

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Education Jenison Public Schools

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Jenison Public Schools was held on Monday, March 9, 2026, beginning at 6:30 pm in the Jenison Center for the Arts Boardroom.

Call to Order:

President of the Board of Education, Dr. Hartman, called the Jenison Public Schools Board of Education meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Members Present:

Eric Hartman, DC,
President

William Waalkes,
Vice President

Chris Reed, PhD,
Treasurer

Jen Postema,
Secretary

Jennifer Griffin, DPM
Trustee

Donna Mooney
Trustee

Shannon Hogan,
Trustee

Others Present:

Brandon Graham, PhD,
Superintendent

Leslie Philipps,
Assistant Superintendent /
Title IX Coordinator

Christine Marcy,
Director of Finance and
Operations

Kristy Rogalla,
Co-Director of Teaching and
Learning

Katie Moy,
Chief of Staff

Recognition: Transportation Department

Dr. Graham shared appreciation for the Transportation Department, recognizing that they are special individuals who interact with our children every day and consistently go above and beyond. Right now, the team is essentially “homeless” due to construction and the lack of a home base, yet they continue to work tirelessly to ensure students are safely transported to and from school.

Mrs. Philipps added that the team works hard day in and day out, even in the worst weather conditions. And on a beautiful day like today, when we ask them to come inside, it's worth remembering that they diligently work in all weather conditions. The individuals represented tonight include bus drivers, special education drivers, van drivers, office staff, mechanics, and directors. Together, they form an essential team. They are often the first faces students see in the morning and the last faces they see at the end of the school day. That responsibility is a big one, and they take it seriously. Students truly love their drivers. This has been an especially challenging time, particularly without a building to call their own. The team helped clean out the garage before it was torn down to make way for the new building. Since then, they've been working without basic facilities like bathrooms, and they haven't complained once. When there's a need, they find a way to make it work. They show up for the team every single day.

Dr. Graham also added that this Transportation Department is the best in West Michigan. Their commitment is second to none. Remarkably, they have not had to cancel a single route, which is rare to

hear. They make each day special for every child they serve. It is hopeful that they will be moving into their new building this summer.

The individuals recognized were:

Jodie Anderson, John Baker, Shirley Baker, Troy Boeskool, Kristin Bredeweg, Kelly Brittan, Robin Brock, Jill Brower, Denise Bulgarella, Gwen Charles, Jennifer Davis, Katelyn Homerich, Jean Idema, Melanie Ippel, Luanna Jipping, Beth Lauren, Amy Lipski, Sheri Meppelink, Stephan Miller, Nicole Mokma, Brad Nygaard, Jeremy Penner, Tim Postma, Tim Root, Mike Rozenboom, Steve Sall, Karl Schmitz, Jen Smith, Michelle Stearns, Kari Stout, Nick Swope, and Amanda Turner, including Kip Medendorp, Director of Transportation.

Recess:

Dr. Hartman called a recess at 6:37 pm to congratulate the individuals recognized.

Reconvene:

The meeting reconvened at 6:45 pm.

Public Comment

Sarah Tate (3352 Sagecrest Dr, Hudsonville) - She introduced herself as a parent of two JPS students and a Social Studies teacher outside the district. She provided the Board of Education with a copy of the Michigan K–12 Standards for Social Studies and highlighted their focus on both content and skill development, including civil participation (noting civil discourse). She explained that the standards aim to help students develop strong social studies skills and become thoughtful, informed individuals. She highlighted that the standards go over responsibilities of civic participation including public discourse and decision-making. The standards are intended to guide students in learning about public issues that affect daily life at the local, state, and national levels, as well as contemporary issues related to the U.S. Constitution.

Ashley Rottman (11078 56th Ave, Allendale) - She provided the Board of Education with an update on Wilderness Academy program activities. Highlights included a community Nature Walk at the Hudsonville Nature Preserve with approximately 30 participants, and first-grade students beginning tree tapping at the ECC and at home. She shared that the Read-A-Thon launched with an initial goal of \$5,000, which was surpassed before the fundraiser officially began. The goal was increased to \$10,000 and has since been exceeded by three classes of students, who have logged more than 6,061 minutes of reading. Upcoming celebrations include Pie the Principal on Thursday, a Read-In on April 2, classroom treats, a teacher/parent dunk, a future fun run, and school t-shirts designed by a school paraprofessional. Upcoming events include STEM Night on March 18 and a Culver's Night fundraiser on April 28. She also shared that 26 new kindergarten families have been invited to upcoming events, including several siblings of current or former Wilderness Academy students, and noted there is currently a waitlist for the program. Most families have selected their third-grade placements for next year, and conversations with the Transportation Office are ongoing as routes and staffing are finalized.

Mary Martin (7376 Pine Grove, Jenison) - She expressed concern regarding a comment shared by a teacher at the previous meeting about wanting to teach students love rather than hate. While she stated that she appreciates the district's teachers and believes there are many great educators in the district, she expressed concern that teachers may be sharing perspectives beyond basic instruction. She encouraged teachers to keep subjects neutral and avoid sharing personal political views in the classroom.

Dr. Hartman thanked the public for their time and comments provided to the Board of Education.

Approval of Agenda:

Mrs. Mooney motioned to approve the agenda as prepared. Dr. Reed seconded the motion. The Board of Education voted to approve the agenda as presented with a vote of 7-0.

Action Items:

1. Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Reed motioned to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2026, Board of Education Meeting and Closed Session. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion. The Board of Education voted to approve the minutes as presented with a vote of 7-0.

2. Approval of Financial Report:

Mrs. Postema motioned to approve the February Financial Report as presented. Mr. Waalkes seconded the motion. Ms. Marcy stated that the district is on track with the budget amendment and will be working on the final amendment for 2025-26 and the budget projection for 2027. The Board of Education voted to approve the financial report as presented with a vote of 7-0.

3. Approval of Maintenance/Transportation Furniture:

Mrs. Postema motioned to approve the Maintenance/Transportation furniture as presented. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion. The Board of Education was provided documentation regarding the purchase of furniture for the new Maintenance and Transportation Center, which is scheduled to open this summer. The purchase includes loose furniture for reception/dispatch, offices, staff lounges, conference rooms, mail areas, blueprint storage, and other support spaces, along with shipping and installation services. The total cost is \$85,028.07 and will be funded through the 2024 Capital Projects budget. The purchase will be made through Interphase Interiors. Based on GMB's recommendation, items will be purchased through national and state cooperative purchasing contracts (all of which include pre-negotiated bid pricing), including E&I Cooperative Services, OMNIA Partners, and the State of Michigan MiDeal program (the district participates in this program to obtain competitive pricing). The District wanted to present the request now due to potential lead times of eight weeks or more, intending to have the furniture delivered in time for the building's opening, and coordinating delivery at one time. The Board of Education voted to approve the Maintenance/Transportation furniture as presented with a vote of 7-0.

4. Approval of Chromebook Purchase:

Mrs. Mooney motioned to approve the Chromebook Purchase as presented. Dr. Reed seconded the motion. Mr. Phil Rowley, Director of Information Technology, provided the Board of Education with documentation of the Chromebook purchase. Ms. Marcy shared that the Chromebooks will be funded through the 2025–26 General Fund budget under Technology Replacement, noting that funding for device replacement is built into the annual budget to support the district's ongoing 1-to-1 device program. The purchase will replace devices for incoming freshmen while giving older devices to elementary schools as needed. Due to rising hardware costs, the district obtained quotes early and selected an 11-inch Dell Chromebook model that has demonstrated strong durability and performance at JIA. The purchase is based on current REMC cooperative pricing, which expires at the end of March 2026, and includes a standard one-year warranty. Additional devices will support enrollment growth and replace devices that are no longer repairable. During the discussion, a question was raised about whether the district might return to paper-and-pencil instruction. Dr. Graham shared device usage data indicating students are using devices less than anticipated. From February 2 through March 6, students in 2nd–5th grades averaged less than one hour per day on devices, junior high students averaged 1.6 hours per day, and high school students averaged 1.57 hours per day. It was also noted from the recent OASB meeting that students often spend seven or more hours on devices outside of school and

less than nine minutes per day playing outside. The Board of Education voted to approve the Chromebook Purchase as presented with a vote of 7-0.

Discussion Items:

1. Student Learning Update:

Dr. Graham introduced Mrs. Kristy Rogalla, Co-Director of Teaching and Learning, noting that she has been an outstanding addition to the Central Office team (and probably one of the most veteran) and plays a key role in guiding curriculum and supporting the Teaching and Learning team. He added that the team consistently goes above and beyond daily to ensure success across the district.

Mrs. Rogalla provided the Board of Education with an update on student learning across the district. She also shared that Ms. Alana Kooi was unable to attend due to training at Adlai E. Stevenson to support the continued development of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). She explained that the goal of the presentation was for board members to walk away knowing the district's mission and vision, the purpose and goals of collaborative teacher teams (PLCs - Professional Learning Communities), the types of assessments used in the district, and reflect on JPS student achievement.

She reviewed the district's mission, "*Empowering every student to succeed,*" and its vision to be the best school district in Michigan, emphasizing that success is measured not only by academic scores but also by the students growth as individuals and learners. The focus is on ensuring all students achieve at high levels, with teaching centered on meaningful learning rather than simply delivering instruction.

The presentation highlighted the district's ongoing implementation of PLCs, which began during the 2022–2023 school year and focuses on collaboration among teachers to improve student outcomes. PLCs emphasize collaboration among teachers and are built on three priorities: a focus on learning, a culture of collaboration, and a focus on results. Staff meet regularly in grade-level and content-area teams to clarify essential learning, review student data, and plan instruction, intervention, and enrichment to support all students. This year, the meeting opportunities were strategically planned during the school day to minimize additional time demands on staff while providing leadership and ownership of data.

Mrs. Rogalla also outlined the district's assessment system. including formative classroom assessments, interim/benchmark assessments, and summative assessments. Formative assessments are used regularly by teachers to monitor student understanding and guide instruction. Interim or benchmark assessments, including NWEA, Acadience, and Fastbridge, are administered at scheduled points throughout the year to measure growth and progress. Summative assessments, such as M-STEP, PSAT, and SAT, provide end-of-course or state-level measures of student learning that provide cumulative, standardized measures of learning. Data from these assessments help guide instructional decisions, monitor student progress, and target supports for students.

Student achievement data showed that the district performance in ELA (English Language Arts) and Math generally exceeds Ottawa County and state averages on several assessments. In addition, Spanish Immersion students are demonstrating strong language proficiency through AAPPL assessments, with nearly half of students earning a biliteracy seal by eighth grade.

Mrs. Rogalla concluded by emphasizing the district's continued focus on its mission and vision and the ongoing work of collaborative teacher teams to strengthen student learning. She shared two closing slides. One, with a quote. "Excellence is never an accident; it is the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, skillful execution and the vision to see obstacles as opportunities." The other slide showed three mice in three different trying to go through the same maize; each representing different ways of teamwork and collaboration.

She also mentioned new state mandates that are coming, one related to literacy instruction. The law will require districts to obtain a literacy resource from an evidence based list, and will need to have that resource by the start of the school year in order to receive state funding. The District will look into grant options to help offset the cost of the resource. More information will be shared at a future meeting.

Dr. Graham commended the Teaching and Learning team for their ongoing dedication and hard work in supporting student learning across the district.

2. Superintendent Update:

Dr. Graham briefly shared a few district events, happenings, and updates with the Board of Education.

- **Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences:** The Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences just wrapped up. Dr. G thanked families for their participation, noting that the goal is to encourage strong attendance to promote active engagement, strengthen collaboration, and build meaningful connections between families and teachers.
- **Vision 2031:** The District's next five-year strategic plan, titled *Vision 2031*, is currently in development. As part of the planning process, Dr. Graham and his team visited school buildings to gather feedback from staff. Surveys have been sent to staff and will also be distributed to families, students, and the broader community to collect additional input. While the strategic plan will not address every topic raised, its primary focus is to identify ways to strengthen student learning and ensure students are well prepared for the future.
- **Professional Development (PD) Day:** On Friday, March 13, staff will have a PD day at the High School during the morning. Board members are welcome to stop by. The Wildcat Cafe will offer several topics, allowing teachers to choose from different sessions throughout the morning.
- **Cheer Team:** Congratulations to the Cheer Team for earning a spot at Regionals after achieving their highest Round 1 score of the season and breaking the school record in Round 3 with a score of 320.7 (previous record: 318.5). The team finished 8th at Regionals. What an outstanding accomplishment and a great season!
- **Elizabeth A. H. Green School Educator Award:** Mr. Dan Scott recently received national recognition from the American String Teachers Association with the Elizabeth A. H. Green School Educator Award. While he has previously earned statewide honors, this prestigious award marks his first national recognition and is rarely given. Mr. Scott has long been dedicated to serving the music education community and inspiring students through his passion, strong connections with learners, and commitment to high-quality music education.
- **Athletic Highlights:**
 - **Boys Swim & Dive:** The 200 free relay team of Colton Brower, Isaac Minnema, James Minnema, and Caleb Storey broke a 12-year-old varsity record in the 200 Medley. The team finished 5th overall, with every swimmer achieving at least one personal best time. Both of Storey's swims were All-American times. Caleb, Isaac, James, and Colton also earned All-Conference honors. Caleb Storey also won the State Championship in the 50 and 100 Free, now new Varsity records, All-State, and All-American times. He is the first Jenison boys state champion in 12 years. The 200 medley relay of Colton Brower, Isaac Minnema, James Minnema, and Caleb Storey won the consolation final, finishing in 9th place. James finished 12th and Isaac 15th in the 100 backstroke. The team finished 13th overall
 - **Wrestling:** Brody Schuiteman qualified for the Wrestling State Finals, and finished second at the wrestling regionals and 5th at the State Finals.
- **Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Festival:** It was a successful festival, and the JPS junior high and high school musicians once again performed well and showed off their talent. It's great to have such an impressive music program.
- **JPS Community Expo Night:** The annual event was held on Tuesday, March 3, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Fieldhouse. The event was free and open to all families, and had such a great turnout. It brought together local organizations, JPS departments, and school-based programs in one location. There were lots of activities, including bounce attractions for children, a Summer

Camp preview with early registration opportunities, and JPS enrollment assistance. Showcase booths will feature community partners such as the Georgetown Library, where children may obtain library cards, vision screening services, the Ottawa County Recreation Department, and other youth-focused programs. He shared his appreciation for Mrs. Moy for all the hard work she put into this event.

- **Personal Note:** His daughter recently got engaged, and the wedding is planned for November. He shared that all of his children attended JPS and that he hopes his own children, as well as every child who attends JPS, leave as positive, contributing members of the community. He also recalled seeing a sign in the hallway at Bauerwood Elementary that made a lasting impression on him. Since then, he has hung a poster with the acronym in his home as a reminder to THINK. T- Is it true? H-Is it helpful? I-Is it Inspiring? N-Is it necessary? K-Is it Kind?
- **JHS Musical:** The High School Theater Program will be performing *The Little Mermaid* on March 19-21 and 26-28 (two performances on March 21). The high school students have put a lot of work into this production and will have live music played by the pit orchestra.

Adjournment:

The President of the Board of Education, Dr. Hartman, adjourned the Jenison Public Schools Board of Education meeting at 8:08 pm with acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Postema, Secretary
Jenison Public Schools Board of Education

Future Meetings:

Month:	Regular Meeting (held at 6:30 pm):	Workshop (held at 6:00 pm)
March 2026	Mon, Mar 9	Mon, Mar 23
April 2026	Mon, Apr 20	
May 2026	Mon, May 11	
June 2026	Mon, Jun 8	
July 2026	Mon, Jul 13	