

DRAFT Minutes of the Board Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting**September 15, 2025 – 12:00 PM****I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Stack at 12:01 p.m.

Members Present: Casemier, Stack, Treutler

Members Absent:

Also Present: Mary Jane Evink, Kristin Perkowski, Sara VanderZee, Cassady Krumm, Erica Kelly

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Instructional Services**A. Early Childhood Education Update**

Erica Kelly, Director of Early Learning, provided the committee with an update on Duneside Discovery Center. Changing to a staggered drop-off and implementing a "hug zone" with parents has helped the process to run more smoothly. Parents are honoring and respecting the adjustments. Sherry Stone with the transportation department has been a tremendous help to a few families, navigating some unique situations. PDP and GSRP classes are all full. Young 5 classes have 20 students each. Enrollment doubled right before school started despite not, yet, having the new playscape. Students will be making drawings of what they would like their playscape to look like and those ideas will be shared with the ODC.

B. Special Education Update

Cassady Krumm, Executive Director of Special Education, provided the committee with an update on special education. Our SXI (Severe Multiple Impairment) program is for students who qualify with more than one severe disability, impacting how they learn, move, and communicate. Our programs are housed at White Pines serving grades 5-8, and at GHHS serving grades 9-12. We are the only district in the county offering a high school SXI program.

SXI students have access to a modified academic curriculum, but the primary focus is gaining skills they need to thrive in the world. Students benefit from a therapy-rich environment, including weekly sessions with physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech & language pathology. Depending on student needs, we also collaborate with orientation & mobility specialists, visual impairment, and deaf/hard of hearing specialists. SXI is fully funded through the ISD Special Education millage.

C. Constitution Day

This Wednesday is Constitution Day which is embedded into our curriculum from kindergarten through 11th grade. On this day, all teachers in our district will do some kind of activity, lesson or read-aloud. Teachers are asked that activities have a literacy component or invite thinking.

D. State Assessment Scores 2025

Mary Jane Evink reviewed 2025 state assessment scores. The WIDA test, measuring a student's academic English proficiency, showed significant growth with our EL students, likely due to hiring more EL staff. Grades 3-7 students take M-STEP, grades 8-10 take PSAT, and grades 11 are tested with the SAT.

In math, sixth grade teachers have consistently done well. While there was a 5% drop, that grade tends to rebound and only about 20% are less than proficient. There was overall notable growth in elementary math despite a new curriculum and student engagement is high.

ELA scores tend to be higher than math, but have been steady. Instructional Services is looking at our ELA curriculum to see what else we could be using. About 15% or less at every grade level are not proficient. Eighth grade ELA teachers have consistently done well.

In summary, math scores are starting to rival our ELA scores, although numbers across the country in math have been low. Science scores are steady and social studies improved noticeably, likely due to that test now aligning with our curriculum. The focus is always on improving instruction and learning, not teaching to the test. Ferry Elementary showed significant growth in three of the four tests, likely related to intentional efforts by the principal and the staff.

It was requested to include iReady assessment scores compared to last year with the next assessment score update.

IV. **Board President's Update**

We will be voting on the Board's MASB delegates at the next full Board meeting. Listening Sessions are going well and thank you notes have been sent to our hosts. Student Voice is on track. The student representatives to the Board will be invited to attend the October retreat, but will not be expected to stay due to school.

V. **Superintendent's Update**

The superintendent reported that she met with Representative Hillary Scholten this morning, along with other area superintendents, to discuss some of schools' challenges related to funding. Some of the districts were applauded for their work implementing policies around less cell phone use.

State of the District presentations are happening. Changing the survey has provided the community with a better understanding and increased the number of responses. We have received nearly 1,000 responses so far. The superintendent's presentation at Rotary will be recorded so that it can be sent to people not able to attend another listening opportunity.

VI. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.