

Minutes of SEAB Hearing

The Board of Education Jenison Public Schools

A Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB) Hearing meeting of the Board of Education of Jenison Public Schools was held Monday, September 8, 2025, beginning at 6:00 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 Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB) Hearing to order at 6:00 pm.

Members Present:

Eric Hartman, D.C.,
President

William Waalkes,
Vice President

Chris Reed, Ph.D.,
Treasurer

Jen Postema,
Secretary

Jennifer Griffin, DPM
Trustee

Shannon Hogan,
Trustee

Donna Mooney
Trustee

Others Present:

Brandon Graham, PhD,
Superintendent

Leslie Philipps,
Assistant Superintendent /
Title IX Coordinator

Christine Marcy,
Director of Finance and
Operations

Alana Kooi,
Co-Director of Teaching and
Learning

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

SEAB Hearing:

A public hearing about the Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB) is required by law. The policy is published in the Board of Education Policies.

Introductions:

Dr. Graham introduced the Co-Chair of the SEAB Committee, Alana Kooi, Co-Director of Teaching and Learning. Maddie Lambert, Jr. High Health/PE Teacher, is still on maternity leave.

Legal Authority for the Public Hearing:

Before adopting any revisions in the materials or methods used in instruction under this section, including, but not limited to, revisions to provide for the teaching of abstinence from sex as a method of preventing unplanned or out-of-wedlock pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease, the board of a school district shall hold at least 2 public hearings on the proposed revisions. The hearings shall be held at least one week apart, and public notice of the hearings shall be given in the manner required under Section 1201 for board meetings. A public hearing held pursuant to this Section may be held in conjunction with a public hearing held pursuant to Section 1169.

Purpose of the Public Hearing:

The purpose of these meetings is to report to the public the progress of the school district's sex education advisory board and to obtain input from the public regarding the proposed revision to the sex education curriculum and instruction for the district.

The Board of Education will review the recommendations and may offer feedback before voting on the curriculum at a future meeting.

Sex Education Advisory Board Recommendations:

Mrs. Kooi provided a brief overview of the updates to the 7th Grade Reproductive Health Curriculum of the Directions Unit 3: *"Building Respectful Future Dating Relationships"*, which had been reviewed in greater detail during the August SEAB Hearing. She emphasized that many of the revisions focused on using more familiar and common language to help students better understand the material. Additionally, some terminology was updated to reflect accurate medical language, with input from medical professionals serving on the committee. The curriculum also includes updated graphics to feature more current and relevant visuals, and several slides were consolidated to simplify the content and give more clarity. The committee also ensured the labeling of slides was correct, in particular for the uterus and the uterine lining.

The committee reviewed two specific slides that the Board gave feedback on in previous meetings, Slide 4 and Slide 56. A structured protocol was used to ensure all members could share input on language and content.

Slide 4

Discussion Focus:

- Alignment with the broader reproductive health scope and sequence
- Appropriate language for 7th graders
- Review of instructional materials used in other Michigan schools, including:
 - Michigan Model for Health curriculum
- Review of state laws regarding reproductive health

Clarification: In the health curriculum, the term sexuality does not refer to promoting values or lifestyles. In this context, it means providing students with a clear, factual framework to understand how their bodies work, how reproduction happens, and how the components of the reproductive health curriculum fit together. Following the discussion, four wording options were proposed. The committee voted to recommend the following language for the Board of Education consideration:

Our Sexuality in More Detail

Sexuality is about our male or female bodies, sexual feelings, thoughts, attractions, and behaviors toward other people. It's a natural part of who we are that develops as we grow up. But sexuality is also bigger than just feelings of attraction. It touches nearly every aspect of who we are—from our attitudes and values to our experiences and how we see ourselves. It's like a puzzle with many pieces that make up the whole picture of you.

Slide 56

Discussion Focus:

- Age-appropriate language for 7th graders
- Common student questions during this unit

The committee voted to recommend the following language for the Board of Education to consider:

STI vs. STD

"A sexually transmitted infection (STI) is a virus, bacteria, fungus, or parasite people can get through sexual contact. A sexually transmitted disease (STD) develops because of an STI and the term implies that the infection has led to some symptom of disease."

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, March 25). About Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
<https://www.cdc.gov/sti/about/index.html>

Feedback from the Board:

Ms. Hogan shared that she had reached out to a local organization that writes sex education curriculum currently used by several other districts. While the curriculum does not address sexuality, it focuses on educating students about potential risks. She expressed interest in having the District explore additional curriculum options and learning more about what resources are available.

Additionally, Ms. Hogan emphasized the importance of clearly explaining the purpose of the material to students, especially considering that students mature at different rates. Providing context can help ensure students better understand why the information is being presented.

Public Comment:

Laurie Burks (1042 Brentwood St, Jenison) - She thanked the Board of Education for their time and consideration of the materials presented to them. She appreciates that board members evaluate proposals rather than simply approving them without review. She acknowledged the significant work that has gone into updating the 7th-grade curriculum and recognized the effort to think critically through each aspect. She added that some curriculum do not fully address important topics or risky behaviors, and emphasized the value of selecting a curriculum that provides comprehensive and responsible education for students.

Jason Lerg (3502 Tearose Dr, Hudsonville) - He also expressed interest in exploring additional curriculum resources and would like more information about which groups are providing them and which districts are currently using them.

Adjournment:

President of the Board of Education, Dr. Hartman, adjourned the Jenison Public Schools Board of Education SEAB Hearing at 6:12 pm with acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Postema, Secretary
Jenison Public Schools Board of Education