

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, September 8, 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

Madeline Lambert,
Jr. High Health/PE
Teacher

Julie Roby,
Director of Student Services

Katie Moy,
Chief of Staff

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 Madeline (Maddie) Lambert, Jr. High Health/PE Teacher, along with Julie Roby, Director of Student Services.

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 revisions 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 SEAB committee provided the Board of Education with two slideshow presentations before the hearing: the current Cross-Categorical High School Reproductive Health presentation and the proposed updated version.

Mrs. Kooi explained to the Board that in previous review cycles, the committee typically worked from a single slideshow with proposed changes highlighted within the existing content. However, during this cycle, the committee determined that the Cross-Categorical curriculum required a more substantial revision to better meet the needs of this student population. Because of this, the team created a fully updated presentation rather than simply marking changes on the old one, which is why two separate slide shows were provided. She noted that Mrs. Roby would speak first, followed by Mrs. Lambert, who would review the proposed updates.

Mrs. Roby thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to improve the curriculum for students in the categorical program. She explained that these classes serve students with autism spectrum disorders or cognitive impairments who are not diploma-bound. These students spend most of their day in categorical classrooms and typically transition to the Young Adult Services program, where they remain until age 26. Approximately 25 to 30 students will be impacted by the curriculum. She emphasized that there are several 12th-grade students currently in the program and will soon be leaving the district. The team wants to ensure these students receive essential instruction before they transition out of high school. Since students in this program can be especially vulnerable, there is a strong need for an updated curriculum that focuses on safety, personal boundaries, protection, and clear, direct instruction. The revised lessons will help students build practical skills and foundational understanding that they will rely on in daily life, relationships, and future settings beyond high school.

Mrs. Lambert presented the proposed curriculum to the Board of Education and highlighted its primary goals: helping students understand themselves and their bodies, fostering respect for themselves and others, and ensuring they know who to turn to if they ever feel unsafe by identifying a trusted adult. She noted that this curriculum would be taught annually to support ongoing learning and reinforcement. The revised curriculum covers a wide range of essential topics, including: Types of relationships; Safe versus unsafe relationships; Identifying safe adults; Puberty and the physical changes (for both males and females); Respecting differences; Emotional changes and feelings; Physical changes; Understanding public versus private; Basic body systems; Pregnancy and babies; Sexual feelings; Healthy sexual choices; Self-respect and respect for others; Unsafe or unwanted behaviors; Sexual harassment; Personal safety and seeking help; Germs and STIs; Abstinence; Pornography, and, additional related topics including graphics students understand. Mrs. Lambert emphasized that these lessons are designed to provide clear, developmentally appropriate instruction to support students' safety, understanding, and well-being.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Adjournment:

President of the Board of Education, Dr. Hartman, adjourned the Jenison Public Schools Board of Education SEAB Hearing at 6:18 pm with acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Postema, Secretary
Jenison Public Schools Board of Education