

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, August 18, 2025, beginning at 6:30 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 6:30 pm, following a short break after the SEAB Hearing.

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, Ph.D.,
Superintendent

Leslie Philipps,
Assistant Superintendent /
Title IX Coordinator

Christine Marcy,
Director of Finance and
Operations

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

Recognition: New Staff

Dr. Graham was enthusiastic about welcoming new employees to the JPS team, many of whom began their journey last week with training. He encouraged new staff members to lean on their colleagues and embrace the support available around them. Dr. Graham expressed his excitement about this year's new hires, noting that while many districts face challenges in recruitment, JPS continues to attract and retain exceptional staff, thanks to its high standards and strong reputation. The administrative team is equally excited to have these new team members on board and is committed to supporting their success.

Although many of the new staff members were unable to attend the meeting due to Open Houses across the district, several were present and had the opportunity to introduce themselves to the Board of Education. They shared a bit about their backgrounds and their roles within the district. Mrs. Philipps was able to recognize and share information about those who could not attend.

The new staff includes:

Anna Blasy (3rd Grade Teacher, Bauerwood), Hayley Blair (5th Grade Teacher, Bursley), Zach Mendoza (District Strength and Performance), Daniel Russel (Assistant Athletic Director), Katelyn Keane (District Instructional Coach), Allison Bolt (GSRP Outdoor Teacher, ECC), Grace Gadwood (Psychologist, ECC), Katherine Sands (GSRP Outdoor Teacher, ECC), Michael Bukner (Science

Teacher, High School), Lauren Heiden (Band Teacher, High School), Abigail Lovins (Science Teacher, High School), Katie VandeCappelle (Science Teacher, High School), Jacquelin Veldink (English Teacher, High School), Tanner West (Band Teacher, High School), Colton Ritsema (Teacher, JIA), Drake Gifford (Art Teacher, Junior High), Claudia Riccord (Orchestra Teacher, Junior High), Anna Bremmer (Music Teacher, Kids First), Brittany Stenk (Speech Therapist, Rosewood), and Connor O'Connell (Principal, Wilderness Academy).

Recess:

Dr. Hartman called a recess at 6:41 pm to congratulate the individuals recognized.

Reconvene:

The meeting reconvened at 6:44 pm.

Public Comment:

Jennifer Gray (Jenison; address not given): She expressed disappointment that the August Board of Education meeting was scheduled during other key district events, including Open Houses. She noted that this overlap forces parents to choose between meeting their child's teacher and engaging in important district decisions, such as the SEAB public hearing. She questioned what steps would be taken to avoid such conflicts in the future, especially after prior assurances, and emphasized that scheduling decisions reflect the district's priorities and values.

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 minutes from the July 15, 2025, Board of Education Meeting and Closed Session. Dr. Reed seconded the motion. The Board of Education voted to approve the minutes as presented with a vote of 7-0.

2. Approval of Financial Report:

Mrs. Postema motioned to approve the July Financial Report as presented. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion. Ms. Marcy added that the Audit review started today. The Board of Education voted to approve the financial report as presented with a vote of 7-0.

3. Shared Time Agreements:

Mrs. Postema motioned to approve the Shared-Time Agreements as presented. Mrs. Mooney seconded the motion. Mrs. Philipps reviewed with the Board of Education the shared time agreements with Jenison Christian Schools and Hudsonville Christian Schools with Jenison Public Schools. The shared time agreements provide Spanish and Art for Jenison Christian and Spanish for Hudsonville Christian. The Board of Education approved the shared time agreements with Jenison Christian Schools and Hudsonville Christian Schools with a vote of 7-0.

4. Approval of Board Policy Updates:

Mrs. Postema motioned to approve the Board Policy updates as presented. Dr. Reed seconded the motion. Mrs. Philipps provided the Board of Education with documents of the board policy updates and reviewed the new board policies. The policies include: 4221, 5407, 5407-F.

Series 4000 District Employment

4200	Employee Conduct and Ethics
4221	Employee Speech
Series 5000	Students, Curriculum, and Academic Matters
5400	Curriculum, Instruction, and Parent Involvement
5407	Instructional Program and Curriculum Development
5407-F	Instructional Materials Opt-Out Form (Not Sex Education, Family Planning, and/or Reproductive Health)

The Board of Education voted to approve the board policy updates as presented with a vote of 7-0.

5. Pipe Replacement Approval:

Mr. Waalkes motioned to approve the pipe replacement as presented. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion. Ms. Marcy updated the Board of Education on the pipe replacement request for the JCA. The JCA needs new piping for approximately half of the building. During the original construction, budget limitations led to the installation of galvanized piping in the rear portion of the facility. Over time, these pipes have experienced internal corrosion, resulting in metal flaking and discoloration of the cold water supply. This issue has progressed to the point where replacement is now necessary. The front portion of the building, including the Administration offices, was outfitted with copper piping and has not experienced any problems. The District is finalizing quotes. The replacement of the piping from galvanized to stainless steel is not to exceed the amount of \$105,000. This work is scheduled to take place in September and will require a water shutdown of approximately 2–3 days. Timing will be coordinated to minimize disruption. In addition, the District is grateful to have Mark Machiela, Master Plumber, assisting with this project and other facility needs. The Board of Education voted to approve the pipe replacement as presented with a vote of 7-0.

6. Approval of Technology Purchase:

Dr. Reed motioned to approve the technology purchase as presented. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion. Ms. Marcy updated the Board of Education on the camera system replacement request for the JCA. This summer, the JCA experienced a failure in the camera system that transmits video from the house to the lobby, backstage areas, stage manager, and pit conductor during performances. After evaluating the issue, it was determined that replacement parts for the current system are no longer available, as the technology is original to the building and is now obsolete or discontinued. The system's expected lifespan was 10 years, and it has now exceeded that limit. A complete replacement is necessary. The proposed new system will be designed to last at least 20 years and will include a new camera, updated cabling, and new monitors. The system will use SDI (Serial Digital Interface) cabling, which will replace the current network cables to provide significantly improved speed and image clarity throughout the facility. Quotes are still being finalized. The purchase and installation of this upgraded system should not exceed \$36,000. Funding will come from the existing JCA budget. The Board of Education voted to approve the technology purchase as presented with a vote of 7-0.

7. Remediation Costs:

Dr. Griffin motioned to approve the remediation costs as presented. Mrs. Postema seconded the motion. Ms. Marcy provided the Board of Education with an update on the ongoing remediation at Bursley Elementary, which began the week of August 11. Legal counsel advised informing the Board, as the scope and estimated cost for materials will exceed the district's purchasing policy threshold. However, due to the urgent nature of the situation, the work qualified as an "emergency," and bidding and formal approval requirements were waived according to the policy. The issue, likely caused by outside spores and record-high humidity entering through the HVAC system, affected 16 areas (including 12 classrooms), with porous materials such as carpet and ceiling tiles most impacted. While the final total cost is still unknown due to ongoing work and evolving circumstances, the estimated cost for carpet and ceiling tile materials and installation is approximately \$300,000. In addition, the removal of carpet and other porous materials, comprehensive cleaning of all surfaces and items, and environmental testing in classrooms are currently in progress. These efforts will contribute to the final overall cost, which will be reported once determined. The district will be contacting its insurance provider to explore potential cost offsets. Staff and families were informed and expressed appreciation

for the transparency and the effort to keep students together, even if it meant delaying the start of school. Dr. Graham, Ms. Marcy, the Administration, and the facilities team remain fully committed to ensuring the building is safe, clean, and ready for re-entry, using lessons learned to guide future summer maintenance strategies. The Board of Education voted to approve the remediation costs as presented with a vote of 7-0.

Discussion Items:

1. Superintendent Update:

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

- **Back to School:** Staff had their first Professional Development day today, with another tomorrow. Board members are invited to the all-district kickoff at 1:45 pm tomorrow. There will be a time of recognition of staff for their years of service. High School and Junior High orientation days have already taken place, and many open houses are tonight.
 - **Half-Day Start of School:** The return of students starts on Wednesday with a half-day of school. Many staff felt from previous years that a half day on the first day is a good transition for students and staff.
 - **Junior High:** There are over 422 7th-graders this year!
- **Bursley Update:** Much of the update has already been shared, with plans still aiming for a start date of August 25. If that changes, staff and families will be notified promptly. It was encouraging to see the team come together quickly to develop several contingency plans; great collaboration and teamwork. If there are multiple inclement weather days (acts of God) beyond the state-allowed limit this year, the district may petition for additional forgiveness days.
- **Athletics:** Fall sports are well on their way, including the Swim team, which started its season at other neighboring schools. The District is very thankful for Hudsonville, Grandville, and Zeeland for their help with the swimming schedules and use of their pools.
 - **Pool Renovations:** Renovations have been in progress and will hopefully be open in the new year.
 - **OK Conference Cards:** Mrs. Moy will be getting the OK Conference passes for the Board members after the meeting.
- **Wildcat Festival:** The annual Wildcat Festival will be held on Thursday, August 28, from 3:30 pm - 7:00 pm. It will also be the first home football game. There will be many games, face painting, inflatables, a petting zoo, and food trucks outside the stadium. The JHS Student Council has worked hard to create an event to celebrate the entire Jenison community.
- **Communications Update:** The Communications Department has been working hard on refreshing the JPS website, giving it a cleaner design and improved navigation. They are also preparing to launch a new app, expected to go live this Friday. The app will focus heavily on the calendar feature, which was the most-used function of the previous version. The calendar will be compatible with Google and Apple platforms and will include integrated maps. The Communications team has done an outstanding job to ensure both the website and app are ready for the start of the new school year.
- **Construction:** Due to construction, the flow of traffic at the Junior High will be as it was at the end of the school year last year; one entrance and one exit forming one large loop. Parking may be a challenge, especially with multiple events throughout the year.
 - **Band Invitational:** The Marching Band has already been proactive in adapting to the construction, working on a creative plan to use the available space effectively during their event.
 - **Tennis Courts:** The new tennis courts are nearing completion, with a target finish date in mid-September. Wildcat-branded wind screens will be added soon. Some courts have already been painted, and pickleball lines have been included as well.
 - **Transportation & Maintenance Building:** The old transportation building has been demolished, and staff are currently working out of a temporary trailer. The new facility is

expected to take approximately nine months to complete. In the meantime, the Maintenance Department is using the vacant house south of the softball fields for equipment and vehicle storage. There are no new updates regarding the other property at this time.

- **JCA Concrete Slab Installation:** With the construction being done on the main campus, the District took the opportunity to pour a concrete slab outside the JCA scene shop. This space will be used to place shipping containers for additional storage needs at the JCA.
- **Collingsworth Concert:** The concert was held this past Saturday, and it was a well-attended event.

Adjournment:

The President of the Board of Education, Dr. Hartman, adjourned the Jenison Public Schools Board of Education meeting at 7:29 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)
September 2025	Mon, Sept 8	Mon, Sept 29
October 2025	Mon, Oct 13	Mon, Oct 27
November 2025	Mon, Nov 17	
December 2025	Mon, Dec 8	
January 2026	Mon, Jan 12	Mon, Jan 26
February 2026	Mon, Feb 16	
March 2026	Mon, Mar 9	Mon, Mar 23
April 2026	Mon, Apr 20	
May 2026	Mon, May 11	
June 2026	Mon, Jun 8	
July 2026	Mon, Jul 13	