

**St. Johns Public Schools
St. Johns, Michigan
Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Held on November 13, 2023**

The St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, November 13, 2023, at the St. Johns High School Orchestra Room. Vice President Darragh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Boak, Darragh, Elliott, Mansfield, Nelson, Watson and Student Representative Koenigsknecht

ATTENDANCE

Members Absent: Jackson

Motion by Treasurer Nelson, with support by Secretary Boak, to approve the agenda. Agenda approved as presented.

AGENDA APPROVED

Motion by Secretary Boak, with support by Member Mansfield, to approve the regular meeting minutes from the meeting held on October 9, 2023. Motion unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

There were no in-person or online public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Superintendent Berthiaume, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Human Resources, Kelly Corbett, and Director of Operations, Rob Gleeson, presented the Board of Education with information on the bond scope. A few things mentioned were more space for students, more teachers, smaller classroom sizes, multi purpose facility to use at all times of the year, early childhood center. GMB attended and answered questions from board members.

**REPORTS AND
INFORMATION
BOND SCOPE PRESENTATION**

Building Principal, Ross Richard, presented the Board of Education with information on the BAS system used to identify student's reading levels. Questions were asked and answered.

**BUILDING UPDATE - GATEWAY
NORTH ELEMENTARY**

Choir Teacher, Jarod Moyer, presented the Board of Education with information about the high school choir trip to New York City, New York and shared the educational purpose of the trip.

**HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR TRIP TO
NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK**

Choir Teacher, Jarod Moyer, presented the Board of Education with information about the 8th grade orchestra and choir trip to Chicago, Illinois and shared the educational purpose of the trip.

**8TH GRADE
ORCHESTRA/CHOIR TRIP TO
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

Director of Operations, Rob Gleeson, presented the Board of Education with a proposal to purchase 2 new buses. Gasoline buses are recommended because of the ease to maintain and minor number of issues.

BUS PURCHASE INFORMATION

Director of Technology, Jacob Hampton, provided the Board of Education with a proposal for the need to replace the security camera server and storage. The servers and SAN are what runs the district’s security cameras.

**SECURITY CAMERA SERVERS
AND SAN**

Superintendent Berthiaume gave the Board of Education the opportunity to discuss any of the board policy updates that were reviewed in October.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS
BOARD POLICY UPDATES**

Superintendent Berthiaume proposed to the Board of Education to change the meeting start time to 6:00 p.m. and hold the Board of Education meetings at different buildings for the remainder of the 2023-2024 fiscal year to see what needs are for the upcoming bond.

**LOCATION AND TIME OF
BOARD MEETINGS**

Superintendent Berthiaume reminded the Board of Education that the Superintendent is evaluated annually in December, and looks at it as a time to reflect and get feedback. The MASA standards will be changing for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

**SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION
FOR DECEMBER MEETING**

Motion by Member Watson, with support by Treasurer Nelson, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the consent grouping Number VII A1, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, C1, C2, C3, C4, and C5. Motion approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF
CONSENT GROUPING
ITEMS**

Approved expenditures for the payment of bills for October 2023:

PAYMENT OF BILLS

General Fund	\$1,691,254.02
Food Service Fund	\$18,093.80
Activity Fund	\$73,708.83
1998 Debt Fund	\$85,935.00
2020 Refunding Bonds	\$285,312.50
2021 Refunding Bonds	\$91,223.75
2010 (QSCB) Series A Debt Fund	\$487,575.00
2010 (BAB) Series B Debt Fund	\$2,520.00
2020 Energy Bonds	\$39,468.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$2,775,090.90

Approved the hiring of the following St. Johns Public Schools employees: Elissa Ryan – At-Risk SSP at the Middle School, Jacob Campbell – Special Education SSP at the Middle School, Shara Adams – Custodian, Autume McElroy – Attendance and Assistant Principal Secretary at the High School, and Andrew Tisdale – Riley Elementary Principal.

NEW HIRE APPROVALS

Approved the resignation of the following St. Johns Public Schools employees: David Higgins – Building SSP at Gateway North, Stephanie Boettger – Attendance Secretary at the High School, Tracy Fox – Special Education SSP at the Middle School, Jessica Schulze – Childcare Worker, and Kelley Kratzer – Media Center SSP at Riley Elementary.

RESIGNATION APPROVALS

Motion by Secretary Boak, with support by Member Mansfield, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the policy updates and revisions, as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEMS
BOARD POLICY UPDATES
APPROVAL

Motion by Treasurer Nelson, with support by Member Mansfield, that the St. Johns Board of Education approve the bond scope, as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

BOND SCOPE APPROVAL

Motion by Secretary Boak, with support by Member Watson, that the St. Johns Board of Education approve the trip to New York City, New York for the high school choir students, as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR TRIP TO
NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK
APPROVAL

Motion by Treasurer Nelson, with support by Secretary Boak, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the trip to Chicago, Illinois for the 8th grade orchestra and choir students, as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

8TH GRADE ORCHESTRA/CHOIR
TRIP TO CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
APPROVAL

Motion by Member Watson, with support by Treasurer Nelson, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the recommendation to purchase 2 new gasoline buses from Holland Bus Company in the amount of \$244,480.00 coming from public improvement fund, as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

BUS PURCHASE APPROVAL

Motion by Secretary Boak, with support from Member Mansfield, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the plan and purchase of the equipment of servers for the district from SeHi in an amount not to exceed \$64,082.59, with funds from the Section 97 grant, as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

SECURITY CAMERA SERVERS AND
SAN APPROVAL

Motion by Member Mansfield, with support from Treasurer Nelson, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approve the updated schedule of meetings for location changes and meeting start time to 6:00pm for the remainder of the 2023-2024 fiscal year, as discussed. Motion unanimously approved.

LOCATION AND TIME OF BOARD
MEETINGS APPROVAL

District Executive Directors gave the Board of Education a brief update for their departments.

BOARD
COMMUNICATIONS
SUPERINTENDENT AND EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Superintendent Berthiaume thanked Deputy Superintendent Corbett for staying on board through January, as it is impactful to the district. He shared with the Board that Hiring Solutions was hired to look at salaries and structures amongst other districts. He also mentioned the district safety training that was put on by Chief Kirk. He shared that 24-25 school year negotiations will be starting and should be completed by January. He clarified that the multi-use building would have turf with bathrooms in it.

Superintendent Berthiaume wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, and reminded everyone of the district newsletter that will be coming out, and shared he saw the production of Mean Girls.

Student Representative Koenigsknecht gave a swim and cross country update to the Board of Education, and shared that fall sports are coming to an end and transitioning into winter sports. She expressed that the musical had many positive reviews. She also shared that High School Principal, Mark Dobson, worked with the math program department heads to talk about the issues with the new math curriculum, and turns out, teachers still see that students are on par.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S
REPORT**

Student Representative Koenigsknecht was excited to share information about the exam exemptions with the Board. Student Council members volunteered to help with games at Gateway North Halloween parties, and she volunteered at the Redwing RAVE that took place at Gateway North and Oakview South and had so much fun. She also shared that the Veteran's Day Parade and Silver Bells Parade were coming up.

David Smith addressed the Board and requested the yearly enrollment totals per building since the last school bond in May 2010 and a current list of St. Johns debt publications. Theresa Owen also addressed the board and shared her concerns with the items on the bond. Mr. Smith and Ms. Owen both addressed the Board in person.

**PUBLIC AND BOARD
COMMENTS**

DJ Logan addressed the Board online expressing her thanks to the administration and shared her appreciation to Mr. Richard for motivating teachers and students, and helping when there isn't enough classroom coverage. She shared that the high school kids were great at the RAVE, shared her experience with the BAS and her thoughts on a couple of bond topics.

Secretary Boak shared his experience at the MASA finance courses he took. Many members welcomed Andrew Tisdale, commented on the musical and thanked everyone for their presentations. Treasurer Nelson shared his experience at the Delegate Assembly, which he attended with Member Mansfield, he found it interesting to hear others point of view.

Vice President Darragh reminded Board members how Michigan school finance works: the State gives us money to update facilities, there is no funding for maintenance of buildings. He also commended the amazing talent and everyone that was involved in the play.

Vice President Darragh adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Boak, Secretary
St. Johns Board of Education

Minutes submitted by: Chelsea Peterson, Recording Secretary

