

**Mendon Community Schools
Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2025**

I. General Business

A. Call to Order

Board President, Regina Schinker, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm in the Middle/High School library.

B. Roll Call

- Members Present: Jesse King, Regina Schinker, DyAnn Steinberger, and Norma Switalski
- Members Absent: Roger Cupp, Sonya Moyle, and Jeremy Palmer
- Administrative Staff Present: Leasa Griffith-Mathews, Robert Kretschman, and Lisa VanZoest
- Others Present: Presley Allen, Amy Gonser, Kohl Gonser, Bailey Griffith, Dawn Griffith, Shane Griffith, Brianna Heitkamp, Dawn Heitkamp, Keith Heitkamp, Carol Higgins, Dalila Moreno, Melissa Moreno, Julie Nemire, Bonnie Outman, Chris Schinker, Lila Schinker, Heather Stiver, James Stiver, Heather Stiver, Brandon Wenzel, Kayla Wenzel, Tiffany Wenzel, Alex Zagon, and Megan Zagon

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Approval of Minutes, Bills, Receipts and Financial Report

Motion was made by King and supported by Switalski to approve the Board Work Session Minutes for May 5, 2025, as well as the Bills, Receipts, and Financial Report as presented.

Motion Carried: 4 ayes; 0 nays, 3 absent

II. Communication

A. Oral

1. Gold Star Award Recipients were recognized.
 - a. Presley Allen will attend Goshen College in the Elementary Education Program while running track and cross country. Presley thanked Lisa Vedmore-Lacy for her influence.
 - b. Kohl Gonser will attend Glen Oaks Community College before transferring while studying Journalism & Communications. Kohl thanked Susie Shimer for her influence.
 - c. Bailey Griffith will attend Southwestern College in the Elementary Education program. Bailey thanked Lincoln Klinger for his influence.
 - d. Brianna Heitkamp will attend Kellogg Community College in the Dental Hygiene program. Brianna thanked Bobby Kretschman for his influence.
 - e. Dalila Moreno will finish her EMC program at Glen Oaks Community College before transferring to Western Michigan University in the Elementary Education program. Dalila thanked Lisa Vedmore-Lacy for her influence.
 - f. Lila Schinker will attend Michigan State University in the fall in the

- Integrative Biology program to become a physician's assistant. Lila thanked Jenna Griffith for her influence.
- g. Nicholas Stiver will attend Grand Valley State University to study either engineering or business. Nicholas thanked Bobby Kretschman for his influence.
 - h. Kayla Wenzel will attend the University of Michigan to study Environmental Science. Kayla thanked Jenna Griffith for her influence.
 - i. Alexander Zagon will attend Glen Oaks Community College before transferring to Western Michigan University in the Physical Therapy program. Alex thanked Bobby Kretschman and the football coaches for his influence.
 - j. Not in attendance due to softball:
 - i. Abby Butler will attend Michigan State University to study Forensic Psychology. Ally Butler will attend Michigan State University to become a School Psychologist.

A brief reception was held for the Gold Star students. President Schinker informed the audience that we would return to session in approximately 20 minutes.

Open Session continued at 5:55pm.

- 2. Keith Heitkamp addressed the Board thanking Mrs. Griffith-Mathews, Mr. Kretschman and Mrs. Bonnie Outman for the wonderful awards ceremony. He stated that our seniors are very fortunate to have such a wonderful event in their honor.
- 3. Carol Higgins addressed the Board and the audience regarding "community" and how she truly hopes students will return to give back to their community.
- 4. Julie Nemire addressed the Board regarding the Mendon Schools Foundation and a scholarship that was voted on at the meeting, but then not given at the awards ceremony. She believes there should be an explanation and indicated that staff members are involved on the board of the Foundation as well.
- 5. Bonnie Outman addressed the Board and the audience regarding the John Outman scholarship. She explained her decision to only give one scholarship and apologized for any hurt that was caused as it was not the intention.
- 6. Tiffany Wenzel addressed the Board regarding the awards ceremony and scholarship presentations. Wenzel indicated that a Foundation scholarship was pulled from her daughter prior to the scholarship presentation for baseless reasons.

B. Written

Griffith-Mathews read a letter from the St. Joseph County ISD Board of Education regarding the upcoming Election of members.

C. Board Communication

I. Consent Agenda

Approval of

A. Girls Basketball Coaches

- a. Varsity co-Head Coaches: Glen Samson & Zach Higgins
- b. JV Head: Chris Nightingale
- c. 8th Grade Head: Spencer Howe

Motion was made by King and supported by Steinberger to approve the items on the Consent Agenda.

Motion Carried: 4 ayes; 0 nays; 3 absent

II. Board Reports

A. Athletic Report

Kretschman gave Samson's report. Several track athletes qualified for the State meet. Baseball districts will be held at White Pigeon on Saturday, May 30th. Softball finished as SCAA League Champions and will begin district play at Burr Oak on Tuesday, May 27th. Kretschman indicated that eleven senior scholar-athletes were honored in Hillsdale on May 3rd. Schinker asked if there was a way to complain about the facilities at the Hillsdale track. The track itself is beautiful, but there is no shade or shelter and only port-a-johns. The big meets should not be held at the facility until it is 100% ready.

B. Elementary Report

Griffith-Mathews reported for Crotser that the enrollment has remained the same as April. She reviewed the celebrations including a thank-you to the Remax team for the presentation on hot air balloons. Another thank-you was given to both Mr. Adkins and Mrs. Dennis for the Spring Showcase event which was moved to the high school due to weather. Upcoming events include Track and Field Day for the 4th and 5th grades at the MS/HS track and the K-3rd grade event at the elementary playground. There will also be an Awards Assembly at the elementary on June 3rd.

C. Middle/High School Report

Kretschman reported that the student count at the MS/HS remained the same as April. He indicated that the Downtown/School Clean-Up Day with NHS members went extremely well. Kretschman also thanked Mrs. Shimer for her work on the Prom festivities, Mr. Adkins for the Spring Band Concert, Bonnie Outman for all of her work with the Foundation, Taylor Griffith for putting together all of the awards handed out on Thursday and those to come for tomorrow, and he thanked Mrs. O'Mara for the dance they hosted on Friday. Kretschman then reviewed the activities set for graduation.

D. Superintendent Report

a. Bond Update

Griffith-Mathews gave an update on the work. Everything is on or ahead of schedule so far. Elementary classrooms will begin on Monday, June 9th. Inspections at the Middle/High School for the locker rooms have passed. Steinberger asked if they could get a copy of the list of work to be done in each phase. Griffith-Mathews said she would email members that information.

b. Legislative Update

Griffith-Mathews stated that there is a bill in the House committee that would restrict student phone use in schools. She also stated that another bill has been introduced regarding the yellow lights on buses which would require drivers to stop for yellow lights as well.

V. Discussion Items

A. Review of 2025-2026 ISD General Fund Budget

Griffith-Mathews reviewed the budget. She indicated that the revenue was decreasing due to cuts in grants, so the expenditures were decreasing as well.

B. Change in Board of Education Meeting from June 16, 2025 to June 23, 2025

Griffith-Mathews asked that the regular meeting scheduled for June 16th be moved to June 23rd to give as much time as possible for the budgets to be completed. Budgets are due by June 30th, so this would give more time to finish the year end and give a preliminary budget for the 2025-2026 school year.

C. FSMC Contract Renewal for Food Service

VanZoest reminded the Board that we go through the renewal process every year. For the upcoming year, the administrative fees would increase from \$1260 to \$1300 and the management fees would increase from .0377 per meal to .0388 per meal.

D. NEOLA Volume 39.2 and Title IX Policy 2264(Rescind) and Policy 2266(Reinstate)- Second Reading

Griffith-Mathews asked if there were any questions regarding the policies from the April meeting.

VI. Action Items

A. Approval to Support 2025-2026 ISD General Fund Budget

Motion was made by King and supported by Switalski to approve the support of the 2025-2026 ISD General Fund Budget.

Motion Carried: 4 ayes; 0 nays; 3 absent (Steinberger voted with the caveat that her salary is not paid through the general fund.

B. Approval of the ISD Board of Education Election Resolution

Motion was made by King and supported by Switalski to approve DyAnn Steinberger as the Board's representative for the ISD election.

Motion Carried: 4 ayes; 0 nays; 3 absent

C. Approval to Change the June Board of Education Meeting to June 23, 2025

Motion was made by Steinberger and supported by King to approve the change to the June Board meeting date from June 13th to June 23rd.

Motion Carried: 4 ayes; 0 nays; 3 absent

D. Approval of FSMC Contract Renewal for Food Service

Motion was made by King and supported by Switalski to approve the support of the 2025-2026 ISD General Fund Budget.

Motion Carried: 4 ayes; 0 nays; 3 absent

E. Approval of Triangle Pay App #9 for \$460,416.41.

Motion was made by King and supported by Switalski to approve the payment of the Triangle Pay App #9 in the amount of \$460,416.41.

Motion Carried: 4 ayes; 0 nays; 3 absent

F. Approval of NEOLA Volume 39 No. 2, Policy 2264 (Rescind), and Policy 2266 (Reinstate)

Motion was made by King and supported by Steinberger to approve the NEOLA Volume 39 No. 2 as well as the rescinding of Policy 2264 and Reinstatement of Policy 2266.

Motion Carried: 4 ayes; 0 nays; 3 absent

G. Approval of the MHSAA Membership Resolution for the 2025-2026 School Year

Motion was made by Steinberger and supported by Switalski to approve the MHSAA Membership Resolution for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion Carried: 4 ayes; 0 nays; 3 absent

VII. Good of the Order

Griffith-Mathews reminded the Board that the senior parade would begin at 6pm and graduation at 7pm on Thursday, May 22nd. The Board will report around 6:30pm.

Switalski thanked Bonnie Outman for everything that she has done for Mendon Schools.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 pm by Switalski and supported by King.

Motion Carried: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 3absent

Respectfully Submitted by,

Regina Schinker
Board President

Leasa Griffith-Mathews
Superintendent