

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, September 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 following a recess after the SEAB Hearing.

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

Michael Leiter, PhD,
High School Principal

Tracy Mossburger,
High School Social Studies
Teacher / Student Council
Advisor

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

Recognitions: Jenison High School Student Council

Dr. Leiter, High School Principal, shared about the Jenison High School Student Council’s dedication and how they impact their school and community. He also introduced Mrs. Tracy Mossburger “Mossy”, the StuCo advisor. Mrs. Mossburger shared how this group is an incredibly, hardworking group, and that they are creating a great environment for their peers. Those recognized included: B. Koo (President), H. Eriks (Vice President), E. Zuber (Secretary), Y. Choi (Treasurer), and S. Holtsclaw, L. Tower, and C. Sorrelle (Renaissance Chairs). Mrs. Mossburger is very proud of their work and doesn’t want them to leave.

Recess:

Mrs. Peterman called a meeting recess at 6:33 pm to congratulate the individuals being recognized.

Reconvene:

The meeting reconvened at 6:38 pm.

Public Comment:

Jason Lerg (3502 Tearose Dr, Hudsonville) - He shared concerns and his disappointment from the last board meeting regarding Title IX. He stated that Title IX law is not a choice and lawyers and the government put them in place. Do what is in the best interest of the district.

Jennifer Gray (Jenison; address not given): She shared concerns about behavior towards transgender students. She stated that decisions should not be made out of fear. She cited three poems ("Say Not the Struggle Nought Availeth", "September 1, 1939", and "Filling Station"). She added that every person is deserving of love and to make safe spaces for all.

Ashley Reign (Jenison, address not given): She shared about her child's medical condition and chose to remove her children from JPS. She is in the medical profession and stated that the community needs to be educated about medications and medical concerns that are experimental and life-threatening. She also shared concerns regarding the information being taught by teachers to students and feels that they are following scripts.

Joel Buck (7295 21st Ave, Jenison): He shared that his son went to Unity and that his daughter is a Senior. He is thankful for the schools his children attend/attended. He stated that people are in positions and placed in them by God. He also added that European countries are eliminating transgender surgeries and medication.

Mary Mapes (7260 Coconut, Jenison) - She shared concerns on behalf of her 8th-grade granddaughter about school lunches. There are only two lunchtimes and more students during that time. It's hard to get school lunches and be able to eat them in time. She also shared how school trips are great but also is concerned for the safety of the students traveling to places where it can be more dangerous with higher rates of crime.

Rich Mapes (7260 Coconut, Jenison) - He shared concerns regarding privacy, safety, and moral behavior in bathroom usage. He shared that students don't use the bathroom at school because of some inappropriate behavior. He wants to ensure safety and have gender-safe spaces. He likes the for the district to consider individual stalls for students.

John DeBlaay (no address given): He shared that with great authority comes great responsibility. There is a need for common morality.

Julie Slabbekoorn (1965 Ridgeview St, Jenison): She is a JPS graduate and appreciates the opportunity to speak. She shared about her child and protecting their feelings and identity. People should be not be afraid of transgender people. Don't send a message of fear or bullying. She shared some excerpts from UCLA and Harvard about transgender studies and cases of sexual assault.

Angie Bronkema (7818 Parklane, Jenison) - She expressed concerns her daughter shared with her about the announcements made last spring about pride month and teachers asking students what pronouns they go by at the beginning of the year. Students like her daughter don't feel they belong in the school anymore, and that they can not express their faith.

Heather O or U (didn't get correct spelling of last name or address) - She shared that all people need to be loved and deserve happiness. She expressed that there needs to be unity in the community. There needs a time to come together to figure out solutions including bathroom concerns. She wants to have more opportunities to include everyone.

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

Approval of Agenda:

Dr. Hartman 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 August 19, 2024, SEAB Hearing and the Board of Education Regular Meeting and the August 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 Out of State Trips:

Dr. Reed motioned to discuss approval of out of the state trips as presented to the Board of Education. Mrs. Mooney seconded the motion. Any trip outside of the state needs to be approved by the Board of Education. The experience and being able to travel outside of Jenison is invaluable. Safety is a top priority and the District consistently monitors the environment where the students are going and considers whether it is safe for the students to travel or if the trip should be rescheduled.

High School

- JHS Choir: Niagara Falls/Toronto, Canada, February 6-9, 2025
- JHS Marching Band: Toledo, September 14, for Regional Bands of America Championships. Indianapolis, November 15-16 for BOA Grand National Championships.
- DECA Power Trip (Leadership Team): Charlotte, NC, November 15-17, 2024. Jordan Whittecar is leading this trip.
- DECA International Career Development Conference: Orlando, FL, April 25-30, 2025. Jordan Whittecar is leading this trip.
- Chicago Art Institute: 40 Art and French students signed up. The chaperones are Becca Frandsen, Sara Buzzita-Johnson, Sara Mathos, and Shelly Eddington.

Junior High:

- East Coast Trip (Annual Trip): Friday, May 30 - Thursday, June 5, 2025. Students travel together and wear the same bright-colored shirts to easily identify the group.

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

3. Approval of Pool Renovations:

Dr. Hartman motioned to discuss the approval of pool renovations as presented to the Board of Education. Mr. Waalkes seconded the motion. As discussed at the August meeting, pre-approval for the mechanical equipment for the pool renovations. It will take approximately 23 weeks for the equipment to arrive on time and to be ready by summer 2025. Ms. Marcy shared that the architects are further investigating the pool, and bids and quotes will be obtained in the next few weeks. The equipment needed includes boilers, a filtration system, and HVAC. The planning for this work is still in process, and competitive bidding will be done for the installation. The purchases will be made with 2020 bond funds. Ms. Marcy also stated that she is collaborating with the Maintenance Department and Mrs. Jen Coffey, Pool Supervisor, to ensure the timing of the pool renovations and coordination of any additional maintenance needs. It might take up to three months for the updates to be finished. The District will be investigating the availability of nearby pools during a long closure. The Board of Education voted to approve the pool renovations as presented with a vote of 7-0.

4. Approval of 8th-grade Reproductive Health Presentation Changes:

Dr. Reed motioned to approve the 8th-grade Reproductive Health presentation changes as presented to the Board of Education. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion. The 8th-grade reproductive health presentation has been shared and reviewed through two public hearings. Recommendations and revisions were made. The Board of Education voted to approve the 8th-grade Reproductive Health presentation changes as presented with a vote of 7-0.

Discussion Items:

1. MASB Delegates:

The Board of Education discussed the upcoming 2024 MASB Delegate Assembly. It will begin Thursday, October 24 at 7 p.m. at the Lansing Center in Lansing. Delegates selected by boards of education across the state will decide MASB's positions on various education issues. All delegates and alternates must be school board members. The Board of Education will need to have official voting delegates and alternatives to represent the JPS Board. All delegates must be certified and submitted by Friday, October 4. Further discussion will be at the next meeting.

2. Superintendent Update:

Dr. Graham provided a brief update on a few things happening in the district.

- Wildcat Festival: The annual Wildcat Festival was held on Friday, September 6, and was a success. Thousands dropped by for games, face painting, cotton candy, inflatables, a petting zoo, and food trucks outside the stadium. The JHS Student Council worked hard to design an event to celebrate the entire Jenison community. It was an event-filled night with amazing Jenison fans for the Wildcat Festival, Kindergarten Tailgate, and the Kid Cats Game!
- Kindergarten Tailgater: The Class of 2037 joined the annual KidCats game on Friday, September 6th. The youngest Wildcats from our elementary schools welcomed the football team with a school-wide tunnel and cheered on their players for the game. The Jenison Public Education Foundation helped welcome the Class of 2037 at the Kindergarten Tailgater.
- National Merit Scholars: Congratulations to Jenison High School students Bomin Koo and Hope Eriks for being named National Merit Scholars by the Collegeboard! The annual competition is for high school students planning to attend college that have taken the PSAT.
- Fall Sports: Fall sports are in full swing and progressing through their seasons. Congratulations to the Girl's Varsity Volleyball team for being in the top three in Division 1.
- Class of 1979: The Jenison High School Class of 1979 had its reunion this past weekend. The group was given a tour by Dr. Graham and was impressed with the various changes. They had fun reminiscing about the class and the impact JPS is having in the community.
- Bond Progress: The bond proposal is in the design phase. The first project will be the Maintenance and Transportation Hub. The District wants to ensure things are in place, things will be built appropriately for size and scale, and that the district is fiscally responsible.
- Academics: Schools are going through the data review and conducting the initial assessments to gauge each student and class so that accurate supports are in place for the students.
- From Public Comment:
 - Sports: Jenison is not experiencing any issues or concerns with sports. Boys participate in boy sports. There have been some times girls were able to participate in boy sports (ie football).
 - Locker Rooms and Bathrooms: There haven't been issues with student locker rooms or bathrooms. There are single-stall bathrooms available. If students don't feel comfortable using the restrooms, they are encouraged to talk with the building principals. Continued discussion about bathrooms will be addressed including more individual stalls.
 - Solutions: It is encouraged for individuals to reach out for solutions.

Adjournment:

The President of the Board of Education, Mrs. Peterman, adjourned the Jenison Public Schools Board of Education meeting at 7:36 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)
September 2024	Mon, Sept 9	Mon, Sept 23
October 2024	Mon, Oct 14	Mon, Oct 28
November 2024	Mon, Nov 11	Mon, Nov 25
December 2024	Mon, Dec 9	
January 2025	Mon, Jan 13	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	Mon, Jun 9	
July 2025	Mon, Jul 14	