

**ZEELAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 18, 2025
Administration Office
Admin LGI Space
6 PM**

PRESENT: Board of Education: Rick Dernberger, Betsy Kikstra, Tom DenHerder, Chad Creevy, Tami Mannes, & April DeWitt
Administrators: Rod Hetherton, Jon Voss, Lynn VanKampen, & Autumn Dawdy
ABSENT: Board of Education: Heidi Geerlings
GUESTS:

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Rick Dernberger
A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Rod Hetherton

B. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public who wish to make comments must register their intention to participate in the public portion of the meeting prior to the start of the meeting. In accordance with our Board policy, up to one hour will be reserved for this forum, with a maximum of three minutes per individual. No participant may speak more than once. If more comment is needed than the one hour time allows, there will be a public comment time following the regular meeting. There will typically be no attempt to comment or give answers at this meeting. Inquiries will be referred to the superintendent for response at a later time.

III. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Suggested motion: Motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

Chad Creevy moved & Tom DenHerder supported

- A. Minutes of the July 21 Organizational, Regular, and Work Session meetings need approval.
- B. Approval of bills paid as of July 2025. Checks 112539-112731 & 1100033-1100038
- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Accounts Payable | \$2,325,513.62 |
| Payroll: | \$6,251,447.94 |
| TOTAL: | \$8,576,961.56 |

C. New Staff Approval:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Faith Addington (Aquinas)	Sp Imm - NG	1.0
Camille Bauer (GVSU)	SpEd MICI - CityMS	1.0
Shelby Caudill (GVSU)	El Music/Perf Arts - Ad/Quin	0.8
Tracey Crane (Hope/GVSU)	Spanish - Shared Time	0.5
Emily Dafoe (Moody Bible/Cornerstone)	STEM/Vis Arts - NG/ECC/Wdb	0.7
Audra Eding (Hope)	4th grade - NG	0.5
Ashley Freerksen (GVSU)	GSRP - ECC	1.0
Zoe Gorski (GVSU)	ELA - CreekMS	1.0
Danielle Groendyk (U of M/GVSU)	Spanish - ZEHS	1.0
Terrell Harris (Hope)	3rd grade - Adams	1.0
Madison Herbart (Ferris/Detroit Mercy)	Psych - Ad/Lin/BCS	1.0
Tina Henry (Hope)	Ac. Specialist (TEMP) - Creek	0.2
Ashley Hetherton (U of M/Central)	SpEd Resource - CreekMS	1.0
Ashley Holland (Gr Canyon)	SpEd Resource - Lin	0.4
Nicholas Holt (Hope)	Science - ZEHS	1.0
Jillian Horjus (Calvin)	PhysEd - Shared Time	0.16
Meghan Johnson (Azusa Pac)	Band/Perf Arts - Shared Time	0.29
Macy Kerr (Hope)	ELA - ZWHS	1.0
Elizabeth Knoll-Bowman (Wayne St/EMU)	Orch/Perf Arts - ZEHS/City/Cr	1.0
Samantha Lamer (Oakland)	Dance/Perf Arts - ZEHS	1.0
Megan Morley (GSVU)	SSW - Multiple bldgs. (TEMP)	1.0
Kate Rosema (Northwestern)	GSRP Farm - ECC	1.0
Tyler Rynbrandt (Hope)	SpEd IRR - CreekMS	1.0
Madeline Smith (GVSU/NCU)	Speech Path - Roos/Wdb/Lin	1.0
Alejandra Solis (UTL en Linea)	Sp Imm K - Shared Time	0.75
Maddisen Stegenga (Calvin)	GSRP - ECC	1.0
Morghen VanDyke (GVSU)	GSRP Farm - ECC	1.0
Brianna VanKampen (Hope)	GSRP - ECC	0.4
Drew Vrugink (Calvin)	PhysEd - Shared Time	0.6

D. Approval of 2025-26 student handbooks ([elementary](#), [middle](#), and [high](#) schools) and current curriculum.

VOTE: All yes - Rick Dernberger, Betsy Kikstra, Tom DenHerder, Chad Creevy, Tami Mannes, & April DeWitt

V. DISCUSSION

- A. Summer Learning Highlights - Asst. Supt's: Autumn Dawdy & Julie Paterick
- **Zee Bus** - successful summer reading opportunities and activities
 - **Small Group Tutoring** - ZPS utilized the grant from the Holland Zeeland Community Foundation to provide one-on-one and small group tutoring in math and reading for elementary & middle school students, as well as credit recovery for high school students. These dollars covered the cost of 13 teachers and 2 coordinators to provide 18 hours of individualized instruction to qualifying students this summer. With the decrease in funding for a larger scale summer program, our elementary buildings scaled up their efforts to support students in maintaining skills over the summer by partnering with the ZeeBus to provide books for families, sending home online access codes to

district instructional applications and sharing creative suggestions for learning activities for families.

- Proud to report a high school credit recovery rate of 30/39 (77%) pass rate

VI. ACTION:

Suggested motion: Motion to select delegates for MASB's 2025 Delegate Assembly at the Fall Conference on Thursday, October 23.

Tami Mannes moved & Tom DenHerder supported

We select Rick Dernberger as delegate and Betsy Kikstra as the alternate.

"Delegates selected by boards of education across the state will decide MASB's positions on a wide variety of issues affecting education. All delegates must be school board members. Only delegates and alternates named by the board may offer motions and vote on issues." All delegates must be certified and submitted to MASB by Thursday, October 2, 2025.

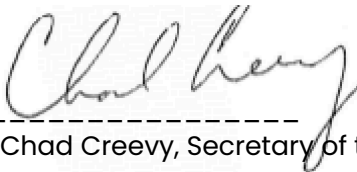
VOTE: Yes – Rick Dernberger, Betsy Kikstra, Tom DenHerder, Chad Creevy, Tami Mannes, & April DeWitt

VII. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- A. First Day of School: Wednesday, August 27, 2025 (ZQuest began August 11, 2025)
- B. Admin Council Retreat Recap
Followup events coming (Executive Coaching for building principals, including ZQuest and ECC)
- C. Bond Info

Special thanks to Brandy Navetta for positive ZPS social media presence from April DeWitt.

The regular meeting of August 18, 2025 adjourned at 6:12PM.



Chad Creevy, Secretary of the BOE