

February 12, 2024
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. President Ken Straub called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Treasurer, Mickey Cromley was appointed acting secretary. Roll call was conducted and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present: Ken Straub, Mishele Wilkins, Mickey Cromley, Misti Bell, Amy Boatright

Board Members Absent: Jan Maino, Lisa Hendricks

Administrators/ Supervisors Present: Superintendent, Steve Doerr
Joel Cook, Cheryn DeLosh, Becky Hager, Regina Hoskins, Joe Niehaus,
Jeff Panches, Randy Wilkinson

Staff Members Present: Joy Collier, Emily Farrell, Sadie Fritz, Deana Minder,
JCISD Business Manager Thomas Berkemeier

Visitors Present/ Signed In Sarah and Genevieve Ward, Isaiah and Rachel Bean, Aron Kilian, Amanda Dell, Kim Southworth-Tousley, Russ Tousley, Judy Southworth, Brock and Victoria Tousley, Ninette Lowe, Ryan and Susan Wixsom, Robotics Students-Maddy Bean, Noah Bean, Aurora Bean, Alice Porter, Amaya Rashed, Caroline Wixom

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

- 1) Add Action Item #3c – New Hire, Gavin Monroe
- 2) Add Action Item #7 – Tax Collection Agreement ~ Waterloo Township

Student Recognition

- 1) Students of the Month
 - a. **Travis Tousley** ~ 3rd Grade (present)
 - b. **Xander Centers** ~ 5th Grade (present)
 - c. **Genevieve Ward** ~ 8th Grade (present)
 - d. **Khloee Gettings** ~ 10th Grade (absent)
 - e. **Maliah Griggs** ~ Kindergarten (present) *December Student of the Month*
- 2) Athletes of the Month
 - a. **Olivia Barnes** ~ 7th Grade – Basketball (absent)
 - b. **Landin Hendricks** ~ 9th Grade – Basketball (absent)

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mrs. Bell moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mrs. Boatright 2nd

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

1) **Meeting Minutes**

- A. Organizational Meeting – January 16, 2024
- B. Regular Meeting – January 16, 2024

2) **Financial**

- A. General Fund Ratification
 1. Payroll – January \$ 671,542.53
 2. Voucher Printout – January 628,650.47
- General Fund \$ 1,300,193.00

Questions, Comments, Petitions from the Public: None

Reports

1) Finance Report

- JCISD Business Manager Thomas Berkemeier presented the monthly finance report as presented in the Board packet.

2) EJE Robotic

- Robotics Coach and EJE Teacher, Sadie Fritz, shared that the Elementary Robotics team consists of students in grades 4-6. The students introduced themselves and shared what they like best about Robotics. The favorites covered all aspects; building the robots, programming, competitions, and spending time with teammates. The team showed the Board two (2) of their Robots and shared details of the design and function.

3) EdOptions

- Secondary Principals, Joel Cook and Jeff Panches presented the EdOptions program as presented in the Board packet. They requested a Board decision in March or April so, if approved, current students in their senior year will have time to benefit this school year.

4) Superintendent's Report

- Included in the Board packet was communication from the district's principal auditor at Rehmann advising how the district should proceed with Board stipends. Steve Doerr stated "It will be important to take action to respond to this information appropriately." Ken Straub inquired of options for Board members to accept the Board stipend and donate back to district, or reject stipend all together. Thomas Berkemeier stated that he will need to consult with his supervisor before issuing a response.
- Doerr reported forward movement with the approved purchase agreement for Memorial Elementary. Leoni Township has scheduled a hearing to review the proposed land split and reconnect for February 22, 2024. If no further contingencies arise, a closing date will be scheduled by the broker.
- A trifold brochure was created for the purpose of sharing information with the community about the upcoming May 7 election. A copy was shared with the Board before distribution to other stakeholders. According to township and county officials, Election Day voting options will be in-person and with absentee ballots. In-person early voting is not an option as this is not a statewide or national election.
- The Board packet included a report from SEC, a third party security agency that works with hundreds of schools throughout the Midwest. Doerr stated that these confidential materials would be reviewed by the Board in closed session before confidential discussion takes place among administrators and the district's EOP Committee.
- Doerr announced that he would like to schedule a Board Study Session and Community Forum on Thursday, March 7, 2024. This will provide an opportunity for members of our community to better understand Board member service, as well as widely share information about the May 7, 2024 Bond election. The Board approved and the date will be added to the Board meeting schedule.

5) Board Reports/Sharing

- Mischele Wilkins shared that she enjoyed attending the JCSBA February meeting that was held at Napoleon Schools. The Board was reminded that East Jackson will be hosting the May meeting. Cheryn DeLosh confirmed that it is scheduled for Saturday, May 4 and EJ food service will be providing the breakfast. The meeting will be held in the Secondary School Cafeteria.

- Board members stated that the luncheon, hosted by the elementary staff in recognition of Board Appreciation Month, was very nice and they were thankful. The elementary is considering a different venue for future luncheons to allow the opportunity for all Board members to attend.
- Elementary Principal, Becky Hager invited Board members to sign up for a day and time during March is Reading Month to read a book to elementary students. Hager also invited the Board to come look at the decorated classroom doors and vote for their favorite.

Action Items

Retirement Mrs. Bell moved to accept, with regret, the **Retirement** as presented for;

- a. **Phyllis Phillips**, Secretary; effective 4/26/2024 with 26 years of service.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Mr. Cromley 2nd

Resignation Mrs. Wilkins moved to accept **Resignations** as presented for;

- a. **Steven Troy**, Paraprofessional; effective 1/26/2024
- b. **Timothy Travis**, Custodian; effective 1/19/2024

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Mrs. Bell 2nd

New Hire Mr. Cromley moved to approve **New Hires** as presented for;

- a. **Jessica Swetland**, Kitchen Assistant; effective 1/23/2024
- b. **Kayla Beatty**, Kitchen Assistant; effective 1/26/2024
- c. **Gavin Monroe**, Custodian; effective 2/19/2024

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Mrs. Wilkins 2nd

Leave of Absence Mrs. Bell moved to approve a **Leave of Absence Request** as presented for;

- a. **Brittany VanZandt**, EJSS Teacher

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Mrs. Boatright 2nd

NEOLA Mrs. Wilkins moved to approve the **NEOLA Policy Updates** as presented.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Mrs. Bell 2nd

Delegate Authority Mrs. Wilkins moved to **Delegate Authority for Jan Maino to Cast Vote for MASB Board of Director** on behalf of the EJ Board of Education.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Mr. Cromley 2nd

Tax Agreement Mrs. Bell moved to approve the **Tax Collection Agreement with Waterloo Township** as presented. The per parcel fee remains at \$3.00.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Mrs. Boatright 2nd

Other Board Discussion Matters - None

Closed Session

Mrs. Boatright moved to enter into Closed Session at 6:55pm to discuss privileged and confidential information as presented.

Mrs. Bell 2nd

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Ken Straub	X	
Mishele Wilkins	X	
Jan Maino	Absent	
Mickey Cromley	X	
Misti Bell	X	
Lisa Hendricks	Absent	
Amy Boatright	X	

Mrs. Wilkins moved to resume Open Session at 7:22pm.

Mrs. Boatright 2nd

Adjournment

Mrs. Wilkins moved to adjourn this Board of Education meeting at 7:23p.m.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Mrs. Bell 2nd

Mickey Cromley
Appointed Secretary Board of Education