



Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Monday, August 17, 2026
7:00 PM
Ionia Educational Center
250 E. Tuttle Rd.
Ionia, Michigan 48846

Minutes

Call to Order & Pledge

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Ionia Public Schools was called to order at 7pm by President Yokom.

Roll Call

Present: Trustee Montgomery
Trustee Siemen
Trustee Shippey
Secretary Marhofer
Vice President Baker
President Yokom

Absent: Treasurer Ellis

Others Present: Superintendent Benjamin Gurk

Emergency Additions, Deletions, or Corrections to the Agenda

None

Approval of the Order of the Agenda

Moved by Board Member Secretary Marhofer and supported by Board Member Trustee Shippey to approve the order of the agenda.

Motion Carried: 6-0.

Consent Agenda - Approval of the Minutes & Payments of the Bills

a. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting - July 27, 2026

c. Payment of the Bills

d. Budget Performance Report

Moved by Board Member Secretary Marhofer and supported by Board Member Trustee Shippey to approve the regular/closed session minutes & payment of the bills.

Motion Carried: 6-0.

Public Comment

None

Superintendent Highlights

- PLC Process
- Many Summer Upgrades
- Ionia Community Awareness Purple Events
- IPS Performing Arts Center Designs
- IHS Unified Earns Detroit Lions Grant-Spent the Day at Lions Training Camp

Sinking Fund & Financial Update

Executive Director of Business and Finance Jammie Sprank provided the Sinking Fund Activity through July 31, 2026. The total amount of Sinking Fund revenue was \$10,743,391.12, while expenditures to date was \$8,915,872.18. Preparing for the audit the week of Labor Day.

MCC Ionia County Guarantee Presentation

Presentation by Bradley Barrick, MCC President, of the MCC and Kevin Wagenmaker, MCC Vice President for Academic Affairs for the Ionia County Guarantee.

IPS 2026-2027 Student Achievement Goals

Presentation of the Ionia Public Schools 2026-27 Student Achievement 1-Year Goals by Superintendent Ben Gurk.

Consideration of Approval of Support Staff Hires

Director of Human Resources Melissa Weller presented for the hiring of support staff.

- Jefferson Special Education Paraprofessional- Cassandra Bergman, Brenda Morofsky, Kathy Montague, Nicole Coon, Erika Smith, Danielle Speckin
- Emerson Lunchroom/Recess Paraprofessional- Jessica Batchelor
- Middle School Special Education Paraprofessional-Betsy Roath, Jaysah Merrifield
- Twin Rivers Special Education Paraprofessional- Lisa Lahr, Ariel Soule
- Boyce Special Education Paraprofessional- Elode Henry
- Bulldog Beginnings Associate Teacher- Grace Clark

Consideration of Approval of New Professional Staff

Director of Human Resources Melissa Weller presented the new professional staff hires.

- Jefferson Kindergarten Teacher-Kaitlyn Hickok
- Boyce Kindergarten Teacher-Lisa Buys
- Boyce 1st Grade Teacher-Ella Duran
- Twin Rivers 1st Grade Teacher-Ashlyn Wilkes
- Welch Math Teacher-Allen Wizorek
- IHS Special Education Teacher-Justin VanSykle

Moved by Board Member Trustee Montgomery and supported by Board Member Trustee Shippey to approve the hiring of new professional staff.

Motion Carried: 6-0.

Consideration of Approval of Emerson Elementary School Principal

Director of Human Resources Melissa Weller presented for the hiring of Emerson Elementary School Principal.

- Emerson Elementary-Candidate recommended for hire: **Patrice Phelps**

Moved by Board Member Vice President Baker and supported by Board Member Trustee Siemen to approve the hiring of new Ionia Middle School Principal.

Motion Carried: 6-0.

Board Comment

Trustee Montgomery: Congrats Tim

Trustee Shippey: Congrats on the new position Tim, we will miss you

Trustee Siemen: All Set

Vice President Baker: Wish you the best Tim

Secretary Marhofer: All Set

Treasurer Ellis: Absent-Family Emergency Out of State

President Yokom: Reminder to the Board Members that still need to take their self-assessment.

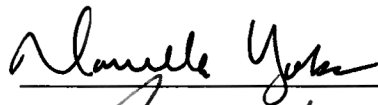
The best of luck to you Tim. Melissa, thanks for all your hard work with the new staff.

Adjournment

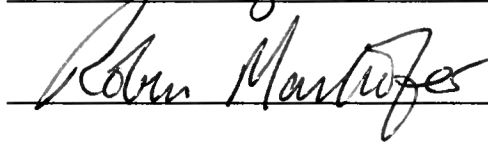
President Yokom adjourned the meeting at 7:29 pm.

The next meeting of the Board of Education of Ionia Public Schools will be held on September 21, 2026. The meeting will be held at 7pm in room 304 of the Ionia Educational Center.

Signed:



President



Secretary