



# East Lansing Board of Education

509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823

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Items of Information  
December 8, 2025 - 7:00 PM  
MacDonald Middle School Auditorium  
1601 Burcham Dr  
East Lansing, MI 48823

## Agenda

### I. Future Action

- A. Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FFE) for ELHS
- B. 2026-27 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

### II. Committees

#### A. Academic and Technology Committee

- 1. Agenda - December 1, 2025





# Academic and Technology Committee Agenda

ELHS HUB

December 1, 2025

12:00 pm

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 24, 2025
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Items for Discussion
  - a. Board meetings at various buildings
  - b. E-Rate updates
  - c. Chromebook purchase
  - d. District communication planning
  - e. Feedback/guidance on assessment data presentation
- VII. Announcements
- VIII. Adjournment

B. **ISOA**

1. December 3, 2025

4

**ISOA Executive Board Meeting  
December 3, 2025  
Minutes**

**Present**

Dansville Jennifer Wonnell  
East Lansing Abbie Tykocki  
Haslett Amy Clark  
Holt Matea Caluk  
Ingham ISD John Wolenberg  
Leslie Eric Isham  
Mason Lacy Harding  
Okemos Leeni Shrestha  
Stockbridge Carrie Graham

Webberville Joshua Rockey  
Williamston Sarah Belanger

**Absent**

Dansville Mike Kapp  
Ingham ISD Jason Mellema  
Lansing Deyanira Nevarea Martinez  
Waverly Alicia Guevara

**The Anxious Generation – What Every Parent and Educator Needs to Know**

Shelley Ruh, Director of Ingham ISD Student Instructional Services (General Education), outlined how SIS consultants support local districts through leadership coaching, staff professional development, MTSS work, and other partnerships focused on improving student outcomes.

She also noted that, as districts reexamine cell phone policies in response to student mental health and engagement concerns, the ISD is leading a book study on *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt. The book reviews current data on youth mental health and explores actionable steps for schools, parents, and communities. Discussion points:

- How can we work together to support a healthier childhood in the digital age?
- Early and frequent phone use is reshaping children’s brains, hindering their ability to self-regulate, manage conflict, and develop independence.
- From 2010–2015, teens’ social lives shifted online, coinciding with a sharp rise in adolescent mental illness.
- Mental health impacts are evident for both girls and boys, though in different ways.
- Similar patterns appear across the Western world, with no alternative explanation fitting the data as well.
- The decline of free, play-based childhood is limiting opportunities for building essential developmental skills.
- States vary widely in their school cell phone policies; Michigan currently has no statewide policy.
- Because cell phone bans are relatively new, more data will emerge as research continues.

# Ingham School Officers Association

## Instructor Opportunities:

- ISD led, countywide book study with district staff participation (62 participants)
- Next session: January 13, 2026, 4:00-5:00pm, covering Part Three - *The Great Rewiring*

## Next Steps:

- Propose expanding the learning opportunity to parents and community members across districts.
- Districts may host a community event, either jointly or individually.
- [Shelley](#) offered to attend board meetings to discuss the book and help plan district presentations.

## Superintendents' Round Table Update

Jennifer Wonnell, Dansville Schools Superintendent, shared key takeaways from the November Superintendents' Round Table Retreat:

- Ongoing discussions on district cell phone policies, with superintendents exchanging observations about student and teacher impacts.
- Guest Speaker: Ingham County Prosecutor John Dewane – Discussed truancy, chronic absenteeism, and developing consistent protocols between districts and the prosecutor's office.
- Guest Speaker: Bill DeFrance, MASB – Reviewed available MASB services, including legal support, Thru policy services, leadership development, executive searches, board training, and superintendent evaluations.
- School Safety – A superintendent subcommittee is working to align district Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs). State law will require common terminology in 2026.
- May 2026 Bond Initiative – A proposed special education bond would fund capital improvements at facilities such as the Beekman Center and Heartwood School, serving students from all 12 districts in the Ingham ISD service area.
- 31aa Mental Health and Safety Grant – Reviewed considerations for opting in or out while related state and federal lawsuits proceed.

## District Updates

**Leslie** Upcoming board discussion on the 31aa Resolution.  
Reviewing policy changes on backpacks, cell phones, and outside Wi-Fi.

**Haslett** Ongoing debate on the 31aa Resolution.  
Fall activities ending; winter athletics beginning.

**East Lansing** Board approved the 31aa grant funding after extensive discussion.  
Student health center is now open.

**Okemos** Superintendent Hood will retire in March 2026; Michigan Leadership Institute hired to lead the search.  
Board passed the 31aa Resolution.  
The district will participate in the PowerSchool lawsuit.

# Ingham School Officers Association

- Mason** Bond passed in November, planning underway.  
Board voted to opt in to 31aa with an option to opt out later.
- Webberville** Winter activities underway.  
Intends to opt in to 31aa pending litigation, with an opt-out option.  
Cell phone ban significantly improved behavior: discussing further bans on cell phones, blankets, and jackets (used to cover vape detectors).
- Stockbridge** Bond passed in November.  
Board discussing 31aa and voted to opt in with an opt-out option.  
Adopted policies banning backpacks, cell phones, and outside Wi-Fi during school hours; behavior has improved.
- Holt** New elementary school opened in August.  
Conducting a community assessment with an outside consultant.  
Updated mission statement; strategic plan update scheduled for spring.  
Reviewed policies, including new nasal spray alternative to EpiPens.  
Electric school bus grant opportunity available.
- Ingham ISD** Jen Van Nortwick hired as Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Board; Barbara retiring Dec. 31.  
Wilson Talent Center Open House: Dec. 10, 4–7 p.m.  
Board members are encouraged to tour the Beekman Center ahead of the May 2026 SE bond vote.
- Williamston** Middle School and Elementary robotics teams competed; MS placed 4th.  
Fall activities ending; football team had an undefeated regular season.  
Bond projects progressing; groundbreaking for new elementary school is in March.  
Clean audit presented to the board.
- NOTE:** **The is no ISOA meeting in January** - the next ISOA meeting will be February 4. The ISOA election for President and Vice President will be held during the meeting.

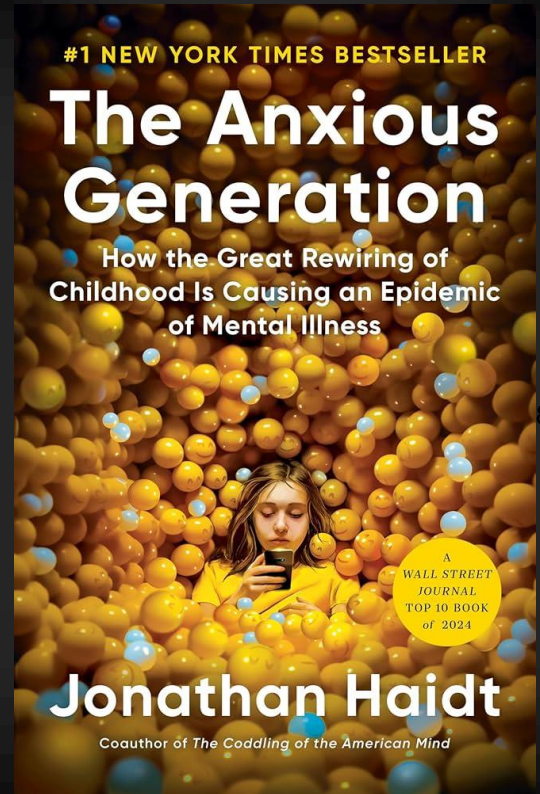


# *The Anxious Generation:* What Every Educator/ Parent Needs to Know



Ingham Intermediate  
School District  
*A Regional Educational Service Agency*

*Student Instructional Services*  
Director:  
Shelley Ruh



# What if..

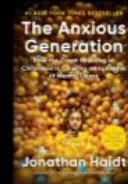
We could work together to support a healthier childhood in the digital age?

## Ingham ISD Anxious Generation Book Study

### Resources

- [Anxious Generation Website](#)
- CBS News Segment
- Author Talk
- [Locally Published Book Review](#)
- [WSL10 Best Books of 2024](#)

**CLICK HERE  
TO REGISTER**



You'll want a copy of the book. It's available for purchase on Amazon and at your local bookstore. You could also check out your local library, Hoopla, or Libby for a free copy.

what

October 28th 4pm-5pm	Part 1-A Tidal Wave Part 2-The Backstory
January 13th 4pm-5pm	Part 3-The Great Rewiring
February 24th 4pm-5pm	Part 4-Collective Action for Healthier Childhood

why

Gain a deeper understanding of how the "Great Rewiring of Childhood" (the shift from play-based to phone-based childhood) may be contributing to the mental health crisis among young people and to explore strategies for creating healthier learning environments and fostering student well-being.

how

1. Register for the session and obtain a copy of the book.
2. Review the schedule and start reading.
3. As you read, make note of:
  - Anything that surprises you
  - Ideas you'd like to know more about
  - Passages that affirm prior knowledge
4. Meet *virtually* with Ingham area educators to discuss the text, consider implications for school communities, and plan next steps.

### Consider this...

- Between 2010 and 2015, in the wake of the smart phone's debut, depression became roughly two and a half times more prevalent for U.S. teens. ([US National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#))
- Ingham County's rates of chronically absent students is higher than the state and national rates.
- A 2025 study identified a 25% drop in engagement during transition to secondary school. Trust, enjoyment, and safety declined between grades 7 and 8. ([Research Commission on Engagement and Lead Indicators, UK](#))

There is hope: At least 31 states and the District of Columbia require school districts to ban or restrict students' use of cellphones in schools. ([Education Week](#))

**Let's work together to support a healthier childhood in the digital age.**

## *While you watch...*

What do you *notice* and *wonder*?

How does this video *connect* with your *experience* as an educator and/ or parent?



# *Part 1 & 2*

## Haidt explains:

- Between 2010-2015, the social lives of American teens moved online, triggering a tidal wave of adolescent mental illness.
- The mental health of both girls and boys have been affected, but somewhat differently.
- Roughly the same pattern is seen across the Western world, and there **does not** seem to be another theory to explain why.



# *The Backstory: The Decline of the Play-Based Childhood*

- The human, slow-growth childhood is an apprenticeship for learning skills needed for success in our culture. Social media seems to be **hijacking adolescents' opportunities** to learn the cultures of their families and communities.
- **Free play** is essential for building essential skills.
- The human brain can go into discover mode or defend mode. Young people born after 1995 are more likely to be stuck in **defend mode**.
- Children are antifragile, and need **exposure to setbacks** to grow, which means they need some level of risk.
- Early puberty is a period of rapid brain rewiring, guided by the adolescent's experiences. We should be concerned about those experiences and not let **strangers and algorithms** choose them.
- Safetyism and smartphones are **experience blockers**.



# Video Reflection & Discussion

01

## Brain Dump (3 minutes)

Independent Written Reflection

02

## Group Discussion (10 minutes)

- ✓ Share your thoughts with a partner
- ✓ What problems do smartphones and social media create? What problems do they solve?

Ingham ISD  
**Anxious Generation**  
Book Study

**Resources**

- Anxious Generation Website
- CDE News Register
- Author Talk
- Local Published Book Review
- WSJ 10 Best Books of 2024

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

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what	why	how
<p>October 28th 4pm-5pm</p> <p>January 13th 4pm-5pm</p> <p>February 24th 4pm-5pm</p>	<p>Part 1-A Total Wave Part 2-The Backstory</p> <p>Part 3-The Great Rewriting</p> <p>Part 4-Collective Action for Healthier Childhood</p> <p>Gain a deeper understanding of how the "Great Rewriting of Childhood" (the shift from play-based to phone-based childhood) may be contributing to the mental health crisis among young people and to explore strategies for creating healthier learning environments and fostering student well-being.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Register for the session and obtain a copy of the book.</li><li>2. Review the schedule and start reading.</li><li>3. As you read, make notes of:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anything that surprises you</li><li>• Things you'd like to know more about</li><li>• Messages that affirm prior knowledge</li></ul></li><li>4. Meet <i>virtually</i> with Ingham area educators to discuss the text, consider implications for school communities, and plan next steps.</li></ol>

**Consider this...**

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- Ingham County's rates of chronically absent students is higher than the state and national rates.
- A 2023 study identified a 25% drop in engagement during transition to secondary school. Trust, enjoyment, and safety declined between grades 7 and 8. (Research Commission on Engagement and Lead Indicator, UK)

There is hope. At least 31 states and the District of Columbia require school districts to E-1 or restrict students' use of cellphones in schools. (Education Week)

**Let's work together to support a healthier childhood in the digital age.**

# *Book Study Connection Activities*

*As a small group, share key ideas you made note of as you read:*

- ! Ideas that surprise you
- ? Ideas you'd like to know more about
- Ideas that affirm prior knowledge

*Breakout  
Groups*

# Learning Opportunities

01

## Ingham ISD August Kick-Off County-Wide Book Study Partnership with districts

02

## County-Wide Book Study *62 participants*

**Ingham ISD  
Anxious Generation  
Book Study**

**Resources**

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- CRJ News Segment
- Author Talk
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**why**

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**how**

- Register for the session and obtain a copy of the book.
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- As you read, make note of:
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# State policies on restricting cellphones at-a-glance

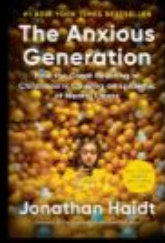
Policy Enforcement Requirement	Number	States
Bell to bell	22	Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, <b>Florida*</b> , Georgia*, Idaho, <b>Louisiana</b> , Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, <b>South Carolina</b> , Texas, Vermont, Virginia
Instructional time	8	Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Tennessee, <b>Utah</b>
Not specified	2	Minnesota, West Virginia
Policy not required	19	Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

# Ingham ISD Anxious Generation Book Study

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**Let's work together to support a healthier childhood in the digital age.**

# Next Session

✓ January 13, 2026, 4:00-5:00

✓ Prepare to discuss  
***Part 3: The Great Rewiring***



Ingham Intermediate  
School District  
*A Regional Educational Service Agency*

*Thank  
You!*

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*Thank you for your district leadership in  
advocating for our children!*

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**C. Sex Education Advisory Committee**

**1. Agenda - November 20, 2025**

20

**ELPS Sex Education Advisory Board Meeting  
HUB – East Lansing High School  
November 20th, 2025, 6:30 -8:00 PM**

- 1) **Call to Order.**
- 2) **Membership Roll Call.**
  - 1) Welcome: Mark Dobson, Asst. Superintendent & District Staff Liaison to SEAB
- 2) **Approval/Modifications to the Previous Meeting Minutes**
- 3) **Approval/Additions to the Agenda**
- 4) **Public Comment:**
- 5) **Guest Speaker: N/A**
- 6) **Presentations/Committee Reports**
  - a. Sex Ed Director Report: Anne Scott, ELPS Sex Education Supervisor
  - b. Data and Evaluation Committee Report (Heather Marlow/Andrea Kelley)
  - c. Community Education Committee Report (Karessa Wheeler/Bridget Burns)
  - d. Curriculum Committee Report (Danny Hearit, Asmau Ayub, Chad O'Neil, Melissa Fore)
    - i. 7-8th Grade Updated Curriculum Review of Michigan Model Growing Up and Staying Healthy
- 7) **Unfinished Business**
  - a. Rights, Respect & Responsibility Curriculum Approval Process Update
- 8) **New Business**
  - a. Elementary Book Review: What Are Your Words by Katherine Locke
- 9) **Announcements**
- 11) **Adjournment**



**Sex Education Advisory Board Meeting  
HUB Meeting Room – East Lansing High School  
October 16th, 2025, 6:30 - 8:00 PM**

**DRAFT**

**1) Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Danny Hearit at 6:32 PM

**2) Membership Roll Call.**

- a. Members present: Asmau Ayub, Danny Hearit, Heather Marlow, Andrea Kelley, Karessa Wheeler, Bridget Burns-King, Anne Scott, Megan Maas, Jonathan Gold, Mellisa Fore, Dori Leyko (filling in for new assistant superintendent Mark Dobson)
- b. Guests: Stacey Whipple, Lena Turner, Drew (students from MSU observing)

**3) Approval/Modifications to the Previous Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the previous meeting minutes without any changes was made by Jonathan Gold and seconded by Heather Marlow. Motion passed unanimously.

**4) Approval/Additions to the agenda**

A motion to approve the agenda with changes of adding School Based Health Center and about our new Assistant Superintendent: Mark Dobson was made by Danny Hearit and seconded by Karessa Wheeler. Motion passed unanimously.

**5) Public Comment:**

- a. None.

**6) Guest Speaker**

- a. None.

**7) Presentation/Committee Reports**

- a. Recently ELPS approved our new Assistant Superintendent - Mark Dobson. He is from St. Johns High School as the principal. He'll be able to attend the next meeting.
- b. Sex Ed Director Report: Anne Scott, ELPS Sex Education Supervisor
  - i. Early October community meeting is now happening in early November in the HUB.
  - ii. Middle school curriculum will get online access. MI model. Through Eaton RSA grant, this is free.
    - 1. State standards folded in HIV/STI into the Michigan Model and reduced significantly the number of lessons. They were 22 in high school. Now there are three lessons in middle school.
- c. Committee reports:
  - i. Subcommittees broke out into individual meetings

<p><b><u>Data and Evaluation:</u></b></p> <p>Heather Marlow, Andrea Kelley</p>	<p><b><u>Goals:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent &amp; Student Survey for 2025-26</li> </ul>	<p>Sept – Established membership and set goals</p> <p>Oct - Surveys are ready. Working to get them out as soon as possible</p>
<p><b><u>Community Education:</u></b></p> <p>Karessa Wheeler, Bridget Burns, Megan Maas</p>	<p><b><u>Goals:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two community education meetings - one in spring and one in fall</li> </ul>	<p>Sept - Established membership and set goals</p> <p>Oct – Discussed possible parent porn education with Megan Maas’s PopPorn event similar to two years ago.</p>
<p><b><u>Curriculum</u></b></p> <p>Danny Hearit, Asmau Ayub, Chad O’Neil, Mellisa Fore</p>	<p><b><u>Goals:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K-3 sexual assault prevention</li> <li>• Curriculum review for middle school</li> </ul>	<p>Sept - Established membership and set goals</p> <p>Oct - Anne will send out email of instructions for curriculum review for middle school. Committee will review before next board meeting. Discusses ideas for K-3 sexual assault prevention. Asmyu suggested a human rights perspective.</p>
<p><b>Ongoing SEAB Goals</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure inclusive language and content in the curriculum at all grade levels</li> <li>• Use the adopted curriculum evaluation tool that includes criteria for representation and inclusion of a diverse student body in a meaningful and positive manner when adding content to the present curriculum and evaluating the new curriculum</li> <li>• Identify family education methods and resources to support sex education at home. Link families to these resources</li> <li>• The ELPS Sex Education Supervisor, in conjunction with the SEAB, will update the Sexual Health Education Handbook available on the ELPS website a minimum of once per year.</li> </ul>		

**8) Unfinished Business**

- a. None.

**9) New Business**

- a. (TABLED) Rights, Respect & Responsibility Community Presentation Feedback
- b. (TABLED) SEAB Recommendation for MS/HS Sex Education Curriculum
- c. ELPS Health Center Update
  - i. Health Center is done and staff is there.
  - ii. Waiting for an inspector to come back. Sparrow folks expect it sometime at the end of next week.
  - iii. Big ribbon cutting event with UM Health Sparrow and speaker coming.
  - iv. Oct. 30 expecting to be open by then. PA Allison and MSW Clare and assistant there as well. Ages 5-21 (or 26 with IEP).

## **10) Announcements**

- a. November 13<sup>th</sup> Michigan State Board of Education - Public comment on new state guidance/standards for health education.
  - a) Related to State Health Education Standards that were open for public comment through Oct. 10 2025
    1. <https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/health-safety/public-comment-for-health-education-standards>
- b. Next meeting November 20, 2025
- c. November 5<sup>th</sup> community curriculum meeting, evening.

## **11) Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Heather Marlow and seconded by Mellisa Fore. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

***Respectfully Submitted,***

***Dori Leyko  
Superintendent***