

Fowler Public Schools

Board of Education | Minutes

Regular Board Meeting, Monday, January 12, 2026 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, Matt Epkey, Andy Weber, James Jandernoa, and Kent Weber present.

Kristin Phillips absent.

Superintendent/H.S. Principal Patrick O'Rourke, Elementary/Middle School Principal Paul Minns, Business Manager Tiffany Martin and Secretary 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 report from the Athletics Department. Kris also added he has met with a candidate for the Athletic Trainer position.

Board Member Comments and Observations about Our Community Schools:

Board Committee Reports: None

Public Participation: 1 guest. No comments

Old Business: None

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Matt Epkey approving consent agenda items Regular Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2025 and Approval of General Fund monthly bills paid and funds transferred. Supported by Andy Weber. Motion carried 6-0.

New Business for Action:

Nomination by Brett Thelen to appoint Ryan O'Rourke as President and to close nominations. Supported by James Jandernoa. Motion carried 6-0. A motion was made by James Jandernoa to elect Ryan O'Rourke as President. Supported by Kent Weber. Motion carried 6-0.

Nomination by James Jandernoa to appoint Brett Thelen as Vice-President and to close nominations. Supported by Matt Epkey. Motion carried 6-0. A motion was made by Andy Weber to elect Brett Thelen as Vice-President. Supported by Matt Epkey. Motion carried 6-0.

Nomination by Andy Weber to appoint Matt Epkey as Secretary and to close nominations. Supported by Kent Weber. Motion carried 6-0. A motion was made by Brett Thelen to elect Matt Epkey as Secretary. Supported by James Jandernoa. Motion carried 6-0.

Nomination by Matt Epkey to appoint Kristin Phillips as Treasurer and to close nominations. Supported by Kent Weber. Motion carried 6-0. A motion was made by Andy Weber to elect Kristin Phillips as Treasurer. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Brett Thelen to approve Treasurer Kristin Phillips and Secretary Matt Epkey as authorized signatures on

school accounts. Supported by Andy Weber. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Kent Weber to designate Business Manager Tiffany Martin as authorized representative for ACH receipts. Supported by James Jandernoa. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Brett 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 Andy Weber. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Brett Thelen to set the 2026 Board Meeting dates as proposed, to every second Monday of the month at 7:00 PM in the HS Media Center. Supported by Matt Epkey. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Kent Weber approving the Lansing State Journal as our newspaper of record for the 2026 calendar year. Supported by Andy Weber. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Matt Epkey designating the Superintendent's Office responsible for public postings. Supported by Kent Weber. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Andy Weber designating the Superintendent's Office responsible for the election duties of the school district. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 6-0.

President Ryan O'Rourke proposed the following board members to the following committees for 2026. Motion by Kent Weber to approve the proposed committees. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 6-0.

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
Kristin Phillips
James Jandernoa

Motion by Matt Epkey to remain with Thrun Law Firm, P.C., as our legal representatives for 2026. Supported by Andy Weber. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Matt Epkey to approve the hire of Tami Rademacher, Paraprofessional/Instructional Aide. Supported by Kent Weber. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Andy Weber to approve the hire of Bruce Schafer, Bus Driver. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 6-0.

New Business for Discussion:

- A. School Board Recognition Month: Patrick O'Rourke thanked the School Board for their time and dedication to our community, schools, and students.
- B. Retirement of Cindy Karns, Paraprofessional/ Instructional Aide

Motion made by Kent Weber to adjourn meeting. Supported by Andy Weber. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett Thelen pro temp secretary

Matt Epkey/ ss



Secretary