



Fruitport Community Schools  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
Monday, March 17, 2025 – 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 – Kris Cole, Dave Hazekamp, Steve Kelly, JB Meeuwenberg, and Kathy Six. Absent - Tim Burgess and Josh Mueller.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
  
Item 25-27. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to approve the agenda, as presented.  
  
MOTION CARRIED: 5-0; 2 absent.
- V. **PRESENTATIONS:** None
- VI. **COMMUNICATIONS:** None
- VII. **SUPERINTENDENT/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

- **May 2025 Bond Proposition**

Superintendent Kennedy discussed highlights of the May 2025 Bond Proposition for those in attendance at the Board meeting. The Superintendent also reviewed the District's May 2025 Bond Website that provides transparent information for the community about the proposed bond project. Superintendent Kennedy also

shared an informational postcard mailer that is being sent to homes in the community.

- **Update on Director of Special Education Position**

Superintendent Kennedy provided an update on the hiring process for the Director of Special Education Position. After reposting the position for a second time, four (4) candidates were interviewed on March 17, 2025. Candidates being invited back for a second round will interview on Monday, March 24, 2025.

- **Letter of Support - Village of Fruitport / Pomona Park**

Superintendent Kennedy shared a letter of support that he issued to the Village of Fruitport for a grant application that the Village was applying for through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund to construct a non-motorized, barrier free walking path system to be located in Pomona Park. The path system includes a boardwalk, gravel paths, parking improvements, and historical signage to be located on undeveloped property that the Village acquired in 2018 on the west side of Pomona Park.

- **Approved Ballot Language - Muskegon and Ottawa County**

Superintendent Kennedy reviewed the approved copies of the ballot proposal as they will appear on election ballots in Muskegon County and Ottawa County.

## **VIII. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

- Susan Franklin addressed the Board of Education on behalf of Yes for Fruitport's Future. Susan expressed her support for the May 2025 Bond Proposal and encouraged others to support the Bond Proposal as well.

## **IX. CONSENT AGENDA**

Item 25-28. MOTION by Six, SECOND by Cole to approve the Consent Agenda as listed below:

1. Approval of Bill Listing in the amount of \$662,354.51
2. Acceptance of Monthly Financial 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 Regular Meeting Minutes - February 10, 2025

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0; 2 absent.

## **X. GENERAL BOARD BUSINESS:**

### **1. Muskegon County Collaborative Schools of Choice Plan**

Item 25-29. MOTION by Six, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to approve participation in the MAISD's Schools of Choice Plan for 2025-2026. The District will also participate in Section 105c, which allows a student to transfer to a school district that is within another contiguous intermediate school district. The Board authorizes the Secretary of the Board of Education to sign the Schools of Choice Resolution, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0; 2 absent

### **2. MAISD FY 2026 Budget Review Delegate Appointment**

Item 25-30. MOTION by Six, SECOND by Cole to approve and appoint Kathy Six to serve as the Board of Education delegate to represent Fruitport Community Schools at the MAISD Annual Budget Review on May 1, 2025 at 5:30 p.m., as discussed. The Board approves and appoints Dave Hazekamp as an alternate delegate in the event that the appointed delegate cannot attend the meeting after first being approved and appointed.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0; 2 absent

## **XI. BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **● Report of committee meeting held on March 11, 2025**

JB Meeuwenberg reported on a Committee meeting that was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on March 11, 2025. Dave Hazekamp, Jason Kennedy, JB Meeuwenberg, Jessica Wiseman, and Mark Mesbergen were present. The Committee discussed the MAISD FY 2026 budget review delegate appointment, a quote for a professional boundary and topographic survey from Spalding DeDecker, a Chromebook purchase recommendation, an e-rate network equipment purchase recommendation, a transportation recommendation, and an increase in the early childhood rate, as well as a staff wage increase for ECC staff. The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

### **1. Professional Surveying Services - Boundary and Topographic**

Item 25-31. MOTION by Meeuwenberg, SECOND by Cole to approve the proposal from Spalding DeDecker in the amount of \$61,400 for the completion of a boundary and topographic survey at the E. Pontaluna Rd. campus, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0; 2 absent.

## **2. 2025 Chromebook Purchase Recommendation**

Item 25-32. MOTION by Meewuenberg, SECOND by Cole to approve the quote from Sehi Computer Products Inc. in the amount of \$160,740.46, using the REMC Bid consortium, for the purchase of Chromebooks, as discussed. Funds from the Technology and Security Millage will be used to make this purchase.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0; 2 absent.

## **3. E-rate Network Equipment Purchase Recommendation**

Item 25-33. MOTION by Meeuwenberg, SECOND by Cole to approve the bid from Vector Tech in the amount of \$48,989.88 for the purchase of network equipment. This will upgrade the District's core data center switch, while also replacing wireless access points and upgrading them to Wi-Fi 6, as discussed. The District will be reimbursed through e-rate in the amount of \$39,191.90, so the net cost to the Technology and Security Millage will be \$9,797.98.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0; 2 absent.

## **4. Transportation Routing and Student / Bus Tracking Purchase Recommendation**

Item 25-34. MOTION by Meeuwenberg, SECOND by Cole to approve the proposal from Tyler Technologies to purchase their transportation routing and student / bus tracking system in the amount of \$93,116 using Section 22L transportation funds, including an annual cost of \$19,466, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0; 2 absent.

## **XII. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### **• Report of committee meeting held on March 10, 2025**

Steve Kelly provided a report of the committee meeting that was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on March 10, 2025. Dave Hazekamp, Steve Kelly, Jason Kennedy, and Kathy Six were present. The Committee discussed the March 2025 Personnel Report. The Committee also discussed staff retirement notifications, was provided an update on the posting and hiring process for the Director of Special Education position within Fruitport Community Schools and the Eastern Service Unit, and was provided a recommendation to increase the Early Childhood Center tuition rate and staff wages. The Committee discussed a process to be used that will review and make recommendations to improve the Schedule B addendum to the contract between the Board and the Fruitport Education Association. The Committee also discussed two (2) Letters of Agreement between the Board and the Fruitport Administrator's Association. The Committee discussed a policy update from Thrun Law Firm on the Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA). The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

**1. Letters of Agreement with the Fruitport Administrator's Association (FAA)**

- a. Temporary Extra Duty Compensation - Special Education Supervision
- b. Partial Payout of Leave Time Upon Resignation

Item 25-35. MOTION by Kelly, SECOND by Six to approve the Letter of Agreement to address the temporary extra duty compensation for special education supervision, and to approve the Letter of Agreement to address the partial payout of leave time upon the resignation of Jamie Venema, Special Education Supervisor, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0; 2 absent.

**2. Childcare Rate and Staff Wage Increase Recommendation**

Item 25-36. MOTION by Kelly, SECOND by Six to approve the recommendation to increase tuition rates per the recommendation, and to increase the hourly rate of ECC staff by \$0.50 an hour to account for recent changes in minimum wage laws, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0; 2 absent.

**XIII. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

● **Report of committee meeting held on March 10, 2025**

Superintendent Kennedy provided a report of the committee meeting that was called to order at 5:37 p.m. on March 10, 2025. Tim Burgess, Dave Hazekamp, Josh Mueller, and Jason Kennedy were present. The Committee discussed overnight field trip requests from the Varsity Baseball Team and the DECA Program. The Committee also discussed the policy update from Thrun Law Firm on the Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA), and it also discussed the process that will be used to update student handbooks for the 2025-2026 school year. An Instructional Council update was provided to the Committee, and the Committee reviewed the Fall 2024 Pupil Membership Audit Report. Amy Upham, co-chair of the District Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB) provided an update on work that was being done by the SEAB to review materials and resources for the 5th grade curriculum. The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

**1. Thrun Law Firm Policy Update: March 2025 – No action**

The Board of Education discussed the following policy and form, as developed by Thrun Law Firm. A first reading of the policy took place, and no action was taken by the Board of Education. The policy would define the benefit year as being from July 1 through June 30 each year, and provides that time will be tracked in fifteen (15) minute increments for employees.

- a. Policy 4113 – Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA)
- b. Form 4113 – Employee Notification: Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA)

## **2. Overnight Trip Request - Varsity Baseball Team - Traverse City, MI**

Item 25-37. MOTION by Meeuwenberg, SECOND by Cole to approve the overnight trip request from Varsity Baseball Coach Nick Reed for the varsity baseball team to stay the night in Traverse City, MI on April 25-27, 2025, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0; 2 absent.

## **3. Overnight Trip Request - DECA International Competition - Orlando, FL**

Item 25-38. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to approve the overnight trip request from DECA Program Advisor Danielle Hershey for students in the DECA program to stay the night in Orlando, FL for the DECA International Competition on April 25-30, 2025, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0; 2 absent.

## **4. Overnight Trip Request - Beach 4th Grade Trip - Camp Pandalouan**

Item 25-39. MOTION by Six, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to approve the overnight trip request from Beach 4th grade teachers Mindy Freeland and Bobbie Wash for students to stay the night at Camp Pandalouan on May 27-28, 2025, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0; 2 absent.

## **XIV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:**

Note: Josh Mueller entered the Board meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Kris Cole discussed the success of the robotics team at the most recent competitions in Mt. Pleasant and at Orchard View. The team awaits the final competitions of the season to determine whether they will finish in the top 60 teams that advance to the State Competition. Kris expressed his appreciation for the hard work of the team, and he shared that everyone worked together for the team's success. Kris shared that our teams worked hard to support a neighboring school's team when they did not get the parts that they needed until the last minute.

Dave Hazekamp shared that there continue to be a lot of good things happening in the District. Dave pointed to the upcoming musical at the high school, and he shared how everyone at Shettler did a great job in representing Fruitport with the TalentFirst Literacy Achievement Award that was presented to the students and staff at the school.

JB Meeuwenberg shared that he has been impressed by a number of outstanding events throughout the District. He discussed the upcoming musical performance of Matilda, the Literacy Achievement Award at Shettler, and his ability to serve as a mystery reader for March is Reading Month. JB also shared that the Middle School MathCounts Team finished in the top 3 in the county, and that the middle school band festival resulted in outstanding results for our bands. JB also shared his experience in hearing a judge share that Katie Hildebrand had the best approach in preparing our bands for the piece that the band was to play out of any other band at the festival.

Kathy Six discussed getting to meet people at Shettler during the TalentFirst Literacy Achievement Award. She expressed gratitude toward the student leaders that greeted guests in attendance that day for the assembly, and she shared how proud she was of the students who expressed confidence in their role as student leaders. Kathy also shared an MLive article that she ran across that highlighted the greatest athletes from Fruitport.

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

1. The Business and Finance Committee will meet on April 14, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
2. The Personnel Committee will meet on April 14, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
3. The Student Affairs Committee will meet on April 14, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.
4. The Board of Education will meet on April 21, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

**XVI. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC: None**

**XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

Item 25-40. MOTION by Kelly, SECOND by Cole to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Kelly, Board Secretary

Danielle VanderMeulen, Recording Secretary