

Three Rivers Community School District, St. Joseph County
Minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, May 20, 2024

Approved Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Erin Nowak at 6:01 PM.

Present: Julia Awe, Linda Baker, Ross Daniels, Erin Nowak

Absent: Melissa Bliss, Nichole Cover, John McDonough

Administration Present: Melissa Frye, Jen Graber, Justin Holbrook, Brian Leonard, John Londono, Carrie Balk, Kerrie Bass, Jason Bingaman, Julie Bentley, Amanda Fahnestock, Greg Rutten, Kenni Jean Schrader, David Soderquist, Anthony Wolbert, Nick VanDenBrink

Pledge of Allegiance: President Nowak led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of the Agenda: Motion by Member Awe, with support from Member Baker, to approve the agenda as presented. After a roll call vote, 4-0, President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Daniels, Nowak

Absent: Bliss, Cover, McDonough

Public Comment: Public Comment was offered.

Presentation/
Discussion: **2024 Retirement Recognition**

Superintendent Nash recognized the following staff members for their years of service as they retire from Three Rivers Community Schools this year:

- Glen Carlson - 10 years
- Shelly Leach - 25 years
- Laurie Stinavage - 28 years
- Angela Zantjer-Lin - 31 years

Bond Update

Chris Mankowski of Plante Moran provided the Board with a Bond Update. Board questions and comments were offered and received.

SJCISD 2024-2025 General Fund Budget Overview

Superintendent Nash reviewed the St. Joseph County ISD 2024-2025 General Fund Budget which will need approval this evening. The Board will have the opportunity to approve or oppose the budget through a resolution which will be provided to the SJCISD. Board comments and questions were received.

Superintendent Report: **Introduction of Justin Holbrook, School Safety Coordinator for TRCS**

Superintendent Nash introduced the Board to the District's recently hired School Safety Coordinator, Justin Holbrook. Justin then proceeded to give the Board an overview of his background as it relates to the position. The Board welcomed Justin to the District.

Link Learning Update

Superintendent Nash provided the Board with an update of Link Learning, the District's virtual school partnership for students who prefer to be educated out of the public school environment. The update included a review of the increase in numbers of students moving into the virtual setting, as well as details of the partnership with TRCS which includes

splitting the number of FTEs with them. The partnership has been working well and TRCS would like to see the program stay in Three Rivers. Board questions and comments were offered and received.

Handbook Update

Superintendent Nash informed the Board that the first reading of the 2024-2025 Handbooks will be pushed back to June 17, 2024 in order to readjust the handbook based on the template provided to us by Neola since they handle our policies. Thrun had reviewed each building's draft, but there were a lot of mark-ups, so the Administration Team decided to go with an all-encompassing Handbook (K-12) and add Appendices which would break down policy differences for each level. Since the handbook template comes from Neola, it will better align to Board Policy. Board questions and comments were offered and received.

- St. Joseph County
ISD General Fund
Budget
Resolution:
- Motion by Member Awe, with support from Member Daniels, to approve the Resolution in support of the St. Joseph County ISD General Fund Budget for FY 2024-2025 as presented.
- After a roll call vote, 4-0, President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously.
- Yea: Awe, Baker, Daniels, Nowak
Absent: Bliss, Cover, McDonough
- Consent Agenda:
- Motion by Member Awe, with support from Member Daniels, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. After a roll call vote, 4-0, President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously.
- Yea: Awe, Baker, Daniels, Nowak
Absent: Bliss, Cover, McDonough
- The Consent Agenda consisted of:
1. Approval of the April 15, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes and the May 6, 2024 Work Session Minutes.
 2. Approval of the Payroll Change Register for April dated May 16, 2024.
 3. Approval of the April 1 - April 30, 2024 Accounts Payable Check Register dated May 14, 2024 totaling \$1,372,392.76.
 4. Approval of the Bond Invoice Payment Report totaling \$853,951.19.
- Board Calendar:
- President Nowak reviewed upcoming events with the Board.
- Board Comment:
- Board comment was offered and received.
- Closed Session:
- Motion by Member Daniels, with support from Member Awe, to move into Closed Session as permitted under Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings for the purpose of strategy and negotiation sessions connected with a collective bargaining agreement. After a roll call vote, 4-0, President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously.
- Yea: Awe, Baker, Daniels, Nowak
Absent: Bliss, Cover, McDonough
- The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:34 PM and returned at 7:29 PM

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Adjournment: Motion by Member Awe, with support from Member Daniels, to adjourn the meeting. After a roll call vote, 4-0, President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Daniels, Nowak

Absent: Bliss, Cover, McDonough

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Nichole Cover, Secretary Board of Education

Lorie Camino, Recording Secretary