

Minutes of Workshop Meeting

The Board of Education Jenison Public Schools

The Board of Education of Jenison Public Schools held a workshop meeting on Monday, September 29, 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 Workshop meeting 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, Ph.D.,
Superintendent

Leslie Philipps,
Assistant Superintendent /
Title IX Coordinator

Christine Marcy,
Director of Finance and
Operations

Julie Roby,
Director of Student Services

Kristy Rogalla,
Co-Director of Teaching
and Learning

Ben Huff,
Director of Brand
Communication

Katie Moy,
Chief of Staff

Public Comment:

Jason Lerg (3502 Tearose Dr, Hudsonville) - He took a moment to share his excitement and pride in the Marching Band and their outstanding work this year. The students are doing exceptionally well, and as a proud Marching Band parent, he expressed his appreciation for the hard work and dedication that everyone involved has put into the program. He main reason for speaking at the meeting was to share his concerns regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education. With AI still in its developing stages, he questioned how students are using these tools and emphasized the importance of using them responsibly. His concern stemmed from his daughter's experience using AI at school. Her experience heightened his caution and the accuracy of the tools. He noted that AI can sometimes provide inaccurate information and presents ethical gray areas that require careful consideration. He asked whether the district has a policy or guidelines in place regarding the use of AI in the classroom and for educational purposes.

Rich Mapes ((7260 Coconut, Jenison) - He echoed the concern of AI that Mr. Lerg shared, and was appreciative of him mentioning it. He thinks AI needs to be used properly and safely. His primary reason for speaking was to advocate for the District to allow for a Turning Point USA chapter at the High School. He believes the organization would provide students with valuable opportunities to deepen their understanding of civic responsibility, the Constitution, and the importance of free expression in a safe and respectful environment. He added that a Turning Point USA group would encourage students to engage in open and thoughtful conversations while learning to navigate differing perspectives respectfully. Through this experience, students would be empowered to become thoughtful, responsible, and engaged citizens.

BJ Goulette (1013 Baldwin) - He shared that his son has been working to have a Turning Point USA chapter at the high school since the spring, but has encountered challenges in getting it started. He expressed concern that the policies surrounding student clubs are unclear, particularly regarding whether a staff member must be involved or if an outside individual can lead the group. He believes the club should be permitted as a student-led organization, but is seeking clarity on the requirements and procedures. He acknowledged that his son may have misunderstood or miscommunicated some of the information and expressed a desire to better understand how he can support his son in navigating the process of starting the group. He also noted that high school Turning Point USA programs differ from college chapters, and that distinction should be taken into account.

Harvey Nikkel (7513 23rd Ave, Jenison) - He encouraged the District and Board of Education to support the formation of a Turning Point USA chapter at the high school, believing it would provide students with valuable opportunities to engage in civil discussions and hear diverse perspectives in a respectful environment. He also shared that he had heard troubling reports, though not necessarily from within the JPS district, about staff members allegedly reacting inappropriately to the assassination of Charlie Kirk. He emphasized that he would be deeply disappointed to hear of such behavior occurring in this district. Ultimately, he expressed the importance of fostering an environment where students can hear and discuss differing viewpoints respectfully and thoughtfully.

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. Postema motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the September 8, 2025, SEAB Hearing and the Board of Education Regular Meeting with the amended version of the SEAB Hearing minutes that had been shared with the Board of Education. The amendment clarified statements made during the SEAB Hearing, specifically in the board feedback and public comments. Mr. Waalkes seconded the motion. The Board of Education voted to approve the meeting minutes from the September 8, 2025, SEAB Hearing and the Board of Education Regular Meeting with the amended version of the SEAB Hearing minutes with a vote of 7-0.

Discussion Items:

1. District Climate Survey Results:

Mrs. Roby led the discussion and interactive activity with the group as part of the presentation of the survey results. The survey was conducted earlier this year, in March and April, which allowed the team more time to analyze the data and share findings with both district and building administrators. This year, over 5,900 responses were collected, an increase of nearly 700 from last year. Surveys were shared with students, staff, and families across the district. Noting that there was an increase in

participation from elementary and high school students, a decrease in staff and family responses, and a similar response from junior high students compared to the previous year.

The District's goal is to increase participation year after year to gather more feedback that will help inform how they are doing and identify areas for improvement. The survey data plays a critical role in guiding key initiatives, offering a consistent measure of stakeholder perceptions regarding the district climate, and provides valuable insights to support the strategic plan and district improvement efforts.

The survey focused on six groups: TK–1 students, Elementary students, Junior High students, High School students, Staff, and Families. It also examined five key areas: Teaching and Learning; Physical Environment (Maintenance); School Safety and Rules; Interpersonal Relationships; and Parental Involvement

Learning targets were defined for each category to guide interpretation and action planning. The survey results have already helped guide administrative planning throughout the spring and summer and are helping with the current goals for the school year. They will continue to support the development of both district and building-level goals, aligning efforts with the district's strategic vision. Plans are underway to determine the best methods for sharing these results more with the community. The District plans to administer the survey early in the spring of 2026 to gain a consistent measurement of JPS stakeholders on the climate of our schools.

2. **MASB Delegate:**

The MASB 2025 Delegate Assembly will be held on Thursday, October 23, at 7:00 pm at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Acme. Delegates selected by boards of education across the state will decide on MASB positions on a wide variety of issues affecting education. All delegates and alternates must be school board members. All delegates must be certified and submitted by Thursday, October 2. Ms. Moy will certify delegates on behalf of the board. Mrs. Mooney stated that she can go to represent JPS.

3. **Round Table:**

- **Student-Initiated, Non-Curricular Clubs:** Dr. Graham reviewed Policy 5510: *Student-Initiated, Non-Curricular Clubs* (under Policy 5500 *School-Sponsored and Extracurricular Activities*) with the Board of Education. Following the review, several key discussion points were raised:
 - A conversation will take place with JEA regarding compensation for staff who choose to be involved with non-curricular clubs, as currently, staff are compensated for school-sponsored clubs.
 - There was interest in having a document that outlines how to start a club at JPS.
 - Questions were raised about the general guidelines for forming a club. It was noted that clubs typically require a minimum of 10 interested students and should meet at least 10 times per year.
 - It was also noted that some non-school-sponsored clubs use district facilities but are not school or staff supported.
 - Dr. Graham shared that he will follow up with the students who expressed interest in starting the TPU club to confirm whether there are at least 10 students committed to participating. He will also help students identify a trusted adult to support the group, and explore the development of a standardized form and process for initiating clubs at school.
- **Gate at Kids First:** Mr. Jeff Steigenga, Director of Security, met with families at Kids First to discuss concerns about the locked gate behind the campus. The school is working to identify a safe and practical solution that would allow the gate to be unlocked at key times to ensure students can enter and exit the school safely. Currently, afternoon coverage for the gate is easier to get. The morning coverage has been more difficult. The gate remains locked during the school day and evening and weekends, which has contributed to a noticeable decrease in vandalism on the property. Dr. Graham shared that the team is close to finalizing a plan that will

provide a safer and more accessible route to school for students while maintaining campus security.

- **AI Use in Schools:** The district has established and shared standards for the use of AI with staff, including informational posters that outline acceptable use. While AI presents powerful opportunities as an educational tool, staff are still exploring how to effectively integrate it into teaching and learning, focusing on identifying appropriate boundaries and applications. An AI Professional Learning Community (PLC) has been working on practical uses for AI in the classroom. It was emphasized that the District needs to be proactive as AI tools continue to evolve. The district will continue working toward clear guidelines on when and how AI should be used, ensuring it serves as a supportive resource while maintaining students' development of foundational skills. Updates about guidelines and standards will be brought back to the Board of Education for further review and input.
- **This Fall:** It's been a great fall for everything so far! One exciting highlight is the opening of the new tennis courts, which students are now actively using. The courts are equipped with security cameras, and the lights will be programmed to remain on for a set period in the evenings. Portable nets will also be monitored to ensure proper use and maintenance.

Adjournment:

The President of the Board of Education, Dr. Hartman, adjourned the Jenison Public Schools Board of Education meeting at 8:18 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	