



FENNVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
RESCHEDULED
JANUARY 27, 2026
BOARD ROOM – 7:00 P.M.
MINUTES

A. MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Manuel Sanchez at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call

Mr. Manuel Sanchez	Present	Mr. Ross Thiele	Present
Mrs. Juliet Michele	Present	Mrs. Angie Pena-Smith	Present
Mr. Paul Hapke	Absent	Mrs. Natalie Bosby	Present
Mr. Jayson Hicks	Present		

B. RECOGNITION OF THE BOARD

In honor of Board Recognition month, Mr. Lombard extended his sincere appreciation to the Board for their devoted service to the students, families, and staff.

C. STUDENT OF THE MONTH PRESENTATION (Sept – June)

- Fennville Elementary School – Ximena Hernandez by Mrs. Ayotte
- Fennville Middle School – Stephanie Sedano Renteria by Mr. Grob
- Fennville High School - Lily Achterhof by Mr. Frens

D. APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON

Motion by Sanchez that the Board of Education appoint Mr. Lombard as Temporary Chairperson. No other nominations.

Motion Carried: 6-0 Unanimous

E. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2026

1. President

Motion by Michele, that the Board of Education appoint Mr. Sanchez to the position of Board President. No other nominations.

Motion Carried: 5-0 Unanimous

2. Vice President

Motion by Sanchez, that the Board of Education appoint Mr. Thiele to the position of Vice President. No other nominations.

Motion Carried: 5-0 Unanimous

3. Secretary

Motion by Thiele, that the Board of Education appoint Angie Pena-Smith to the position of Secretary. No other nominations.

Motion Carried: 5-0 Unanimous

4. Treasurer

Motion by Sanchez, that the Board of Education appoint Juliet Michele to the position of Treasurer. No other nominations.

Motion Carried: 5-0 Unanimous

F. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

G. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

H. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Thiele, supported by Bosby to approve the consent agenda as presented.

1. Minutes for December 15, 2025, Regular Meeting
2. Treasurer's Report for December 2025
3. Summary of Bills for December 2025
4. Accept resignation of:
 - a. Kimberly Meyer, Secondary Special Education Teacher
 - b. Susan Gorgas, Fennville GSRP Teacher
 - c. Natalie Greenwood, Speech Language Pathologist

5. Dates, Times, and Locations of Board Meetings

Monday, February 16, 2026

Monday, March 16, 2026

Monday, April 20, 2026

Monday, May 18, 2026

Monday, June 15, 2026*

Monday July 20, 2026

Monday August 17, 2026

Monday, September 21, 2026

Monday, October 19, 2026

Monday, November 16, 2026

Monday, December 21, 2026

*Budget Hearing to precede Board meeting at 6:30 p.m.

All Regular meetings to be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room unless otherwise posted.
Special Meetings and Work Sessions will be scheduled, as necessary.

6. Designate official depositories for all District Funds to be Allegan Community Federal Credit Union, Huntington Bank, and the Michigan School District Liquid Asset Fund Plan.
7. That the Board of Education continue to use the Debt Retirement Account at Huntington Bank for the purpose of depositing taxes and for bond payments, continue to use the Sinking Fund Account at Huntington Bank for the purpose of depositing taxes and for payment of allowable Sinking Fund expenses, and continue to use the Community Recreation Fund Account at Huntington Bank for the purpose of depositing taxes and for payment of allowable Community Recreation Fund expenses.
8. Authorize signatories for all accounts as indicated, and as funds are deposited in the designated depositories as presented in this Agenda:

All General Fund and Debt Fund and Sinking Fund Accounts – any two of the following persons:

Board President, Board Vice President, Board Secretary, Board Treasurer, Albert Lombard, Superintendent, and the appointed CFO and Controller for the District.

All School Service Fund Accounts (School Lunch) and all Student Activity Fund Accounts – the following persons: Board President, Albert Lombard, Superintendent, and the appointed CFO and Controller for the District.

and further, that the previously approved signatories continue to be in effect until such time that the new signature authorization cards are completed.

9. Authorize immediate deposit of school funds in established depositories without the Treasurer's signature, and further, that the Superintendent or designee be authorized to transfer funds between Board-approved institutions and accounts in accordance with accepted business procedures, and in the best interest of the District, commensurate with the Board of Education Policy.
10. Authorize the following positions to use District purchase cards in conducting District business: Superintendent, High School Principal, Middle School Principal, Elementary Principal, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Athletic Director, Food Service Director, Facilities Director, Supervisor of Special Education, Technology Director, Transportation Director, Mechanic, Executive Secretary, Special Education Secretary, Homeless Liaison
11. Designate the CFO, Controller, and /or designee as the District's Electronic Transfer Officers.
12. Authorize the CFO and Controller for the District to assume specified responsibilities of the Board Secretary.
13. Designate the Superintendent to assume specified responsibilities of the Board Secretary.
14. Authorize the Superintendent to sign contract documents on behalf of the District and the Board of Education.
15. Appoint the Executive Secretary to serve as deputy to the Secretary of the Board for coordinating all school election efforts with the County Clerk and appropriate agencies.
16. Appoint the Executive Secretary to coordinate the postings of any and all public notices of public meetings.
17. Retain the firm of Thrun Law Firm, P.C. of Lansing, Michigan and Scholten Fant, P.C. of Grand Haven, Michigan, as General Board Counsel, and further that the Superintendent be authorized to solicit such legal counsel as the Board or as the Superintendent may from time-to-time deem necessary.
18. Retain the auditing firm of Maner Costerisan, P.C. for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
19. Appoint the Director of Teaching and Learning, and Elementary Assistant Principal as Title IX/Civil Rights/Non-Discrimination Coordinators.

Motion Carried: 6-0 Unanimous

I. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Superintendent Report – Mr. Lombard

Staffing Update:

- Provided an update on staff members who currently resigned
- The district continues to monitor staffing needs and timelines for replacement
- The position of Transportation Director will be reposted soon to begin the search for a new director. The previous job posting will be revised to remove responsibilities that are applicable to the role to ensure accuracy and clarity.

Wellness Update:

- 31a(a) Funding Update: The board adopted the Thrun opt-in/opt-out resolution. At this time, no further action is required.
- Two seats are currently open on the Community Recreation Advisory Board. The board will move forward with voting to fill the positions this evening.

Academics Update:

- Congratulations to Uly Estrada for advancing to compete in the MSVMA Honors Choir at DeVos Performance Hall.
- An updated timeline for the Agriscience Program was shared, outlining the ongoing planning and next steps.
- Work based learning opportunities are being developed with Golden Orchards and the Fennville Fire Department to support student career exploration.
- The Allegan County Community Foundation along with Hunting Bank hosted a successful, My Future Fund Family Night, at the elementary school. This event was a great opportunity to teach students the importance of saving money at an early age.
- Mr. Lombard will be meeting with the Allegan County Community Foundation to learn more about Mr. and Mrs. Walz’s wishes regarding their endowment.

Communication Update:

- Kindergarten and Preschool Enrollment Night is scheduled for March 3 from 1:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- Progress continues for Outdoor classroom space development and Middle School cafeteria improvements.
- Never Forgotten Game will take place on Saturday, February 7

J. NEW BUSINESS

Informational/Discussion/Presentation Items:

Action Items:

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Motion by Thiele, supported by Pena-Smith, that the Board of Education appoint the designated members to serve on the following standing committees for 2026.

a. Board Policy & Finance Committee

1. Juliet Michele
 2. Manuel Sanchez
 3. Natalie Bosby
- Alternate: Ross Thiele

b. Facilities & Transportation Committee

1. Manuel Sanchez
2. Jayson Hicks
3. Paul Hapke

Alternate: Juliet Michele

c. Personnel Committee

- 1. Manuel Sanchez
- 2. Ross Thiele
- 3. Jayson Hicks

Alternate: Angie Pena-Smith

d. Student & Community Programs Committee

(This committee will select the Paine Volunteerism Award winner)

- 1. Angie Pena-Smith
- 2. Manuel Sanchez
- 3. Ross Thiele

Alternate: Juliet Michele

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Pena-Smith, Michele, Hicks, Thiele, Bosby, Sanchez

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 6-0 Unanimous

2. APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES

Motion by Thiele, supported by Michele, that the Board of Education appoint the designated members to serve as delegates and representatives for 2026.

a. MASB Delegate Assembly

Delegates

- 1. Natalie Bosby
- 2. Paul Hapke

Alternates

- 1. Juliet Michele
- 2. Pena-Smith

b. Allegan County School Board Association Delegate

- 1. Ross Thiele

Alternate

- 1. Jayson Hicks

c. Fennville Educational Foundation Representative

- 1. Natalie Bosby

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Pena-Smith, Michele, Hicks, Thiele, Bosby, Sanchez

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 6-0 Unanimous

3. APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Motion by Thiele, supported by Michele, that the Board of Education appoint Hedy Morse and Deb Blackmore to two-year terms on the Community Recreation Advisory Board.

Motion Carried: 6-0 Unanimous

K. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

L. MEETING CLOSING

- 1. Comments from the Board Table

- Mr. Sanchez thanked the students from Mr. Best A.P. Civics and Government class

Approval date: February 16, 2026

for attending tonight's board meeting and expressed his appreciation to Mr. Best for encouraging and supporting their involvement.

- Mrs. Michele inquired whether a decision had been made regarding allowing students to enter athletic events free of charge.
- Mr. Lombard asked the athletic department staff to gather information on whether students be granted free admission to athletic events. Mr. Lombard also asked Mr. Stennet to gather data on the funds currently generated from students who pay for admission. He suggested that the student program committee and Athletic Director, Tony Stennet, schedule a meeting for further discussion.
- Mr. Best suggested assigning his A.P. Civics and Government students to create a survey to learn more about how students feel about paying an entry fee, using a punch card, or having free admission.

M. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Thiele, support by Pena-Smith to adjourn. (8:06 p.m.)

Recorded by Executive Secretary, Marileen Pitts

Respectfully submitted by,



Manuel Sanchez
Board President