Approval date: October 19, 2026

FENNVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 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 Mauel 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.

1. Minutes for August 17, 2026, Regular Meeting
2. Treasurer's Report for August 2026
3. Summary of Bills for August 2026
4. Approval of 7th grade trip to Camp Kidwell, Bloomingdale, MI for October 19-21, 2026
5. Offer of Probationary Contract to:
    a. Erik Butchart, Middle School Social Studies Teacher
    b. Curtis Barense, Middle School Math Teacher
6. Accept resignation of:
    a. Eric Cameron, Middle School Social Studies Teacher, effective August 21, 2026
    b. Matt Aho, Middle School Math Teacher, effective September 11, 2026
    c. Tony Stennett, Director of Athletics and Community Recreation, effective September 19, 2026

Motion Carried: 6-0 Unanimous

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

- Fennville Elementary School – Bailee Smothers by Cindy Hillary
- Fennville Middle School – Santiago Suarez by Chris Grob
- Fennville High School – Jakym Fraire by Rick Frens

E. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Superintendent Report – Mr. Lombard
   - Invited Mr. Best and Mr. Knoester to share AP course and Summer Academy data.
   - Introduced Mr. Batchelor, who will lead this year's 7th Grade Camp, and thanked Mr. Grob for his assistance in keeping camp costs down.
   - Provided a brief review of action items and an update on athletics support.
   - Shared that the Goose Festival will be held in town rather than on school campus this year.
   - Provided an overview of Ulliance, which will be available to staff, with additional information to follow.
   - Reported that ground has been broken on the Greenhouse Project and work is underway.
   - Provided an update on the gym floors and options presented by the insurance company.
   - Announced a Board Work Session for October 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. to review bond updates and SiteLogIQ bid packages.
2. Mr. Best and Mr. Knoester presented AP student outcome data and strategies contributing to academic success and continuous improvement, emphasizing high expectations, student support, and evidence-based practices. Summer Academy academic growth data was also presented.

F. NEW BUSINESS

Informational/Discussion/Presentation Items

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **APPROVAL OF ELECTRICAL BID FOR GREENHOUSE**

Motion by Michele, supported by Hicks, that the Board of Education approve electrical bid package from Country House Electric for the greenhouse project using 61v grant funding.

Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: Thiele, Hicks, Michele, Pena-Smtih, Sanchez
Nays: None
Abstain: Hapke

Motion Carried: 5-0 1-Abstain

2. **APPROVAL OF VAN PURCHASE**

Motion by Hapke, supported by Michele, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of two new school vans from Hoekstra Transportation for $ 67,500 each.

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

Motion Carried: 6-0 Unanimous

3. **APPROVAL OF THRUN POLICY UPDATES**

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

Motion Carried: 6-0 Unanimous

4. **APPROVAL OF LEASE AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY ACTION OF ALLEGAN COUNTY (HEAD START PROGRAM)**
Motion by Michele, supported by Pena-Smith, that the Board of Education approve the Head Start Lease agreement with Community Action of Allegan County over the period of August 25, 2026 to June 12, 2027.
Motion Carried: 6-0 Unanimous

5. **APPROVAL OF WEST MICHIGAN HEALTH POOL DELEGATES RESOLUTION**
Motion by Hicks, supported by Hapke, that the Board of Education approve the resolution to add Albert Lombard as trustee and Shannon Grigg alternate trustee to the West Michigan Health Pool as Delegates for Fennville Public Schools.

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

Motion Carried: 6-0 Unanimous

G. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Mr. Best invited the Board and audience members to participate in the AP Government class Adopt-A-Highway cleanup taking place this month.
- Mr. Best shared that 15 FHS Student Civic Leaders will participate on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, meeting at the high school.

H. MEETING CLOSING

1. Comments from the Board Table
   - Mr. Hicks expressed appreciation for the AP student achievement data presented by Mr. Best and Mr. Knoester.
   - Mr. Sanchez asked for additional information regarding the official name, Adopt-A-Roadside public service project.

2. Adjournment
   Motion by Thiele, supported by Michele to adjourn. (7:46 p.m.)

Recorded by Executive Secretary, Marileen Pitts

Respectfully submitted by,

Angie Pena-Smith
Board Secretary