



Fruitport Community Schools
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 16, 2024 – 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 7:00 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 – Elroy Buckner, Tim Burgess, Kris Cole, Susan Franklin, Dave Hazekamp, JB Meeuwenberg. Absent: Steve Kelly.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Item 24-143. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Buckner to approve the agenda, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0, 1 absent.
- V. **PRESENTATIONS:** None
- VI. **COMMUNICATIONS:**
 - The District received a communication from Dancing into the Sunset founder and organizer, Susan Halter. The communication included copies of a journal that is kept by the organization where those in attendance write notes about the event. Attendees expressed their appreciation to the District and to John Winkas and his team for hosting the event on Thursday evenings during the summer when inclement weather would prevent the event from being held at Pomona Park outside. Susan also expressed her appreciation for use of the District facilities, and to John Winkas and his team.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

○ **Semifinalists in the 2025 National Merit® Scholarship Program**

Students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) and meeting other program entry requirements. The PSAT/NMSQT® is used as an initial screen of the more than 1.3 million entrants to the program. Students from approximately 21,000 high schools from across the country participate in the program, with this being one of the most prestigious honors bestowed upon a student. A particular year's test is the entry vehicle for a specific year's competition. As an example, the 2023 PSAT/NMSQT® was used for entry to the 2025 National Merit Program.

Approximately 50,000 students are recognized as either Commended Scholars or National Merit Semifinalists each year. Students who score above the National Merit Semifinalist Selection Index are recognized as semifinalists, who then move on in the scholarship competition. Lydia Shi and Elijah Hulka, from Fruitport High School, have been recognized as National Merit Semifinalists. This places Lydia and Elijah in the top 1% of all entrants into the program! Only three (3) students in Muskegon County earned this distinction in the 2025 competition. They will now advance in the competition for recognition as National Merit Finalists.

In addition to having two (2) National Merit Semifinalists, two (2) of our high school students, Vincent Pollock and Abigail Nemecek received Letters of Commendation, and were recognized as Commended Scholars. This places Vincent and Abigail in the top 3.4% of all entrants into the prestigious scholarship program. No other Muskegon County school, nor neighboring school district, had greater than one (1) National Merit Semifinalist in the 2025 competition.

- **Operating Millage Ballot Proposition - November 5, 2024:** The Board discussed the Operating Millage Ballot Proposition that will be placed on the ballot on November 5, 2024. A website is being developed to assist in educating the community, and more information for the community will be forthcoming. All Michigan school districts must levy 18 mills on non-homestead property to receive their full foundation allowance – the major source of funding for Michigan schools. This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its full revenue per pupil foundation allowance and restores millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963.

The 18-mill levy costs the primary residence homeowner zero dollars (\$0 per year). Owned primary residences do *not* pay the 18-mill tax. If approved, the operating millage proposal would be renewed by 17.9302 mills (\$17.9302 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 4 years, 2025 to 2028, inclusive, and also be increased by 0.5000 mill (\$0.5000 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for 4 years, 2025 to 2028, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes.

The estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and 18 mills are levied in 2025 is approximately \$3,502,941.68 (this millage is to renew the millage that will expire with the 2024 levy and to restore millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the “Headlee” amendment to the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and will be levied only to the extent necessary to restore that reduction).

- **West Michigan Conference Expansion Update**

An update on the West Michigan Conference (WMC) timeline and expansion vote was provided to the Board of Education. The conference athletic directors met and had the first round of voting for conference expansion on Wednesday, September 11, 2024. The vote simply asked athletic directors whether the Conference was open to expansion, which needed a majority vote to proceed. This vote passed by a 13-1 margin.

With this vote passing at the AD level, the vote now moves to a vote of the Conference principals, who will vote in October, on whether the conference should continue to explore expansion or not. This vote will need a two-thirds majority to proceed. This means that there needs to be nine (9) yes votes from the principals for the process to continue. Again, this October vote with the principals is simply a vote on whether the conference should continue to explore expansion. If this vote passes, the WMC will then form a site visitation committee and will spend the next 3-4 months meeting and visiting schools that have applied.

Currently, Fruitport is the only school that has applied. From what has been shared with the District by the Conference, there are two (2) issues that appear to be currently working against us. As our enrollment stabilizes or slightly increases due to growth in our community, many of the schools within the WMC appear to be declining. Secondly, it appears as if the WMC would like to expand from 14 to 16 schools, with 16 schools being the maximum allowed. If we continue to be the only school to apply, this may hurt our chances of being accepted by the WMC. Additional details will be shared with the Board as the District receives those details.

VIII. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC:

- Becky Forton, a graduate of Fruitport Community Schools who has grandchildren who attend Shettler Elementary, expressed concerns about the safety of the bus stop that is used to pick up schools of choice students at Musketawa Trail on Broadway Ave. Becky expressed interest in having her grandchildren moved to the bus stop on Kooi St. near the Musketawa Trails stop.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

Item 24-144. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Franklin to approve the Consent Agenda as listed below:

1. Approval of Bill Listing in the amount of \$1,628,494.63
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 from August 19, 2024

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0, 1 absent.

X. GENERAL BOARD BUSINESS:

- 1. Facilities Assessment and Master Plan Update: Capital Bond Planning:** The Board continued to discuss a process and work plan to update the master facilities assessment while also beginning the process of seeking Board and community feedback regarding the next phase of the District's bond planning efforts. The District is able to seek voter approval in May of 2025, which is one year earlier than originally planned. A work session will be scheduled to further review the work plan with Tower Pinkster and Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. and decide upon next steps in a public meeting. The original master plan called for the construction of a new Edgewood Elementary School with voter approval. Sample test fit models developed by Tower Pinkster were shared with the Board of Education.

XI. BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Report of committee meeting held on September 10, 2024**

Kris Cole reported on a Business and Finance Committee meeting held on September 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Kris Cole, Dave Hazekamp, Jason Kennedy, and Mark Mesbergen were present. The Committee discussed an update on the annual financial audit, discussed an update on non-affiliated employee's salary schedule and compensation, discussed a renewal of the Shared Business Services agreement with North Muskegon, discussed the

potential May 2025 bond proposition, and discussed surveillance camera and cabling upgrades at Beach and Shettler. The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

1. Shared Business Services Agreement with North Muskegon Public Schools

Item 24-145. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Franklin to approve the shared business services agreement with North Muskegon Public Schools, as discussed and outlined in the Board Action Request.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

2. Purchase of Emergency Communication Base Stations and Portable Radios

Item 24-146. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Franklin to approve quote 2779501, in the amount of \$131,547.76 coming out of Section 31aa, from Chrouch Communications, Inc. and Motorola Solutions for the purchase of Michigan's Public Safety Communications System emergency base stations, radios, and necessary equipment, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

3. Purchase of Beach and Shettler Surveillance Camera Quotes

Item 24-147. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Buckner to approve the purchase of cameras for Beach and Shettler from CDWG via the REMC consortium and attached quotes 1CFMWWN and 1CFMWTM, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

4. Beach and Shettler Surveillance Camera Cabling Quotes

Item 24-148. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Buckner to approve the quotes (JB026496 & JB026497) from Vector Tech Group to complete the Beach and Shettler Elementary camera cabling project, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

XII. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

● **Report of committee meeting held on September 9, 2024**

JB Meeuwenberg reported on a Personnel Committee meeting held on September 9, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Dave Hazekamp, JB Meeuwenberg, and Jason Kennedy were present. The Committee discussed the Personnel Report for September 2024, which included each of the recommendations for new hires, resignations, retirement notices, transfers, and positions that are still posted and vacant in the District. The Committee also discussed an update on non-affiliated employee's salary schedule and compensation, as well as the

business services agreement with North Muskegon Public Schools and the potential May 2025 bond proposition. The Committee also discussed an update on the annual financial audit. The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

1. Non-Affiliated Administrator Salary/Wage Schedule and Benefit Agreement

Item 24-149. MOTION by Meeuwenberg, SECOND by Franklin to approve the non-affiliated administrator salary/wage schedule and benefit agreement, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

2. Non-Affiliated Support Staff Salary/Wage Schedule and Benefit Agreement

Item 24-150. MOTION by Meeuwenberg, SECOND by Franklin to approve the non-affiliated support staff salary/wage schedule and benefit agreement, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

3. Non-Affiliated Administrator and Support Staff Salary/Wage Schedule Placement

Item 24-151. MOTION by Meeuwenberg, SECOND by Franklin to approve the non-affiliated support staff salary/wage schedule placement, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

XIII. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

● **Report of committee meeting held on September 9, 2024**

Susan Franklin reported on a Student Affairs Committee meeting held on September 9, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Tim Burgess, Susan Franklin, Dave Hazekamp, and Jason Kennedy were present. The Committee discussed various overnight field trip requests that will be placed on the Board agenda for approval, discussed the Summer 2024 annual policy update recommendations from Thrun Law Firm, and discussed the resolution agreement with the Office for Civil Rights on website accessibility. The Committee also discussed the annual financial audit and the potential May 2025 bond proposition. The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

1. Overnight Field Trip Request: High School Basketball Teams - Hoosier Gym

Item 24-152. MOTION by Franklin, SECOND by Burgess to approve the overnight field trip request by Coaches Steve Erny and Brian Packard for the high school boys' and girls' basketball team to travel to Indianapolis/Knightstown, IN on November 22-23, 2024, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

2. Overnight Field Trip Request: Annual 8th Grade Trip to Washington, DC

Item 24-153. MOTION by Franklin, SECOND by Burgess to approve the overnight field trip request by Tim McKeeby for 8th grade students to Washington, DC, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

3. Overnight Field Trip Request: Trojan Travelers - New York City

Item 24-154. MOTION by Franklin, SECOND by Burgess to approve the overnight field trip request by the Trojan Travelers and advisor Tammy Ruch to participate in an overnight field trip to New York City and the surrounding area on May 1-5, 2025, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

4. Website Accessibility Resolution Agreement: Office for Civil Rights

Item 24-155. MOTION by Franklin, SECOND by Burgess to approve the website accessibility resolution agreement between the District and the Office for Civil Rights, and to approve and authorize Superintendent Kennedy to execute the resolution agreement, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

XIV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

Kris Cole shared that the marching band competition season is set to begin on October 26th. Susan Franklin encouraged the Board president to work with Superintendent Kenedy to establish a salary schedule and placement document that follows the superintendent's contract to comply with the recommendations of Thrun Law Firm after the Michigan Supreme Court's decision on July 30, 2024 in the case of Patricia Batista v. Office for Retirement Services.

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

1. The Business and Finance Committee will meet on October 11, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.
2. The Personnel Committee will meet on October 14, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
3. The Student Affairs Committee will meet on October 14, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
4. The Board of Education will meet on October 21, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. for the regular meeting.

XVI. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Item 24-156. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Franklin to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Franklin, Board Secretary

Danielle VanderMeulen, Recording Secretary