



*Special Board Meeting*

*Fruitport High School  
Performing Arts Center*

*August 10, 2021*



# Fruitport Community Schools

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Superintendent Interviews

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

### *Dr. Kyle Corlett*

- Meet & Greet with Central Office staff 2:00 – 2:30 PM (Superintendent's Office)
- Meet & Greet with Administration Team 2:45 – 3:30 PM (FHS Cafeteria)
- Meet & Greet with FEA 3:30 – 4:00 PM (FHS Media Center)
- Meet & Greet with Community Members 4:00PM – 4:30 PM (FHS Cafeteria)
- District Tour with John Winkas 4:30 – 5:15 PM (Pick up in bus loop)
- Dinner 5:15 – 5:45 PM (FHS Counseling Conference Room)
- Interview at 6:00PM (Performing Arts Center)

### *Jason Kennedy*

- Meet & Greet with Central Office staff 2:45 – 3:15 PM (Superintendent's Office)
- Meet & Greet with Administration Team 3:30 – 4:15 PM (FHS Cafeteria)
- Meet & Greet with FEA 4:15 – 4:45 PM (FHS Media Center)
- Meet & Greet with Community Members 4:45 – 5:15 PM (FHS Cafeteria)
- District Tour with John Winkas 5:30 – 6:15 PM (Pick up in bus loop)
- Dinner 6:15 – 6:45 PM (FHS Counseling Conference Room)
- Interview at 7:00 PM (Performing Arts Center)

Fruitport Community Schools  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday, August 10, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.**  
Fruitport High School Performing Arts Center

This is an in-person meeting. However, the public is invited to connect to Zoom from their computer, tablet, or smartphone to view the board meeting.

<https://zoom.us/j/93206589430?pwd=cjFocDg5M1BoQkt6c3VCamlZakVxQT09>

Meeting ID: 932 0658 9430

Passcode: 533524

**AGENDA**

- I. CALL to ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- IV. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC\***
- V. GENERAL BOARD BUSINESS**
  - 1. Approval of the Special Board Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2021 (attachment V-1)
  - 2. Candidate Interviews
    - Dr. Kyle Corlett
    - Mr. Jason Kennedy
  - 3. Other
- VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*Time is provided for members of the audience to address the Board of Education regarding any topic including items on the agenda. The board is providing one opportunity for the public to comment during the meeting. Members of the audience may wish to bring issues to the Board of Education for board consideration. Time limits may be placed if a large number of individuals would like to address the board.**



## MINUTES

I. The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was **called to order** at 5:30 p.m. by Board President, Dave Hazekamp.

II. **ROLL CALL:** Present – Elroy Buckner, Tim Burgess, Kris Cole, Susan Franklin, Dave Hazekamp, and Steve Kelly. Absent - Jill Brott

### III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Item 21-128. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Franklin to approve the agenda as presented.  
MOTION CARRIED 6-0

### IV. **REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC\***

None.

### V. **GENERAL BOARD BUSINESS**

1. Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2021

Item 21-129. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Cole to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2021 as presented.  
MOTION CARRIED 6-0

2. First Round Superintendent Interviews

Dr. Kyle Corlett, Mr. Jason Kennedy, and Mrs. Stephanie Lemmer were interviewed by the Board of Education. Audience members had the opportunity to submit questions to the candidates and provide feedback on each candidate.

Item 21-130. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Cole to offer a second round interview to Dr. Kyle Corlett and Jason Kennedy on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Fruitport High School.  
MOTION CARRIED 5-1

### VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

Item 21-131. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Kelly to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Franklin  
Acting Board Secretary

Maribeth Clarke  
Recording Secretary

**FRUITPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**INTERVIEW GUIDE-August 10, 2021**

**CANDIDATE NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD PRESIDENT:** (To the candidate)

Welcome back! This is an exciting evening for Fruitport Community Schools and I would imagine it is an exciting night for you as well.

As you know, the process this evening is a bit different. You will begin this evening by sharing a presentation around this prompt: *“Over the past decade Fruitport’s enrollment has decreased by more than 500 students. (Source: [mischooldata.org](http://mischooldata.org)) As the new Superintendent of Fruitport Community Schools, what strategies will you utilize to retain students and bring new students and families to the district and therefore increase student enrollment?”*

You have been asked to keep the presentation to ten minutes in length.

After the presentation and a discussion of it, the Board will begin asking you some additional questions. For the benefit of the audience, many of these questions may be unique to the candidate. We won’t be following a script like the Board did in the past interviews. At the same time, we want our candidates to ask questions on their own. The Board recognizes that candidates are trying to ascertain that the district is a fit for their skillsets while the Board is doing likewise. So we hope that this evening’s interview has more of a conversation feel to it.

Also for the benefit of the audience, the candidates have had quite a long day already, meeting with multiple groups during the course of the afternoon.

So, are you ready to begin. If so, we will ask you to begin with your presentation.

**ALL BOARD MEMBERS:** Following the presentation, please begin by commenting on the presentation and asking questions to probe a little deeper. Also, for this entire interview, do not wait for the Board President to call on you; jump in with your questions. There is no order and feel free to ask questions where the conversation is leading.

**QUESTIONS FOR DR. CORLETT**

1. FCS is more than twice the size of your current district. How can you assure the Board and audience that you are ready to make the jump?
2. You have been a superintendent for 4 years. What two or three things took you by surprise during your first year at Delton-Kellogg?
3. How have you demonstrated strong leadership skills?
4. In the first round, you shared information on your level of budgeting experience and skills. Can you dive a little deeper into your experience in developing and monitoring a budget?

5. Out of curiosity, what made you want to pursue a doctorate degree?
6. What is your experience in serving on agency boards or in holding leadership positions outside your district?
7. What do you say to people who say you are too laid back?

#### **QUESTIONS FOR MR. KENNEDY**

1. You appear to be thorough, so very thorough. You have a long, extensive and quite impressive resume. The materials you passed out to the Board at the first interview were very detailed and very inclusive. There are those who may feel like this is “overkill” and may worry that that level of detail will be expected of all school employees. How do you respond?
2. As a follow up, you are known to work routinely to midnight covering every possible detail of issues. At FCS, while we want you to work hard, we are concerned about the toll that can take on you and your family. What specific steps will you take to ensure a work/life/family balance?
3. In the first interview, you referred to yourself as a “technological innovator”. What does that mean?
4. Please describe your experience as a classroom teacher.
5. You referenced involvement with boards and on state level with the Michigan Association of School Administrators. How do you keep that from affecting your work in district?
6. In transitioning from Ludington to FCS, you would be transitioning from a smaller ISD where your district was the “biggest fish in the pond” to an ISD where you are a “mid-sized fish in the pond”? How will you navigate that change?

#### **QUESTIONS THAT COULD BE USED FOR EITHER CANDIDATE**

1. Clearly articulate how you would establish a vision for the FCS for the next 5 years.
2. Please describe how you will learn the FCS budget, how you will develop projections and how you will monitor the budget?
3. How will you measure the value of FCS programs?
4. What is the most difficult staffing decision you have ever had to make?
5. What would union leadership have to say about your leadership?
6. What is the last book you have read for pleasure and the last non-fiction or leadership book you have read?
7. How do you recharge your batteries?
8. In assuming this role, what are the first 3 things you would do?
9. Can you take criticism?
10. Of all of the employees in a school district, who is the most important?

11. Scenario: You just received \$1,000,000 in an unrestricted grant. It has to be spent in one month. It cannot be spread over different areas but has to be spent on one item or one initiative. What process would you use to determine how to spend it?
12. If you could change any one law or legal requirement, what would you change? Why?
13. What does the ideal Board meeting look like to you?
14. If you are hired for this position, will you commit to a minimum of 5 years?
15. Can our community expect you to live within 20 miles from a district boundary?

**BOARD PRESIDENT-(FOLLOWING BOARD QUESTIONS)**

Are there any audience questions?

Then...

To the Candidate-Do you have a brief closing statement you would like to make?

After closing statement-As you know, the Board is not going to reach a decision tonight but we have scheduled a special meeting tomorrow to do so. We are going to take a day to reflect on your presentation and interview, the feedback from references and others, feedback from "meet and greets" this afternoon and audience feed back tonight. We will be in touch tomorrow night to tell you where things stand.

On behalf of the Board, thank you once again for your presentation, your interview and for being such a great candidate.