



*Special  
Board Meeting*

*Board Room*

*November 20, 2023*



Fruitport Community Schools  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**  
Monday, November 20, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.

**Location:**

Fruitport Community Schools Central Office  
Board of Education Meeting Room  
3255 E. Pontaluna Rd.  
Fruitport, MI 49415

**AGENDA**

- I. CALL to ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- IV. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC\***
- V. GENERAL BOARD BUSINESS**
  - A. Regular Board Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2023
  - B. Student Disciplinary Hearing
  - C. Other
- VI. ADJOURNMENT**

\*Time is provided for members of the audience to address the Board of Education regarding any topic including items on the agenda. The board is providing one opportunity for the public to comment during the meeting. Members of the audience may wish to bring issues to the Board of Education for board consideration. Time limits may be placed if a large number of individuals would like to address the board.

**BOARD ACTION REQUEST FORM**

**Meeting Date:** November 20, 2023

To: Board of Education

Attachments #1

From: Jason Kennedy

**Subject to be Discussed and Policy Reference:**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – October 16, 2023

**Background Information:**

See attached meeting minutes.

**Financial Impact:**

**Recommended Action:**

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2023, as presented.

**Action Taken:**

**Vote:** \_\_\_ Buckner      \_\_\_ Burgess      \_\_\_ Cole      \_\_\_ Franklin      \_\_\_ Hazekamp  
         \_\_\_ Kelly      \_\_\_ Meeuwenberg



Fruitport Community Schools  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
Monday, October 16, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

**Meeting Location:**

Fruitport Community Schools Central Office  
Board of Education Meeting Room  
3255 E. Pontaluna Rd.  
Fruitport, MI 49415

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board Vice President, Kris Cole. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited to open the meeting.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Present – Elroy Buckner, Tim Burgess, Kris Cole, Susan Franklin, Steve Kelly, and JB Meeuwenberg. Absent - Dave Hazekamp.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
  
Item 23-151. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Franklin to approve the agenda, as amended. The order in which the presentations are ordered on the agenda will be reversed. The student presentation will be made before the annual financial audit presentation.  
  
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.
- IV. **PRESENTATIONS:**

- **Be Nice. Presentation - Tracy Taylor, Jackie Mavrakis, and Students**

High school students (Jorja Blackmer, Caden Carrillo, Cole DeRuiter, Sadie Haase, and Brooklyn Russell), high school teacher Tracy Taylor, and high school social worker Jackie Mavrakis, presented on the Be Nice program to the Board of Education. They shared the rationale and process for forming the team, they shared activities that they are engaging in to improve the culture and reduce stigma surrounding mental health issues in the high school and throughout our community, and they shared the continual growth of the program to include now more than 30 students and growing. This suicide prevention program and action

plan is a strategy used by the District in its continuum of prevention, intervention, and postvention strategies.

○ **Annual Audit Presentation - Paul Matz (Rehmann Robson, LLC.)**

Paul Matz, CPA, CGFM (Principal and Director) with Rehmann Robson, LLC presented the annual audit report to the District. Rehmann Robson, LLC presented the independent auditor's communication and report, the financial statements and supplementary information, the single audit act compliance report, the audit reports on the 2017 building and site bonds, and the 2018 building and site bonds, series II. Once again, the District received the highest audit opinion, a clean, unmodified opinion with zero findings. The District continues to qualify as a low risk auditee.

**V. COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**VI. SUPERINTENDENT/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

● **Update on Athletic Conference Discussion**

The Board discussed a request for seven (7) schools to withdraw from the OK Conference, and discussed an update pertaining to next steps with the Board.

● **Update on Grade 3-8 M-STEP Data Comparison**

The Board discussed an updated grade 3-8 M-STEP data portrait and comparison from the spring 2023 M-STEP assessment.

**VII. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Susan Halter thanked the Board of Education for allowing the Dancing into Sunset group to use the high school cafeteria on Thursday evenings during the summer months in the event of inclement weather. Susan shared a number of written thank you notes and messages with the Board of Education, and was appreciative of the support for this community program.

**VIII. CONSENT AGENDA**

Item 23-152. MOTION by Franklin, SECOND by Burgess to approve the Consent Agenda as listed below:

1. Approval of Bill Listing in the amount of \$297,583.42
2. Acceptance of Monthly Financial, Bond, and Capital Projects Report
3. Acceptance of Student Activity Summary Report
4. Acceptance of Credit Card and Utilities Report
5. Approval of Transfers and ACH Transactions Report

6. Approval of Personnel Report (includes confirmation of new hires, resignations, retirees, and transfers)
7. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes: September 18, 2023

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

## **IX. GENERAL BOARD BUSINESS:**

### **1. Fall 2023 Pupil Membership Count Update**

The Board was provided with an update pertaining to the District's fall 2023 pupil membership count. The District is projecting a slight decrease in pupil membership from the fall of 2022 to the fall of 2023. The District must complete the verification and auditing process, and certify the pupil membership count in November.

### **2. Muskegon County School Board Alliance Fall Dinner Reminder**

The Board was reminded of the Muskegon County School Board Alliance's fall dinner that will be held on November 29, 2023 at the Lake Bluff Grill from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. If a board member is attending, they will need to provide their RSVP to Danielle VanderMeulen by no later than Monday, November 20, 2023.

## **X. BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. Report of committee meeting held on October 9, 2023**

Elroy Buckner reported on a Business and Finance Committee meeting held on October 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Elroy Buckner, Kris Cole, Dave Hazekamp, Mark Mesbergen, Jessica Wiseman, Paul Matz, and Jason Kennedy were present. Paul Matz presented the annual audit for the 2022-2023 fiscal year to the Committee. The Committee also discussed a recommendation to purchase one or two new regular education buses through the MSBO bid consortium, and the preliminary fall 2023 pupil membership count. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

### **2. Annual Financial Audit Report for 2022-2023**

Item 23-153. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Franklin to accept the 2022-2023 annual audit and financial report, as presented by Paul Matz from Rehmann Robson, LLC.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

### **3. School Bus Purchase Recommendation**

Item 23-154. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Franklin to approve the purchase of up to two (2) International school busses at a cost not to exceed \$152,000 per bus, with funds coming out of the 2021 Capital Projects Fund, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

## **XI. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### **1. Report of committee meeting held on October 9, 2023**

Steve Kelly reported on a Personnel Committee meeting held on October 9, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Dave Hazekamp, Steve Kelly, JB Meeuwneberg, and Jason Kennedy were present. The Committee discussed the Personnel Report for October 2023. The Committee also reviewed disciplinary action that was taken against a staff member, and the process that was followed to provide due process to the staff member prior to implementation of the disciplinary action. The Committee also discussed implementation of a stepped wage scale for Early Childhood Center staff as a way to retain current staff, while assisting in the recruitment of future staff to the program. The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

### **2. Early Childhood Center Staff Wage Recommendation**

Item 23-155. MOTION by Kelly, SECOND by Meeuwenberg to approve the recommendation to implement the provided stepped wage schedule for Early Childhood Center staff, as discussed. Implementation of a stepped wage schedule for employees will cost approximately \$81,952, with funds coming from the Early Childhood Center budget, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

## **XII. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. Report of committee meeting held on October 9, 2023**

There was no report from the Committee, nor business to report on, as the October 2023 meeting of the Student Affairs Committee was canceled due to a lack of agenda items.

## **XIII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:**

Kris Cole shared that the middle school robotics team will have their first competition of the season on November 18, 2023. The competition will be held at Fruitport High School. Kris also shared that the marching band would be competing at Jenison High School with the hopes of qualifying for the state championship at Ford Field in Detroit on November 4, 2023.

JB Meeuwenberg and Susan Franklin discussed the announcement of the next musical as Mama Mia! Students and staff are excited for this year's performance.

Tim Burgess shared that he would not be in attendance at the November Student Affairs Committee meeting.

**XIV. AGENDA ITEMS for FUTURE MEETINGS & SCHEDULING OF ANY SPECIAL MEETINGS**

1. The Business and Finance Committee will meet on November 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
2. The Personnel Committee will meet on November 13, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
3. The Student Affairs Committee will meet on November 13, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
4. The Board of Education will meet on November 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

**XV. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC: None**

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

Item 23-156. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Franklin to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Franklin, Board Secretary

Danielle VanderMeulen, Recording Secretary



**BOARD ACTION REQUEST FORM**

**Meeting Date:** November 20, 2023

To: Board of Education

Attachments #2

From: Jason Kennedy

**Subject to be Discussed and Policy Reference:** Student Disciplinary Hearing – Student: 9988533753

**Background Information:** See attached information

**Financial Impact:**

**Recommended Action:**

Approval of the recommendation to permanently expel student 9988533753 from Fruitport Community Schools. The student shall be expelled for a minimum of 180 school days, but may apply for reinstatement to the Board of Education after 150 school days. The student shall provide evidence of regular attendance in anger management counseling during the period of expulsion, and meet all other conditions of reinstatement at the time of application for reinstatement. The student will remain permanently expelled from Fruitport Community Schools until such time as the Board of Education reinstates the student.

**Action Taken:**

**Vote:** \_\_\_ Buckner      \_\_\_ Burgess      \_\_\_ Cole      \_\_\_ Franklin      \_\_\_ Hazekamp  
     \_\_\_ Kelly      \_\_\_ Meeuwenberg



**Fruitport Community Schools**  
**Superintendent's Office**  
3255 E. Pontaluna Road  
Fruitport, MI 49415  
Phone: (231) 865-4100  
[www.fruitportschools.net](http://www.fruitportschools.net)

November 14, 2023

Kelly Bellville-Cormier  
3271 Birchwood  
Muskegon, MI 49444

Re: Board of Education Student Disciplinary Hearing Referral

Dear Ms. Bellville-Cormier:

Based on a thorough investigation, the District's administration has concluded that Angel Bellville engaged in conduct that is in violation of Board of Education policy 5206(H)(4)(b), which states: "If a student in grade 6 or above commits a physical assault at school against another student, and the physical assault is reported to the Board or to an administrator, the District will consider whether to suspend or expel the student or to impose a less severe penalty after first considering the Mandatory 7 Factors." As a result, administration has referred this matter to the District's Board and has recommended that Angel Bellville be expelled from school for 180 school days/permanently.

Following a hearing, which will be held on November 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Meeting Room at 3255 E. Pontaluna Rd. Fruitport, MI 49415, the Board will make the final decision whether to expel Angel. At the hearing, you and/or Angel, may submit evidence and present testimony to challenge the administration's findings or disciplinary recommendation.

You have the right pursuant to both Policy 2501 and Open Meetings Act Section 8(1)(b) to have the Board hold the hearing in private (i.e., in a closed session of the Board), but as also required by law and Policy, the Board must act on the matter publicly (i.e., in open session). If you want the Board to hold the hearing in private, the District will not disclose any personally identifiable information in open session when it acts. Please notify me as soon as possible whether you would like the Board to proceed in open or closed session. A copy of the hearing procedures and a letter to request a closed session are attached.

Until the Board issues its final decision, Angel Bellville will be suspended from school, may not attend classes or other school functions, may not be present on school property, and may not participate in extracurricular activities. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Jason J. Kennedy  
Superintendent

November 20, 2023

Re: Request for Closed Session Student Discipline Hearing

Dear Fruitport Board of Education:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby request that the student discipline hearing that has been scheduled for my child on November 20, 2023 before the Board of Education be held as a closed session student discipline hearing pursuant to Michigan Open Meetings Act Section 8(b).

Sincerely,

---



# Fruitport High School

## Memo

To: Jason Kennedy  
Date: 11/10/2023  
Subject: Angel Bellville

From: Rob Rogers   
CC: Danielle VanderMeulen

---

I am recommending Angel Bellville (10th grade) for an expulsion hearing. Angel assaulted another student during lunch on Tuesday November 7, 2023. The incident involving Angel Bellville was a serious matter, resulting in physical harm and the need for emergency medical treatment for the victim.

Without provocation, Angel punched another student a minimum of three times directly in his face during lunch in the lunchroom. The resulting force caused two of the students' teeth to fall out and the student had to undergo emergency treatment in hopes to restore his teeth. This was also quite traumatic to the students around this area where this happened as there was a great deal of blood.

The victim did not strike back but did put up his hands in a way to defend/deflect Angel from punches as he tried to back away from Angel. This incident was recorded on the security cameras and preserved by Mr. Rogers.

Angel was suspended for 10 days for a "physical assault against another student". I have reviewed the seven factors we must consider before expelling a student and thus recommending him to the board for expulsion based on the seriousness of the offense, the impact on the victim, and the need for a response that ensures the safety and well-being of all students.

  
Rob Rogers


**Student Dashboard**  
**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**Angel Bellville**

Student Referrals								
Date / Time	Referral Type	Staff	Location	Behavior	Motivation	Others Involved	Action Taken	Seclusion / Restraint
11/7/23, 3:00 PM	Administrator-managed (Major)	Lauren Chesney	Café	Fight	Ob p attn	Peers	Out-sch susp	No
<b>Notes:</b> Angel approached Skylar Ketchum during lunch regarding a supposed theft at a park over the weekend. When Skylar said he didn't have it, Angel punched Skylar three times, knocking out two teeth, and then shoved him onto a table.								
10/25/23, 12:15 PM	Administrator-managed (Major)	Brad Busscher	Class	Tech	Escape task	Teacher	Conf	No
<b>Notes:</b> Angel was using his phone in class. He was asked to take it to the office and refused giving an excuse for the use of the phone. I explained the easy action was to take it to the office but he gave excuses and complained about the cell phone policy. He was sent to the office as he refused my request to turn it in. As he left the room he shouted something indistinguishable.								
10/12/23, 2:30 PM	Administrator-managed (Major)	Benjamin Kraker	Class	Tech	Ob item	None	Loss priv	No
<b>Notes:</b> Angel was on his phone during 6th Hour. I didn't have him take it down-it would be good for it to be collected tomorrow.								



## Quick Lookup

Bellville, Angel Dreamer Bellville, Angel Dreamer FHS 10 Bowen Bill 06/02/2008 15 years 5 months Student Number: 61808010 UIC#: 9988533753 ID: 16252 Locker Number: 210

### Attendance By Class

Exp	Last Week					This Week					Course	M1	E1	S1	M2	E2	S2	Y1	Absences		Tardies	
	M	T	W	H	F	M	T	W	H	F									S1	23-24	S1	23-24
	1(A)	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	PR	OS	OS									OS	Biology A Bowen, Bill - Rm: 103	F 36	{i}
2(A)	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	PR	OS	OS	OS	General Physical Education Smith, Kimberley - Rm: GYM	A 96	{i}	A 96					10	10	2	2
3(A)	PR	PR		T	T	UA	PR	OS	OS	OS	2 D Art Jacobson, Dawn - Rm: 130	F 0	{i}	F 0					16	16	9	9
4(A)	EA	T		T	UA	T	UA	OS	OS	OS	U.S. History A Busscher, Brad - Rm: 205	F 54	{i}	F 54					18	18	16	16
5(A)	EA	PR		PR	PR	T	OS	OS	OS	OS	Algebra 1A Nichols, Chandler - Rm: 117	F 42	{i}	F 42					12	12	3	3
6(A)	EA	T		T	EA	T	OS	OS	OS	OS	English 9 A Kraker, Benjamin - Rm: 216	F 38	{i}	F 38					14	14	24	24
<b>Attendance Totals</b>																		<b>82</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>54</b>	

Show dropped classes also



# General Demographics

Bellville, Angel Dreamer Bellville, Angel Dreamer FHS 10 Bowen Bill 06/02/2008 15 years 5 months Student Number: 61808010 UIC#: 9988533753 ID: 16252 Locker Number: 210

### Student Name

Last, First, Middle Bellville, \* Angel, Dreamer  
Suffix

### Home Address

Street, Apt/Suite 3271 Birchwood  
City, State, Zip Muskegon MI 49444  
Geocode  
Home phone 337-275-1436  
Student Cell Phone

### Mailing Address

#### Copy From Home Address

Street, Apt/Suite 3271 Birchwood  
City, State, Zip Muskegon MI 49444  
Geocode

### Parent/Guardian 1

Call Sequence  This contact will receive mailings and will have access to records

Last Name, First Name

Relationship

Street

City, State ZIP

Home Phone  Cell Phone  Work Phone  Work Extension

Employer

E-Mail Address

### Student Record Information

District Entry Date 09/11/2023  
Age 15 years 5 months  
Aggregate days of membership (YTD) 46  
DOB 06/02/2008 \*  
Gender Male (M) \*  
Grade Level 10  
Graduation Year 2026

## Series 5000: Students, Curriculum, and Academic Matters

### 5200 Student Conduct and Discipline

#### *5206-F-19 Due Process - Hearing Rights and Procedures*

##### **Right to a Hearing**

Before a student is suspended from school for more than 10 school days or is expelled from school, the student has a right to a hearing. The Superintendent conducts hearings for students who have committed an offense that may result in suspension of less than 60 school days. A removal from school for 60 or more school days is an expulsion. The Board conducts hearings for students who have committed an offense that may result in expulsion.

##### **What is a Hearing?**

If, after investigating student misconduct, a school administrator determines that a student engaged in misconduct that should result in either a suspension of more than 10 school days or an expulsion, the administrator will refer the matter to either the Superintendent or the Board. Either the Superintendent or the Board will conduct a due process hearing to determine: (1) whether the alleged misconduct occurred, and (2) if so, the appropriate consequence.

The student and his or her parent/guardian will be notified in writing at least 3 calendar days before the hearing. The notice will include: (1) a description of the alleged misconduct; (2) the potential disciplinary consequences that may be imposed; (3) the date, time, and location of the hearing; and (4) an invitation to the student and his or her parent/guardian to attend and participate in the hearing.

During the hearing, school administrators will describe the alleged misconduct and explain the facts related to the misconduct. The student and his or her parent/guardian may present evidence and witnesses to demonstrate that the student did not engage in the alleged misconduct or that suspension or expulsion is not the appropriate consequence. The student and his or her parent/guardian may also present evidence of any mitigating factors that the Superintendent or the Board should consider. The student and his or her parent/guardian may be represented by an attorney or another adult advocate at their cost.

Although the student and his or her parents/guardians are entitled to due process, a student discipline hearing is not a “trial.” The student and his or her parent/guardian do not have the right to compel attendance of witnesses or to “cross examine” witnesses. Typical rules of evidence are not followed. A student’s refusal to answer a question or failure to attend a hearing may be considered by the Superintendent or the Board.

##### *Superintendent Hearing*

If, following an investigation, a student is recommended for suspension for more than 10 school days but fewer than 60 school days, the Superintendent will conduct the



## **5206-F-19 Due Process - Hearing Rights and Procedures**

hearing. At least 3 calendar days before the hearing, the Superintendent will provide the student and his or her parent/guardian the written notice described above.

The Superintendent will not suspend the student unless, after the completion of the hearing, the Superintendent is convinced, based on a preponderance of the evidence, that the student committed a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and that, after considering all legally required factors, suspension is the appropriate consequence. The Superintendent will provide written notice of the decision to the student and parent/guardian.

### *Board Hearing*

If, following an investigation, a student is recommended for expulsion, the Board will conduct the hearing. Only the Board may expel a student.

At least 3 calendar days before the Board hearing, the Superintendent or designee will provide the student and his or her parent/guardian the written notice described above.

The hearing will take place at a regular or special Board meeting. The student and his or her parent/guardian may request that deliberations be held in closed session pursuant to Michigan Open Meetings Act section 8(b). The student and his or her parent/guardian must notify the Superintendent before the hearing to request that the deliberations occur in closed session.

The Board will not expel the student unless, after the completion of the hearing, a majority of the Board members are convinced, based on a preponderance of the evidence, that the student committed a violation of the Student Code of Conduct or an offense requiring suspension or expulsion under the Revised School Code and that, after considering all legally required factors, suspension or expulsion is the appropriate consequence. The Superintendent or designee will provide written notification of the Board's decision to the student and his or her parent/guardian. The Board's decision is final.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Suspension or expulsion of a student with a disability is subject to the rights and procedures guaranteed by state and federal law. Except as otherwise authorized by law, a student with a disability may not be suspended for more than 10 consecutive school days or expelled for conduct that is a manifestation of the student's disability.