

PELLSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Minutes

**Regular Board of Education Meeting
Board of Education Conference Room
7:00 p.m.**

Monday, September 14, 2026

A Regular meeting of the Board of Education of Pellston Public Schools was held in the Gerald E. Mallory Board of Education Conference Room on Monday, September 14, 2026. Members present: Jim Milbrandt, Rob Thomson, Kristen Bauer-Frye, Serenity Dankert, Bryan Searles and Kim Jutson. Members absent: Amanda McCafferty.

President Milbrandt called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of reflection were led by Kim Jutson.

Information/Presentations

Spotlight Presentation – Alex Brisson - Public Safety's Second Year Project

Athletic Report – Mr. Kurt Grangood provided a written report to the Board. Report on file.

Transportation Report – Mr. Lee Minzey provided a written report to the Board. Report on file.

Food Service Report – Mrs. Mariah Heinz provided a written report to the Board. Report on file.

Elementary Report – Mrs. VanAntwerp provided a written report to the Board. Report on file.

MS/HS Principal Report – Mr. Schlappi provided a written report to the Board. Report on file.

Administrator Highlights

Public Commentary

Correspondence

Old Business

New Business

School Bus and Van Purchase – Mr. Seelye led a discussion with the Board of Education about purchasing a bus as well as a minivan to add to our transportation fleet. Lee Minzey recommends the purchase of a gas bus and has provided quotes for your review. No action was requested at this time.

School District Painting – Mr. Seelye led a discussion with the Board of Education about the recent work Travis Fletcher's painting company has completed in the elementary lobby as well as the

auditorium lobby. They have done incredible work and Mr. Seelye is recommending they continue to paint areas throughout the district. No action was requested at this time.

School Infrastructure Needs – Mr. Seelye led a discussion with the Board of Education about some infrastructure needs throughout the district as well as provided a detailed list of recommendations and estimated pricing from Performance Services. No action was requested at this time.

Sinking Fund Timeline – Mr. Seelye led a discussion with the Board of Education about the Sinking Fund renewal and when to put it on the ballot. The district could also consider a bond proposal instead of a Sinking Fund. Mr. Seelye provided board members with a timeline from Thrun Law. No action was requested at this time.

MS/HS Locker Purchase – Mr. Seelye led a discussion with the Board of Education about replacing lockers in the middle/high school using REM and Sinking Fund monies. Mr. Seelye would like to start getting bids now with the possibility of completing the work over Christmas Break or next summer. No action was requested at this time.

Student Concession Stand Voucher – Mr. Seelye led a discussion with the Board of Education about an initiative to feed students at sporting events. Mr. Seelye proposes a voucher type system be used at the concession stand with some rules for what can and cannot be purchased. This voucher would also benefit our sports programs as teams work the concession stands to raise money. No action was requested at this time.

Shooting Sports Team New Field Support – Mr. Seelye led a discussion with the Board of Education about building a shooting sports field on school forest property for our Clay Target Team. Coach, Kathleen Blust has started the permit process with Emmet County and is gathering bids from excavating companies. She has also applied for several grants while the team continues to host fundraising events. Mr. Seelye is looking for approval should she need additional financial support. No action was requested at this time.

Farm to School Partnership – Mr. Seelye led a discussion with the Board of Education about a potential opportunity to partner with Cori Fitzpatrick who works for the Ground Works Center for Resiliency. Cori recently met with Mr. Seelye and Mariah Heinz and discussed several ways this partnership could benefit the district and community. No action was requested at this time.

Pellston K-8 Graduation Alliance Agreement – Mr. Seelye led a discussion with the Board of Education about the current partnership we have with Graduation Alliance and their high school online program. Graduation Alliance has created an online K-8 program and have chosen only one district in the State of Michigan to launch the program with, Pellston. Graduation Alliance provided a contract for the Online K-8 program for your review.

Motion by Rob Thomson, supported by Kristen Bauer-Frye, “that the Board of Education approve the contract with Graduation Alliance to expand the existing partnership to include the K-8 program, authorizing administration to establish the initial enrollment level for the current school year and evaluate opportunities for scaling the program in 2027-2028, as presented by Mr. Stephen Seelye.” The motion carried 6-0.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion by Kim Jutson, supported by Serenity Dankert, “that the Consent Agenda Items for the September 14, 2026 meeting of the Board of Education be adopted, as presented.” The motion carried 6-0.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion: “that the Board of Education approve the Regular meeting minutes of the August 10, 2026 Board Meeting”.

Payment of the Bills

Motion: “that the Board of Education, pay Gross Payrolls for August 7, 2026 and August 21, 2026; Benefits and Utilities and ACH transfers for the month of August 2026.”

Motion: “that the Board of Education of Pellston Public Schools pay all fund bills paid by checks as listed in the enclosed board packet totaling: \$659,679.88.”

Business and Finance Items

Motion: “that the Board of Education approve the Char-Em ISD Alt. Ed. Course Catalog, as recommended by Mr. Stephen Seelye.”

Motion: “that the Board of Education approve the purchase of a School Bus in the amount of \$144,148.00, as recommended by Mr. Lee Minzey.”

Motion: “that the Board of Education approve the purchase of an Elementary Fire Panel from Total Fire and Safety in the amount of \$11,884.19, as recommended by Mr. Stephen Seelye.”

Personnel Items

Motion: “that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Ms. Anita Sims as a Food Service Cook, as recommended by Ms. Mariah Heinz.”

Motion: “that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Ms. Tiffany Papineau as a Food Service Cook, as recommended by Ms. Mariah Heinz.”

Motion: “that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Ms. TamberLynn Gibbs as a Food Service Cook, as recommended by Ms. Mariah Heinz.”

Motion: “that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Ms. Sasha Bailey as a Food Service Cook, as recommended by Ms. Mariah Heinz.”

Motion: “that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Mr. Brad Nicholls as a Middle School Special Education Interventionist, as recommended by Mr. Chris Schlappi.”

Motion: “that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Miss Zoey VanTol as a 4th Grade Teacher, as recommended by Mrs. Tammy VanAntwerp.”

Motion: “that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Miss Quinn VanTol as a Preschool Assistant Teacher, as recommended by Mrs. Tammy VanAntwerp.”

Motion: “that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Mrs. Iyesha Walker as a Preschool Assistant Teacher, as recommended by Mrs. Tammy VanAntwerp.”

Motion: “that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Ms. Joy Bolinger as a Middle School Special Education Teacher, as recommended by Mr. Chris Schlappi.”

Motion: “that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Mrs. Kati Smith as an Elementary Interventionist, as recommended by Mrs. Tammy VanAntwerp.”

Motion: “that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Mrs. Lorie Emmett as a Middle School Special Education Interventionist, as recommended by Mr. Chris Schlappi.”

Adjournment

It was motioned by Serenity Dankert and supported by Kim Jutson to adjourn the meeting at 7:41PM. The motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned.