

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, December 9, 2024, beginning at 6:30 pm in the Jenison Center for the Arts Boardroom.

Call to Order:

President of the Board of Education, Mrs. Peterman, called the Jenison Public Schools Board of Education meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Members Present:

Amanda Peterman,
President

Eric Hartman, D.C.,
Vice President

Chris Reed, Ph.D.,
Treasurer

Jen Postema,
Secretary

Jennifer Griffin, DPM
Trustee

Donna Mooney
Trustee

William Waalkes,
Trustee

Others Present:

Brandon Graham, Ph.D.,
Superintendent

Leslie Philipps,
Assistant Superintendent /
Title IX Coordinator

Christine Marcy,
Director of Finance and
Operations

Rachel Postle-Brown, PhD,
Bursley Elementary Principal

Rebekah Redmer,
JIA Director

Kristy Rogalla,
Co-Director of Teaching
and Learning

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

Recognitions: Bursley Elementary

Dr. Postle-Brown briefly shared about the individuals who were recognized

Student: S. Melnyk unfortunately could not attend this evening. She is being recognized for the achievements she has made throughout the years as a student at Bursley Elementary. Her and her family came to Jenison from Ukraine. She is a part of the ELL program and has had tremendous academic growth. She knew very little English when she first came to Bursley and is now towards top of her class. The staff wanted to congratulate her for her accomplishments.

Staff:

Megan Smith recently had a baby and is currently on maternity leave but came to the meeting to be recognized anyways. This is one of example of her dedication to the district. She is an incredible educator. About a year and half ago she transitioned from Kindergarten to ELL for Bursley. Though she was an exceptional Kindergarten teacher, she does an amazing job in her knew role. She is supportive of the students and parents making sure they have all they need. She is an incredible instructor and always finds a way to help Bursley and the ELL program thrive.

Amy Hage is an exceptional teacher. She has been a pillar at Bursley Elementary, and has been a huge asset to the building and district. This year she has four students with four different language needs in her class. This alone can be a lot of work, but Mrs. Hage has created an atmosphere in her class for all her students to shine. She is an amazing advocate and dedicated leader. She is one of the first grade team leaders for the district and is difference maker!

Recess:

Mrs. Peterman called a meeting recess at 6:35 pm to congratulate the individuals being recognized.

Reconvene:

The meeting reconvened at 6:38 pm.

Public Comment:

Bradley Slagh (7142 Riley, Zeeland) - Is the State Representative of the 85th District. He provided the Board of Education with a brief update about what is happening in the State of Michigan including budget expectations. There is currently one seat that is open and going through a recount (the seat is from Battle Creek area). At the last count the vote was leaning towards the Republican. Currently, the Governor seat and Senate are Democratic. If the Republican take the House then there will be more balance of power. It is expected to have many bills be brought before the legislation during this lame duck session. Only five days left before the holiday break and reconvene in January. Mr. Slagh said he would be willing to stop in any time to give an update or talk through any thing the board would like.

Rich VanderKlok (2057 Pinewood, Jenison), JEA President and High School Language Arts Teacher, shared his appreciation to Mrs. Peterman. He shared how much has changed during her leadership, and how more community members participate in meetings. She always thinks of the district, staff, and what is best for students. He has had two of her children in class, and their younger daughters are friendns. Mrs. Peterman is a great parent and board member. He thanked her for her service and will be missed.

Mrs. Peterman thanked the public for their time and comments provided to the Board of Education.

Oath of Office:

Dr. Reed motioned for the Oath of Office to be administered for Mrs. Postema for the partial term appointment. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion. Mrs. Postema took the oath to be on the Jenison Public School Board of Education. The oath is as follows: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this State, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Member of the Board of Education of Jenison Public Schools, Ottawa County, Michigan according to the best of my ability."

Board Seat Appointment:

Mrs. Peterman motioned for Mr. William Waalkes to fulfill the rest of Mrs. Postema's term. Dr. Hartman seconded the motion. Mr. Waalkes accepted the position. The Board of Education voted to approve

Mr. Waalkes fulfilling the rest of Mrs. Postema's term (ending December 2024) with a vote of 7-0. Mr. Waalkes will be sworn in today for this position. And, then be sworn in again for his new role in January along with Ms. Shannon Hogan.

Mr. Waalkes took the oath to be on the Jenison Public School Board of Education. The oath is as follows: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this State, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Member of the Board of Education of Jenison Public Schools, Ottawa County, Michigan according to the best of my ability."

Approval of Agenda:

Mrs. Postema 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. Consent Agenda:

Mrs. Mooney motioned to accept and approve the consent agenda including the minutes from the November 11, 2024, Board of Education Meeting and the November Financial Report. Dr. Reed seconded the motion. The Board of Education voted to approve the consent agenda as presented with a vote of 7-0.

2. Approval of U-Tech Tuition Rates:

Dr. Hartman motioned to discuss the approval of the U-Tech tuition rates as presented to the Board of Education. Mr. Waalkes seconded the motion. Mrs. Redmer gave an overview of the U-Tech tuition rates with Board of Education. The District is required to set tuition rates for nonresident students, including those on F-1 visas, based on unsubsidized per capita costs. These costs have not been adjusted in several years, as noted by the federal government representative. The representative stated the rates were quite low and recommended to look at the national statistic rates (from the National Center for Education Statistics). From the research, it has been recommended to adjust the tuition rate to \$15,000. The tuition rates would cover various enrollment options including year-long and semester-long programs for F-1 visa students attending JHS, as well as online courses offered through U-Tech or JIA. The tuition rates don't need to be voted on annually. The Board of Education voted to approve the U-Tech tuition rates as presented with a vote of 7-0.

3. Approval of Out of State Travel:

Mrs. Postema motioned to discuss the approval of the out-of-state travel as presented to the Board of Education. Dr. Reed seconded the motion. The Special Olympics North America is having a "Capital Day" on Monday, February 3 through Wednesday, February 5, 2025. Mrs. Kari Kossen (staff) and two JHS students (one Special Olympics athlete and his student peer to peer partner) will be representing Jenison Public Schools at this event. The three will travel with two Special Olympics Michigan staff members as a delegation to Washington DC. There will be Unified Pairs from all over the country going to the Capitol Hill to meet with their state's House of Representatives, Senators, and more to share about the mission and success of Unified Champion Schools in their building. This is a chance for students to share their story in regards to Unified Champion Schools and Special Olympics in general with state representatives to help give them a better understanding and glimpse into the great work being done in their state each day to support all students! Special Olympics North America will cover all costs for this trip, including travel by plane, lodging, and meals, so there will be no cost to families. Summary of activities during the event: Day one: Arrivals, Check-in, Welcome meeting / meet and greet with other delegations from the various states Day two: Full day of meeting with legislators! Meetings will happen as a delegation Day three: sight-seeing (if time permits) and departures. The Board of Education voted to approve the out-of-state travel as presented with a vote of 7-0.

4. Approval of Learning A to Z Renewal:

Dr. Reed motioned to discuss the approval of the Learning A to Z renewal as presented to the Board of Education. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion. The District is seeking approval for the extension of instructional web-based contracts from Learning A to Z using 35J literacy grant funding that must be spent in the current school year. The contract extension would pay for continued use of the following resources through June of 2028: Reading A-Z: tools for application of phonics skills, reading passages and fluency work for K - 5th Grades, including intervention and special education access; Vocabulary A-Z: practice tools for K - 2nd Grades; and, Writing A-Z: the full writing curriculum K - 5th Grades. All of these resources are set to expire in June 2026, but with the 35J literacy grant the district is able to do an early two-year extension of its contract which also locks in a cheaper rate. Also, by renewing for two years instead of one, the district will save almost an additional \$10,000. Since the total contract extension cost (to be fully covered by the grant at \$52,637) is above the purchase threshold allowable without board approval, this extension needs board approval to lock in the pricing discount required by the vendor by December 15th, 2024. If not approved, the alternative would be to use general funds at the end of the 25-26 school year when the resources are up for renewal. Mrs. Rogalla was available review and answer questions. The Board of Education voted to approve the Learning A to Z renewal as presented with a vote of 7-0.

5. Approval of 2024-2025 General Fund Budget Amendment (RESOLUTION):

Mr. Waalkes motioned to approve the Mid-Year Budget Amendment as presented to the Board of Education. Mrs. Mooney seconded the motion. This budget amendment reflects funding/expenses as of November 2024. However, grants continue to fluctuate. There are several adjustments from the initial budget due to several factors. State and Federal Revenues have been adjusted for: 1.No Foundation Allowance (Original budget included \$241/student); 2. Additional slots for GSRP (preschool grant) – less Preschool tuition; 3. Adjustment in enrollment (original budget reflected a decrease in students, actual was an increase); 4. At-risk funding carry over; 5. Adjustment to MPSERS funding; 6. Increase in JIA International tuition; and, 7. Other Grant adjustments. And, Expenses have been adjusted due to: 1. Staffing adjustments that occurred over the summer; 2. Costs associated with various grants; and, 3. Most adds to expenses are offset with the adds in revenue (net 0 to fund balance). An approval for the mid-year budget amendment is not required by the state but is something the district has done annually for many years. Ms. Marcy is confident in the budget numbers and is not anticipating the numbers to dip down much; the District continues to be in a good financial position. Ms. Marcy will provide more information as it becomes available and will share more details at a future workshop.

REVENUE -

Local \$15,299,480
State \$66,226,244
Federal \$1,921,811
Other Financing Sources \$150,000
Total Revenue \$83,597,535

FUND BALANCE, July 1, 2024 \$ 21,071,369

FUND BALANCE Available to Appropriate \$ 21,071,369

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO APPROPRIATE - GENERAL FUND \$ 104,668,904

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that \$85,621,728 of the total available to appropriate in the GENERAL FUND is hereby appropriated in the amounts and for the purposes set forth below:

EXPENDITURES -

Instruction:
Basic Programs \$39,899,549
Added Needs 9,832,762
Support Services:
Pupil \$ 5,731,642

Instructional Staff \$4,539,325
General Administration \$889,822
School Administration \$5,384,250
Business \$922,231
Operation & Maintenance \$6,153,598
Transportation \$2,482,103
Central Office \$2,394,184
Supporting Services \$2,460,338
Community Services \$3,669,660
Debt Service/Cap Outlay/Transfers \$1,262,264

TOTAL APPROPRIATED - GENERAL FUND \$85,621,728

A roll call vote was taken:

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

NAYS: none

Abstentions: none

The Board of Education has voted to approve the 2024-2025 General Fund Budget Amendment by a roll call vote of 7-0.

Discussion Items:

1. Superintendent Update:

Dr. Graham provided a brief update on events, happenings, and updates in the district.

- Change Can Change Hunger: The district raised over \$27K for Hand2Hand to help those across West Michigan with meals throughout the week. Once again the Jr. High took the lead to raise money for this organization. Approximately 11,000 children have been impacted through this program. It's an amazing opportunity and grateful for the community support to this organization. A huge thank you to volunteers from Adventure Credit Union and North Central Area Credit Union who counted all the coins and dollars!
- US News & World Report: Once again Jenison High School has been named as one of the best high schools in US New & World Report but also all of the other schools (Jr. High and elementary schools) in the district have been rated as one of the best schools as well.
- JHS Fall Play: *Zap!* was a great show! It was an unique performance that made the audience eagerly expecting what was going to happen next. It showed great deal of difficulty for the actors to run the show quickly with great skill. Great job theater and Ashlee DeGraaf for her direction!
- JJHS Musical: *Frozen Jr.* will be performed by the junior high thespians in January.
- JHS Marching Band: The band had a great season that culminated at Nationals in Indianapolis. The band place 5th in their flight and 26th overall. What a great season, and they should be very proud!
- Sports/Athletics: 36 students have been names All-Conference this fall!
 - Girls Volleyball
 - Swim & Dive- The girls team finished state runner up and won multiple individual state titles as well. Top 3 in the State for a 3rd year in a row. Coach Kyle Stumpf (High School Social Studies Teacher) was named the Division 1 Girls Swim Coach of the Year! Girls Swim and Dive team took home a second place trophy at the state finals ... which was tied for the highest finish in program history! Their outstanding performances included a first place finish from the 200 Medley Relay of Dalila Brown, Sophia Umstead, Emma Albrecht, and Layla Umstead. Sophia Umstead also won the 200 IM and 100 Breaststroke for the third year in row, being one of a select few to achieve this historic milestone, according to Coach Kyle Stumpf. Check out our favorite photos and congratulations girls swim and dive on a historic season!

- E-Sports: Jenison High School Esports Smash Bros. Team recently placed 2nd in the Ferris State Turkey Time Invitational. After finishing the regular season last week, all of our esports teams made the playoffs. Well done, Jenison High School Esports program!
- Shop with a HERO: Over 50 students were able to shop with a local hero (fire, police, sheriff, EMS, etc) at Meijer. Meijer has been a faithful sponsor to help local students in need shop for family members. Each student was given \$100 to buy presents. The annual event gives kids the chance to shop and connect with local heroes like Ottawa County Sheriff's Office - Michigan deputies, firefighters and first responders. The JPS volunteers played an important role as well. Thank you Meijer for the partnership!
- DECA Advisor Jordan Whittecar was officially awarded the Dr. Louis Graziano Marketing Teacher of the Year Award for the state of Michigan.
- Busy December at the JCA: There will be lots of concerts and events happening over the next several weeks at the JCA. Stop in any day in the month of December to see the talent of JPS students and local music programs.
- Board of Education Meeting Date Change: January 20, 2025 at 6:30 pm will be the first meeting of the year. At that time Mr. Waalkes and Ms. Shannon Hogan will be seated.
 - Ms. Hogan will take time to get acquainted with the District this week along with a tour of the buildings.

2. Amanda Peterman Board Recognition:

Dr. Graham and fellow board members shared words of gratitude and appreciation to Mrs. Peterman. Mrs. Peterman has served on the Board of Education for twelve years. Throughout the years, she has served as a Trustee, Secretary, and President. Over the years, she has helped make JPS a better place. She has exemplified the Wildcat Way in so many ways. She has been in positions at the right place and right time, and has handled so many circumstances professionally with care, humility, and grace. She has been a great leader for the board, for the district, and for the community. She has been a great role model to many. She has served with professionalism, integrity, and wisdom. She has been an asset to the District, and always did what was best for the students. She will be greatly missed. Thank you, Mrs. Amanda Peterman for your years of service!

Mrs. Peterman shared a letter of appreciation to the board, administration, district, community, and her family.

Recess:

The President of the Board of Education, Mrs. Peterman called a recess of the meeting at 7:30 pm to celebrate President of the Board of Education, Mrs. Peterman and her retirement from the Board of Education.

Reconvene:

The meeting reconvened at 7:50 pm

Move Into Closed Session:

The Board of Education reconvened the Board of Education meeting after a short recess to celebrate President of the Board of Education, Mrs. Peterman.

Purpose Closed Session: MCL 15.268(H) Open Meetings Act (Act 267 of 1976) - Property

Mrs. Postema motioned to go into a closed session for Property. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion. President Peterman called a closed session for the Board of Education at 7:51 pm.

A roll call vote was taken:

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

NAYS: none

Abstentions: none

The Board of Education has voted to end the regular session and to go into closed session for the Board and Administration to meet in a closed session to discuss Property by a roll call vote of 7-0 at 7:51 pm.

The public was dismissed.

Closed Session: Property

During the Closed Session, The Board and Administration met in a closed session to discuss Property.

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

Mrs. Postema 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 with a vote of 7-0 at 8:06 pm.

President Peterman declared the Board of Education Closed Session to be ended and the meeting reconvened in open session at 8:06 pm.

Open Session:

The was no discussion after reopening but public was able to return to the meeting. No public present when reopening.

Adjournment:

The President of the Board of Education, Mrs. Peterman, adjourned the Jenison Public Schools Board of Education meeting at 8:07 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)
January 2025	Mon, Jan 20	Mon, Jan 27
February 2025	Mon, Feb 17	
March 2025	Mon, Mar 10	Mon, Mar 24
April 2025	Mon, Apr 21	
May 2025	Mon, May 12	

June 2025
July 2025

Mon, Jun 9
Mon, Jul 14