



**FENNVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 17, 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	Absent
Mr. Jayson Hicks	Present		

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.

Minutes	Treasurer's Report	Summary of Bills	Offer of Probationary Contract	Acceptance of Resignation

Motion Carried: 6-0 Unanimous

D. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Director of Teacher and Learning, Jessie Gierucki provided an academic update on state and local assessment metrics and how data is utilized across each building to support student achievement. The presentation included state proficiency data, PSAT growth data in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics, and comparisons with similar school districts to benchmark performance and identify areas for continued growth.

The administration team also shared work completed during this summer's leadership retreat focused on the district's Strategic Plan. Student success remains the primary focus of the plan, with district goals centered on strengthening teaching and learning, investing in staff

development, and building upon existing strengths to support continuous improvement across the district.

2. Mitch Cummings from Link Learning provided an overview of a potential partnership with Fennville Public Schools to offer a virtual school program. He shared how the program can help reengage learners by providing an alternative educational pathway tailored to individual student's needs. Benefits included increased graduation rates, enhanced college and career readiness opportunities, dual enrollment options, and workplace skill development. Mitch also emphasized Link Learning's commitment to community involvement and strong school partnerships, sharing the organization's mission statement: "Our mission is an extension of your mission; our strongest partnerships are those with the closest relationships to school and community."
3. Superintendent Report – Mr. Lombard
 - Mr. Lombard stated that the district has successfully hired outstanding new staff members and expressed appreciation for the highly qualified candidates who have joined the team.
 - Provided updates on agenda action items and current staffing matters across the district.
 - Reported that the new furniture installation in the Middle School has been completed. He noted that the project turned out very well and invited Board members to tour the building to see the updated furnishings and improvements firsthand.

Communication and Facilities Update

- Provided an update on the district's bond planning process and timeline.
- Shared information regarding the upcoming bid process, including the bidder walkthrough.
- Bids are due on September 22, 2026
- Discussed the planned HVAC replacement project for 2027 and 2028 school year.
- Noted the additional details regarding the bond and facilities projects will be reviewed during October 12, 2026, Work Session.

E. NEW BUSINESS

Informational/Discussion/Presentation Items

ACTION ITEMS:

1. APPROVAL OF SUPPORT STAFF AND CERTIFIED NON-UNION SUPPORT STAFF GUIDELINES FOR 2026-2027

Motion by Thiele, supported by Michele, that the Board of Education approve the Support Staff and Non-Union Certified Support Staff Guidelines for 2026-2027.

Motion Carried: 6-0 Unanimous

2. APPROVAL OF ELECTRICAL BID FOR GREENHOUSE

Motion by Thiele, to table the Board of Education approval of the electrical bid package ____ for the greenhouse project using 61v grant funding.

Motion by Hapke, supported by Michele to table the approval of electrical bid package ____ for the greenhouse project using 61v grant funding until there are three bids.

Approval Date: September 21, 2026

**Roll Call Vote Ayes: Pena-Smith, Michele, Hicks, Thiele, Hapke,
Sanchez Nays: None**

Motion Carried: 6-0 Unanimous

3. APPROVAL OF THRUN POLICY UPDATES

Motion by Hapke, supported by Michele, that the Board of Education table the June 10, 2026, Thrun Policy Updates.

Roll Call Vote

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 6-0 Unanimous

F. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Tammy Moeller re: She and her husband are considering selling their property. Tammy expressed concerns regarding existing easements on or near the property. She noted that the easements could potentially be used to provide access or utilities for future residential development, which may affect the property's value, character, and future use. Tammy also expressed concern that additional housing development could impact surrounding community and school district, including potential increase in enrollment, and change in traffic patterns around school property.
- Monica Boeve re: Martina Soriano is doing a great job covering responsibilities in both the upstairs and downstairs offices while the district continues the search for a new pre-K – second grade secretary. Monica expressed appreciation for Martina's flexibility and dedication during the transition period.

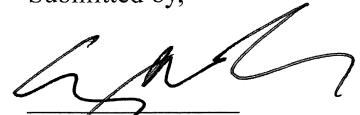
G. MEETING CLOSING

1. Comments from the Board Table
 - Mrs. Pena-Smith re: Appreciated the follow-up item regarding the high school gym floor.
2. Adjournment

Motion by Michele, supported by Pena-Smith to adjourn. (8:18 p.m.)

Recorded by Executive Secretary, Marileen Pitts

Submitted by,



Angie Pena-Smith
Board Secretary