

Three Rivers Community School District, St. Joseph County
Minutes of the Board of Education Organizational Meeting
Monday, January 13, 2025

Approved Minutes

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

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

Absent: Amanda Allen, Nichole Cover

Administration Present: Nikki Nash, Melissa Frye, Jen Graber, Justin Holbrook, Brian Leonard, John Londono, Carrie Balk, Kerrie Bass, Julie Bentley, Jason Bingaman, Katherine Blakley, Amanda Fahnestock, Greg Rutten, David Soderquist, Anthony Wolbert, Nick VandenBrink

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

Approval of the Agenda: Motion by Member Awe, with support from Member Daniels, to approve the agenda as presented. After a roll call vote, 5-0, Superintendent Nash declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Daniels, Nowak, Patch

Absent: Allen, Cover

Reaffirmation of Board Bylaws: Motion by Member Awe, with support from Member Daniels, 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, 5-0, Superintendent Nash declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Daniels, Nowak, Patch
Absent: Allen, Cover

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

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

After a roll call vote, 5-0, Superintendent Nash declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Daniels, Nowak, Patch
Absent: Allen, Cover

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

Appointment of
Board Members to
Subcommittees:

President Nowak set the Board Committee assignments as follows:

Standing Subcommittees:

- Curriculum: Melissa Patch (Chair)
- Facilities: Linda Baker (Chair)
- Finance: Julia Awe (Chair)
- Human Resources: Ross Daniels (Chair)
- Policy: Nichole Cover (Chair)

Other Board Committees:

- MASB Labor Relations: Erin Nowak
- SJCISD School Board Association: Linda Baker
- SJCISD School Board Association Alternate: Erin Nowak
- MASB Representatives: Ross Daniels & Linda Baker
- MASB Alternates: Julia Awe & Melissa Patch

Adoption of the
Board Meeting
Dates for 2025:

Motion by Member Awe, with support from Member Daniels, to adopt the 2025 Board of Education Meeting Dates as presented. After a roll call vote, 5-0, President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Daniels, Nowak, Patch
Absent: Allen, Cover

Discussions/
Presentations:

Board Recognition Month Presentation

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

2023-2024 Seal of Biliteracy Recipient Recognition

Lauren McDonald, ELL Coordinator, recognized students Joseline Leon Magno and Jennifer Estrella Hernandez Medina with the 2023-2024 Seal of Biliteracy for demonstrating their proficiency in English and at least one other language.

2024 MEMSPA Regional Honors Award Recognition

Superintendent Nash provided the Board with an overview of the recognition of Hoppin Principal, David Soderquist, who received the 2024 MEMSPA Regional Honors Award for the Region 4 Principal of the Year.

January Budget Update

Mandi Zaborowski, Director of Finance & Business, provided the Board with a review of the budget as of January 2025. Board comments and questions were received.

Public Comment: Public Comment was offered.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Member Baker, with support from Member Daniels, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. After a roll call vote, 5-0, President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Daniels, Nowak, Patch

Absent: Allen, Cover

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

1. Approval of the December 16, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.
2. Approval of the Payroll Change Register for December 2024 dated January 8, 2025.
3. Approval of the December 1 - December 31, 2024 Accounts Payable Check Register dated January 8, 2025 totaling \$2,123,851.45.
4. Approval of the Bond Invoice Payment Report dated January 8, 2025 totaling \$1,728,479.21.
5. Employee Appointments: It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the following new employee appointments:
 - a. Mitchell Walters - Math Teacher- Split MS/HS
 - b. Brooke Davis - Special Education Teacher, Park Elementary
 - c. Lucas King - 1st Grade Teacher, Park Elementary
 - d. Kathleen Repp - Special Education, Andrews Elementary

Board Calendar: President Nowak made the announcement that now that they have been approved, meetings for 2025 will be posted online and at the Central Office per Board Bylaws. The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Education is a Work Session on Monday, February 3, 2025.

Board Comment: Board comment was offered and received.

Adjournment: Motion by Member Awe, with support from Member Daniels, to adjourn the meeting. After a roll call vote, 5-0, President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Awe, Baker, Daniels, Nowak, Patch

Absent: Allen, Cover

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM

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Respectfully Submitted,

Nichole Cover, Secretary Board of Education

Lorie Camino, Recording Secretary