruitport Maintenance Association, and the Fruitport Transportation-Food Service Association. The Committee also discussed an update on the Fruitport Administrators Association contract. Mark discussed the financial impact of each tentative agreement, as well as the language changes to each contract. The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

1. Approval of the Tentative Agreement with the Fruitport Clerical Association

Item 24-137. MOTION by Kelly, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to approve the Tentative Agreement and Contract between the Board of Education and the Fruitport Clerical Association, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

2. Approval of the Tentative Agreement with the Fruitport Instructional Assistants Association

Item 24-138. MOTION by Kelly, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to approve the Tentative Agreement and Contract between the Board of Education and the Fruitport Instructional Assistants Association, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 abstained.

Note: Vice President Kris Cole abstained from voting on Item 24-138 due to a conflict of interest that he disclosed as a result of his spouse being a bargaining unit member who would benefit financially from the Contract approval.

3. Approval of the Tentative Agreement with the Fruitport Maintenance Association

Item 24-139. MOTION by Kelly, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to approve the Tentative Agreement and Contract between the Board of Education and the Fruitport Maintenance Association, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

4. Approval of the Tentative Agreement with the Fruitport Transportation - Food Service Association

Item 24-140. MOTION by Kelly, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to approve the Tentative Agreement and Contract between the Board of Education and the Fruitport Transportation - Food Service Association, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

5. Approval of the Tentative Agreement with the Fruitport Administrator's Association

Item 24-141. MOTION by Kelly, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to approve the Tentative Agreement and Contract between the Board of Education and the Fruitport Administrator's Association, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

XIII. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Report of committee meeting held on August 12, 2024**

Tim Burgess reported on a Student Affairs Committee meeting held on August 12, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Tim Burgess, Dave Hazekamp, and Jason Kennedy were present. The Committee discussed the Summer 2024 annual policy update recommendations from Thrun Law Firm. The Committee discussed taking additional time to review the policies in the annual update from Thrun Law Firm due to the extensive changes being recommended for consideration. The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

1. **Discussion on Thrun Law Firm Summer 2024 Policy Updates (No action)**

The Board discussed the need to take additional time in reviewing the Summer 2024 Annual Thrun Law Firm Policy Update due to the extensive changes being recommended for consideration. There was no action taken by the Board on this matter.

XIV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

Dave Hazekamp discussed the annual Blue and White Night that was put on by the Fruitport Athletic Foundation (FAF) and that took place on Sunday, August 18, 2024. Dave shared that he felt like the evening went really well, and that it was a great community event that was well attended. Dave also asked Superintendent Kennedy to provide an update on the back to school opening staff meeting that took place earlier in the day on August 19, 2024. Superintendent Kennedy provided an overview of his message that was shared with staff, including key highlights of upward trends in student achievement and outcomes, and his message of taking the District from being "Good to Great."

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

1. The Business and Finance Committee will meet on September 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
2. The Personnel Committee will meet on September 9, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
3. The Student Affairs Committee will meet on September 9, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
4. The Board of Education will meet on September 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. for the regular meeting.

XVI. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC:

- Fruitport High School student Vincent Pollack was in attendance at the Board meeting to fulfill requirements of the scouting program that he participates in. Vincent introduced himself to the Board, and Superintendent Kennedy highlighted Vincent's academic and athletic accomplishments for the Board.
- Pam Gustafson, President of the Fruitport Clerical Association, shared her thankfulness to the Board of Education for approving the contracts between the Board and each of the Associations this evening. Pam was also thankful for the support of the Board.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Item 24-142. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Franklin to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Franklin, Board Secretary

Danielle VanderMeulen, Recording Secretary