

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, November 17, 2025, beginning at 6:30 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 meeting to order at 6:30 pm, following a short break after the SEAB Hearing.

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

Laura Vos,
JHS Special Education
Teacher

Anna Norton,
Sandy Hill Special Education
Teacher

Katie Moy,
Chief of Staff

Recognition: Recognition: Knights of Columbus Check Presentation

Mrs. Julie Roby, Director of Student Services, along with Laura Vos (JHS Special Education Teacher) and Anna Norton (Sandy Hill CI teacher), expressed their gratitude to the Knights of Columbus for their continued support of Special Education throughout the JPS school district. Funds provided by the Knights of Columbus have supplied valuable resources and classroom materials for students for many years.

A check was presented to the Special Education Department. The Knights of Columbus expressed their desire to continue funding programs for individuals with special needs, noting how much they enjoy supporting local schools and organizations. The organization contributes to several local charities, including Jenison Public Schools, with much of its fundraising coming from the annual Tootsie Roll Drive held each spring, typically around Easter.

Mrs. Vos and Ms. Norton presented the Knights of Columbus with a poster filled with pictures and notes from students in appreciation of their continued support of the school district. Over the last several years, the funds have helped support Unified Sports events, and they encouraged the Knights of Columbus to attend.

Recess:

Dr. Hartman called a recess at 6:34 pm to congratulate the individuals recognized.

Reconvene:

The meeting reconvened at 6:35 pm.

Public Comment:

Becky Steele (Parkside Dr, Jenison), Junior High Math Teacher and Co-President of JEA, shared highlights from staff from October with the Board of Education:

- Secondary Orchestra held two concerts during the same evenings as Parent/Teacher Conferences. Everything went smoothly, and a colleague noted that the concerts were among the best in recent memory, with strong student morale and an exceptionally cohesive, high-functioning team.
- JPS hosted the Regional Honors Choir for West Michigan in mid-October. The music team collaborated seamlessly to make the event a success.
- New peer-to-peer groups are being developed throughout the district! This is an evidence based practice that intentionally works to develop relationships between students who have a disability and students who are neurotypical. While the relationship growth between participants is somewhat organic, there is also a lot of adult work that provides opportunities for this growth. We are extremely thankful for the staff in every building who are supporting these programs.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences saw 100% attendance, despite the reformat as part of time-trades to support PLC work.
- A secondary teacher reported, *"I am getting to know the members of my PLC team better. It is awesome to see each person's strengths emerge, and to see the ways our differences strengthen our team."*
- A veteran elementary special education teacher received wonderful news about a former student who once struggled with emotional and behavioral regulation. He is now engaged, thriving in his engineering career, and making a positive impact. *"We love hearing positive news from former students and families!"*
- A secondary teacher expressed gratitude for substitute teachers stepping up to ensure full coverage of a maternity leave, with a special shout out to Lauren Goodyear.
- A secondary teacher shared excitement about the Special Education PLC's progress in integrating more word problems into math interventions and strategies. Their PLC is making great strides!
- A Junior High Language Arts teacher shared, *"We have SO MANY new books in our building. It is amazing for our students as we pull book clubs for our next units!"*
- Another Junior High Language Arts teacher highlighted the highly successful Intergenerational Interview Day, with special recognition to Division Lead Anna Wise for her top-notch organizational skills.
- An Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) teacher reported that two students have already transitioned from ECSE to general education this year, which is a huge win in terms of the Least Restrictive Environment.
- High School Counselor Jenny Riha, encouraged by a colleague, shared ongoing efforts to expand equity and access to postsecondary opportunities. The high school is piloting CLEP with CAL students, who may earn college credit in Educational Psychology. Additionally, 44% of seniors have completed the FAFSA so far (goal: 70%), an essential step for accessing Michigan's postsecondary funding opportunities.
- Brianna Nienhuis (elementary music), Carol Johnson (Jr High orchestra) and their team have kicked off the Junior High Musical! A total of 164 students applied, with 82 auditioning (including 20 boys). The production accepted 110 students, 45 cast members and 65 crew.

- Becky added that in the last two weeks, over 100 staff members completed CPR/AED certification or recertification, bringing the total to 170 certified employees since early August. This includes coaches, KIP Teams, Heart Safe Teams, and all staff in ECC fee-based programs. Appreciation was given to district nurses Savannah Smith and Leslie Kidd, secondary Athletic Directors, and a number of different administrators who collaborate to make this happen, as well as the maintenance team who transport the CPR manikins around the district.

Laurie Burks (1042 Brentwood St) - She shared two thoughts with the Board. First, she expressed excitement and pride in the cross-country team. She stated that the coaches are exceptional and that she appreciates everything they did this season. This was her son's first year participating in cross country, and the coaches made it a great experience. Although the team lost several of its top runners after last year's strong season, this year's group pulled together and had another outstanding year. She noted that much of the credit goes to the coaching staff. She also mentioned that at the end-of-year banquet, the coaches spoke about each runner individually, making every student feel valued regardless of their personal records. Her second thought focused on concerns about acceptance and inclusion. She believes every student should feel like they belong, but she is worried that some curriculum content presents only one perspective, to the point of feeling like indoctrination. She shared an example involving a film about school shootings. A student told her that after watching the film and participating in the lesson, they felt influenced to oppose the Second Amendment and believe that guns should be outlawed. She asked the Board to prioritize excellence in education and avoid supporting curriculum that she feels pushes progressive viewpoints. She emphasized that students should be exposed to all sides of an issue.

Mary Martin (no address given)- She expressed concerns about the new state health standards, and asked for the Board to listen to parents, noting that at times it feels as though they are not being heard. She urged for the Board to not approve the new state health standards.

Adam Burton (Jenison) - He shared his concerns regarding the MASB Delegate Assembly and expressed disappointment about the proposal submitted on behalf of the school board to remove books. He asked the Board to make its official stance on the issue. He felt that the individual who introduced the resolution regarding book removal did not represent the "Wildcat Way." He noted that many parents believe the books in the library are age-appropriate and that their values were not considered. He requested that the Board take an official position and have it publicly recorded.

Rich Mapes (7260 Coconut) - He shared concerns about the new state health standards and urged the Board to take them seriously while upholding parental rights. He stated that parents should have a say in their child's education and noted that some curriculum content has included information that is harder for parents to recognize because it is blended into lessons. He feels that personal values and matters should be left to parents, not taught in schools. He reiterated his request for the Board to support parental rights, reject the new health standards, and maintain full transparency.

Ashley Rottman (11078 56th Ave, Allendale) - She shared that she previously worked in youth ministry and expressed some thoughts about sex education. She believes parents should be the ones to share their values with their children and be actively involved by engaging them in conversations. She feels that parents need to be having these discussions. Schools have been teaching lessons and values that should be addressed by families. She also provided an update from the Wilderness Academy. They have nominated a Community Engagement Chair and recently held an event in Hagar Park, where more than 30 students participated in a hike and cleanup day. Additionally, they will be hosting a Soup Swap Night.

Zibby Zuber (Jenison) - As a senior in high school, she took a moment to thank the Board and express her appreciation and pride in the fine arts programming at JPS. She highlighted how Marching Band, Orchestra, Choir, and Theater provide valuable opportunities and leadership experiences for students. She thanked the Board for their continued support of creative activities and urged them to continue their support. She also noted that several concerts will take place in December and encouraged Board

members to attend. Additionally, she mentioned that the fall play, *You Can't Take It With You*, is being performed this week and invited the Board to come see it.

Dr. Hartman thanked the public for their time and comments provided to the Board of Education.

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. Mooney motioned to approve the minutes from the October 27, 2025 Board of Education Workshop Meeting. Mr. Waalkes seconded the motion. The Board of Education voted to approve the minutes as presented with a vote of 7-0.

2. Approval of Financial Report:

Dr. Reed motioned to approve the October Financial Report as presented. Mrs. Postema seconded the motion. Ms. Marcy stated that the budget is on track, and that a budget amendment should be presented next month. The Board of Education voted to approve the financial report as presented with a vote of 7-0.

3. Approval of Board Policy Updates:

Mrs. Mooney motioned to approve the Board Policy updates as presented. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion. Mrs. Philipps provided the Board of Education with documents of the board policy updates and reviewed the new board policies. The policies include: 3118, 4113-F-1, 4113-F-2.

Series 3000: Operations, Finances, and Property

3100 General Operations

3118 Title IX Sexual Harrassment (the definition of sexual assault is updated to match the new FBI definition)

Series 4000 District Employment

4100 Employee Rights and Responsibilities

4113-F-1 Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) Form (NEW LABEL; no longer labeled as 4113-F but as 4113-F-1)

4113-F-2 Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) Request Checklist (NEW; a checklist for ESTA leave requests. It summarizes the law that went into effect last school year.)

In addition, Mrs. Philipps shared that the student handbook appendix has been updated to include the Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault Information Guide. This change is informational only. The guide is already available on our website as required by the Michigan Department of Education, but must now also be included as an appendix in the handbook. The digital version will be updated after the meeting. This addition does not change any student expectations; it simply ensures the required resource appears in both locations.

4. 31aa Decision:

Dr. Hartman moved for the Board of Education to decline the 31aa funds (statement included below). Mr. Waalkes seconded the motion. It was noted that many other districts also oppose the current requirements, and an injunction is anticipated. The Board of Education voted to support Dr. Hartman's recommendation to decline the state's allocation of 31aa funding with a vote of 7-0.

Dr. Hartman's statement:

"In light of ongoing legal action seeking an injunction against the current 31aa requirements, specifically the mandate that schools waive attorney-client privilege in order to receive funds, I move that the Board direct the administration to decline 31aa funds as long as these mandates remain in place. Should the requirement to waive attorney-client privilege be removed, the administration is authorized to accept the funds at its discretion."

5. Approval for the Electrical Panel for the new Upper Elementary Building:

Mrs. Postema motioned to approve the purchase of the electrical panel for the new Upper Elementary Building. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion. Utility work for the new building must take place in summer 2025 to ensure the site is ready for construction the following year and to maintain the projected opening for the 2028–29 school year. Triangle shared with the District that there are several options for the the electrical equipment required for the utility relocation, but most have lengthy lead times that would prevent the district from receiving the equipment in time for next summer's critical utility work. One manufacturer, S&C Electric, currently has the equipment in stock, which would allow the district to maintain next summer's schedule. Missing next summer's utility timeline would delay the start of the project by an entire year, as foundation work cannot begin until utilities are relocated outside the new building footprint. Three supplier quotes were obtained, ranging from \$32,973 to \$39,649, with lead times of 34-44 weeks. The only quote that met the timeline was from Wesco at \$35,575 plus tax and freight. It is recommended to proceed with Wesco. The purchase will be funded by the 2024 Bond and is included in the Upper Elementary budget. The Board of Education voted to approve the purchase of the electrical panel for the new Upper Elementary Building as presented with a vote of 7-0.

Discussion Items:

1. Superintendent Update:

Dr. Graham also briefly shared a few district events, happenings, and updates with the Board of Education.

- **Site Logistics Plan:** Dr. Graham shared a proposed site logistics plan with the Board of Education outlining the layout for the new 5th/6th grade building. The plan included the construction boundaries, which will significantly impact campus parking for several years. Utility work associated with the project may also impact campus operations for several weeks, and will involve temporary disruptions to power and water services that may last weeks. Hence, the utility work being done over the summer (most likely late July) to minimize conflicts. Parking will be one of the primary challenges during construction. The district is exploring multiple options to improve traffic flow and will be intentional in scheduling events to reduce overlap. Once the new building is completed, the campus will have substantially increased parking capacity. School schedules will be staggered to ease traffic congestion. The district will continue to communicate regularly with families throughout the process.
- **Two-Hour Delay to School:** A two-hour delay was issued for the high school, junior high, and Bauerwood Elementary after a power line snapped early in the morning, resulting in nearby road closures. Consumers Energy and the Fire Department worked quickly and effectively to ensure power was back in a timely manner. Their help was tremendously appreciated!
- **Strategic Plan:** Dr. Graham provided the Q1 (Quarter 1) update for the school year. He wants to ensure that each quarter meets its goal, and wanted to report to the Board of what's been happening. He briefly reviewed each goal:
 - Unlock Character-Driven Culture: Foster a Culture of Character, Belonging, and Positive Behavior
 - Invest in People: Strengthen Collaborative Teaching and Learning Through Full PLC Implementation and Data
 - Strengthen Student Learning - Secondary: Build a Secondary Level System of Common Assessments
 - Strengthen Student Learning - Elementary: Drive Elementary Achievement and Growth Through Data-Informed Collaboration

- Engage Community: Build Strong Family Partnerships and Engagement
- Continuous Improvement: Advance Safety, Security, and Facilities Through Strategic Investment and Design
- **New Strategic Plan:** The District is in the beginning stages of what the next Strategic Plan will look like. What are the things that will positively impact the students the most? What's going to take the District to the next level? The goal is to continue moving forward and to keep making improvements.
- **Community Expo Night:** JPS will be hosting a community expo night in March in the fieldhouse to share information about summer camp registration and enrollment. This event will also include participation from community partners.
- **Staff Updates:** He appreciated Becky Steele for sharing the updates from staff, and is excited for the work that's been happening around the District.
- **High School Fall Play:** As Zibby Zuber mentioned earlier, the high school theater students will be presenting, *You Can't Take It With You* this week. Performance are Wednesday-Friday at 7:00pm, and Saturday at 2:00pm.
- **Incredible Fall Season:**
 - Over 30 student-athletes were named All-Conference this fall!
 - Boy's and Girl's Cross Country had an exceptional season. Girls had a 11th place finish at the MHSAA State Finals. Boys Cross Country had a 13th place finish at the States.
 - Swimming: Girls won conference championships even while not having their own pool to swim in this season. Kyle Stumpf was once again recognized as Coach of the Year.
 - Volleyball: Conference were champs, and finished the regular season 38-7-2 and are ranked No. 8 in the state.
 - Boys Waterpolo: State Runners Up! The team finished the regular season undefeated and their one loss was the championship game by 1 in overtime.
 - Marching Band: Exceptional season ending their season as Class 2A runner-ups at Nationals. The students continuously represent JPS well. There is tremendous work and support throughout the program, and is much appreciated.
- **Your Change Can Change Hunger Campaign:** The totals are not finalized yet, but the District appreciates the amazing volunteers who help count the money collected. Special shout out to Mark Richter for his help organizing!
- **Ottawa Area School Board Association (OASBA):** The General Membership Meeting will be on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at OAISD Young Adult Services (YAS), 12360 Felch Street, Holland. The topic is Natural Playgrounds: The Science & Irony Behind an Obvious Social and Climate Solution. Need to register by November 19.
- **Thankful!** Thanksgiving is coming up, and Dr. Graham shared his appreciation to the staff, students, and families. The District is gaining excellence in so many areas!
- **JPEF Grants:** The Jenison Public Education Foundation started up its teach grants this fall. They funded over \$3,000 in teacher grants this year.
- **Pool Update:** There is still more worked to be on the pool, but are hoping to have it open before the next season of swim with the boys.
- **Wildcat Gala:** The gala will be held Tuesday, March 24 and will be held at the JCA this year. It will be a little different this year in that the event will be recognizing TK-6 students and following a similar format to the Junior High and High School Honors Nights. The goal is to recognize students who live out the Wildcat Way above and beyond, while spreading the culture of the Wildcat Way. It will be hosted by JPEF.

Adjournment:

The President of the Board of Education, Dr. Hartman, adjourned the Jenison Public Schools Board of Education meeting at 7:53 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)
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	