



Board of Education  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, December 15, 2025**  
**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 Shippey  
Trustee Montgomery  
Trustee Sieman  
Treasurer Ellis  
Secretary Marhofer  
Vice President Baker  
President Yokom

Absent:

**Others Present:** Superintendent Benjamin Gurk

### **Emergency Additions, Deletions, or Corrections to the Agenda**

Moment of Silence for the loss of IPS Staff

### **Approval of the Order of the Agenda**

Moved by Secretary Marhofer and supported by Trustee Montgomery to approve the order of the agenda.

Motion Carried: 7-0.

### **Consent Agenda**

a. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting - Nov 17, 2025

Moved by Secretary Marhofer and supported by Trustee Shippey to approve the regular session minutes.

Motion Carried: 7-0

b. Payment of the Bills

Summary provided by Executive Director of Business and Finance Jammie Sprank

c. Budget Performance Report

Summary provided by Executive Director of Business and Finance Jammie Sprank

**Public Comment**

None

**Superintendent Highlights**

- Billy Strings personally handed out Thanksgiving meals to Twin Rivers Elementary families
- VFW donated Thanksgiving Dinners and Meijer gift cards to IPS Elementary families
- M1 gave donations to all of the IPS Schools
- IPS Winter Concerts
- Administrative Rounds at Jefferson Elementary
- Successful Bond Campaign
- Senior Citizen Luncheon, December 19, 2025

**Student Representative Highlights**

- Ionia Boys Varsity Basketball opened league play with a strong win over Lakewood.
- Ionia Girls Varsity and JV Basketball teams have started the season undefeated with a 2-0 record.
- Student Athletes of the Month are Josie Lee and Landon Steffen.
- Ionia Wrestling placed 4th at the St. Louis Team Tournament this past weekend.
- Boys Varsity Swim also finished 4th this past weekend, with Bodie Brownell earning the most points for the team.
- The Interact Club recently volunteered at IM Kids Third Meal and helped wrap presents for the Shop With a Hero event.
- The Student Council successfully hosted Operation Christmas this month.
- The Ionia High School teacher group took their final bow following their production of Mean Girls.
- IPS Bands will host a holiday concert this week, with all contributions going directly to the local food pantry.
- The Debate team went to the State Tournament at Wayne State University, where Sunny Pennington advanced into the semi finals.

**Recognition of Achievement for IHS Student Athletes and Coach**

Superintendent Gurk and President Yokom presented awards to 5 student athletes and a coach for outstanding athletic achievements.

**Student Achievement: Veterans Ceremony Art Contest Winners Mila Alger-Boone and Rosalie Sherman**

Superintendent Gurk recognized the 2 of the 5 elementary students that participated in and were selected for the Veterans Ceremony Art Contest. Their art was displayed on the programs for the Annual Veterans Ceremony that took place on November 7, 2025.

### **Sinking Fund Update**

Executive Director of Business and Finance Jammie Sprank provided the Sinking Fund Activity through November 30, 2025. The total amount of Sinking Fund revenue was \$9,510,131.91, while expenditures to date was \$8,417,113.01.

### **Presentation of the Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025**

Presentation by Rehmann employee Peter Woldman. IPS had a “clean” audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

### **Presentation of Fall 2025 IPS Strategic Plan Feedback Survey Results**

Presentation by Superintendent Gurk of the anonymous survey given to the IPS community.

### **Support Staff Hires**

HR Director Melissa Weller presented the Support Staff hires.

- Boyce Title I Paraprofessional-Amber Montague
- Interim Part-Time Douglas R Welch High School Principal-Chad Rhynard

### **Consideration of Approval of GSRP Bulldog Beginnings Playground Equipment Purchase at Boyce**

Presentation for purchase of playground equipment given by Superintendent Gurk.

Moved by Vice President Baker and supported by Treasurer Ellis to approve the purchase of playground equipment for GSRP Bulldog Beginnings.

Motion Carried: 7-0.

### **Consideration of Approval of Emergency Operation Plans**

Presentation of Emergency Operation Plans given by Superintendent Gurk.

Moved by Vice President Baker and supported by Trustee Sieman to approve the emergency operation plans.

Motion Carried: 7-0.

### **Consideration of Resolution to Approve the Issuance of the Sale of Bonds (Roll Call Vote)**

Presentation by Finance Director Jammie Sprank.

Moved by Vice President Baker and supported by Treasurer Ellis to approve the Issuance of the Sale of Bonds.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes:** Trustee Shippey, Trustee Montgomery, Trustee Sieman, Treasurer Ellis, Vice President Baker, President Yokom

**Nayes:** Secretary Marhofer

Motion Carried: 6-0

**Board Comment**

Trustee Shippey: Ditto to that, I really appreciate the staff and students going to IM Kids to volunteer, shows GRIT. I appreciate M1 and Billy Strings and VFW for the donations to IPS.

Trustee Montgomery: Congratulations to all of the athletes and the coach for all their hard work and accomplishments.

Trustee Sieman: All Set

Treasurer Ellis: Congratulations to all of the athletes and the coach. Congratulations on the clean audit.

Secretary Marhofer: Congratulations to all of the athletes and the coach. Congratulations on the clean audit.

Vice President Baker: Congratulations to all of the athletes and Tessa, I appreciate your growth in your role on the board as well. I appreciate all the hard work of the staff.

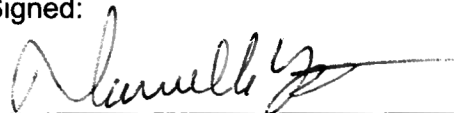
President Yokom: I agree with everything that was said, congratulations to all and thank you.

**Adjournment**

President Yokom adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM.

The next meeting of the Board of Education of Ionia Public Schools will be held on January 19, 2026. The meeting will be held at 7pm in room 304 of the Ionia Educational Center.

Signed:



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President



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Secretary