

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, October 13, 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.

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
Kristy Rogalla, Co-Director of Teaching and Learning	Brett Cataldo, Junior High Principal	Jon Mroz, Sandy Hill Elementary Principal
Stephen Baab, Accounting Supervisor	Joel Korson, Maner Costerisan Representative	Katie Moy, Chief of Staff

Recognition: Deans of Students, Instructional Coaches

Instructional Coaches: Katelyn Keane (not present), Erin Kornoely, Holly McGoran, and Janet Schultz

Mrs. Rogalla shared a heartfelt message recognizing the exceptional individuals who make up the Instructional Coaching staff. They are not just educators, they are leaders, collaborators, and champions of continuous growth. They uplift those around them and play a vital role in helping both students and staff reach their full potential. Mrs. Rogalla quoted Ted Lasso, who said, *"Believe in your people."* That belief is at the core of what the instructional coaches do every day. They believe in their colleagues, in the students, and in the power of collaboration. Whether they're meeting with teachers, brainstorming ways to reach every student, partnering with families, or supporting teams and working across buildings and grade levels, they are deeply committed to their work and shaping learning. They analyze data, refine programming, share resources, and lead efforts that impact the entire district (not

just TK–6). Their influence reaches across the entire district. They analyze data, refine curriculum, share best practices, and build systems that foster success. They are the roots of an educational tree, laying a strong foundation and doing the heavy lifting that allows others to grow and thrive. Their impact is profound. They are proof that students, when given the opportunity and support, can achieve at high levels. Their work is a reminder and an example of the power of collaboration and what's possible when individuals come together. The Instructional Coaches are multipliers of excellence. They shape learning, inspire growth, and embody the very best of what teamwork can achieve. They are the kind of people you want on your team.

Dean of Students: Samuel Diekevers, Keegan Goalen, Alex Krombeen, Amber Larsen, Nicole Opple, and Jeanna Watson

Mr. Mroz and Mr. Cataldo shared brief sentiments about the Dean of Students. They acknowledged that this is a dynamic, ever-evolving position, and one that continues to make a powerful impact across school buildings. Much like the Instructional Coaching staff, the Deans are dedicated to supporting both teachers and, ultimately, students. They support the whole child, focusing not just on academics, but on emotional, behavioral, and social development. They are pillars of school culture. Day after day, they maintain a strong, positive environment, and serve as master communicators with students, staff, and families. They contribute to overall instructional success, working directly with students and walking alongside them through all circumstances, both good and bad. The Deans help ensure that there are no gaps in education, offering countless hours of support (nearly 24/7, year-round). Their doors are always open, and they have a welcoming spirit that is felt by every student and family who walks into the building. They are, without question, essential assets to the district.

Dr. Graham echoed the sentiments shared about the Instructional Coaches and Deans of Students, expressing sincere gratitude for the dedication and impact of each individual. He acknowledged the tremendous value they bring to the district, emphasizing that their contributions are deeply appreciated and that they are truly invaluable members of the Jenison Public Schools team.

Recess:

Dr. Hartman called a recess at 6:42 pm to congratulate the individuals recognized.

Reconvene:

The meeting reconvened at 6:46 pm.

Move Into Closed Session:

Dr. Hartman paused the Board of Education meeting to announce that the Board would be entering a closed session. He informed the public that the Board of Education would meet briefly in closed session and would reconvene in open session after.

Purpose Closed Session: Attorney-Client Privilege

Mrs. Postema motioned to go into a closed session for Attorney-Client Privilege. Dr. Reed seconded the motion. President Hartman called a closed session for the Board of Education at 6:46 pm.

A roll call vote was taken:

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

NAYS: none

Abstentions: none

The Board of Education voted to go into closed session with the Administration to discuss matters protected by attorney-client privilege by a roll call vote of 7-0 at 6:46 pm.

The public was dismissed.

Closed Session: Attorney-Client Privilege

The Board and Administration met in a closed session to discuss matters protected by attorney-client privilege.

Motion to come out of Closed Session and Return to Open Session:

Mr. Waalkes motioned to go out of the closed session. Dr. Reed seconded the motion. A roll call vote was not necessary to end the closed session. The closed session ended at 7:19 pm with a vote of 7-0.

Dr. Hartman declared the Board of Education Closed Session to be ended and the regular meeting reconvened in open session after a short recess to invite others back in at 7:19 pm.

The public was invited back into the room for the remainder of the meeting.

Recess:

Dr. Hartman called a recess at 7:19 pm to allow the public to join the meeting and allow for quick break.

Reconvene:

The meeting reconvened at 7:22 pm.

Public Comment:

Ashley Rottman (110785 56h Ave) - She shared her appreciation to the Board and Administration for having a safety guard posted at the gate at Kids First. Having an individual there has helped make it easier and safer for students to access the school from the back neighborhood. She specifically noted that the individual covering the afternoon shift takes their role seriously and is truly appreciated. She also shared that the Wilderness Academy program has officially started a parent club and is having its first fundraiser, an apparel sale. She is planning to share more information with the Board. The Wilderness Academy parents are looking forward to a great year ahead.

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

Approval of Agenda:

Mrs Postema motioned to approve the agenda as prepared. Mrs. Mooney 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:

Dr. Reed motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the September 29, 2025, Board of Education Workshop Meeting. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion. The Board of Education voted to approve the meeting minutes from September 29, 2025, Board of Education Workshop Meeting as presented with a vote of 7-0.

2. Approval of Financial Report:

Mrs. Mooney motioned to approve the September Financial Report as presented. Mrs. Postema seconded the motion. Ms. Marcy reminded the Board that there wasn't a State Aid Payment in September. In addition, the literacy grant (35j grant) helped cover the expenses for the book purchase that was approved last month. The Board of Education voted to approve the financial report as presented with a vote of 7-0.

3. Approval of Summer Tax Resolution:

Mr. Waalkes motioned to approve the Summer Tax Resolution as presented to the Board of Education. Dr. Reed seconded the motion. Ms. Marcy explained that this is an annual resolution in coordination with Georgetown Township to authorize the collection of the summer tax levy, as outlined under Section 1613 of the School Code of 1976 (MCLA 380.1613, as amended). Jenison Public School and Georgetown Township successfully negotiated an agreement on behalf of the district for the collection of the 2025 summer tax levies. Under this agreement, Georgetown Township will collect 100% of the annual school property taxes, including debt service, on all property within the District located in Georgetown Township. This arrangement will remain in effect from year to year unless revoked by the Board of Education. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, this Board previously adopted a resolution to impose a summer tax levy to collect 100% of annual school property taxes, including debt service, upon property located within the District within Georgetown Township, and continuing from year-to-year until specifically revoked by the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. Pursuant to the Revised School Code, MCL 380.1 et seq., the Board invokes for 2026 its previously- adopted ongoing resolution imposing a summer tax levy, with respect to Georgetown Township, of 100% of annual school property taxes, including debt service, upon property located within the District within Georgetown Township, and continuing from year-to-year until specifically revoked by the Board, and requests that Georgetown Township collect those summer taxes.*
- 2. The Superintendent, the Director of Finance & Operations, or a designee thereof, is authorized and directed to forward to the governing body of Georgetown Township a copy of this Board's resolution imposing a summer property tax levy on an ongoing basis and a copy of this resolution requesting that Georgetown Township agree to collect the summer tax levy for 2026 in the amount specified in this resolution. Such forwarding of the resolutions and the request to collect the summer tax levy shall be performed so that they are received by Georgetown Township's governing body on or before December 31, 2025.*
- 3. Pursuant to and in accordance with Revised School Code Section 1613(1), the Superintendent, the Director of Finance & Operations, or a designee thereof, is authorized and directed to negotiate on behalf of the District with the governing body of Georgetown Township for the reasonable expenses for collection of the District's summer tax levy that the township may bill under Revised School Code Sections 1611 or 1612. Any such proposed agreement shall be brought before this Board for its approval or disapproval.*
- 4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.*

A roll call vote was taken:

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

NAYS: none

Abstentions: none

The Board of Education has voted to approve the Summer Tax Resolution as presented by a roll call vote of 7-0

4. Approval of Out-of-State Trips:

Dr. Reed motioned to approve the out-of-state trips as presented to the Board of Education. Mrs. Mooney seconded the motion. Dr. Graham shared that two out-of-state trips from the high school were

missed for Board approval last month. He emphasized that all out-of-state travel must receive prior approval and reminded the Board that these trips will follow the same guidelines and procedures as discussed at the last meeting. Dr. Graham also highlighted the value of these travel opportunities, noting the positive impact they have on students' learning experiences. Advanced approval helps allow staff to move forward with student/parent interest meetings and finalize planning, and it also gives families enough notice to plan and budget for the trips. Dr. Graham reassured the Board that student safety remains the District's highest priority. The District closely monitors travel conditions and any potential conflicts at or near destinations to determine whether a trip should proceed as planned or be rescheduled.

Trip to Spain - Summer 2026: Requested by Lindsey Remley, High School Spanish teacher. She is to lead the High School student trip to Seville, Spain, from June 3–10, 2026. Mrs. Remley will serve as the point person and will be taking 12 students. This trip follows the same biennial format and provides students with an immersive international learning opportunity. The estimated cost of the trip is \$4,000 per student, which covers travel, lodging, and programming

Trip to France & Northern Italy - Summer 2027: Requested by Rebecca Frandsen, High School French and Language Arts Teacher. The High School students' travel experience to France and Italy, from June 25–July 4, 2027. This educational trip is designed to immerse students in authentic cultural and linguistic experiences, directly tying into world language and art curriculum. Students will practice French in real-world contexts (ordering food, reading menus, and interacting with citizens) and visit significant historical and cultural landmarks studied in class. Estimated Participants: Minimum of 10 students required, with a goal of at least 15 students. Adult Chaperones: Rebecca Frandsen and Shelly Eddington. Anticipated Student Cost: Approximately \$4,800 per student (final cost dependent on flight pricing, optional excursions, and available vouchers). Eligibility: Open to all Jenison High School students, expanding beyond French students to include those with interests in art and cultural learning. Vendor: Explorica (itinerary and contact information attached). This trip aligns with JPS's mission to empower students with meaningful, real-world learning opportunities that expand cultural awareness and support personal growth.

The Board of Education voted to approve out-of-state trips as presented with a vote of 7-0.

Discussion Items:

1. Audit Review:

Ms. Marcy introduced Mr. Joel Korson, a representative from Maner Costerisan, the District's external audit firm. She also recognized Mr. Stephen Baab, the District's Accounting Supervisor, for his continued leadership and dedication throughout the audit process. Ms. Marcy emphasized that Mr. Baab remains a vital asset to the District, with his thorough preparation and attention to detail playing a key role in ensuring a smooth and successful audit.

Mr. Joel Korson presented the findings of the 2024–2025 school year audit to the Board of Education. Before reviewing the audit summary, he echoed the praise for Mr. Baab's work, noting that he carries much of the responsibility for preparing for the audit and consistently does an exceptional job. In accordance with professional standards, Mr. Korson shared the audit findings and professional judgment with the Board, as part of the Board's oversight of the District's financial reporting.

Audit Highlights:

- **Financial Statements:** The District received an unmodified opinion. The highest level of assurance, indicating that the financial statements are presented fairly in all material respects.
- **Federal Awards:** No findings, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses were identified. This year, the Special Education Cluster was the federal program selected for testing.

- Excellent business office and administrative team: The audit team praised the Business Office and administrative team for their excellent work. Special thanks were extended to Ms. Marcy, Mr. Baab, and the entire accounting staff for their professionalism and preparedness. The audit process went as smoothly as possible.

New for the 2025 Fiscal Year:

- Presenting draft financial statements: The 2025 Compliance Supplement has not yet been released.
- GASB 101 – Compensated Absences: Restatement of the July 2024 compensated absence balance (updated with the PTO days redefining the compensation standards).
- Continued spending on the 2020 and 2024 School Building and Site Bonds: spent \$1.4 million and \$6.0 million, respectively.
- Sunsetting of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds: Approximately \$343k spent in the current year- the District has fully spent all ESSER funds.

Audit Results:

- Governance Letter: Required communication to the Board; a standard letter with no modified language.
- Management Letter: Identified that the Food Service Fund currently holds an excess balance.

Overall, there were no audit findings for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. The district received an unmodified opinion, the highest level of assurance auditors can provide, indicating that the financial statements and compliance requirements were free of material misstatements. In short, this was a clean audit with no surprises. The JPS school district received the best opinion that auditors can give. Additionally, the Food Service Fund currently has excess funding. The Food Service Department is actively working on a plan to responsibly utilize these funds in alignment with program guidelines. It was also noted that the JPS School District maintains a strong financial reputation, demonstrated by its consistent on-time payments, healthy fund balance, and other positive fiscal indicators. These factors position the District favorably in the bond market and will be beneficial as it explores the potential sale of bonds in the near future.

Dr. Graham also expressed his appreciation for the Business Office team, stating that they are a strong and dedicated group that consistently works hard to support the District's financial integrity. He specifically praised Mr. Baab for his meticulous approach, noting that "he ensures the best quality by crossing his t's and dotting his i's." Dr. Graham thanked the entire team for their commitment and hard work that contributed to such a positive audit outcome.

2. Superintendent Update:

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

- **State Budget** - Ms. Marcy provided a brief update on how the recently passed 300-page state budget bill may impact the District. In June, she had presented preliminary budget projections, including an anticipated \$400 per-pupil funding increase. The District recently held its Count Day and is still finalizing its full-time equivalent (FTE) student count. It was projected a flat enrollment (no increase or decrease). Ms. Marcy noted that the District maintains a healthy fund balance and budgeted strategically to support staff compensation under the recently negotiated two-year contract. She also shared that the state has eliminated some funding related to MSPERS, and there is potential for the District to dip into 31A (At-Risk) reserves in the future. Overall, Ms. Marcy expressed confidence that the District remains in a strong financial position and that actual figures will be close to the original projections. She is currently working on the amended budget, which will be presented in December.
- **Homecoming Week**: The Homecoming week was a success and brought together the entire community in celebration.

- Parade: The parade was a fun way to end the week with participation from elementary students and the Unified Sports team. Despite a brief rain shower, the event continued smoothly and was well-received by those in attendance.
- High School Assembly: The high school assembly energized students and helped build school spirit, leading into an evening full of excitement and pride.
- Dance: The Homecoming Dance was held in the fieldhouse with over 1,000 students in attendance. In addition to dancing, a variety of activities were available to keep students engaged and entertained throughout the night.
- **Marching Band:** On October 3, there was a medical emergency during the bands performance. Dr. Graham expressed his pride in how both students and staff responded. They were calm and composed during the time. The situation was serious, but thanks to the immediate response, including the use of CPR and an AED, the individual survived. Dr. Graham commended all those who assisted, noting the collective effort of many who helped during the incident. Although the band did not continue their performance, Dr. Graham emphasized that the decision to stop was the right one, and he is proud of how the students handled such a challenging moment with maturity and care.
 - AEDs - The District is intentional about the placement and accessibility of the AEDs. Multiple AEDs are available in the stadium area, including on the Gators (one with the athletic trainers and the Athletic Director), as well as in the training room. Additionally, there are staff members including office personnel in all the buildings that are trained to use the AED, ensuring preparedness in the event of an emergency.
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Conferences are underway, marking an important time of year to strengthen the partnership between families and staff in support of student success. The goal is to engage as many families as possible. Dr. Graham shared a heartfelt letter from a junior high parent, who was moved to tears by the remarkable improvement their child has shown. The student is now thriving academically and has rediscovered a love for learning. Dr. Graham recognized this as a powerful compliment and reflection of the dedication of staff and the positive impact of strong school-family partnerships.
- **Bond Updates:**
 - Tennis Courts: The new tennis courts are officially open and available for use. The concession building is nearing completion and is expected to be finished within the next few weeks.
 - Maintenance and Transportation Center: The foundation has been poured, and construction is scheduled to begin in November. The initial focus will be on completing the block work, which is required before adding the building (pre-manufactured). The goal is to have the structure enclosed with a roof before winter weather hits.
 - 5th/6th Building: Site work has begun with the excavation of the old tennis courts. Crews are in the process of tearing up the site and preparing to begin the utility work (gas, sewer, etc). Construction of the building will not begin until this utility work is completed, which will take some time.
- **Athletics:**
 - Student Leadership Summit: The leadership conference will be held November 5th. It's a great opportunity for students.
 - Miss Volleyball for State of Michigan - Karis Chatfield was named a finalist for Michigan's Miss Volleyball by the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association. She has helped lead the girls volleyball team to a number 5 ranking in the state this year.
 - Equestrian Club - The Equestrian Club has had a successful season. While it operates as an outside club, it receives support from JPS. Participation can vary from year to year, as involvement depends on student interest and the level of commitment from families. It's important to note that equestrian activities represent a significant investment for families, both in time and resources.
- **Fall Concerts:** Fall concerts begin this week, and the JCA will be active over the coming weeks with a full schedule of performances and events.

- **OASBA General Meeting:** Dr. Reed shared that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 10, and will include a discussion on Outdoor Education in partnership with the Outdoor Discovery Center.
- **Ferris State University Teacher:** Mrs. Mooney shared that she recently spoke with a professor from Ferris State University. The professor mentioned that there is a Professor from Brazil who teaches classes at the high school. It was shared that this professor enjoys teaching the students and feels that the staff and students are warm and welcoming.

Adjournment:

The President of the Board of Education, Dr. Hartman, adjourned the Jenison Public Schools Board of Education meeting at 8:22 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)
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	