Fruitport Community Schools

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 19, 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 6:00 p.m. by Board President, Dave Hazekamp.

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

III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Item 26-104. MOTION by Six, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to approve the agenda, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

IV. **PRESENTATIONS**:

- Annual Financial Audit Presentation: Evan Rummel, public accountant for Rehmann Robson, LLC, presented the annual financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2026. 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.

V. **COMMUNICATIONS**:

- An email communication received by the District from Belding High School Varsity Soccer Coach Jeremy Kazmerski was read to the Board of Education. The email praised Coach Dan Hazekamp and the Boys Varsity Soccer Team for the manner in which they handled the subbing in of an opposing player who was

identified as a student with autism. The player dribbled the ball down the field and scored a goal on Fruitport, which was "Such a great, kind gesture to make that young man's night." A copy of the video of the play that was also sent to the District will be shared with Board of Education members.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

- **Credit Requirements for a High School Diploma** - Allison Camp discussed with the Board a desire by the District's special education department to consider awarding an 18 credit hour diploma to special education students that meet criteria for consideration of a high school diploma instead of a certificate of completion. Specifically, students within the District's MICI program were discussed, and other special education students meeting specified criteria. Allison will work with the District's Instructional Council to develop a recommendation for future consideration by the Board's Student Affairs Committee and Board of Education.

- **Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA): District Improvement Plan Vision, Mission, and Belief Statements** - Allison Camp discussed with the Board the need to develop new vision, mission, and belief statements to guide the work of the Instructional Council and the District Continuous Improvement Plan. The CNA process will be used to inform the District and school goals that will be developed for 2027-2028, but must be based upon the development of new guiding principles as our current vision, mission, and belief statements are outdated. Allison will work with the Instructional Council to begin this work on behalf of the District.

- **Bond Update: Construction Documents Review (90%) and Bond Project Update**

  The Board discussed the construction documents review process and the issuance of construction documents for the Edgewood Elementary design process. A folder with all construction design documents was shared with the Board of Education. Pre-bid milestone dates were discussed according to the following timeline:

  - Tuesday, 11/24: Bids Due
  - Thursday, 12/3 – Tuesday 12/8: Post Bid Interviews
  - Wednesday, 12/9: OAK BOE Recommendation
  - Monday, 12/21 or Wednesday, 12/23: Fruitport Special BOE meeting – Board Award

  The Board also discussed the layout of the temporary playground at Edgewood Elementary School that would be used during the construction phase of the new construction. Additionally, the Board discussed a traffic and road improvement update at the intersection of Pontaluna Rd. / 6th Ave. / Cottonwood.

- **Preliminary Pupil Membership Count Day Update**

  Superintendent Kennedy shared that the preliminary pupil membership count is projected to be an increase of approximately twenty (20) students above the 2025 - 2026 blended count. The budget for the 2026 - 2027 school year was based upon a projected increase of enrollment of fifteen (15) students. Superintendent Kennedy shared that provisional student enrollment typically declines when the final audit is completed and student attendance is considered.

VII. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC:

- Student Jace Howard attended the Board of Education meeting as a requirement of the scouting merit badge that he has been working on. Jace introduced himself and discussed the merit badge that he was working to attain. Jace shared that he is interested in becoming an Eagle Scout one day.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Item 26-105. MOTION by Kelly, SECOND by Cole to approve the Consent Agenda as listed below:

1. Approval of Bill Listing in the amount of $1,072,397.28
2. Acceptance of September 2026 General Fund Financial Report
3. Acceptance of September 2026 Investments Report
4. Approval of Personnel Report (includes confirmation of new hires, resignations, retirees, and transfers)
5. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - Monday, September 21, 2026

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

IX. GENERAL BOARD BUSINESS:

1. Independent Contract for Athletic Training and Strength Coach Services with Trinity Health

Item 26-106. MOTION by Burgess, SECOND by Mueller to approve the Independent Contract for Athletic Training and Strength Coach Services with Trinity Health, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

X. BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Report of committee meeting held on October 12, 2026

JB Meeuwenberg reported on the Business and Finance Committee meeting on October 12, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. with Kris Cole, Kathy Six, Jessica Wiseman, and Paul Matz (Rehmann) present. The Committee reviewed the FY2026 financial statements audit and single audit results, presented by Paul Matz of Rehmann. Both audits received an unmodified opinion, the highest level of assurance, indicating that the financial statements were fairly stated in all material respects. The Committee also reviewed the annual summer tax resolution authorizing the collection of summer property taxes from Fruitport Township and Spring Lake Township to support district cash flow and reduce the need for short-term borrowing. No other business or public comments were presented, and the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

1. **Summer 2027 Tax Resolution**

Item 26-107. MOTION by Meeuwenberg, SECOND by Cole to approve the annual resolution to allow Fruitport Community Schools to collect summer taxes for 2027, as discussed.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yes: Tim Burgess, Kris Cole, Dave Hazekamp, Steve Kelly, JB Meeuwenberg, Josh Mueller, Kathy Six.

No: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

XI. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. ~~**Report of committee meeting held on October 12, 2026**~~

The Committee meeting that was scheduled for October 12, 2026 was canceled due to a lack of agenda items for the Committee to discuss.

XII. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

1. ~~**Report of committee meeting held on October 12, 2026**~~

The Committee meeting that was scheduled for October 12, 2026 was canceled due to a lack of agenda items for the Committee to discuss.

2. **Board Goals for Superintendent's Evaluation**

Item 26-108. MOTION by Burgess, SECOND by Six to approve the goals set forth by the Board of Education to be used in the Superintendent's evaluation for the 2026-2027 school year, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

Note: The District's Superintendent will be evaluated during the 2026-2027 school year. As a part of the Superintendent's Professional Growth Plan, the following professional growth activities will be evaluated during the evaluation cycle:

1. **Edgewood Elementary School Bond Project**: The Superintendent will provide strategic leadership and oversight of the Edgewood Elementary School Bond Project, guiding the project from the design development and construction documents phases through the construction bidding process and the commencement of construction of the new elementary school. The Superintendent will work collaboratively with the Board of Education, architectural and construction management teams, district staff, and community stakeholders to ensure the project aligns with the district's educational vision, approved bond scope, budget, and timeline. Success will be measured by the completion and approval of design and construction documents, a transparent and competitive bidding process, effective communication with the Board and community, responsible fiscal oversight, and the successful initiation of construction in accordance with the established project schedule and budget.

2. **District's Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP) Annual Goals**: The Superintendent will support the implementation, monitoring, and continuous improvement of the building-level goals outlined in the District's Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP) Plan for the 2026–2027 school year. The Superintendent will promote alignment between District priorities, building-level improvement efforts, and evidence-based instructional practices. Success will be measured by the consistent monitoring of progress toward each building's identified goals, the use of student achievement and instructional data to inform decision-making, collaboration and accountability among building leadership teams, and documented progress toward the following school improvement priorities:

    - Beach Elementary: Data-Driven Literacy Instruction
    - Edgewood Elementary: Strengthen Tier 2 interventions to ensure every student receives targeted, high-quality reading support based on their needs
    - Shettler Elementary: Tier 1 Reading Implementation
    - Middle School: 100% All-In Culture

- High School: Grade, attendance, and behavior support; Universal supports; Tier 1 universal accommodations

3. OK Conference Realignment Cycle and Communication; No action

The Board discussed a letter from the OK Conference regarding the upcoming realignment process and the importance of securing committed membership from all 41 schools for the next four-year cycle. The letter emphasized the need for transparent communication, civil discourse, mutual respect, and adherence to conference bylaws throughout the realignment process. It also highlighted the importance of honoring final placement decisions and avoiding withdrawals after divisions are established, as such changes can disrupt athletic schedules and negatively impact other member districts. In return, the conference committed to providing a transparent and equitable process that allows each district to share concerns and have its individual circumstances considered before final decisions are made.

XIII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

Kris Cole shared an update on the robotics program. He shared that the team would be hosting a regional competition at Fruitport High School on November 20-21, 2026 once again. Kris shared that the team needs volunteers to help run the competition. Kris also shared how proud he was of Dawn Jacobsen and our art students. Many of our students have been selected to participate in the Art Council of White Lake's competition at the Nuveen Center.

Kris Cole also shared that an anonymous post on Facebook about the quality of our alternative education program discussed how our program supported students and was a positive experience for many of those that responded to the post. Kris also shared that the girl's cross country team finished in 1st place at the GMAA meet, and that they will compete in the conference championship at Belding on Wednesday. Kris also discussed the success of our boy's program.

Josh Mueller shared that registration for Fruitport Youth Wrestling has gone live and is available on the youth wrestling club's social media page and website. Fruitport Youth Wrestling continues to be a high-quality, successful, and well run and organized program.

JB Meeuwenberg shared a special thanks to Choir Director Adelaide Petersmark on the wonderful experience at the Vox GR concert on Saturday night that she provided to our students. JB shared that he has seen a lot of choirs perform over the years, and Fruitport's performance to start the evening was simply beautiful. He would put it against any other school. Also, Addie's solo performance was incredible. She had 30 pairs of her students' eyes transfixed on her throughout that entire song. Every student was 100% locked in. There were dropped jaws, tears, and looks of pure amazement as they watched, mesmerized, while their teacher showed them what is possible well beyond school if they truly carry that passion for music with them.

JB Meeuwenberg also shared a reminder about the Fruitport Education Foundation's 5th Quarter Party Fundraiser which will be held on Saturday, October 24th at the Trikkium Events Center. Tickets are on sale now.

Kathy Six shared that Coach Shipley has done a tremendous job in rebuilding the football program back into something that the community can be proud of. Kathy also shared that she would be attending the arts and crafts fair at the middle school on Saturday, November 14th, and then attending the arts and crafts fair at Beach Elementary on November 21st. She will be selling her children's books that have been published.

Kathy Six also shared how proud she was of our community for their response to support a person who had been in an automobile accident on Pontaluna Rd.

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

1. The Business and Finance Committee will meet on November 9, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
2. The Personnel Committee will meet on November 9, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
3. The Student Affairs Committee will meet on November 9, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.
4. The Board of Education will meet on November 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

XV. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Item 26-109. MOTION by Kelly, SECOND by Six to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Kelly, Board Secretary

Abby Klug, Recording Secretary