



Approval date: May 18, 2026

**FENNVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 20, 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 7:02 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call

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

4. Additions to the Agenda

None

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 March 16, 2026, Regular Meeting
3. Treasurer's Report for March 2026
4. Summary of Bills for March 2026
5. Approval of resignation of Beth Ayotte, Elementary Principal, effective June 30, 2026
6. Acceptance of retirement of Krista Raffenaud, Title I Teacher/Reading Interventionist, effective June 30, 2026
7. Approval of an overnight trip for the MS & HS Robotics Aerial Drone Team to compete in the 2026 Central Aerial Drone Championship at Kettering University on May 14 – 15, 2026

Motion Carried: 4-0 Unanimous

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

- Fennville Elementary School – Holden Hughes by Mrs. Ayotte
- Fennville Middle School – Kevin Roa Lazaro by Mr. Grob
- Fennville High School – Ulysses Estrada by Mr. Frens

E. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Superintendent Report – Mr. Lombard

Staffing

- Retirement of Krista Raffenaud, Title I Teaching/Interventionist was acknowledged.
- Resignation of Beth Ayotte, Elementary Principal, was shared.
- Updates regarding Fennville Alternative High School staffing were provided.
- Tara Coffindaffer will transition from the high school to the Alternative High School replacing Jodi Scovill, who will retire in August 2026.
- A new job posting for a K-12 Career Readiness Specialist was approved/announced:
 - Expands the previous post-secondary role (formerly limited to middle and high school) into a K-12 position. Focus areas include:
 - Career Awareness (Grades K–5)
 - Career Exploration (Grades 6–8)
 - Pathway Preparation (Grades 9–12)
 - Goal is to support informed student decision-making, future readiness, and post-secondary confidence and adaptability.
 - Position was formerly known as the Post-Secondary Coach.
- Transportation Director Interviews are scheduled to take place this Friday.
- Elementary Principal screening interviews are scheduled for this week.

Wellness

- Outdoor Learning Spaces Update:
 - Superintendent Mr. Lombard presented information and provided additional updates.
 - An update on the County Attendance Initiative was provided.

Academics

- Update provided on CTE (Career and Technical Education) Expansion grant (61v funding). The district has been awarded \$400,000.00 to support the Horticulture/Agricultural CTE Program. Plans to add a greenhouse, fund teaching position, and work toward reestablishing the FFA Program.
- The Outstanding People for Education honorees will be recognized on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
- The district's Outstanding People for Education Winners for 2026 were announced:
 - Mr. Jeff Lance, High School Spanish Teacher
 - Mrs. Kelly Howes, Elementary Literacy Coach
 - Mr. Wendell Hughes, Bus Driver, Coach, and Maintenance
- Honors Night is scheduled for May 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
- Fennville High School Graduation is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
- Fennville Alternative High School Graduation is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Bond Update

- Completed Projects
 - A new roof was installed on the old transportation building south of the elementary school, which is being repurposed for use by the grounds and maintenance staff.
 - The pole barn near the stadium will be available to support the new agriculture program.
 - New fire panel has been installed in the middle school.

Summer 2026

- Potential furniture upgrades in the middle and high school, with new student classroom furniture targeted for the start of the 2026-2027 school year.
- Replacement of nearly all exterior doors at the middle school.

Summer/Spring 2027

- Planning for outdoor learning spaces across the campus is underway, with input gathered through focus groups from each building. Implementation is not expected to begin until early 2027.
- Design and planning are underway to redesign and remodel the middle school cafeteria and kitchen, with construction anticipated for summer 2027.
- Details are being developed for new roofs at the elementary and high school, with the construction timeline to be determined.
- Extensive planning, measurement, and decision-making are underway for HVAC replacement in elementary and middle school. This major project will involve replacing all classroom air handler units, with work anticipated during the summers of 2027 and possibly 2028, along with boiler replacements across the district.

F. NEW BUSINESS

Informational/Discussion/Presentation Items

ACTION ITEMS:

1. APPROVAL OF SUMMER SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL WAGES

Motion by Hapke, supported by Pena-Smith, that the Board of Education approve the proposal wages for instructional staff for the 2026 Summer Program.

Motion Carried: 4-0 Unanimous

G. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Jocelyn Leonard, Secondary Music Teacher, expressed gratitude to the high school administration and staff for their support in making Prom a great success. She noted the tremendous community support, including a fully stocked clothing closet for both boys and girls with dresses, shoes, suits, and accessories. There were great smiles, strong participation, and it was a very successful evening overall.
 - The Solo & Ensemble event was highly successful, featuring three collaborative pianists and a total of ten singers performing. It was a pleasant evening and a great joy for everyone involved.
 - She expressed that it brings her joy to know that AEDs are available in multiple areas across the campus.

H. MEETING CLOSING

1. Comments from the Board Table
 - Mr. Sanchez thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication in making the Prom event a great success.
 - Mr. Hapke expressed concern about staff and community members driving the wrong way on a road used by buses and community.
2. Adjournment

Motion by Michele, supported by Hapke to adjourn. (7:45 p.m.)

Recorded by Executive Secretary, Marileen Pitts

Respectfully submitted by,

Angie Pena-Smith
Board Secretary