



**Montcalm Area Intermediate School District
Board of Education - Regular Meeting
621 New Street – Stanton MI 48888
616-225-6136 or 989-831-5261**

**Monday, August 20, 2026
Meeting Minutes**

I. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District held on Monday, August 20, 2026, was called to order at 8:02 AM by Board President Mark Christensen.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Mark Christensen, Deborah Snyder, and Andrea Tabor

Members Absent: Brian Corwin and Amy Magirl

Administrators: Katie Flynn, Tricia Root, Adel DiOrio, Kim Iverson, Cari O'Connor, Shannon Tripp, Zach Most, Brandon Richmond, and Penny Dora

III. Recognition of Guests - Greg Syrjala, MAISD Attendance Officer

IV. Public Participation - None

V. Correspondence and Recognition

- Congratulations to Jessica Aldridge, from our business office, for receiving her MSBO Chief Financial Officer Certification 5 year renewal.

VI. Approval of the Agenda

Motion

Moved by Andrea Tabor, seconded by Deborah Snyder, to approve the agenda as presented.

Action

Agenda approved as presented.

Regular Vote Ayes: 3 Nays: 0

Motion passed 3-0

VII. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion

Moved by Deborah Snyder, seconded by Andea Tabor, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented below.

Action

Approved Consent Agenda as presented below.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Christensen, Snyder, and Tabor

Nays: None

Motion passed 3-0

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for the Organizational Meeting — Monday, July 20, 2026

2. Approval of personnel changes as presented in the agenda.

3. Approval of Conference Travel — Out of State

- SuperCourageous Leaders — Deloitte University - West Lake, Texas — September 18 - 20, 2026
Katie Flynn, Adel DiOrio, Kim Iverson, and Cari O'Connor

Continued

VIII. Approval of Invoices for Payment

Tricia Root pointed out the annual renewal of organizational memberships have been paid during the month of July so there are a number of accounting activities for those line items.

Motion

Moved by Andrea Tabor, seconded by Deborah Snyder, to approve Invoices for Payment as presented.

Action

Approved invoices for payment.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Christensen, Snyder, and Tabor

Nays: None

Motion passed 3-0

IX. Approval of Contract with Franciscan Life for Music Therapy Services for 2026-2027 School Year (renewal of current contract)

Motion

Moved by Deborah Snyder, seconded by Andrea Tabor, to approve the renewal of the music therapy contract as presented for the 2026-2027 school year.

Action

Approved contract with Franciscan Life for Music Therapy Services for the 2026-2027 school year.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Christensen, Snyder, and Tabor

Nays: None

Motion passed 3-0

X. Approval of Contract with Presence Learning for Virtual School Psychology Services in the 2026-2027 School Year (renewal of current contract)

There is a reduction in the need to use these services as MAISD is seeing success in the hiring of school psychologists. If this trend continues, we may be able to discontinue this contract.

Motion

Moved by Andrea Tabor, seconded by Deborah Snyder, to approve the renewal of the virtual school psychologist contracts as presented for the 2026-2027 school year.

Action

Approved contract with Presence Learning for Virtual School Psychologist Services for the 2026-2027 school year.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Christensen, Snyder, and Tabor

Nays: None

Motion passed 3-0

XI. Approval of Contract with Amergis Educational Staffing Services in the 2026-2027 School Year (renewal of current contract)

Motion

Moved by Andrea Tabor, seconded by Deborah Snyder, to approve the Amergis Educational Staffing contract as presented for the 2026-2027 school year.

Action

Approved contract with Amergis Educational Staffing Services for the 2026-2027 school year.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Christensen, Snyder, and Tabor

Nays: None

Motion passed 3-0

Continued

XII. Approval of New Position for Assistant Pupil Accounting Auditor

This position will report to the Associate Superintendent of Instruction and Technology. In a plan for succession, this position will be trained by the current pupil accounting auditor who is under contracted services set to expire in two years.

Motion

Moved by Deborah Snyder, seconded by Andrea Tabor, to approve the new position of Assistant Pupil Accounting Auditor with the succession plan for transition once the current contracted service expires.

Action

Approved new position for the Assistant Pupil Accounting Auditor.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Christensen, Snyder, and Tabor

Nays: None

Motion passed 3-0

XIII. Approval of Contract with Hulings & Associates for Leadership Coaching

MAISD Administrative Team will be participating in leadership coaching and mentoring. Legislation requires mentors for new administrators as well. Under this contract, Ben Lewakowski will be the coaching mentor.

MAISD Board of Education requested a report in the spring regarding the progress and benefits seen from this leadership coaching. MAISD Superintendent Katie Flynn will prepare a review for our board as requested.

Motion

Moved by Andrea Tabor, seconded by Deborah Snyder, to approve this contract for leadership coaching with Huling & Associates as presented for the administrative team during the 2026-2027 school year.

Action

Approved contract with Hulings & Associates for leadership coaching throughout the 2026-2027 school year.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Christensen, Snyder, and Tabor

Nays: None

Motion passed 3-0

XIV. Acknowledge Oath and Acceptance of Office by Greg Syrjala as the MAISD Attendance Officer and Filing of Surety Bond in the amount of \$1,000.00

- Greg Syrjala is working under an independent contract.
- Will report to the Associate Superintendent of Instruction and Technology

Motion

Moved by Deborah Snyder, seconded by Andrea Tabor, to acknowledge and accept the Oath of Office and filing of Surety Bond by Greg Syrjala, contracted to fulfill the duties of the MAISD Attendance Officer.

Action

Oath of Office and Filing of Surety Bond has been acknowledged and accepted.

Regular Vote

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

Motion passed 3-0

XV. Report from MAISD Superintendent Katie Flynn

Superintendent Katie Flynn highlighted this year's theme around The Little Red Wagon concept of uplifting and celebrating our employees for their dedication to our organization, our team, our school partnerships, and the students and families we serve.

XVI. Reports from MAISD Associate Superintendents and Leadership Team

- Kim Iverson, Associate Superintendent of Special Education
 - ISD programs supporting EI students have been relocated to Central Montcalm with Chad Jackson as the supervisor. Many of the personnel transfers have been for this reason.
- Tricia Root, Associate Superintendent of Finance and Human Resources
 - Budget and audit processes have been completed for all districts served by MAISD.
 - Work is being done on the transfer of the employee evaluation platforms.
- Shannon Tripp, Associate Superintendent of CTE and Early College
 - Claire Adkinson has been hired as the Digital Arts teacher, replacing Duane Weed who retired.
 - On August 19, CTE staff from a four county region will gather for professional learning in the delivery of math instruction in CTE programs.
- Cari O'Connor, Associate Superintendent of Early Childhood Services
 - The month of July saw 39 Early On referrals. This is an increase from the other months.
 - Help Me Grow is a new initiative coming out of legislation for the reinvention of the 32p funding that was previously cut from the state budget. It is being rolled out currently with grant parameters and requirements. More details will be shared as they are acquired.
- Adel DiOrio, Associate Superintendent of Instruction and Technology
 - Principals networks have been redesigned with a new model this year for communities of practice. They will be meeting at local districts around the county and reviewing instructional models along with their other agenda considerations each month.
 - Partnership with other ISDs to introduce an attendance improvement initiative called Operation Graduation: Be Present. Be Powerful.
- Brandon Richmond, Director of Technology
 - Technology staff are working to assure device and classroom technology is ready for the school year.
 - The phone system will be transferred to the new platform in the coming weeks.
 - Brandon has been appointed by MAEDS to serve as the representative and liaison to the MSBO technology committee.
- Zach Most, Director of Facilities
 - Conducted safety training for the Seiter Center staff. Will train The MACC at their next staff meeting.
 - Served as the co-facilitator with Katie Flynn for the county wide reunification training.
 - Conducted forklift training for maintenance, custodial, and MACC teams.
- Penny Dora, Director of Communications

XVII. Information and Discussion Items for Future Meetings

- MAISD Board of Education Meeting — September 17, 2026
- MCSBA General Membership Meeting — September 28, 2026

XVIII. Adjournment

Motion

Moved by Andrea Tabor, seconded by Deborah Snyder,
to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 AM.

Action

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 AM.

Regular Vote Ayes: 3 Nays: 0

Motion passed 3-0



Minutes recorded by
Penny Dora, Board Recording Secretary
MAISD Director of Communications

Minutes approved by board action on 9/17/2026
Andrea Tabor, Board Secretary
MAISD Board of Education