



# Kenowa Hills Public Schools

## VALUE. SUPPORT. EMPOWER.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, September 25, 2023 at 6:30 pm**  
**Kenowa Hills Public Schools - Zinser Elementary**  
**3949 Leonard Street NW, Grand Rapids MI 49534**

**I. Routine Business**

- A. President Hart called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. at Zinser Elementary, 3949 Leonard Street NW, Grand Rapids MI.
- B. President Hart opened the meeting with a moment of silence.
- C. Members Present: Courtade, Gustinis, Hart, LaBotz and Robinson. Student Representative Jacob (Jake) Jonker, Superintendent Hopkins, Assistant Superintendent Dinkelmann and Director Gilchrist are also present. Member Roberts and Turner are absent. President Hart appointed Member Courtade to serve as temporary secretary.
- D. Motion by Member Courtade supported by Member LaBotz to approve the agenda. **Motion approved 5 - 0.**

	Y N A		Y N A		Y N A		Y N A
Courtade	Y ___	Hart	Y ___	Roberts	ABSENT	Turner	ABSENT
Gustinis	Y ___	LaBotz	Y ___	Robinson	Y ___		

**II. Hearings and Correspondence**

- A. Recognition - Zinser Elementary Principal Ross Willick introduced new fifth grade teacher, Jeff Verhaik. He also acknowledged new staff members Sarah Thompson, Speech & Language Pathologist, and Adam Galindo, Youth Sports Coordinator.
- B. Correspondence - None
- C. Board Communication-Members reported on various district events in which they participated.

**III. Information Items**

- A. Zinser Elementary Spotlight, Principal Ross Willick
  - 1. Principal Willick shared the Zinser motto of "Kids Who Care". A new logo was recently created to celebrate the Zinser theme. Principal Willick provided details about the student vision statement - Zinser will be a happy, fun, uplifting, respectful, and helpful school. We are kids who "CARE".
  - 2. As part of Capturing Kids Hearts, Zinser student council members shared Good News to begin our time together.
  - 3. Data celebrations were provided based on Zinser Elementary M-STEP scores.

CALL TO ORDER

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ROLL CALL

APPROVE AGENDA

RECOGNITION

CORRESPONDENCE

BOE COMMUNICATION

ZINSER SPOTLIGHT

4. School Nurse Courtney Ellens from HealthBar provided an overview of our district school nursing program. School nurses district-wide are working to make the MERT (Medical Emergency Response Team) more effective and focus their duties as part of this team. Nurses also focus on educating the staff on what to do in the case of an emergency. The school nursing program has a goal this year to each of our schools become a Michigan Heart Safe School.

B. Student Representative Report, Jake Jonkers - None

STUDENT REP REPORT

C. Practice and Competition Fields Study

FIELD STUDY

1. Director Gilchrist provided updated/revised analysis of the bond proposal.
2. The board discussed the plan and requested clarifications regarding several items on the provided bond proposal documents.
3. The decision was made to pause the request for a bond election to align the timelines with a May 2024 election. This will allow the Board more time to process the opportunity to seek approval from our registered voters without an increase to the current 4.67 millage rate.

D. OK Conference Realignment

OK REALIGNMENT

1. Superintendent Hopkins provided an update on the discussions regarding leaving the O. K. Conference. There are now seven (7) districts who are interested in leaving the conference following the Spring 2024 season. These districts have been a part of the ongoing discussions.
2. The process to withdraw from the O.K. Conference was explained. The petition to withdraw from the conference will likely be an action item at the October Committee of
3. Superintendent Hopkins feels this will be a benefit for our student athletes, students, families, fans and coaches.

IV. **Public Comment** - one individual made public comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

*The purpose of this meeting is to conduct Board of Education business. There will typically be no attempt to comment or give answers at this meeting. Audience members who wish to make comments are invited to complete the appropriate form located at the entrance. Each speaker has a maximum of three (3) minutes to address the board. Inquiries requiring a response will be referred to the superintendent in the cases where contact information is provided. We ask all individuals making public comments to follow our board policy. Any person in violation of the policy for disruptive conduct will be asked to leave. Any threats or suggestions of violence will be turned over to law enforcement.*

V. **Action Items**

ACTION ITEMS

A. Motion by Member Courtade supported by Member LaBotz to approve the consent agenda.  
**Motion approved 5-0.**

CONSENT AGENDA

1. September 11, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

	Y	N	A		Y	N	A		Y	N	A		Y	N	A
Courtade	Y	___		Hart	Y	___		Roberts	ABSENT			Turner	ABSENT		
Gustinis	Y	___		LaBotz	Y	___		Robinson	Y	___					

B. Motion by Member Courtade supported by Member Robinson to approve the purchase of two 2023 Chrysler Pacifica vans from LaFontaine Chrysler Dodge Jeep of Lansing in the amount of \$40,310 each for the total purchase of \$80,620. Section 22I Transportation reimbursement funds from the State of Michigan shall be used to make this purchase.  
 Report #23-050. **Motion approved 5-0.**

VAN PURCHASES #23-050

	Y	N	A		Y	N	A		Y	N	A		Y	N	A
Courtade	Y	___		Hart	Y	___		Roberts	ABSENT			Turner	ABSENT		
Gustinis	Y	___		LaBotz	Y	___		Robinson	Y	___					

**VI. Future Items for Consideration**

A. Future Meetings

1. 10/09/23 6:30 pm Committee of the Whole Meeting - Administration Building
2. 10/23/23 6:30 pm Regular Board of Education Meeting - Pathways High School at the Middle School
3. 11/13/23 6:30 pm Committee of the Whole Meeting - Administration Building
4. 11/27/23 6:30 pm Regular Board of Education Meeting - High School

B. Go Around

**VII. Adjournment**

- A. Seeing no additional agenda items, President Hart adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

GO AROUND

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

---

Melissa Courtade, Temporary Secretary