



Approval date: June 15, 2026

**FENNVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 18, 2026
BOARD ROOM – 7:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

This meeting of the Board of Education, in public, is for conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated within the agenda.

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	Present	Mrs. Natalie Bosby	Present
Mr. Jayson Hicks	Present		

4. Additions to the Agenda

Revised to include Action Item F-4

B. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION*

None

C. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Michele, supported by Pena-Smith to approve the consent agenda as presented.

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Minutes for April 20, 2026, Regular Meeting
3. Treasurer's Report for April 2026
4. Summary of Bills for April 2026
5. Approval of resignation of Cherie Schmidt, Kindergarten Teacher, effective July 1, 2026
6. Approval of resignation of Josie Poel, Second Grade Teacher, effective June 30, 2026

Motion Carried: 7-0 Unanimous

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

- Fennville Elementary School – Jhereline Flores by Mrs. Ayotte
- Fennville Middle School – Kai Lesperance by Mr. Grob
- Fennville High School – Anahi Sanchez by Mr. Frens

E. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Superintendent Report – Mr. Lombard

- Reviewed Action Items F-1 through F-4.

Staffing

- Introduction of New hire Brenda Boyd, Director of Transportation

- Resignation of Cherie Schmidt, Kindergarten Teacher
- Resignation of Josie Poel, Second Grade Teacher
- Several positions have been posted across the district; announcements regarding successful candidates will be shared soon.

Wellness

- EGLE Filter First: Filter installation scheduled between school year end and summer school start.
- Provided an update on progress and planning for Outdoor Learning Spaces; the next meeting will include the Facilities Committee developing working concepts.
- Reviewed the status of the Community Recreation budget; dept is expected to be paid by the 2026-2027 school year.
- Provided an update on the Sinking Fund.

Academics

- Honors Night: \$444,000 in scholarships awarded to many members of this year's graduating Class of 2026.
- Potential approval of a greenhouse installation this summer to support the new Horticultural/Agricultural program.
- Requesting the Board approve the purchase of new middle and high school furniture from Holland Desk and Chair, who will install the furniture, including all student desks, classroom tables, teacher desks with podiums, and teacher chairs.

Communication

- Fennville High School graduation scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
- Fennville Alternative High School Graduation scheduled for Thursday, May 28, at 7:00 p.m.
- Fennville Chalk Art Festival will take place on Friday, May 29, 2026, from 5:00 -7:00 p.m.
- Fennville High School Band invites the community to Jazz on the Valley on Friday, May 29, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Fennville Valley Winery; tickets are \$30.

Bond Update

- A new roof was installed on the former transportation building south of the elementary school, which is being repurposed by use of the grounds and maintenance teams.
- The pole barn by the stadium will be available for the new Agriculture program.
- A new fire panel was installed in the middle school.
- Pending Board approval, updates to middle and high school classroom furniture may take place this summer, with new student furniture in place for the start of the 2026-2027 school year.
- Replacement of nearly all exterior doors at the middle school is planned for this summer.
- 2026-2027 (Spring/Summer) Planning for outdoor learning spaces across the campus is underway, including building-level focus groups; construction is not expected to begin until early 2027.
- Updated middle school cafeteria and kitchen redesign planning is in progress, with work anticipated for summer 2027.
- Planning for new roofs at the elementary and high school is underway; construction timeline to be determined.
- Planning, measurement, and decision-making are underway for HVAC replacements at the elementary and middle school; this a major project, with the air handler unit replacements anticipated in summer 2027 and potentially extending into 2028.
- Boiler replacements are also planned throughout the district.
- Memorial Drive replacement is planned as a joint project with the City of Fennville, with potential use of both Sinking Fund and bond funds.

F. NEW BUSINESS

Informational/Discussion/Presentation Items

ACTION ITEMS:

1. TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT APPROVAL

Motion by Thiele, supported by Bosby, that the Board of Education approve the prorated 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 amended contract for Brenda Boyd, Transportation Director.

Motion Carried: 7-0 Unanimous

2. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ALLEGAN AREA ESA BUDGET

Motion by Michele, supported by Pena-Smith, that the Board of Education adopt the resolution in support of Allegan Area ESA Budget for 2026-2027.

Roll Call Vote

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

Nays: Thiele, Hapke

Motion Carried: 5-2

3. APPROVAL OF MHSAA MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION

Motion by Michele, supported by Thiele, that the Board of Education approve the 2026-2027 MHSAA membership resolution.

Roll Call Vote

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 7-0 Unanimous

4. APPROVAL OF FURNITURE PURCHASE FOR FMS AND FHS

Motion by Michele, supported by Pena-Smith, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of furniture from Holland Desk and Chair in the amount of \$539,608.88 as part of the 2025 Bond Proceeds.

Motion Carried: 4-3

G. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION*

- Joe Gordon, parent re: Food Service Concerns
 - Mr. Gordon, A parent shared concerns regarding his elementary student's food allergy, noting that the elementary kitchen staff are not consistently supporting the Food Service Director's initiative to provide healthier, allergy-safe options. He also reported that his child received a rotten banana in a take-home food bag and expressed concern that elementary students are not given sufficient time to eat lunch, resulting in students feeling rushed.

H. MEETING CLOSING

1. Comments from the Board Table
 - Mr. Hapke expressed agreement with Mr. Gordon's concern regarding the take-home food bags.
 - Mr. Hicks noted this was the second parent to raise concerns about students not having sufficient time to eat lunch.
 - Mr. Hicks also highlighted concerns regarding student allergies and the potential risk of students receiving the incorrect food.
 - Mr. Hapke stated that the board members are hearing about issues occurring at the school through the community. He also noted as a concern that the Board is often the last to be informed about significant issues.

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2. Adjournment

Motion by Michele, supported by Hapke to adjourn. (8:00 p.m.

Motion Carried: 7-0 Unanimous

Recorded by Executive Secretary, Marileen Pitts

Respectfully submitted by,

Angie Pena-Smith
Board Secretary