

**November 13, 2023**  
**EJCS BOE Meeting Minutes**

A regular meeting of the East Jackson Community Schools Board of Education was held in the East Jackson Elementary Community Room. The meeting was called to order by President, Ken Straub at 6:00 PM. Secretary, Jan Maino conducted roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Board Members Present:** Ken Straub, Mishele Wilkins, Jan Maino, Mickey Cromley, Lisa Hendricks, Amy Boatright, Misti Bell arrived 6:01PM.

**Board Members Absent:**

**Administrators/ Supervisors Present:** Superintendent Doerr, Amy Blackledge, Joel Cook, Becky Hager, Spencer Schultz, Randy Wilkinson

**Staff Members Present:** Joy Collier, Deana Minder, Laura Panches

**Visitors Signed In:** Nate Baldermann with Rehman, JCISD Business Manager Thomas Berkemeier, Joe Powers and Jim Venton with Wolgast, JCISD Business employees, Lynne Thompson and Nancy Swanson, Jill Baker with ERA Reardon Realty, Nadezhda Zaharieva and Morgan Verus, Students; Kobe McKinney, Heaven Page, Javin Mericle, Priya Mericle, William Kennedy, Randy Reddick III, Gavin Zegarlowicz and their families

**Additions/Deletions to the Agenda** – None

**Student Recognition**

- 1) Students of the Month
  - a. **Kobe McKinney** ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade (present)
  - b. **Alivia Gomez** ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Grade (absent)
  - c. **Heaven Page** ~ 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (present)
  - d. **Ashton Crandall** ~ 9<sup>th</sup> Grade (absent)
- 2) Athletes of the Month
  - a. **Morghan Dingee** ~ 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Volleyball (absent)
  - b. **Javin Mericle** ~ 12<sup>th</sup> Grade – Cross Country (present)
- 3) All Conference
  - a. **Michael Allen** – Cross Country
  - b. **Javin Mericle** – Cross Country
  - c. **Owen Swetland** – Football ~ Offensive Guard
  - d. **Austin Tingley** – Football ~ Defensive Back
  - e. **Caleb Weaver** – Football ~ Running Back
- 4) All County
  - a. **Michael Allen** – Cross Country
  - b. **William Kennedy** – Cross Country
  - c. **Javin Mericle** – Cross Country

- 5) All Region
  - a. **Austin Tingley** – Football
  
- 6) MHSAA State Qualifiers in Cross Country
  - a. **Boys Cross Country Team:** Michael Allen, Kaden Boatright, Julius Farrell, William Kennedy, Javin Mericle, Nickalie Pratt, Carter Raffensberger, Colton Raffensberger, Gavin Zegarlowicz
  
  - b. **Girls Cross Country Individual:** Priya Mericle
  
- 7) All State
  - a. **Michael Allen** – Cross Country ~ 10<sup>th</sup> place
  - b. **Javin Mericle** – Cross Country ~ 29<sup>th</sup> place

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

Mrs. Wilkins moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mrs. Hendricks 2<sup>nd</sup>

- 1) **Meeting Minutes**
  - A. Regular Meeting – October 9, 2023

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

**Questions, Comments, Petitions from the Public:** None

### **Reports**

#### 1) **Final Audit ~ Rehmann**

- Audit Principal, Nathan Baldermann reported that the 2023 audit progressed smoothly and no major issues were found. He added that business office employees worked diligently to clean up the issues found last year. He directed the Board to sections of the audit which offered further explanation. A copy of the final audit is available on the district website and in the district administration office.

#### 2) **Capital Improvement Project ~ Wolgast**

- Project Coordinator, Joe Powers introduced Project Manager, Jim Venton. He then reported that there have been multiple committee meetings regarding a potential bond which will be under ten (10) million and will have a zero (0) mil tax increase to the community. Joe referenced several items on the scope list which included safety, buses, roofing, parking, plumbing, auditorium sound, lighting, and lift station, kitchen and generators.
- Mickey Cromley acknowledged the aggressive timeline and Ken Straub added that he is looking forward to working with Joe.

#### 3) **Finance Report**

- Thomas Berkemeier, JCISD Business Manager, presented the Monthly Finance Report.

#### 4) **PRIME ~ Partnership Response in Manufacturing Education**

- Principal Joel Cook reported that EJSS is able to offer students this exciting program due to a generous grant from the SME Education Foundation. He added that it is the most comprehensive manufacturing and engineering program for high school students in the country. State Representative, Kathy Schmaltz attended EJ's official "PRIME Launch Day" in October and complimented the students' curiosity and the "beautiful" school building. Cook stated that EJSS is thankful for the partnership with local manufacturing companies such as Lomar and Technique as this partnership will result in job ready talent and

certifications for our students at the time of their graduation. Cook reported that Jackson County alone has more available manufacturing jobs than qualified applicants. A detailed report was included in the Board packet.

- Mickey Cromley shared that he toured the class and was impressed with the variety of technical equipment in the classroom. Cromley added that it was good to see the students engaged and to hear the testimony of a student who told him “PRIME class is the reason I want to come to school”.
- Superintendent Doerr added that this program will be showcased to 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade students to ignite early interest.

5) **Board Reports/Sharing** - None

6) **Superintendent Report**

- A thank you note acknowledging a donation from Walmart to EJE was included in the Board packet.
- After registering complaints to Leoni Township regarding marijuana odors at the Sutton Road location, Superintendent Doerr requested a written response from the township. A formal response from Harkness Law Firm, on behalf of the township, was included in the Board packet and Doerr stated that he will continue to discuss addressing this matter.
- Doerr reported that EJ parents continue high involvement with parent-teacher conferences. The fall participation reports for the elementary and secondary schools were included in the Board packet.
- Ms. Deana Minder has finalized her certification program through MSBO as a Human Resource Specialist. With this credential, the superintendent plans to review the district office essential duties and responsibilities in the coming month.
- Superintendent Doerr reported that the district continues to identify high priorities for capital improvements and programming. As a result, he added a motion for the Board to approve his pursuit of a preliminary qualifying application with the MI Department of Treasury. If the plan meets their standards, this will allow the district to pursue a no-mill increase bond initiative to fund the scope lists.
- The district continues to receive updated elements for the Emergency Operations Plan. These include updated critical incidence mapping from CRG and a pending security report from Secure Education Consultants. Both provide independent, third party, input on how to best manage a safe learning environment for our staff and students.

**Action Items**

**Resignation** Mrs. Maino moved to accept the **Resignations** as presented.

- a. **Andrea Bynum** ~ EJSS Paraprofessional; effective 10-19-2023
- b. **Danielle Hein** ~ SRS Coordinator; effective 11-17-2023

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Mr. Cromley 2<sup>nd</sup>

**New Hire** Mrs. Bell moved to approve the **New Hire** as presented.

- a. **Jeanne Padgett** ~ EJE Title I Paraprofessional

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Mrs. Hendricks 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Closed Session**

Mrs. Maino moved to enter into closed session at 6:42 PM to discuss exempt material that was attorney/client privileged information.

Mr. Cromley 2<sup>nd</sup>

<b><u>Roll Call Vote</u></b>	<b><u>Aye</u></b>	<b><u>Nay</u></b>
Mr. Straub	x	
Mrs. Wilkins	x	
Mrs. Maino	x	
Mr. Cromley	x	
Mrs. Bell	x	
Mrs. Hendricks	x	
Mrs. Boatright	x	

Mr. Cromley moved to resume open session at 6:58 PM

Mrs. Bell 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Before leaving open session, Mrs. Wilkins stated that twenty years ago she and Mr. Cromley both voted yes to sell Memorial and 11 acres for \$1,400,000 however the vote did not pass.*

*Mrs. Wilkins also shared her concern of selling the building and it becoming a charter school. Jill Baker with ERA Reardon Realty replied with the possibility of adding a non-compete clause to the agreement. Superintendent Doerr will inquire whether this clause will be in violation of state statute.*

**Resolution** Mrs. Bell moved to adopt **Option #2 Resolution** of Memorial Building and approximately 10 Acres as presented.

Mrs. Hendricks 2<sup>nd</sup>

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

**Board Stipend** Mrs. Bell moved to direct the superintendent to arrange **Board Stipend Payments** on or before December 11, 2023 and report via 1099 if applicable.

Mrs. Boatright 2<sup>nd</sup>

Ayes: 6 Nays: 1

*Stipends will be paid through accounts payable.*

**January Meeting** Mrs. Maino moved to approve **Changing the Organizational Meeting Date** to Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

Mr. Cromley 2<sup>nd</sup>

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

*This is in observance of Martin Luther King Jr on Monday, January 15.*

**Scope List** Mrs. Maino move to approve the draft summary of the **General Scope List** as presented and to authorize the superintendent to construct a pre-qualifying application to the Michigan Department of Treasury.

Mrs. Hendricks 2<sup>nd</sup>

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

**Other Board Discussion Matters** - None

**Adjournment**

Mrs. Hendricks moved to adjourn this Board of Education meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Mrs. Wilkins 2<sup>nd</sup>

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Jan Maino  
Board of Education Secretary