



Fruitport Community Schools
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 27, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Location:

Fruitport Community Schools Central Office
Board of Education Meeting Room
3255 E. Pontaluna Rd.
Fruitport, MI 49415

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Board President, Dave Hazekamp.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance at the meeting.
- III. **ROLL CALL:** Present – Tim Burgess, Kris Cole, Dave Hazekamp, Steve Kelly, JB Meeuwenberg, Josh Mueller, and Kathy Six.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Item 25-01. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Six to approve the agenda, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

V. **PRESENTATIONS:**

- **School Board Recognition Month:** The Board was recognized for their service to the students, families, and greater school community. A certificate of recognition from the Michigan Association of School Boards was provided to each Board member, along with a letter that was shared with the community recognizing each board member's service. Each Board member will also have the opportunity to order a Fruitport apparel item. A special dessert was made and shared with the Board and those in attendance by Pam Gustafson.
- **2024-2025 General Fund / School Service Fund Budget Amendment:** Mark Mesbergen, Director of Business Services, reviewed a budget amendment

presentation with the Board. The presentation reviewed changes in revenues and expenditures since the original budget, reviewed reasons for those changes, reviewed various impacts on the budget, reviewed the January Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference, and provided a forward look into the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year. An amended budget was proposed by Mark Mesbergen for the Board to consider for approval.

- **Strategic Action Plan - Annual Monitoring and Implementation Update:** Members of the Administrative Team reviewed progress made toward the completion of action steps outlined within the Strategic Action Plan. Members of the Administrative Team also shared highlights with the Board from each of their buildings or departments. Each January through the completion of the Strategic Action Plan, the Board will be presented with an update and a progress monitoring and implementation update.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS:

- **O-K Conference Basketball Contest Evaluation:** The District received communication from the lead assignor responsible for assigning basketball officials to games in the region. The letter rated coaches, athletes, and administration as “excellent,” and went on to state that the game administration was the “best in the area.” Athletic director Jonny Morehouse, the coaching staff, our athletes, and the game management staff were commended for their outstanding effort.
- **Letters from Representative Meerman:** The members of the Board of Education that were elected to the Board at the November 2024 General Election received a congratulatory communication at the District from Representative Meerman. This was shared with each Board member at the meeting.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

- **New Board Member Welcome:** Josh Mueller and Kathy Six were welcomed to the Board of Education. They were provided with resources from MASB as a part of the orientation process to the Board. These resources included: Surviving Your First Year as a Board Member, Board Duties Under the Revised School Code, and a Guide to the Open Meetings Act. A copy of the Board’s policy pertaining to Board Roles and Responsibilities was also shared with each new board member.
- **National AASA Conference on Education - New Orleans, LA:** The Superintendent shared that he will be attending the AASA National Conference on Education in New Orleans in March. The Superintendent is an Executive Board Member of the Michigan Associations of Superintendents and

Administrators (MASA). Airfare, hotel costs, and meals will be covered by MASA, the State Superintendents Association.

VIII. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

Item 25-02. MOTION by Kelly, SECOND by Cole to approve the Consent Agenda as listed below:

1. Approval of Bill Listing in the amount of \$933,349.67
2. Acceptance of Monthly Financial, Bond, and Capital Projects Report
3. Acceptance of Student Activity Summary Report
4. Acceptance of Credit Card and Utilities Report
5. Approval of Transfers and ACH Transactions Report
6. Approval of Personnel Report (includes confirmation of new hires, resignations, retirees, and transfers)
7. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - December 9, 2024
8. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes - December 9, 2024

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

X. GENERAL BOARD BUSINESS:

1. Resolution: Special School Bond Election - May 6, 2025

Item 25-03. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Burgess to approve the resolution relative to calling a special election on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, and to authorize the Secretary of the Board of Education, and the Superintendent, to file a copy of the resolution and the certification of ballot proposition with the Election Coordinators in Muskegon and Ottawa Counties by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, as discussed.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Tim Burgess, Kris Cole, Dave Hazekamp, Steve Kelly, JB Meeuwenberg, Josh Mueller, Kathy Six.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

2. Part 1: Emergency Operations Procedures (EOP) Update

The District has been working with emergency management, law enforcement officials, and the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District to make updates to the Districts Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), which are in alignment with the new All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan template released by the Michigan State Police to unify EOPs across counties and across the State. The EOP will be delivered to Board members in sections to review, and once the entire manual has been updated and reviewed by the Board, it will be placed on a future board meeting agenda for approval of the new plan.

XI. BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Report of committee meeting held on January 13, 2025**

Superintendent Kennedy provided a report of the committee meeting that was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on January 13, 2025. Dave Hazekamp, Jason Kennedy, JB Meeuwenberg, Jessica Wiseman, and Mark Mesbergen were present. The Committee discussed the 2024-2025 General Fund and School Service Fund Budget Amendments, and a request to relinquish federal funds - Title III, Part A: Immigration Students. The Committee also discussed a resolution to call a special bond election on May 6, 2025, it discussed a request to purchase middle school band instruments from Meyer Music, and it discussed the types of reporting that the Committee would like to see included in Board packets moving forward. The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

1. 2024-2025 General Fund Budget Amendment

Item 25-04. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to approve the 2024-2025 General Fund Budget Amendment, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Tim Burgess, Kris Cole, Dave Hazekamp, Steve Kelly, JB Meeuwenberg, Josh Mueller, Kathy Six.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

2. 2024-2025 School Service Fund Budget Amendment

Item 25-05. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to approve the 2024-2025 School Service Fund Budget Amendment, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Tim Burgess, Kris Cole, Dave Hazekamp, Steve Kelly, JB Meeuwenberg, Josh Mueller, Kathy Six.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

3. Request to Relinquish Federal Funds - Title III, Part A - Immigrant Students

Item 25-06. MOTION by Six, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to approve the relinquishment of funds in the amount of \$2,402 from Title III, Part A – Immigrant Students, and authorize the Board President and Superintendent to sign and execute the Request to Relinquish Federal Funds Form with the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Educational Supports, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

4. Middle School Band Instrument Purchase

Item 25-07. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to approve the proposal and purchase of instruments from Meyer Music in the amount \$19,296, with funds coming out of the 2021 Capital Projects Fund, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

XII. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

● Report of committee meeting held on January 13, 2025

Superintendent Kennedy provided a report of the committee meeting that was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on January 13, 2025. Dave Hazekamp, Steve Kelly, Jason Kennedy, and JB Meeuwenberg were present. The Committee discussed the January 2025 Personnel report, and a Letter of Agreement (LOA) between the District and the Fruitport Education Association (FEA) pertaining to injuries to staff that are caused by students. The Committee also discussed a resolution to call a special bond election on May 6, 2025, and it discussed changes to the law that are scheduled to take effect in February 2025 pertaining to leave time for employees. The meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

1. FEA Letter of Agreement: Staff Injuries Caused by Students

Item 25-08. MOTION by Burgess, SECOND by Kelly to approve the Letter of Agreement between the District and the Fruitport Education Association, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

XIII. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Report of committee meeting held on January 13, 2025**

Superintendent Kennedy provided a report of the committee meeting that was called to order at 5:36 p.m. on January 13, 2025. Dave Hazekamp, Tim Burgess, and Jason Kennedy were present. The Committee discussed two overnight field trip requests from the cross country teams at the high school, and it discussed the need to appoint a reinstatement committee to review and make recommendation on a reinstatement petition that was received from a previously expelled student from the District. The Committee also discussed updates to the athletic student handbook to address an eligibility issue for online and virtual students, and it reviewed updates to the high school and middle school student handbooks. The Committee also discussed a resolution to call a special bond election on May 6, 2025. The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

- 1. Overnight Trip Request - Cross Country Teams: Hoffmaster State Park**

Item 25-09. MOTION by Six, SECOND by Kelly to approve the cross country teams' request for an overnight trip to participate in their team building and running camp at P.J. Hoffmaster State Park / Muskegon State Park on August 11-14, 2025, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

- 2. Overnight Trip Request - Cross Country Teams: Michigan International Speedway - Brooklyn, MI**

Item 25-10. MOTION by Meeuwenberg, SECOND by Burgess to approve the cross country teams' request for an overnight trip to participate in the MHSAA state championship cross country meet on October 31-November 1, 2025 at the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, MI, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

- 3. Overnight Trip Request - DECA State Championship: Huntington Place - Detroit, MI**

Item 25-11. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Kelly to approve the overnight trip request from Danielle Hershey for students to participate in the DECA State Competition on March 13-15, 2025 at the Huntington Place in Detroit, MI, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

- 4. Resolution to Appoint a Student Reinstatement Committee**

Item 25-12. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to approve the resolution to appoint a reinstatement committee for the purposes of considering the reinstatement of a student to Fruitport High School, as discussed.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Tim Burgess, Kris Cole, Dave Hazekamp, Steve Kelly, JB Meeuwenberg, Josh Mueller, Kathy Six.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

5. Athletic Student Handbook Update: Online / Virtual Enrollment Eligibility

Item 25-13. MOTION by Mueller, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to approve the updated language to the Athletic Student and Parent Handbook, effective immediately, pertaining to online and virtual enrollment eligibility of a student athlete, as discussed.

The following language will be added to page four (4) of the handbook:

“Fruitport full virtual students will use the On-Target grade within the Edmentum virtual program, to check eligibility. Fruitport students enrolled in credit recovery classes through the Apex program will have their eligibility based on the Grade to Date.”

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

XIV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

Kris Cole shared that the Robotics Teams and the Soccer Teams are sponsoring a series of Texas Hold'em tournaments on various upcoming weekends to support each of the teams. JB Meeuwenberg shared that the middle school sent six (6) students to DeVos Performance Hall in Grand Rapids this past week, and that our students did an outstanding job at the performance. Tim Burgess shared with the Board that he will not be available for the February committee meetings, as he will be on a vacation in Hawaii. Josh Mueller shared the recent success of our youth wrestling program, and his involvement with our youngest wrestlers. The program continues to grow, and our student athletes continue to be successful. Most notably, our students finished second out of approximately 120 teams at a recent wrestling meet.

XV. AGENDA ITEMS for FUTURE MEETINGS & SCHEDULING OF ANY SPECIAL MEETINGS

1. The Business and Finance Committee will meet on February 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
2. The Personnel Committee will meet on February 3, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
3. The Student Affairs Committee will meet on February 3, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
4. The Board of Education will meet on February 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

XVI. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Item 25-14. MOTION by Six, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Kelly, Board Secretary

Danielle VanderMeulen, Recording Secretary