

Three Rivers Community School District, St. Joseph County  
Minutes of the Board of Education Organizational Meeting  
Monday, January 17, 2022

Approved Minutes

The Organizational Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Interim Superintendent Nikki Nash at 6:00 PM.

Present: Julia Awe, Linda Baker, Melissa Bliss, Nichole Cover, Kevin Hamilton, Ben Karle, Erin Nowak

Absent: None

Administration Present: Nikki Nash, Blair Brindley, Nick Bryant, Melissa Frye, Brian Leonard, Carrie Balk, Jason Bingaman, Amanda Fahnestock, Ben McIntyre, David Soderquist, Jennifer Graber, Cindy Newell

Pledge of Allegiance: Interim Superintendent Nash led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of the Agenda: It was recommended that the E-Rate District Filtering Item be removed from Action Items due to not needing a vote. Motion by Member Nowak, with support from Member Baker, to approve the agenda with the proposed change. After a roll call vote, 7-0, Interim Superintendent Nash declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Bliss, Cover, Hamilton, Karle, Nowak  
Absent: None

Reaffirmation of Board Bylaws: Motion by Member Cover, with support from Member Bliss, to reaffirm the following Board Bylaws as presented:

- a. 0152 - OFFICERS
- b. 0163 - PRESIDING OFFICER
- c. 0171.1 - PRESIDENT
- d. 0171.2 - VICE-PRESIDENT
- e. 0171.3 - SECRETARY
- f. 0171.4 - TREASURER
- g. 0164.1 - REGULAR MEETINGS
- h. 0164.2 - SPECIAL MEETINGS
- i. 0164.3 - EMERGENCY MEETINGS
- j. 0165.1 - REGULAR MEETINGS
- k. 0165.2 - CHANGE OF REGULAR MEETINGS
- l. 0165.3 - SPECIAL MEETINGS
- m. 0165.4 - EMERGENCY MEETINGS
- n. 0165.6 - CANCELLATION
- o. 0166 - AGENDA
- p. 0166.1 - CONSENT AGENDA
- q. 0167.3 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS
- r. 0161 - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY
- s. 0167.1 - VOTING
- t. 0155 - COMMITTEES
- u. 0144.1 - COMPENSATION
- v. 0142.5 - VACANCIES

After a roll call vote, 7-0, Interim Superintendent Nash declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Bliss, Cover, Hamilton, Karle, Nowak  
Absent: None

**Election of Officers** Interim Superintendent Nash opened the nominations for Board Officers at 6:03 PM.

Member Baker made the motion to nominate the following slate of Officers: Member Nowak as President, Member Bliss as Vice President, Member Karle as Secretary and Member Awe as Treasurer. Interim Superintendent Nash asked if there were any other nominations; seeing none, nominations were closed.

After a roll call vote 7-0, Interim Superintendent Nash declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Bliss, Cover, Hamilton, Karle, Nowak  
Absent: None

With the Election of Officers complete, Interim Superintendent Nash turned the duties of presiding officer over to President Nowak.

**Appointment of Board Members to Subcommittees:** President Nowak set the Board Committee membership as follows:

**Standing Subcommittees:**

- Curriculum: Erin Nowak (Chair), Nichole Cover, Ben Karle
- Facilities: Melissa Bliss (Chair), Linda Baker, Ben Karle
- Finance: Julia Awe (Chair), Nichole Cover, Kevin Hamilton
- Human Resources: Nichole Cover (Chair), Kevin Hamilton, Erin Nowak
- Policy: Melissa Bliss (Chair), Linda Baker, Julia Awe

**Other Board Committees:**

- MASB Labor Relations: Erin Nowak
- SJCISD School Board Association: Linda Baker
- SJCISD School Board Association Alternate: Nichole Cover

**Adoption of the Board Meeting Dates for 2022:** Motion by Member Cover, with support from Member Hamilton, to adopt the Board of Education Meeting Dates as presented. After a roll call vote, 7-0, President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Bliss, Cover, Hamilton, Karle, Nowak  
Absent: None

A true copy of the schedule is attached.

**Public Comment:** Public Comment was offered.

**Closed Session** A motion was made by Member Cover with support from Member Awe to move into Closed Session as permitted under section 8(b) of the Open Meetings Act for Student Discipline. After a roll call vote, 7-0, President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously and the Board moved into Closed Session at 6:08 P.M.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Bliss, Cover, Hamilton, Karle, Nowak  
Absent: None

The Board returned from closed session at 6:42 P.M.

Student Discipline: Motion by Member Cover, with support from Member Awe, for the long term  
Student Number suspension of student 60786 for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year with a  
60786 possibility of reinstatement if conditions of suspension are met; a hearing may be held  
prior to readmittance for the 2022-2023 school year. After a roll call vote, 7-0,  
President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Bliss, Cover, Hamilton, Karle, Nowak  
Absent: None

Presentation by Doug Williams and Paul Wills of Plante Moran CRESA provided a presentation on  
Plante Moran their company's Independent Owner Representative services to assist TRCS with its  
CRESA: Bond construction management. The Board's comments and questions were received  
and answered.

It was recommended that Plante Moran CRESA provide Administration with a draft  
contract for review by the Finance and Facilities Committees prior to the February 7,  
2022 Work Session in order to vote on moving forward with this service for the  
remaining phases of the Bond work.

Superintendent Board Recognition Month Presentation  
Report: Interim Superintendent Nash read aloud the press release designating January as  
School Board Recognition Month and presented the Board Members with certificates  
and a small gift of appreciation from TRCS and MASB for their dedication to the  
community and public schools.

Kallie Sears, Kindergarten Teacher at Park Elementary  
Cindy Newell, Park Elementary Principal, introduced Kallie Sears to the Board as the  
new Kindergarten Teacher at the school; the Board welcomed Kallie to TRCS.

Paws with a Cause - Welcome Tanner and Austin  
Carrie Balk, Three Rivers High School Principal, introduced the High School's new  
facility dog Tanner; Austin was unable to attend but is also a school facility dog. The  
facility dogs will be used as emotional support for students. The goal for TRCS is to  
acquire a facility dog for each building.

COVID-19 Current Numbers Discussion  
Interim Superintendent Nash provided an overview of the current and recent  
COVID-19 numbers within the buildings. Board comments and questions were  
received and answered by Interim Superintendent Nash.

ESports Presentation  
Joe Graber, Three Rivers High School Teacher, presented to the Board the  
recommendation to create an ESports team where students may participate in  
competitive gaming. Board comments and questions were received and answered.

E-Rate District Filtering & Flat Panels

Nick Bryant, Director of Technology, reviewed the annual E-District Filtering list with the Board; no questions were asked. He also gave an update to the Board on the status of the multi-functional flat panels which will be fitted in all buildings for use as computer screens and electronic white boards.

Cedar Point Middle School Trip

Jason Bingaman, Three Rivers Middle School Principal, provided the Board with the details of the 8th Grade class trip to Cedar Point Amusement Park being recommended for approval.

Consent Agenda: The Consent Agenda Items were voted on individually:

Approval of the December 13, 2021 Special Meeting Work Session Minutes

Motion by Member Awe, with support from Member Bliss, to approve the December 13, 2021 Special Meeting Work Session Minutes. After a roll call vote, 7-0, President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Bliss, Cover, Hamilton, Karle, Nowak

Absent: None

Approval of the December 1 - December 31, 2021 Accounts Payable Check Register dated January 10, 2022 totaling \$493,611.64

Motion by Member Awe, with support from Member Baker, to approve the December 1 - December 31, 2021 Accounts Payable Check Register dated January 10, 2022 totaling \$493,611.64. After a roll call vote, 7-0, President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Bliss, Cover, Hamilton, Karle, Nowak

Absent: None

Approval of the Payroll Change Register for December dated January 10, 2022

Motion by Member Cover, with support from Member Baker, to approve the Payroll Change Register for December dated January 10, 2022. After a roll call vote, 7-0, President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Bliss, Cover, Hamilton, Karle, Nowak

Absent: None

Approval of the attached Bond related invoices totaling \$587,458.61

Motion by Member Awe, with support from Member Cover, to approve the Bond related invoices totaling \$587,458.61. After a roll call vote, 7-0, President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Bliss, Cover, Hamilton, Karle, Nowak

Absent: None

Employee Appointments: Approval of the following new employee appointments:

Kallie Sears - Kindergarten Teacher: Park Elementary

Motion by Member Cover, with support from Member Awe, to approve the new employee appointment of Kallie Sears, Kindergarten Teacher at Park Elementary.

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Yea: Awe, Baker, Bliss, Cover, Hamilton, Karle, Nowak

Absent: None

ESports Program: Motion by Member Cover, with support from Member Awe, to approve the proposed ESports Program. After a roll call vote, 7-0, President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Bliss, Cover, Hamilton, Karle, Nowak

Absent: None

Cedar Point Middle School Trip: Motion by Member Cover, with support from Member Awe, to approve the Middle School 8th Grade trip to Cedar Point. After a roll call vote, 7-0, President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Bliss, Cover, Hamilton, Karle, Nowak

Absent: None

Public Comment: Public Comment was offered.

Board Comment: Board comment was offered and received.

Adjournment: Motion by Member Awe, with support from Member Cover, to adjourn the meeting. After a roll call vote, 7-0, President Nowak declared the motion approved unanimously.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Bliss, Cover, Hamilton, Karle, Nowak

Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

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Ben Karle, Secretary Board of Education

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Lorie Camino, Recording Secretary