



Fruitport Community Schools
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 20, 2023 – 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 7:07 p.m. by Board President, Dave Hazekamp. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited to open the meeting.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Present – Elroy Buckner, Tim Burgess, Kris Cole, Susan Franklin, Dave Hazekamp, Steve Kelly, and JB Meeuwenberg.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Item 23-163. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Buckner to approve the agenda, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.
- IV. **PRESENTATIONS:**
 - **Above and Beyond Recognition**
 1. **Technology Department:** Members of the Technology Department, Jim Laus, Mike McMullin, and Kyle Nielsen, were recognized for their extraordinary work that went into preparing for the 2023-2024 school year, and for the work that is being done on a training and professional development front to better inform our staff on the practices necessary to protect our systems from cybersecurity threats. Jim, Mike, and Kyle were in attendance and honored with Above and Beyond recognition.
 2. **Grounds, Maintenance, and Operations Department:** Projects completed by our highly qualified and competent staff have saved

significant taxpayer resources. Members of the Grounds, Maintenance, and Operations Department were recognized for the outstanding work that they continually do to keep our buildings and grounds in great condition. The team of Mike Dold, Mark Fialek, Jeremy Workman (Building Maintenance), Darrick Brown, Bruce DeVries, Jake Paquin, Spencer Leach (Grounds Maintenance), and John Winkas (Operations Director) worked tirelessly to complete a number of summer projects, while also ensuring that our grounds are well manicured and cared for. The Department was honored with Above and Beyond recognition.

V. **COMMUNICATIONS:** None

VI. **SUPERINTENDENT/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

○ **Requirements of Programs under MCL 388.1627 – Sections 27(k) and 27(l)**

The Superintendent discussed Section 27(k) - Student Loan Repayment Program and Section 24(l) - Educator Compensation Program with the Board. These are programs under the State School Aid Act where State dollars have been allocated for Districts to support educators. Additional information will be shared with districts from the State in the coming months.

○ **West Michigan Teacher Collaborative (WMTC) Applications and Process**

The Superintendent discussed the list of applicants from Fruitport Community Schools that applied for the WMTC. Eight (8) educators from Fruitport originally applied for funding under the program. The Board also reviewed the recommendation process and next steps in the awarding of scholarships to educators by the WMTC. A ninth teacher had applied for the program after the initial reporting of applicants to the District, and their application is currently under review.

○ **Fruitport Social Media Today Report and MAISD Vanguard**

The Superintendent shared a report on social media usage that was developed by Danielle VanderMeulen with the Board. The report outlined the importance of social media usage, shared usage statistics for each of the platforms used by the District, provided an account history for each platform used by the District, and suggested ways in which we can improve the use of social media and communications within the District.

○ **Bond (2021) Project Update**

The Board reviewed an update from Mark Mesbergen and John Winkas on the progress of the 2021 Bond Project. The next three (3) projects being addressed

under the 2021 Bond Project will be: HVAC / building controls at the Middle School and Shettler Elementary, boiler (2) replacements at Shettler Elementary, and the replacement of stadium lights at the football and soccer stadiums. Requests for Proposal will be initiated for each of these projects.

VII. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Rich Houtteman, the Lakeshore External Affairs Manager for Consumers Energy, introduced himself to the Board of Education. He followed this communication up with an email to the Superintendent sharing his contact information. Rich also discussed various programs available to support the reduction of energy usage and improve energy efficiency. Rich shared the importance of being a partner with the District and the constituents that Consumers Energy serves.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Item 23-164. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Franklin to approve the Consent Agenda as listed below:

1. Approval of Bill Listing in the amount of \$606,870.22
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)

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

IX. GENERAL BOARD BUSINESS:

- 1. Athletic Conference Application - West Michigan Conference** - The Board reviewed a preliminary realignment proposal (Proposal #1) from the OK Conference. The Board also discussed a comparison of nearby athletic conferences by enrollment and one way travel mileage. A recommendation from Jonny Morehouse and the athletic coaching council to apply to the West Michigan Conference was discussed.

Item 23-165. MOTION by Franklin, SECOND by Cole to approve the submission of an application packet and letter of interest to the West Michigan Conference, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

- 2. Muskegon County School Board Alliance Fall Dinner Reminder**

The Board was reminded of the Muskegon County School Board Alliance's fall dinner that will be held on November 29, 2023 at the Lake Bluff Grille from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. If a board member is attending, they will need to provide their RSVP to Danielle VanderMeulen before 9:00 a.m. on November 21, 2023.

X. BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Report of committee meeting - Meeting was canceled

There was no report from the Committee, nor business to report on, as the November 13, 2023 meeting of the Student Affairs Committee was canceled due to a lack of agenda items.

XI. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Report of committee meeting held on November 13, 2023

JB Meeuwenberg reported on a Personnel Committee meeting held on November 13, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Dave Hazekamp, JB Meeuwenberg, and Jason Kennedy were present. The Committee discussed the Personnel Report for November 2023. The Committee also reviewed a letter of agreement between the Board and the Transportation and Food Service Association. The Committee also reviewed resignations from educators in the following positions: Special Education Supervisor, English Language Learner Coordinator, and Middle School Mathematics and Technology Teacher. The Committee discussed Section 27(k); Student Loan Repayment Programs, and Section 27(l); Educator Compensation Programs, and it also reviewed a list of applicants for the West Michigan Teacher Collaborative and the recommendation process and next steps. The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

2. Letter of Agreement - Transportation and Food Service Association

Item 23-166. MOTION by Meeuwenberg, SECOND by Franklin to approve the Letter of Agreement between the Board of Education and the Fruitport Transportation and Food Service Association, as discussed. The LOA adds clarifying language to Article 10 of the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) that addresses how employees use leave time when working for two different departments (Transportation and Food Service) under the same CBA.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

XII. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Report of committee meeting held on November 13, 2023

Susan Franklin reported on a Student Affairs Committee meeting held on November 13, 2023 at 5:35 p.m. Susan Franklin, Dave Hazekamp, and Jason Kennedy were present. The Committee reviewed a preliminary realignment proposal from the OK Conference, and it discussed a comparison of nearby athletic conferences. A recommendation from Jonny Morehouse and the athletic coaching council to apply to the West Michigan Conference was discussed. The Committee reviewed a request from the high school administration for a special meeting on November 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Boardroom to conduct a student disciplinary hearing. The Committee also reviewed an update on the FEF, which included a discussion on the resignation of the Executive Director and hiring of another. The update also included discussion on the establishment of the Ken Erny Student Leadership Scholarship, as well as an update on the Fifth Quarter Party Fundraiser. The Committee reviewed a number of grant and eligibility award notifications that the District has received, and it also discussed a purchase request from Shettler Elementary for a new piece of playground equipment. The Committee discussed a concern pertaining to the lack of sidewalks between the school campus and Walker Rd. on Pontaluna Rd. The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

2. Shettler PTO Elementary Playground Equipment

Item 23-167. MOTION by Franklin, SECOND by Buckner to approve the purchase, freight, and installation of the Vista Tree Top 3 from Game Time for the playground at Shettler Elementary in the amount of \$28,424.60, as discussed. The District will cover the installation cost of \$6,500 from the General Fund, with other costs being covered through funds raised by the PTO at Shettler Elementary.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

XIII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

Dave Hazekamp, Susan Franklin, JB Meeuwenberg, and Kris Cole collectively commented on the Fruitport Education Foundation's 5th Quarter Party that was held at the Trillium Events Center on November 4, 2023. This was a great event that raised approximately \$30,000 to support the Foundation's mission.

Kris Cole shared that the middle school robotics team hosted the First Tech Challenge competition on November 18, 2023. The competition was held at Fruitport High School and went very well. Teams, coaches, and event workers were pleased with the event, and the team expects to host the tournament again next year around the same time of year.

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

1. The Business and Finance Committee will meet on December 1, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.
2. The Personnel Committee will meet on December 4, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
3. The Student Affairs Committee will meet on December 4, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
4. The Board of Education will meet on December 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

XV. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Item 23-168. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Franklin to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Franklin, Board Secretary

Jason Kennedy, Acting Recording Secretary