

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Education Jenison Public Schools

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Jenison Public Schools was held on Monday, June 9, 2025, beginning at 6:42 pm in the Jenison Center for the Arts Boardroom.

Call to Order:

President of the Board of Education, Dr. Hartman, called the Jenison Public Schools Board of Education meeting to order at 6:42 pm.

Members Present:

Eric Hartman, D.C.,
President

William Waalkes,
Vice President

Chris Reed, Ph.D.,
Treasurer

Jen Postema,
Secretary

Jennifer Griffin, DPM
Trustee

Donna Mooney
Trustee

Shannon Hogan,
Trustee

Others Present:

Brandon Graham, Ph.D.,
Superintendent

Leslie Philipps,
Assistant Superintendent /
Title IX Coordinator

Christine Marcy,
Director of Finance and
Operations

Mary Darnton,
Food Service Director

Alana Kooi,
Co-Director of Teaching and
Learning

Katie Moy,
Executive Manager of
Superintendent, BOE, &
Communications

Public Comment:

Reina Richardson (1935 Parkwood St, Jenison) - She thanked Mrs. Philipps for her prompt response to concerns regarding placement of Wilderness Academy students to other schools. It was appreciated, and has reassured trust and collaboration with the parents.

Ashley Rottman (11078 56th Ave, Allendale) - She was excited to share the results of her son's report card, and the academic growth he had over the year in the Wilderness Academy. Her son was ecstatic about his success. She was thankful for the teaching staff that helped make this year a success. She added that she wants to encourage the District to continue to grow the Wilderness Academy and work together with the families.

Adrian Viersen (7353 Iron Dr, Hudsonville) - He provided an update on the Wilderness Academy grounds improvements. They have been spreading woodchips and are looking for help moving a shed off of the Fair Haven property.

Becky Steele (Parkside Dr, Jenison) - Introduced herself to the Board of Education. She is an alumni, Math Teacher at the Jr High, and newly elected Co-President of JEA with Sarah Magro-Johnson (who was unable to attend the meeting). She expressed that the JEA is pleased with the contract presented and is grateful for the time and effort invested in its preparation. She specifically thanked Mrs. Philipps,

Mr. Mroz, Dr. Leiter, and Mr. Cataldo for their support, particularly for their collaboration and long hours spent refining the contract language. She also highlighted the contributions of Dr. Graham and Mrs. Phillips throughout the process. She added that the JEA currently has over 270 members; 40 attended the recent members meeting, 99 cast votes, and the contract was ratified with a decisive 97 to 2 vote. She concluded by saying there's a lot of faith in the contract, but had some concerns including the calendar (it was tricky with holidays) and the addition of more after school meetings for secondary staff (concerns for extracurriculars, etc). Overall, she is confident in the contract and appreciates all the help.

Dr. Hartman thanked the public for their time and comments provided to the Board of Education.

Approval of Agenda:

Dr. Reed motioned to approve the agenda as prepared. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion. The Board of Education voted to approve the agenda as presented with a vote of 7-0.

Action Items:

1. Approval of Minutes:

Mrs. Mooney motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the May 12, 2025, SEAB Hearing, Special Called (OAISD Elections) Meeting, Board of Education Regular Meeting, and Closed Session. Dr. Reed seconded the motion. The Board of Education voted to approve the meeting minutes from the May 12, 2025, SEAB Hearing, Special Called (OAISD Elections) Meeting, Board of Education Regular Meeting, and Closed Session as presented with a vote of 7-0.

2. Approval of Financial Report:

Dr. Reed motioned to approve the May Financial Report. Mr. Waalkes seconded the motion. The Board of Education voted to approve the financial report as presented with a vote of 7-0.

3. Approval of Amended Budget for the General Fund and Food Service Fund Resolution for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year (ROLL CALL):

Mrs. Postema motioned to approve the Amended Budget for the General Fund and Food Service Fund for the 2024-25 fiscal year as presented to the Board of Education. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion. Ms. Marcy shared that the final amendment is necessary to adjust all areas to the actual, and the budget process continues to be challenging with all the new grant funds and the various restrictions. She provided details of the final changes to the General Fund Budget for 2024-2025. The original budget adopted in June is based on many assumptions - enrollment, revenues, staffing, etc. The shifts to Revenues and Expenses are a result of additional State funding and related expenses, and some additional local and ISD revenues. This is due to the many grants that are received in Revenue and Expenses. Ms. Darnton also provided the amended Food Service 2024-2025 budget reports showing the changes that have occurred in the Food Service. This budget is amended to reflect the increase in revenues and expenses to accommodate the free meals for all students. Equipment purchases and other capital outlays are also in this amendment.

A roll call was taken:

- YEAS: Griffin, Hartman, Hogan, Mooney, Postema, Reed, and Waalkes
- NAYS:
- Abstentions: none

The Board of Education has voted to support the Amended Budget for the General Fund and Food Service Fund for the 2024-25 fiscal year by a roll call vote of 7-0.

4. Resolution Adopting General Fund, Debt Retirement, and School Service Budgets for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year:

Dr. Reed motioned to approve the General Fund, Debt Retirement, and School Service Budgets for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year as presented to the Board of Education. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion. The General Fund, Debt Retirement, and School Service budgets were reviewed during the budget hearing.

It was noted that while state revenues will shift with one-time grants falling off, there is confidence that the state allowances will increase. Although the budget will not be balanced between revenues and expenses, the goal remains to have a healthy fund balance and avoid using the fund equity to cover payroll costs.

A roll call vote was taken:

YEAS: Griffin, Hartman, Hogan, Mooney, Postema, Reed, and Waalkes

NAYS:

Abstentions: none

The Board of Education has voted to support the General Fund, Debt Retirement, and School Service Budgets for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year by a roll call vote of 7-0.

5. Approval of MHSAA Membership Resolution:

Mrs. Postema motioned to approve the MHSAA Membership as presented. Mr. Waalkes seconded the motion. The Board of Education was presented with a request to continue the membership with MHSAA for both the Jenison Junior High and Senior High Schools. The annual resolution must be passed by the Board of Education for the schools to be included in the MHSAA state competition.

A roll call vote was taken:

YEAS: Griffin, Hartman, Hogan, Mooney, Postema, Reed, and Waalkes

NAYS:

Abstentions: none

The Board of Education has voted to support the MHSAA Membership by a roll call vote of 7-0.

6. Approval of 7th-grade Reproductive Health Presentation Changes:

Dr. Reed motioned to approve the 7th-grade Reproductive Health presentation changes as presented. Mrs. Mooney seconded the motion. The changes to the 7th-grade reproductive health presentation have been shared in two public hearings. There was discussion on making updates to the curriculum, and the Board wanted clarification if feedback from board members needed to go back to the SEAB Committee before approving. Mrs. Postema motioned to table the approval until further clarification was made. Dr. Reed second the motion. Dr. Graham will get further clarification on the procedural process. An overall vote was not needed to table the action item.

7. Contract Renewal: NWEA Renewal 2025-2026 School Year:

Mrs. Postema motioned to approve the NWEA Renewal 2025-2026 School Year as presented. Dr. Reed seconded the motion. As mandated by the State of Michigan, the District is required to purchase benchmark assessment tools for K - 8th grades. Benchmark testing is done three times during the year to monitor student support needs and progress. The District purchases NWEA annually as one of those tools. Yearly the contract is over the \$25,000 threshold requiring board approval, the renewal quote is estimated to be \$40,250 for the 2025-2026 school year, based on a rate of \$11.50 per student. This cost includes licensing and access to reporting tools. Student enrollment adjustments may change the exact amount. The Board of Education voted to approve the NWEA Renewal 2025-2026 School Year as presented with a vote of 7-0.

8. Contract Renewal: Red Rover Subscription:

Dr. Griffin motioned to approve the Red Rover subscription as presented. Mrs. Postema seconded the motion. Red Rover is a Human Resource software that includes employee time tracking and absence management. Mrs. Philipps shared that the District use to use another softwar but the prices went up. Red Rover functions better, easier to use, and is cheaper than the previous software. The quote for renewal is \$29,961.12. The Board of Education voted to approve Red Rover subscription as presented as presented with a vote of 7-0.

9. Approval of JEA Contract:

Mr. Waalkes motioned to approve the JEA Contract as presented. Mrs. Mooney seconded the motion. A redline version of the updated JEA Bargaining Unit contract was shared with the Board of Education. The two-year agreement includes a 5.5% raise and a step in the first year, followed by a 4.5% raise and a step in the second year. The bargaining process, which began several months ago, was collaborative

and productive. The bargaining process, which began several months ago, was collaborative and productive. Significant time, energy, and teamwork were invested by all participants on both sides to reach an agreement that reflects recent legal changes. Key pieces of the contract included updates on Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), legislative updates, and the school calendar (which is similar to other districts in the county). The Board of Education voted to approve the JEA Contract as presented with a vote of 7-0.

10. Approval of Transportation Contract:

Dr. Reed motioned to approve the Transportation Contract as presented. Ms. Hogan seconded the motion. A redline version of the updated Transportation Union contract was shared with the Board of Education. The two-year agreement includes a 5.5% raise and a step in the first year, followed by a 4.5% raise and a step in the second year. The contract is similar to the teacher contract where the step equates to number of years of service. There were not many updates to the language of the contract. This impacts about 30 people, and they expressed that they are happy and appreciative of the contract. The Board of Education voted to approve the Transportation Contract as presented with a vote of 7-0.

11. Approval of Support Staff Contract:

Mr. Waalkes motioned to approve the Support Staff Contract as presented. Dr. Reed seconded the motion. A redline version of the updated Support Staff Union contract was shared with the Board of Education. The two-year agreement includes a 5.5% raise and a step in the first year, followed by a 4.5% raise and a step in the second year. The contract is similar to the teacher contract and the language was updated per bargaining agreements. The Board of Education voted to approve the Support Staff Contract as presented with a vote of 7-0.

12. Approval of Administrative/Non-Cat Contracts:

Dr. Griffin motioned to approve the Administrative/Non-Cat Contracts as presented. Ms. Hogan seconded the motion. Mrs. Philipps presented the proposed salary increases for Administrative and Non-Categorical/Non-Union staff to the Board of Education. Non-Categorical Group VII (GSRP Teachers) will receive a 5.5% raise and a step increase in the first year, followed by a 4.5% raise and a step in the second year, similar to the increases in other contracts. The remaining employees in this group, who are not part of a bargaining unit and do not receive step increases, will receive a 6% raise in the first year and a 5.5% raise in the second year. These adjustments are intended to be equivalent to the combined value of raises and step increases given to other employee groups. The Board of Education voted to approve the Administrative/Non-Cat Contracts as presented with a vote of 7-0.

13. Approval of Superintendent Contract:

Dr. Reed motioned to approve the Superintendent Contract as presented. Mrs. Postema seconded the motion. Mrs. Philipps presented the proposed salary increase and contract extension for the Superintendent. The recommendation includes a one-year contract extension aligning the contract with other administrators, along with the same two-year salary increases (6% in the first year and 5.5% in the second year). In accordance with the new Michigan Educator Evaluation guidelines, and given Dr. Graham's "Highly Effective" ratings over the past three years, the Board of Education chose not to have a formal evaluation this year. Instead, as permitted by statute, the Board will provide feedback based on Dr. Graham's goals for the 2024–2025 school year. The Board of Education voted to approve the Superintendent Contract as presented with a vote of 7-0.

14. Approval of Maintenance Transportation Center Bid Tab:

Mrs. Mooney motioned to approve the Maintenance Transportation Center Bid Tab as presented. Mrs. Postema seconded the motion. Ms. Marcy informed the Board of Education that the Maintenance/Transportation Center project, originally approved at the April 21, 2025, meeting with a "not to exceed" of \$7,223,801 has undergone a final review. She provided the final bid package summary reflecting all the post-bid value engineering. Triangle was able to reduce the original recommendation by \$73,535. The new amount is \$7,150,266. Much of the extra expenses are because of tariffs on steel and HVAC. As a reminder, this building is intended to be practical with no frills. The

Board of Education voted to approve the Maintenance Transportation Center Bid Tab as presented with a vote of 7-0.

15. Approval of Media Center Purchase:

Dr. Reed motioned to approve the media center purchase as presented. Mr. Waalkes seconded the motion. Ms. Marcy reminded the Board of Education that the district was awarded a two-year grant, 35J, in 2023 to support literacy improvement efforts. A portion of the funding was designated to update and refresh elementary media centers and classroom libraries with relevant, high-interest books for students and teachers. This work began in Fall 2024, with board-approved purchases for Pinewood and El Puente, focusing first on the most outdated and unique collections. The District would like to continue this work at Bauerwood, Bursley, Rosewood, and Sandy Hill, following the same board-approved selection criteria and grant guidelines. Book selections are based on input from staff and students, circulation data, and a detailed review of current collections to ensure additions are developmentally appropriate, enriching, inclusive, and aligned to curriculum and student interests. Titles are selected using professional reviews and resources, including Kirkus, School Library Journal, and Booklist, with the goal of creating balanced, high-quality collections across all elementary buildings. The total cost for the books is not to exceed \$195,000. Ms. Marcy and Dr. Graham also acknowledged the outstanding efforts of Mrs. Kooi in securing grants for the district, totaling over \$1 million to date. Additionally, Mrs. Becky Buck, District Media Specialist, played a key role in identifying library needs. Last summer, she conducted a comprehensive review of collections and found that many books were well-worn and outdated, with an average age of 21 years. The Board of Education voted to approve the media center purchase as presented with a vote of 7-0.

16. Approval of Weight Room Equipment:

Dr. Griffin motioned to approve the weight room equipment as presented. Mr. Waalkes seconded the motion. Dr. Graham informed the Board of Education that additional weight room equipment is needed at the high school to better accommodate the increasing number of students participating in strength training during the school day and summer programs. The weight room is currently operating at full capacity during periods 1–6, as well as before and after school, and throughout the summer, serving up to 400 students in grades 7–12. With only 14 racks available, the number of students who can be safely trained per session is limited, creating both scheduling and safety concerns. To address this, it would be beneficial to add seven double-sided racks and reposition the current equipment. This would increase training capacity from 252 to 378 students per school day and from 504 to 672 students during summer camps. The expansion will enhance both accessibility and safety for student-athletes. The cost will not exceed \$65,757, and will be funded through a combination of 31a (At-Risk) grant funds, building funds, and district funds. The Board of Education voted to approve the weight room equipment as presented with a vote of 7-0.

Discussion Items:

1. Bus Sale:

Ms. Marcy informed the Board of Education that the District will be removing a bus from its fleet and plans to get extra funds with its removal. The bus is a 2004 model bus with over 200,000 miles, and was kept in case but is no longer needed. The District will explore the best option for its disposal which may include selling, scrapping, or auctioning the vehicle. Ms. Marcy also noted that the District will continue its fleet replacement plan. However, the cost of new buses is projecting to increase significantly, with current estimates nearing \$200,000 per vehicle.

2. Superintendent Update:

Dr. Graham also briefly shared a few district events, happenings, and updates with the Board of Education.

- **Contracts:** Dr. Graham expressed his appreciation to everyone involved in finalizing the contracts, recognizing the significant amount of work that went into the process. He shared his

gratitude for the time, effort, and collaboration contributed by all who were involve and expressed pride in the staff for reaching a successful agreement. He gave special thanks to Mrs. Philipps for her dedication and hard work in ensuring that all contracts were completed in a timely and efficient manner.

- **Climate Survey:** Over 5,000 surveys were collected from students, staff, and parents. The information gathered will be shared later this summer, but was encouraged by the amount of people who participated.
- **Commencement:** Dr. Graham thanked the Board of Education for attending the special event celebrating the graduates, noting how meaningful it is for students to have strong support from those in attendance. He also extended his appreciation to Dr. Leither and his team for organizing a wonderful evening even though the temperature ended up a little cooler than desired.
- **Bond Projects:**
 - Tennis Courts: There has been lots of progress on the tennis court area. The hope to have a tour of the courts before the July meeting.
 - Maintenance/Transportation Hub: The plan is to start in August but some minor work has been started including the above ground tank system. The placement will allow staff to fill vehicles under the awning to keep from the elements. There will be an onsite trailer in place that will provide office space, bathrooms, and meeting space for the staff.
- **2025-2026 School Year Planning:** Planning for next year has already begun. There was a training session today with the Administrators and an administrator from Adlai E. Stevenson to help with professional learning communities (PLCs). The training will help continue making improvements for learning for students, and looking at data to help their academic growth.
- **Athletics:** It's been a great Spring season! The District has over 25 students in All-Conference including many with high academic honors. Well done!
 - Sophia Umstead (Swim) - She was a finalist for the 2025 Michigan High School Athlete of the Year. She placed 6th in the state. She will be attending the University of Virginia next year.
 - Case Bosch (Baseball) - He helped the team win a league championship this spring and is committed to playing baseball at Coastal Carolina next year.
 - Athletic Director Michael Johnston - He had over 10 teams win district conference championships, and continues to advance himself all around. He recently received national recognition as a Certified Athletic Administrator. To earn this distinction, Johnston demonstrated the highest level of knowledge and expertise in the field of athletic administration.
- **Summer Learning:** Summer programs have already started and will have over 1,500 students participate in programs throughout the summer. Great learning opportunities for them all!
- **Post-Season Athletics Restructuring:** Dr. Hartman discussed the potential restructuring of post-season conference play, citing ongoing frustrations with the current conference placements. The goal is to create more equitable opportunities for student-athletes. He and Dr. Graham will be working together to draft a document that outlines the current concerns and presents a proposed plan for improving post-season opportunities. Once completed, the proposal will be shared with the Board and other districts for review and discussion.
- **Back to School Kick-Off:** The event is scheduled for August 19, and the Board of Education is encouraged to attend. The exact time is still being finalized and will be shared once confirmed.
- **Homecoming:** Is planned for Friday, October 10. Football will be playing against Rockford.

The Board of Education will provide Dr. Graham with feedback based on his goals for the 2024–2025 school year and plans to discuss future goals and the district's strategic plan at an upcoming meeting.

Adjournment:

The President of the Board of Education, Dr. Hartman, adjourned the Jenison Public Schools Board of Education meeting at 7:57 pm with acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Postema, Secretary
Jenison Public Schools Board of Education

Future Meetings:

Month:	Regular Meeting (held at 6:30 pm):	Workshop (held at 6:00 pm)
July 2025	Mon, Jul 14	