

**ZEELAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 21, 2025
Administration Office
Admin LGI Space
Immediately following the Organizational Meeting**

I. RECONVENE FROM ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: 1:41 PM

A. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

In accordance with our Board policy, up to one hour will be reserved for this forum, with a maximum of five 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.

Tom Denherder moved & Betsy Kikstra supported

A. Minutes of the [June 4 Closed Session Meeting](#), [June 5, 6:45pm Special Meeting](#) and [7:30pm Special Meeting](#), [June 9 Truth-in-Budget](#) and [Regular Meetings, June 13 Special Meeting](#), and [June 19 Special Meeting](#) will be approved.

B. Approval of bills paid as of June 2025. Checks 112254-112538 & 1100018-1100032

Accounts Payable	\$1,613,569.90
Payroll:	\$7,527,271.49
TOTAL:	\$9,140,841.39

VOTE: All yes (Chad Creevy, Rick Dernberger, Tom Denherder, April DeWitt, Heidi Geerlings, Betsy Kikstra, & Tami Mannes)

V. DISCUSSION

VI. ACTION

A. SUPERINTENDENT [CONTRACT ADDENDUM](#)

Suggested Motion: Motion to approve the placement of Rod Hetherton on step 74 of the Administrative Salary Schedule for 2025-2026 as presented. ([Contract](#))

Betsy Kikstra moved & Chad Creevy supported

ROLL CALL: YEA: Chad Creevy, Rick Dernberger, Tom Denherder, April DeWitt, Heidi Geerlings, Betsy Kikstra, & Tami Mannes
NAY:

B. BOND RESOLUTION

Suggested Motion: Motion to approve the bond proposal as presented.

"This Board estimates the necessary cost of the projects to be \$186,460,357. It will be necessary for the District to borrow the sum of \$186,000,000 and issue the bonds of the District therefore, the issuance costs which puts this over budget should be covered by interest earned on investments. "

The bond project and ballot language must be approved by August 12, 2025 in order to be on the voter ballot on November 4, 2025. The Finance Committee met on July 16, 2025 and recommended the board approve the bond proposal.

Tom Denherder moved & Heidi Geerlings supported

ROLL CALL: YEA: Chad Creevy, Rick Dernberger, Tom Denherder, April DeWitt,
Heidi Geerlings, Betsy Kikstra, & Tami Mannes
NAY:

C. BALLOT LANGUAGE

Suggested Motion: Motion to approve the ballot language as presented to appear on the voter ballots in November.

Tom Denherder moved & Tami Mannes supported

ROLL CALL: YEA: Chad Creevy, Rick Dernberger, Tom Denherder, April DeWitt,
Heidi Geerlings, Betsy Kikstra, & Tami Mannes
NAY:

D. PROPERTY PURCHASES

Suggested Motion: Motion to approve the purchase of [222 N Franklin Avenue](#), Zeeland.

The Franklin property is 8.25 acres, assessed value \$584,600, owned by David and John Janssen, parcel #70-16-13-300-058. We have agreed on \$700,000, one closing day, ZPS pays the closing costs and a 1031 exchange with this purchase. Lynn is still working through this [purchase agreement](#). We will purchase this with the Sinking Fund dollars. The finance committee reviewed this on July 16, 2025 and recommended we move forward with this property.

Tom Denherder moved & Betsy Kikstra supported

ROLL CALL: YEA: Chad Creevy, Rick Dernberger, Tom Denherder, April DeWitt,
Heidi Geerlings, Betsy Kikstra, & Tami Mannes
NAY:

Suggested Motion: Motion to approve the purchase of [405 E Main Avenue](#), Zeeland.

We propose swapping two parcels that ZPS owns totaling .93 acres with GDK's one parcel totaling .86 acres. This would be a swap, share closing costs, and each party would have parking rights for 2 years from the date of closing ([purchase agreement](#)). Closing costs will be allocated through the Sinking Fund. The finance

committee reviewed this on July 16, 2025 and recommended we move forward with this property.

Betsy Kikstra moved & Chad Creevy supported

ROLL CALL: YEA: Chad Creevy, Rick Dernberger, Tom Denherder, April DeWitt,
Heidi Geerlings, Betsy Kikstra, & Tami Mannes
NAY:

E. SINKING FUND 2025-26 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Suggested Motion: Motion to approve the budget amendment to purchase the property on Franklin as previously discussed.

The budget as presented in [this document](#) represents approximately \$2,472,181 in revenues for 2025-26 and expenditures of \$2,829,199. This amendment is being requested to purchase property as discussed previously. Adding \$710,000 to expenditures for the Sinking Fund, which will reduce the fund balance by \$357,018, leaving a projected fund balance on June 30, 2026 to be \$2,064,591.

Tom Denherder moved & Chad Creevy supported

ROLL CALL: YEA: Chad Creevy, Rick Dernberger, Tom Denherder, April DeWitt,
Heidi Geerlings, Betsy Kikstra, & Tami Mannes
NAY:

F. NEW GRONINGEN PLUMBING BID APPROVAL

Suggested Motion: Motion to approve the bid for DHE to repair the plumbing at New Groningen for a total amount of \$32,674.

This request is normal maintenance on a very old building. There are several leaks at New Groningen that need to be addressed. DHE found these prepping for the summer work. They will be able to complete this work before school starts. We plan to cover the cost with Building and Site/Sinking funds. The finance committee reviewed this on July 16, 2025 and recommended we move forward with this project.

Tami Mannes moved & Tom Denherder supported

ROLL CALL: YEA: Chad Creevy, Rick Dernberger, Tom Denherder, April DeWitt,
Heidi Geerlings, Betsy Kikstra, & Tami Mannes
NAY:

VII. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Update on first few weeks in office.

- Excited to get to know many staff members through one on one meetings.
- Excited to hear and discuss the visions and goals individuals have for the district.

- Thankful for a purchase agreement on a house to move the family to west Michigan.

The Board adjourned the July 21, 2025 regular meeting at 2:06 PM and will take a 30 minute recess to reconvene into a work session at Yacht Basin Marina, 1866 Ottawa Beach Rd, Holland, MI 49424.