

Three Rivers Community School District, St. Joseph County
Minutes of the Board of Education Work Session
Monday, November 3, 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, Justin Holbrook, Brian Leonard, John Londono, Mandi Zaborowski

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.

Work Session: **Finance Committee: 31aa Funding Conditions**

Superintendent Nash gave the Board an overview of the recently amended State School Aid Act Section 31aa which allocates \$321 million to support school safety and student mental health initiatives across Michigan (“31aa Funding”). The amended Section 31aa imposes several conditions on districts that opt in to receive 31aa Funding.

In order to accept the funding, recipient districts must agree in advance to the following in the event of a “mass casualty event”: (1) be subject to a comprehensive investigation following such a mass casualty event, (2) waive any privilege that would otherwise protect related information from disclosure, and (3) fully comply with the investigation process. The required waiver has no temporal limits, either retroactively or prospectively. A Resolution will be put forth for adoption at the November 17, 2025 meeting. Board comments and questions were received and answered.

Policy Committee: Fall 2025 Policy Update

Superintendent Nash provided the Board with a review of the Vol. 40, No. 1 - Nondiscrimination update as well as the regular bi-annual policy updates which are up for first reading this evening. The policies in the Vol. 40, No. 1 - Nondiscrimination update were revised largely at client request to streamline the complex collection of Nondiscrimination, Anti-Harassment, and related issues, by consolidating several policies in order to provide a comprehensive approach to related employment issues. The update also included technical corrections to five (5) policies, correcting the address and contact information for the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, formerly referencing the ClevelandOffice (now closed) to the Washington, D.C. office.

The regular Vol. 40, No. 1 - September 2025 policy updates had slight revisions based on recent legislation that was passed by the state as well as minor technical and grammar corrections. Board questions and comments followed.

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- Board Calendar: President Nowak reviewed upcoming events with the Board.
- Board Comment: Board comment was offered.
- Closed Session Motion by Member Awe, with support from Member Allen, to move into Closed Session as permitted under section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act to conduct a periodic personnel evaluation. 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 6:51 PM and returned at 7:36 PM
- 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 7:36 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Patch, Secretary Board of Education

Lorie Camino, Recording Secretary