

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, August 18, 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

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-Chairs of the SEAB Committee. Alana Kooi, Co-Director of Teaching and Learning, and Maddie Lambert, Jr. High Health/PE Teacher. Congratulations were given to Mrs. Lambert, who recently welcomed a baby girl and is currently 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:

The Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB) met in a special session on July 29, 2025, in response to the Board of Education's feedback and comments from the May 12 and June 9 SEAB Hearings regarding the updates to the 7th Grade Reproductive Health Curriculum of the Directions Unit 3: *"Building Respectful Future Dating Relationships"*.

Mrs. Kooi shared that the SEAB Advisory Committee has been a great group to work with, and has spent time reviewing the language and agreed with the proposed revisions and recommendations to the curriculum that were presented to the board.

Mrs. Kooi reviewed the 7th Grade Reproductive Health Curriculum of the Directions Unit 3: *"Building Respectful Future Dating Relationships"* with the Board of Education, with the recommended revisions from the previous hearings. Many updates focused on using more familiar or common language to help ensure students better understand the material. Additionally, some terminology was revised to reflect accurate medical language (contributions from the medical professionals on the committee). Certain graphics were updated to feature more current and relevant visuals, and several slides were consolidated to simplify the content and give more clarity. The committee ensured the labeling of some of the female reproductive slides was correct, in particular for the uterus and the uterine lining.

The committee reviewed two specific slides, Slide 2 and Slide 56. A structured protocol was used to ensure all members could share input on language and content.

Slide 2

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>

The Board thanked the SEAB Advisory Committee for its thorough review and helpful recommendations. They felt the revisions were appropriate and timely. They also appreciated the added clarification between STD and STI, noting that it helps students better understand the definitions.

Public Comment:

No public comment was given.

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