Fruitport Community Schools

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 16, 2026 – 6:00 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 6:15 p.m. by Board President, Dave Hazekamp.

II. **ROLL CALL**: Present – Tim Burgess, Kris Cole, Dave Hazekamp, JB Meeuwenberg, Josh Mueller, Kathy Six; Absent: Steve Kelly.

III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Item 26-115. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Six to approve the agenda, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent (Kelly).

IV. **PRESENTATIONS**: None

V. **COMMUNICATIONS**:

- Michigan Tax Tribunal: David A. Dingman and Carrie L. Hill v. Township of Fruitport; MTT Docket No. 26-002177 - The District and the Board Secretary received a copy of the Michigan Tax Tribunal appeal that was filed in the matter of David A. Dingman and Carrie L. Hill v. Township of Fruitport; MTT Docket No. 26-002177. This was shared with the Board of Education so that all members were aware of the communication that was received.

- United States Department of Education and Department of Justice Joint Letter to State Attorneys General: Student Surveys - The Board discussed a forwarded communication that was received by the District regarding guidance on the joint letter to State Attorneys General regarding student surveys.

- Muskegon County Clerk: Canvass of Votes Cast – November 3, 2026 General Election - The District received the official canvass of votes cast in the November

3, 2026 general election. Dave Hazekamp, Steve Kelly, and JB Meeuwenberg were re-elected to their seats on the Board of Education.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

- School Leadership Transition Plan - The District's interim leadership transition plan was discussed after the resignation of newly hired Shettler Elementary School principal, Mitchell Mox. Trista Alderman was appointed as the interim Shettler Elementary School principal, and Jeff Schurman was appointed the interim Fruitport Middle School principal. Matthew Abel was appointed to serve as the Fruitport Middle School Impact Leader.

- 2027 Refunding Bonds Update: Schedule of Events, Preliminary Official Statement, and Due Diligence Call - The Board discussed the schedule of events connected with the 2027 refunding bonds, including the development of the preliminary official statement, the submission of the credit rating package to the rating agency, the pricing of bonds, the execution of the final qualification application, the adoption of the ratifying resolution at the February 2027 Board meeting, and the execution of the closing on February 17, 2027.

- Edgewood Elementary School Bond Update - The issuance of addendum #1 and addendum #2 as a part of the Edgewood Elementary School construction documents was discussed with the Board. A link to access all of the documents for the construction project was provided to the Board due to the size of the electronic files. Also, the Board received a copy of the construction schedule for the Edgewood Elementary School project, and it discussed an update on the traffic improvement updates that are to be a part of the construction project. The Board also received an update on the furniture review and selection committee that is being led by John Winskas. A team will be touring a furniture factory showroom in Holland, MI as a next step.

- Beach Septic System Update - The District has received a permit for the construction of a new septic system drain field due to the failure of the current drain field, which is the original drain field from the 1930's. John Winskas is securing quotes for the construction of the new drain field from regional contractors under an emergency approval process so that the work can be done as soon as possible. Depending upon the cost of the project, a special board meeting may need to be scheduled to award the project to the low, qualified quote to complete the project.

- Emergency Operations Plan Update: Procedures for Evacuation - The Board discussed an update pertaining to the District's emergency procedures for evacuation, along with the evacuation sites for each of the District's school buildings. The District has been working with local public safety officials to

update its procedures for evacuation. The Board will need to approve an update to the Emergency Operations Plan once all of the evacuation procedures and evacuation sites have been updated in the District's plan.

- Release of MDE School Accountability Index Reports - The Board discussed an update on the public release of the Michigan Department of Education's School Accountability Index Reports for each of the District's school buildings. This was a time to celebrate the continued growth and improvement of our schools. Each school building had positive points of emphasis that were shared and focused on with the Board. The Board reviewed the overall score index, growth index, proficiency index, graduation rate (where applicable), the assessment participation rate, and the school quality and student success index for each of the District schools.

VII. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC:

- Kathleen Thompson spoke on behalf of Indivisible on the Lakeshore. She shared a list of concerns with the LifeWise Academy program, and asked the Board of Education to commit to clear guardrails that protect instruction throughout the school day, as school should be "focused on education, inclusion, and equity for all." Kathleen stated that church and state must be kept separate, and that programs like LifeWise are anti-public education. She provided a map of the programs across the country, along with an additional handout on the purpose of Indivisible on the Lakeshore and further information on the LifeWise program.

- Gary Greiner provided a handout to the Board of Education that addressed "five (5) safeguards" school districts can implement regardless of their position on the LifeWise program. He shared that schools should: 1) Refuse to restructure building time to accommodate LifeWise, 2) Limit any release time participation to lunch and recess only, 3) Ban LifeWise branded materials from school grounds, 4) Require full background checks before any LifeWise staff or volunteers can work with students, and 5) Ensure that all families receive clear, neutral communication from the District about the program. Gary shared that schools must not be allowed to be places of religious indoctrination.

- Terry Gaule shared that he is a retired, thirty-one (31) year veteran teacher who raised two boys in a Catholic home. He shared that he did so on "his own dime," and that no taxpayer funds or resources were used. Terry shared that the LifeWise program is funded by donors such as Betsy DeVos, who do not support public schools. Terry shared that the LifeWise program is not "grassroots," but rather a national Christian movement. Terry shared that church and state must be kept separate.

- Denise Kling - Pelto spoke about the importance of local control remaining with locally elected school boards. She shared that she has served as a substitute

teacher in our schools before, giving her a connection to Fruitport. Denise shared her appreciation for the supportive community that Fruitport is, but expressed concerns about the recruitment and training of a team in the Fruitport community preparing to launch a LifeWise program in the District. Denise shared the connection of LifeWise to the Southern Baptist Convention, the Heritage Foundation, Project 2025, Moms for Liberty, and Conservative Leadership. Denise shared her concerns with LifeWise targeting students labeled "unchurched" in their recruitment efforts.

- Terrie Hampel shared her concerns about protecting our public education system from invasive non-Christian doctrines that intend to destroy the constitutional separation of church and state. Terrie was a forty-five (45) year veteran educator, who substitute taught at our schools in 2012. She stated that she supports the principles and purpose of Indivisible on the Lakeshore. She stated that she does not believe students should be pulled away from school to attend religious instruction with LifeWise. She also stated that she supported each of the public commenters this evening.

- Karen Verge shared her concerns with the LifeWise program. She shared that while she understands the Board's obligation to follow the law and policy, Boards do not need to make access to religious programs like LifeWise easy. Karen outlined suggestions discussed with the Board through previous public comments on this date to limit access to LifeWise, and to protect instructional time for its intended purpose. Karen discussed the importance of keeping church and state separate in our public schools, and shared that if the entire county worked together to resist the establishment of LifeWise programs in Muskegon County, the county could be successful.

- Milli Haug shared that she is a retired educator that also served as a Michigan public school superintendent. She commended the Board for a well run and efficient meeting. She discussed the importance of preserving instructional time for student learning, as this is important in helping every child reach their full potential, when building confidence in themselves as learners. Milli expressed concern for the establishment of LifeWise programs in Muskegon County and across the State. She urged the board to "be aware; it's coming." She encouraged the Board to establish policies and protocols that limit access to programs like LifeWise to lunch, recess, and other non-instructional times, as we should not be sending kids away from our schools while they are supposed to be there for learning.

- Pat Hallman, a retired nurse, shared her concerns about the emotional impact that release time programs like LifeWise will have on students as a result of "left over peer division" that will take place when some students get to go, and others do not. Pat shared her concerns with the discrimination that takes place within the

LGBTQIA+ community when groups such as Project 2025, a key contributor to LifeWise, emphasizes that the family structure is only established when a man and woman have children together; this is discriminatory. She shared concerns about stories that she has heard where volunteers from LifeWise did not have to pass background checks, and were later found to have backgrounds that included child sexual abuse.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Item 26-116. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Six to approve the Consent Agenda as listed below:

1. Approval of Bill Listing in the amount of $1,141,151.89
2. Acceptance of October 2026 General Fund Financial Report
3. Acceptance of October 2026 Investments Report
4. Approval of Personnel Report (includes confirmation of new hires, resignations, retirees, and transfers)
5. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - Monday, October 19, 2026

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent (Kelly).

IX. GENERAL BOARD BUSINESS:

1. Universal FAFSA Challenge Grant Discussion; No Action

The Board discussed a communication that was received from high school guidance counselor Marissa Higgs, pertaining to the application of the Universal FAFSA Challenge Grant. The requirements of the grant were discussed with the Board, with an understanding that to qualify for the grant, the Board must adopt and submit proof of adopting an universal FAFSA policy by no later than June 30, 2027.

There are several safe guards built in for families and students, as districts do not need to hit 100% completion. They must demonstrate good faith efforts to support families, and families have the ability to opt out using a standard State provided waiver template. Based upon last year's average grant award, which was $781.83 per senior student, this grant could award approximately $150,000 to support college, skilled trades, and industry visits, among many other broad allowable uses connected to college, skilled trades, and industry.

While no formal action was taken by the Board, there was no objection to moving forward with the initial application process, knowing that a formal process to approve any new Board of Education policy will need to take place across multiple readings before enacting an universal FAFSA policy in the District.

X. BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Report of committee meeting held on November 9, 2026**

JB Meeuwenberg reported on the Business and Finance Committee meeting on November 9, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. with Kris Cole, Dave Hazekamp, JB Meeuwenberg, Jason Kennedy, and Jessica Wiseman present.

The Committee reviewed the proposed purchase of 190 replacement Chromebooks for teachers and staff, including Google Management Licenses for each device. The total cost of the purchase is $106,365.70. The devices will be purchased through Forte, a Lenovo vendor on the REMC Bid list.

The Committee also reviewed the schedule of events for planning and preparation of the District's 2027 Refunding Bonds, which are scheduled to close on February 17, 2027. Discussion included the proposed schedule of events, the preliminary official statement timeline, and the due diligence call with the credit rating agency, which is anticipated to take place in November or early December 2026.

An update was provided on the construction schedule for Edgewood Elementary School. A copy of the construction schedule will be provided to the Board. The Committee also received an update regarding the work of the furniture committee, including planning and coordination of furniture needs for the new facility. A site tour of the school furniture showroom in Holland is scheduled with staff during the week of November 16, 2026.

The Committee received an update regarding the septic drain field at Beach Elementary School. A portion of the original drain field, which was installed in the early 1930s, has failed and is in need of replacement.

Under other business, Dave Hazekamp asked Jessica Wiseman to provide an update on her transition into the Director of Business Services position. Jessica shared that the transition has gone well and expressed appreciation for Mark's mentorship and support in preparing her for the role over the past several years.

There was no public comment. The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

1. **Teacher and Staff Chromebook Replacement Purchase**

Item 26-117. MOTION by Meeuwenberg, SECOND by Cole to approve the recommendation to approve the attached quote from Forte using the REMC Bid consortium in the amount of $106,365.70 with funds coming from the Regional Technology and Security Millage, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent (Kelly).

XI. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

~~1. Report of committee meeting held on November 9, 2026~~

The Committee meeting that was scheduled for November 9, 2026 was canceled due to a lack of a quorum of board committee members present for the Committee meeting on that date.

2. Separation Agreement - Shettler Elementary Principal

Item 26-118. MOTION by Mueller, SECOND by Six to approve the separation agreement and release of claims for Mitchell Mox, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent (Kelly).

3. Letter of Agreement with the Fruitport Education Association

Item 26-119. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Six to approve the letter of agreement with the Fruitport Education Association pertaining to middle school planning time, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent (Kelly).

XII. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Report of committee meeting held on November 9, 2026

Tim Burgess reported on the committee meeting held on November 9, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. with Tim Burgess, Dave Hazekamp, Josh Mueller, and Jason Kennedy present.

The Committee discussed scheduling a special meeting to conduct a student disciplinary hearing. The special meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the recently released Michigan Department of Education (MDE) School Accountability Index Reports for each of the District's schools for the 2025-2026 school year. Discussion included the corresponding accountability information and related school performance measures.

The Committee also reviewed a recommendation from the Sex Education Advisory Board. Discussion included the need to consider approval of the high school MOCI consent video. A copy of the proposed video will be shared electronically with members of the Board of Education for review.

There was no other business or public comment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

2. **SEAB Recommendation - High School MOCI Video; First Review and Discussion**

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Sex Education Advisory Board. The Board discussed needing to consider the approval of the high school MOCI consent video that will be used as a part of the sex education curriculum at Fruitport High School with MOCI students. A copy of the proposed video was shared with Board of Education members electronically and was made available for review during the first viewing on this date. A second viewing and opportunity to discuss the adoption of the video will be made available to the Board at the December 2026 regularly scheduled board meeting, and the Board will be asked to approve the resource at that time.

3. **Overnight Field Trip Request: Trojan Travelers to London, Paris, Milan, Florence, and Rome**

Item 26-120. MOTION by Burgess, SECOND by Mueller to approve the overnight trip request by the Trojan Travelers and advisors Tammy Ruch and Tracy Taylor to participate in an overnight field trip to London, Paris, Milan, Florence, and Rome on June 12-21, 2028, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent (Kelly).

Note: The cost of the trip, including airfare and hotel accommodations is $5,400. The cost is an all-inclusive price. The cost of the trip is to be covered by students with multiple scholarship and fundraising opportunities planned by the group. The trip is open to all Fruitport High School students. A detailed trip itinerary was provided to the Board.

XIII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

Kris Cole shared an update on the robotics program. He shared that the team would be hosting the Fruitport qualifying competition this weekend on November 20-21, 2026. This is a large event that takes lots of volunteers to make happen, and it is a great event to get people from outside of our school community in to see our schools and our community. Also, two (2) of the three (3) middle school robotics teams earned qualification honors to attend the State Championship this year. The third team will be focused on earning their right to attend the State Championship at the Fruitport qualifying competition this upcoming weekend.

JB Meeuwenberg shared the recent success of two (2) of our All-State cross country athletes, along with the success of each cross country team this year. JB also highlighted the success of this year's 5th Quarter Party which raised more than $55,000 to support teacher mini grants and student scholarships this year. It was a great event!

Kathy Six shared that she attended a middle school arts and crafts fair, where she had the opportunity to sell her children's books that she has authored. She commented on how well run the event was, and that she looks forward to attending a similar upcoming event at Beach Elementary School. She encouraged the District to work with each of the schools to offer a similar type of fundraising event, as it brings the community together, and is an easy way to fundraise from her perspective.

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

1. The Business and Finance Committee will meet on November 30, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
2. The Personnel Committee will meet on November 30, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
3. The Student Affairs Committee will meet on November 30, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.
4. The Board of Education will meet on December 7, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

XV. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Item 26-121. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent (Kelly).

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Six, Acting Board Secretary

Abby Klug, Recording Secretary