

ATHENS AREA SCHOOLS
Board of Education
East Leroy, Michigan 49051
December 4, 2024

SPECIAL MEETING
Jr./Sr. High School Media Center
7:00 P.M.

Athens Jr./Sr. High School
300 E. Holcomb St., Athens, MI 49011
TELEPHONE: 729-5414

1. Call to order, _____ Knowles _____ presiding at _____ 7:00 p.m. _____.

A. Membership count to determine quorum presence:

Present: Penick: X Setlak: X Harvey: X Knowles: X
Loew: X McClure: X Stanton: X

A quorum X is, _____ is not, present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. Approval of Agenda.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Move that the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented.

Motion: _____ Harvey _____.
Second: _____ Setlak _____.
Ayes: 7 . Nays: 0 .
Passed: X . Defeated: _____.

3. Public Comments.

Myndeska Tomlin – 6th grade teacher at Athens Area Schools. Is asking whether she is a victim or a scapegoat in this whole incident? Feels that we need to do what's best for our students.

Patrick Klein (gave 3 minutes of time to ***Myndeska Tomlin***) – Feels that her privacy has been violated with how this entire process has been handled.

Nate Kiefer - Gave the Board of Education a copy of the Board's policy on anti-harassment.

Terry Kiefer (gave 3 minutes of time to ***Nate Kiefer***) – Addressed concerns with the process and compared this process to the one that is laid out in the Board's policy.

Terry Kiefer – Shared and compared a situation that her own student/son went through regarding a recent discipline issue.

Kacie Brunner – Addressed the Board’s decision that they have to make tonight. Shared about her experiences as a former Board member. Tonight’s decision will have a wide impact, beyond just this incident.

Cliff Denney – Feels that tonight is about righting a wrong decision and moving forward as a District.

Lori Doubleday – Read a letter that she had sent to the Board of Education, prior to tonight’s special meeting. Feels that tonight’s special meeting is unnecessary. Feels that the Board should support the administration’s decision.

Eric VerHey – Thanked the Board of Education for their consideration of this issue.

4. Closed Session.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Move that the Board of Education go into closed session, under Section 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act, so that the Board may discuss privileged, written attorney-client communications.

Motion: _____ McClure _____.

Second: _____ Penick _____.

Roll Call Vote: Penick: ___ Yes ___ Setlak: ___ Yes ___ Harvey: ___ Yes ___ Knowles: ___ Yes ___
Loew: ___ Yes ___ McClure: ___ Yes ___ Stanton: ___ Yes ___

Ayes: ___ 7 ___ . Nays: ___ 0 ___ .

Passed: ___ X ___ . Defeated: _____.

Board President John Knowles returned the meeting to open session at _____ 7:57 p.m. _____.

Board Trustee Teri Loew read the following statement from the Board of Education, following their closed session: *We, the Board of Education of Athens Area Schools, are unified in our decision of supporting the decision made by our administration regarding Mr. Eric VerHey’s dismissal.*

Board Comment

Eric McClure – Thanked the community for voicing their concerns during the last two meetings over this issue. Realizes that this issue has made the community tense over the last few weeks, but is hopeful that we can get back to respecting one another, and treating each other with kindness and understanding.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Move the meeting be adjourned.

Motion: _____ Stanton _____.

Second: _____ Harvey _____.

Ayes: 7. Nays: 0.

Passed: X. Defeated: _____.

Time of adjournment: _____ 8:02 p.m. _____.

Minutes signed by: Eric N. McClure, Acting Secretary/Secretary of the Board of Education

Minutes prepared by: _____ Eric McClure, Board of Education Secretary _____

Approved for publication by the Board of Education on: _____ December 16, 2024 _____ (date)

