Three Rivers Community School District, St. Joseph County
Minutes of the Board of Education Organizational Meeting
Monday, January 19, 2026

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, Elizabeth Ogreen
Administration Present:	Nikki Nash, Melissa Frye, Brian Leonard, John Londono, Mandi Zaborowski, Carrie Balk, Jason Bingaman, Amanda Fahnestock, Lisa Laskarides, David Soderquist, Matt Stofer, Julie Vaughn
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 Patch, 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, Ogreen
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, Ogreen

Election of Officers

Superintendent Nash opened the nominations for Board Officers at 6:07 PM.

Member Daniels made the motion to nominate the following slate of Officers: Member Nowak as President, Member Baker as Vice President, Member Patch 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, Ogreen

With the Election of Officers complete, Superintendent Nash turned the duties of presiding officer over to President Erin 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: Elizabeth Ogreen (Chair)

Other Board Committees:

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

Adoption of the Board Meeting Dates for 2026:

Motion by Member Patch, with support from Member Baker, to adopt the 2026 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, Ogreen

Public Comment:

Public Comment was offered.

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.

2024-2025 Audit Report

Joe Verlin of Gambridge & Company provided the Board with an overview of the 2024-2025 Audit Findings. Board comments and questions were accepted and received.

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January Budget Update

Mandi Zaborowski, Director of Finance & Business, provided the Board with a review of the budget as of January 2026. Board comments and questions were received.

Winter Benchmark Testing

Nikki Nash, Superintendent, presented the Winter Benchmark Testing Progress Report. Board comments and questions were received.

2024-2025 Audit Approval:

Motion by Member Awe, with support from Member Daniels, to approve the 2024-2025 Audit Report 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, Ogreen

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Member Awe, 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, Ogreen

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

1. Approval of the December 15, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes.
2. Approval of the Payroll Change Register for December 2025.
3. Approval of the December 1 - December 31, 2025 Accounts Payable Check Register totaling $2,168,183.10.
4. Approval of the Bond Invoice Payment Report totaling $454,359.22.
5. Employee Appointments**:** It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the following new employee appointments:
    a. Jerry Burgess- Health Teacher - TRHS
    b. Corrinne Berry- Special Education Teache r- Andrews
    c. Ashley Brandel- 1st Grade Teacher - Park
    d. Rylee Wanamaker- ELA Teacher - TRHS

Board Calendar:

President Nowak made the announcement that now that they have been approved, meetings for 2026 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 2, 2026.

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, Ogreen

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The meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Patch, Secretary Board of Education

Lorie Camino, Recording Secretary