

Three Rivers Community School District, St. Joseph County
Minutes of the Board of Education Work Session
Monday, October 6, 2025

Approved Minutes

The Work Session of the Board of Education was called to order by Board 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, Jen Graber, Justin Holbrook, John Londono, Mandi Zaborowski, Carrie Balk, Jason Bingaman, Amanda Fahnestock, Greg Ruten, David Soderquist, Julie Vaughn, Anthony Wolbert

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 Daniels, 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 and received

Discussions/
Presentations: **National Principals Month Recognition:**
Superintendent Nikki Nash and Board President Erin Nowak recognized the District's Principals and Assistant Principals for National Principals Month and presented each of them with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the full Board. Principals present were: Greg Rutten, Principal - Andrews Elementary; David Soderquist, Principal - Hoppin Elementary; Jen Graber, Interim Principal - Norton Elementary; Amanda Fahnestock, Principal - Park Elementary; Jason Bingaman, Principal - TRMS; Anthony Wolbert, Assistant Principal - TRMS; Carrie Balk, Principal - TRHS; Julie Vaughn, Assistant Principal - TRHS.

Building Presentations:
Carrie Balk - Principal, TRHS, Jason Bingaman - Principal, TRMS, Greg Rutten - Principal, Andrews Elementary, Dave Soderquist - Principal, Hoppin Elementary, Jen Graber - Interim Principal, Norton Elementary and Amanda Fahnestock - Principal, Park Elementary provided the Board with building level updates for each of their respective buildings. Board comments and questions were received and answered.

Work Session: **Curriculum Committee: Spring State Testing Scores and Fall Benchmark Data Report**
Jen Graber, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, provided the Board with a review of the 2025 Spring State Testing Scores and 2025 Fall Benchmark Data Report and outlined areas of success and areas where improvement is needed. Board comments and questions were received and answered.

Closed Session: Motion by Member Baker, with support from Member Awe, to move into Closed Session as permitted under section 8(b) of the Open Meetings Act for Student Discipline. 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 6:50 PM and returned at 8:02 PM

Student Discipline
65176:

Motion by Member Awe, with support by Member Allen, for the long-term suspension of student 65176 for the remainder of the First (1st) Semester with possible reinstatement for the Second (2nd) Semester provided the conditions of the return are met. Transportation privileges will also be suspended for the remainder of the full 2025-2026 School Year with possible reinstatement for the 2026-2027 School Year. 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

Leave Request:

Motion by Member Awe, with support by Member Baker, to approve the non-FMLA leave as requested by staff. 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

Employee
Appointment:

Motion by Member Awe, with support from Member Daniels, to approve the following new employee appointments:

- Bridget Griffioen: PE Teacher - Andrews Elementary

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.

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 8:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

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Lorie Camino, Recording Secretary