

# Fowler Public Schools

## Board of Education | Minutes

### **Regular Board Meeting, Monday, January 13, 2025 at 7:00pm | Fowler High School Media Center**

Meeting called to order by President Ryan O'Rourke at 7:00 p.m.

**The Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited.

**Roll call taken:** Ryan O'Rourke, Brett Thelen, Andy Weber, James Jandernoa, and Kent Weber present.

Matt Epkey and Kristin Phillips absent.

A motion was made by Kent Weber to appoint Brett Thelen as acting secretary for the regular meeting. Supported by Andy Weber. Motion carried 5-0.

Superintendent/H.S. Principal Patrick O'Rourke, Elementary/Middle School Principal Paul Minns, Secretary Tiffany Martin & Sarah Sills were also present.

**Presentation:** None

**Superintendent/High School Principal report:** Patrick O'Rourke provided an update on the High School.

**Elementary/Middle School Principal report:** Paul Minns provided a report on the Elementary/Middle School.

**Athletic Director's report:** Kris Ernst provided a written report from the Athletics Department. Patrick O'Rourke added that Fowler will be hosting Track Regionals this Spring.

#### **Board Member Comments and Observations about Our Community Schools:**

Trustee James Jandernoa inquired about Fowler's AI policies. Patrick O'Rourke discussed with the Board Fowler's current policies that cover AI.

**Board Committee Reports:** None

**Public Participation:** 1 guest. No comments

#### **Old Business**

- A. Bond Update- Patrick O'Rourke provided an update on the bond.

#### **Consent Agenda:**

Motion by Andy Weber approving consent agenda items Regular Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2024 and Approval of General Fund monthly bills paid and funds transferred. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **New Business for Action:**

Nomination by Brett Thelen to appoint Ryan O'Rourke as President and to close nominations. Supported by Kent Weber. Motion carried 5-0. A motion was made by Andy Weber to elect Ryan O'Rourke as President. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 5-0.

Nomination by Kent Weber to appoint Brett Thelen as Vice-President and to close nominations. Supported by Andy Weber. Motion carried 5-0. A motion was made by Andy Weber to elect Brett Thelen as Vice-President. Supported by James Jandernoa. Motion carried 5-0.

Nomination by Brett Thelen to appoint Matt Epkey as Secretary and to close nominations. Supported by James Jandernoa. Motion carried 5-0. A motion was made by Brett Thelen to elect Matt Epkey as Secretary. Supported by Andy Weber. Motion carried 5-0.

Nomination by Brett Thelen to appoint Kristin Phillips as Treasurer and to close nominations. Supported by Kent Weber. Motion carried 5-0. A motion was made by Andy Weber to elect Kristin Phillips as Treasurer. Supported by James Jandernoa. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Andy Weber to approve Treasurer Kristin Phillips and Secretary Matt Epkey as authorized signatures on school accounts. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Andy Weber to designate Business Manager Tiffany Martin as authorized representative for ACH receipts. Supported by Kent Weber. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Kent Weber approving the designation of depositors Huntington Bank, Bank One, US Bank, the Michigan School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus (MILAF), Journey (Credit Union), Fifth Third, MBIA, Wells Fargo for the calendar year 2025. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Andy Weber to set the 2025 Board Meeting dates as proposed, including May 13, 2025, to every second Monday of the month at 7:00 PM in the HS Media Center. Supported by James Jandernoa. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Kent Weber approving the Lansing State Journal as our newspaper of record for the 2025 calendar year. Supported by Andy Weber. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Andy Weber designating the Superintendent's Office responsible for public postings. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by James Jandernoa designating the Superintendent's Office responsible for the election duties of the school district. Supported by Andy Weber. Motion carried 5-0.

President Ryan O'Rourke proposed the following board members to the following committees for 2025. Motion by Brett Thelen to approve the proposed committees. Supported by Andy Weber. Motion carried 5-0.

**Athletics**

Matt Epkey - Chair  
Kristin Phillips  
Kent Weber

**Construction**

Brett Thelen – Chair  
Kent Weber  
James Jandernoa

**Personnel/Finance**

Ryan O'Rourke - Chair  
Brett Thelen  
Kristin Phillips

**Building & Grounds**

Ryan O'Rourke - Chair  
Matt Epkey  
Kent Weber

**Curriculum**

Kristin Phillips - Chair  
Andy Weber  
Ryan O'Rourke

**Policy**

Andy Weber – Chair  
Matt Epkey  
James Jandernoa

**Technology**

Brett Thelen - Chair  
Andy Weber  
James Jandernoa

Motion by Kent Weber to remain with Thrun Law Firm, P.C., as our legal representatives for 2025. Supported by James Jandernoa. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Andy Weber to approve the hire/transfer of Tiffany Martin, Business Manager. Supported by Kent Weber. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Kent Weber to approve the hire/transfer of Sarah Sills, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent. Supported by Andy Weber. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by James Jandernoa to approve the Business Manager Contract commencing January 13, 2025. Supported by Kent Weber, Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Andy Weber to approve the Executive Secretary to the Superintendent Contract commencing January 13, 2025. Supported by James Jandernoa. Motion carried 5-0.

**New Business for Discussion:**

- A. School Board Recognition Month: Patrick O'Rourke thank the School Board for their time and dedication to our community, schools, and students.
- B. Resignation of Pamela Stump, Business Manager

Motion made by Brett Thelen to adjourn meeting. Supported by Andy Weber. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett Thelen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brett Thelen/ tm

Acting Secretary