BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
Bridgman, Michigan
Minutes of Regular Meeting
October 26, 2026

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of the Bridgman Public School District Board of Education was held on Monday, October 26, 2026, in the Media Center at Bridgman High School, 9964 Gast Road, Bridgman, MI 49106. The meeting was called to order by President Ramso at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Eric Ramso, Wayne Hall, Brad Owen, JoAnn DeMeulenaere, Nancy Hawley and Maricar Shonk

Members Absent: Tishia Roberts

Additions/Changes to Agenda: None

Superintendent Comments & Presentations: Superintendent Reed recognized National Principal Month and presented Principals, Gerald, John, and Lori with a gift. Many Board members shared their appreciation for their hard work and achievements.

Gerald Heath, BHS Principal – see attached report in Agenda
John Truesdell, RMS Principal – see attached report in Agenda
Lori Graves, BES Principal – see attached report in Agenda

Superintendent Reed announced fall athletics are still in full swing. Cross Country has Regionals this Saturday and State the following weekend. Football is competing at the regional level since 2016 this Friday in Colon. We are hosting Volleyball Districts next week and Girls Swimming will be competing at the Conference level and beyond in the coming weeks.

Superintendent Reed reminded the Board that Google two factor verification must be complete by October 30.

Superintendent Reed informed the Board that he just met with our Neola rep recently and we will be sending out the policies going on the board agenda a week early to give all ample time to look them over and prepare for discussion on the first reading. They will be sent out November 13.

Superintendent Reed announced his 1:1 meeting with district personnel has just crossed 80% complete. He will take what he has learned into the Strategic Planning process along with meeting with student focus groups and surveys sent to families.

Next month, Chris Rice, will present on how to form our Strategic Plan for our district.

Allison Allman of Kruggel & Lawton presented the 2025-2026 Audit Report. She gave accolades to Business Manager McIntyre on all her hard work and attention to detail. Only a 1.5 % variance was reported, which is excellent! We also passed the Bond and Sinking Fund Audit. President Ramso and other board members shared their appreciation to Hether's hard work.

The Bridgman Education Foundation's President, George Lepeniotis, updated the board on the past year's activities. He said they have new members including an executive from AEP. Their annual golf outing was one of their best yet with a lot of community engagement. They supported the Robotics team competing at nationals last school year and continue to be available to supplement the cost of our BES school counselor. They want to continue to support the school's vision and are honored to be a part of the Strategic Planning.

Discussion Items:

President Ramso presented the request for Michelle Foxworthy to attend the National Council for Social Studies trip to Chicago on Dec. 4-6, 2026

Business Manager McIntyre presented the Summer 2027 Tax Resolution.

Superintendent Reed explained the State School Aid Act Section 31aa Funding. They have broken it up into two parts this year, one for school safety funding with risks and also mental health money. Schools are allowed to accept one, all, or none of the aspects of it.

Principal Truesdell announced RMS received a Kimmel Grant of $10,250. This will fund two field trips, one to Meijer Gardens and the other Glassworks in Benton Harbor. It will also fund classroom materials for a glassmaking and jewelry making unit.

Member Owen reviewed the September bills for payment.

September 28, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes were reviewed with no corrections or changes.

Consent Agenda:

Motion was made by Member Hawley, supported by Member Owen, to approve the following consent agenda: Motion carried 6-0.

1. Approve 2026-2027 Winter Coaching Recommendations:
   - Justin Hahaj for Junior Varsity Boys Basketball Coach (Level 12) $7,577
   - Michelle Foxworthy for Varsity Girls Basketball Coach (Level 7) $10,499
   - Spencer Carr for 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach (Level 7) $3,600
   - Steve Veldman for 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach (Level 1) $2,995
2. Approve the Retirement of Peggy Ferguson, Food Service Director, effective December 31, 2026.

3. Approve the hiring of Julia Abbatoy for the position of Food Service Director, effective January 1, 2027
4. Approve the Maternity leave for Jillian Klunder – Starting January 4, 2027, for 40 days, depending on the arrival of the baby
5. Approve the Kimmel Grant to RMS in the amount of $10,250
6. Approve September Bills for Payment
7. Approve September 28, 2026, Regular Board Meeting minutes

Business Manager McIntyre introduced Julia Abbatoy to the Board.

Action Items: Motion was made by Member DeMeulenaere, supported by Member Hawley, to approve the 2025-2026 Audit Report. Motion carried 6-0

Motion was made by Member Hall, supported by Member DeMeulenaere, to approve the request for Michelle Foxworthy to attend the National Council for Social Studies trip to Chicago on Dec. 4-6, 2026. Motion carried 6-0

Motion was made by Member Hall, supported by Member Owen, to approve the Annual Summer Tax Resolution. Motion carried 6-0

Motion was made by Member Hall, supported by Member Hawley, to decline Section 31aa student safety funding allocated to Bridgman Public Schools under the State of Michigan's 2026-2027 School Aid Budget.
Motion carried 6-0

Public Comments: None

Other Business: President Ramso read thank you cards from each school for the coffee that was given to them in recognition of high student achievement. Members Owen, DeMeulenaere, and Shonk all stated how fun the cider and donut event for homecoming is and the kids are always so polite and appreciative.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Member Owen, supported by Member DeMeulenaere, to adjourn. Motion carried 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Minutes were taken by Molly Owen, Superintendent Secretary

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Tishia Roberts, Secretary
Board of Education