Three Rivers Community School District, St. Joseph County
Minutes of the Board of Education Work Session
Monday, March 2, 2026

~~Approved Minutes~~

The Work Session of the Board of Education was called to order by President Erin Nowak at 6:00 PM.

Present:	Amanda Allen, Julia Awe, Linda Baker, Ross Daniels, Erin Nowak, Elizabeth Ogreen, Melissa Patch
Absent:	None
Administration Present:	Nikki Nash, Melissa Frye, Justin Holbrook, Brian Leonard, John Londono, Mandi Zaborowski, Carrie Balk, Amanda Fahnestock
Pledge of Allegiance:	President Nowak led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of the Agenda:	Motion by Member Awe, with support from Member Allen, to approve the agenda as presented. After a roll call vote, 7-0, President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously. Yea: Allen, Awe, Baker, Daniels, Nowak, Ogreen, Patch Absent: None
Public Comment:	Public Comment was offered.

Discussions/ Presentations:

Safety & Security Department Update

Justin Holbrook, Director of Safety & Security, provided the Board with an overview and update of services and projects that he is working on and implementing into TRCS. Board comments and questions were accepted and received.

Work Session:

Facilities Committee

Barrows Sale:

Superintendent Nash discussed the pros and cons of the options that the District has for the sale of the Henry P. Barrows Building which the District is no longer using due to considerable deterioration caused by age as well as costs for upkeep and maintenance. The Board will review the recommendations by Thrun Law Firm and will vote on which option to move forward with at the March 16, 2026 Regular Meeting. Board comments and questions were accepted and received.

Curriculum Committee

TRMS Amplify Program:

Superintendent Nash provided the Board with an overview of the Amplify Reading Program which the Middle School would like to incorporate into its curriculum to boost testing scores. Amplify Reading uses a compelling, age-appropriate narrative (a futuristic world) to keep middle schoolers motivated without feeling "remedial." The program automatically adapts to each student's level, providing individualized practice that scales with their progress. Board comments and questions were accepted and received.

Multi-Media Production Course at TRHS:

Carrie Balk, TRHS Principal, presented the Board with an outline of the proposed Multi-Media Production Course that has been highly requested by the students. This is a hands-on, project-based course designed to equip students with real-world skills in

video production, live broadcasting, audio engineering, digital design, and content creation. Board comments and questions were accepted and received.

TRMS Amplify Program:

Motion by Member Awe, with support from Member Daniels, to approve the incorporation of the TRMS Amplify Program into the school's curriculum as presented. After a roll call vote, 7-0, President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Allen, Awe, Baker, Daniels, Nowak, Ogreen, Patch
Absent: None

Multi-Media Production Course at TRHS:

Motion by Member Daniels, with support from Member Allen, to approve the Multi-Media Production Course at TRHS as presented. After a roll call vote, 7-0, President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Allen, Awe, Baker, Daniels, Nowak, Ogreen, Patch
Absent: None

Board Calendar:

President Nowak reviewed upcoming events with the Board.

Board Comment:

Board comment was offered and received.

Closed Session:

Motion by Member Awe, with support from Member Daniels, to move into Closed Session as permitted under Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings for the purpose of strategy and negotiation sessions connected with a collective bargaining agreement. After a roll call vote, 7-0, President Nowak declared the motion as approved unanimously.

Yea: Allen, Awe, Baker, Daniels, Nowak, Ogreen, Patch
Absent: None

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:44 PM and returned at 7:46 PM

Adjournment:

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

Yea: Allen, Awe, Baker, Daniels, Nowak, Ogreen, Patch
Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Patch, Secretary Board of Education

Lorie Camino, Recording Secretary