INGHAM COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
MINUTES
June 11, 2018

The regular meeting of the Ingham County Election Commission was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Judge Garcia. The meeting was held in the Board of Commissioners Room at the Grady Porter Building in Lansing, MI.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barb Byrum, Ingham County Clerk
Richard Garcia, Chief Probate Judge
Eric Schertzing, Ingham County Treasurer

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Liz Noel, Election/Clerk Coordinator
Lindsey LaForte, Recording Secretary
Courtney Gabbara, Ingham County Attorney
Dave Stokcr, Ingham County Attorney
Sarah Belanger, Williamston School Board member
Greg Talberg, Williamston School Board member
Nancy Deal, Williamston School Board member
Lori Johncheck, Williamston community member
Chris Johncheck, Williamston community member

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Clerk Byrum, supported by Treasurer Schertzing, to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2018 Election Commission Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Remarks from Clerk Byrum

None.

Approval of Initial Proof Ballots for August 7, 2018 Primary Election

Clerk Byrum introduced the 142 ballots. She further stated that the ballots were still not approved by the State of Michigan at this time, and the proof ballots were out to the candidates.

Moved by Clerk Byrum, supported by Treasurer Schertzing, to approve the ballots with the stipulation that the Clerk’s Office make any changes based on feedback from the State of Michigan or candidates.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
Consideration of Recall Petition Language

- Nancy Deal – filed by Michael Moran on May 25, 2018

Nancy Deal stated that she was not at the meeting referred to in the petition language which was evidenced in the School Board minutes from October 16, 2017.

Ms. Deal submitted the October 16, 2017 Williamston Board of Education minutes, which are attached as Attachment A.

Moved by Clerk Byrum, supported by Treasurer Schertzing, to reject the petition because it was not factual or clear.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Nancy Deal – filed by Jessica Olsen on May 30, 2018

Clerk Byrum stated that there had been statements sent to the Election Commission via email by Jessica Olsen and Kelly Lowe, which are included in the minutes as Attachments B and C. She further stated that these statements were included in the Commissioner’s packets but had not been received prior to the packet being emailed to everyone.

Discussion.

Nancy Deal stated that this was the third version of this policy that has been included in petition language seen by the Election Commission. She further stated that last week at the Election Commission meeting someone said that the School Board members said Judge Conlin did not want the name or policy number on the petition.

Ms. Deal stated that this was not true. She further stated that the petition language as submitted assumed someone knew the name and number of the policy as well as the full policy. She further stated that Judge Conlin stated that the name and number could be on the petition but that additional information also needed to be included.

Moved by Judge Garcia, supported by Clerk Byrum, to reject the petition because it was not factual or clear.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Greg Talberg – filed by Jessica Olsen on May 30, 2018

Mr. Talberg stated that the overall petition language was confusing and unclear. He further stated that the petition did not include the policy name or language and it did not state who was quoted in the meeting minutes.

Moved by Treasurer Schertzing, supported by Clerk Byrum, to reject the petition because it was not factual or clear.
Sarah Belanger submitted a statement from Christopher Lewis, which is included in the minutes as Attachment D. She further stated that the petition was neither clear, nor factual, because it referenced two policies but it read as if they were only one.

Moved by Judge Garcia, supported by Treasurer Schertzing, to reject the petition because it was not factual or clear.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Greg Talberg – filed by Kelly Lowe on May 30, 2018

Judge Garcia read the petition.

Mr. Talberg stated that the petition was unclear because there was no upcoming vote on a Gender Identity Policy, nor was there a proposed policy. He further stated that it referenced an email he had not sent, and there were many emails he had not sent.

Mr. Talberg stated that there were a number of emails, including one from the Williamston Community Schools Superintendent, to the district-wide email list about the moving of the library, so there was no reason for him to send an email.

Moved by Clerk Byrum, supported by Treasurer Schertzing, to reject the petition because it was not factual or clear.

Judge Garcia stated that the sentence tense was confusing in the petition language and led the petition signer to think that there was an upcoming vote during concerning proposed Gender Identity policy rather than a vote that had already occurred. He further stated that someone may think that the vote had not yet happened.

Treasurer Schertzing stated that the petition language introduced that someone could be recalled for something they did not do.

Judge Garcia stated that someone could be recalled for something they should have done, but did not do. He further stated that this language was not clear or factual.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nancy Deal – filed by Kelly Lowe on May 30, 2018

Judge Garcia read the petition language.

Ms. Deal stated that similar petition language had been brought before the Election Commission in the past. She further stated that the complete policy had not been included in the petition and was unclear to potential signers of the petition.

Judge Garcia asked if Ms. Deal had made the vote stated in the petition language.
Ms. Deal stated that she had voted as it said based on the recommendation of the Policy Committee. She further stated that the petition was not filled out completely when filed.

Lori Johnecheck, Williamston community member, stated that Kelly Lowe’s statement, which was already presented to the Election Commission, made a good case for adopting this language. She further stated that Michigan law did not state that everyone must know the policy by heart before voting.

Ms. Johnecheck stated that voters had the ability to go online to read the policy if they would like to. She further stated that what mattered was that the petition language was clear and factual which was outlined well in Ms. Lowe’s statement.

Ms. Johnecheck submitted a copy of the Policy Subcommittee Meeting Agenda/Minutes from October 11, 2017, which is included in the minutes as Attachment E.

Clerk Byrum asked Ms. Deal if she had been asking about the township/city part not being filled on the petition header.

Ms. Deal stated that was what she had referred to as being incomplete.

Clerk Byrum stated that it was fine to submit the petition without the township/city part filled in, as there were many different municipalities within the Williamston Community Schools District and each would require its own petition form.

Ms. Deal stated that even though the statement was factual in the petition language, it remained unclear. She further stated that Judge Conlin had stated that the policy needed to be clearly stated in the petition.

Treasurer Schertzing asked what the petition language meant. He further stated that it did not seem clear to him.

Discussion.

Moved by Clerk Byrum, supported by Treasurer Schertzing, to reject the petition because it was not factual or clear.

Judge Garcia stated that when a body, such as the School Board, recorded their votes they must understand that everyone would know what they meant when they acted. He further stated that it was difficult for School Board members to vote on something before the School Board and then say, “But no one knows what I did.”

Judge Garcia stated that the minutes and agenda from the School Board showed that action was taken it and it was clear that the vote was made by the School Board members on certain policies. He further stated that the level of clarity found in the School Board minutes and agenda were sufficient and was the same as the level of clarity in the petition language.

Judge Garcia stated that he was not supportive of the motion.
THE MOTION CARRIED.  Yeas: Clerk Byrum and Treasurer Schertzing.
    Nay: Judge Garcia

Public Comment:

Ms. Johnecheck read a statement, which is included as Attachment F.

Mr. Talberg stated that he understood that there had been a lot of complaints that the petition language was being rejected by the Election Commission. He further stated that if the petition language being submitted was factual and clear, it would be allowed.

Mr. Talberg stated that many of the petitions filed against the School Board members had intentionally left out parts of the policy. He further stated that they have done so because they did not want the community to see that.

Mr. Talberg stated that the petitioners have claimed on billboards that the School Board had violated parental rights and attempted to misrepresent the purpose and intention of the policy. He further stated that this misrepresentation was why they had not been able to submit petition language that was factual and accurate.

Mr. Talberg further stated that he was sure that the Election Commission would approve recall petition language when it was presented with clarity and factualness.

Adjournment:

Judge Garcia stated the meeting was adjourned without objection.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:02 p.m.

[Signature]

BARB BYRUM, INGHAM COUNTY CLERK
CALL TO ORDER
The regular meeting of the Williamston Board of Education was called to order by President Greg Talberg on October 16, 2017, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Middle School Cafeteria/Commons at 3845 Vanneter Road, Williamston, MI 48895.

PRESENT: Greg Talberg, Jeff West, Joel Gerring, Sarah Belanger, Kathy Hayes, Chris Lewis, and administrators Adam Spina and Rick Jensen.

ABSENT: Nancy Deal

Mr. Craig Stiles commented about not standing for the pledge.

Mr. Talberg appointed Mrs. Belanger as the Acting Secretary in Mrs. Deal’s absence.

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS
Mr. Talberg explained he would allow 30 minutes of public comment at this time. The board would handle their board business, and he would allow all citizens desiring an opportunity to speak at the end of the meeting until all have spoken.

Comments were made regarding the proposed transgender policy by: Samuel Dufrin 4926 Harris Road; Sandy Dufrin, 4926 Harris Road; Lori Johncheck (representing a delegation) 3434 Sky Way Drive; Luke S., 1691 Osprey Ave.; and Dave Smek, 304 E Church Street.

CELEBRATIONS
Dr. Spina reviewed celebrations noting the first art student of the month, the Grand Ledge Invitational Marching Band Show, and Linda Ereg named as the first Williamston Chamber Educator of the Year. There will be a celebration for Mrs. Ereg on November 9th at Wheatfield Valley Golf Club, the public is welcome.

EDUCATION UPDATE
Update on curricular goals for 2017-18—Dr. Michele Cook gave an overview including evidence-based reading and writing instruction in all content areas, math curriculum alignment and instructional support, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), Michigan Science Standards, and blended learning and arts integration. She also noted there is very positive feedback on STEAM which involves problem-solving.

Update on athletics—Mr. Tom Hampton noted the decreased gate due to decreased enrollment. He noted the fall sports had 240 HS participants and 71 MS. Tennis won White division, Soccer won league championship, we have the best golfer Kenzie L. a sophomore, and the Equestrian Team are Class C state champs. There is a chance for football team to make playoffs, and volleyball and swimming to continue after season play.
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Upcoming presentation and discussion items for the November 6th regular meeting and the November 7th board workshop on goal setting were accepted as presented.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS
Policy Subcommittee--Minutes were shared from October 3 and 11, 2017 meetings. Next Meeting has not been set. Mr. West, Policy Chairperson reviewed proposed changes of existing policies. Good dialog with concerns of proposed wording and helpful information shared. The board will discuss policies later in meeting.

Board Goals and Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee--Minutes were shared from Meeting: October 5, 2017. Dr. Lewis stated the superintendent’s evaluation is coming up, and he explained the goals planning, process for evaluation, self-assessment and superintendent evaluation. The rubric is in packet and asked members to review it prior to the November 7th goal-setting workshop.

Ingham School Officers Association--Minutes of the October 4th meeting were included in packet. Mr. West reported he was elected Vice President of ISOA Board. November 1st is next ISOA meeting encouraged others to attend.

DISCUSSION ITEMS
Discussion of Commons proposal—Mr. Tim Baise distributed an updated Reciprocal Easement Agreement and is requesting approval to go ahead to start this project because he has to put in footings and freezing temperatures are coming soon. Mr. West asked if Mr. Baise has done everything we have asked, and if so, he believes it is a win-win. Mr. Gerring asked if our attorney has reviewed this new document, and stated if our attorney is in agreement, he has no objections. Dr. Spina noted this document was received today after 5 p.m. and forwarded it on to our attorney for his review. It was also noted the City of Williamston must give the final approval. The board is not able to take action tonight because this revised document just appeared at tonight’s meeting. The board agreed they would be willing to hold a special meeting after review by our attorney.

Discussion of proposed changes to board policies--Mr. West reviewed policies 4900 Fair Employment Clause, 7500 Guidance Program and 8010 Equal Educational Opportunity where the word “religion” was added.

Discussion of proposed policy 8011 and Rules 8011-R Equal Protection of Transgender and Non-Conforming Students—The Policy Subcommittee (Mr. West, Mrs. Belanger and Mr. Talberg) have been working on this. Mr. West stated the board’s role is to make policy and the administration’s role is to manage those policies. We felt we needed to protect our whole student body. There are students who may have felt threatened. No one should be bullied, harassed, or picked on, and no one student’s rights are better than another. Our first policy draft, caused discomfort and controversy. Personally, Mr. West apologized for causing hurt feelings over this proposal. We believe input is helpful, and the updated policy has a lot less language. We need a policy to give direction to our administration. Mr. West noted policy 8260 and 8260-
R bullying needs to be updated as well. Mr. West read his new proposal. He feels the bathrooms need to be handled separately and not within a transgender policy.

Mr. Gerring noted the board needs to give administration the ability to have a policy that works for everyone. We must provide emotional, psychological and academic support. We should be able to come up with a policy that will work for everyone.

Mrs. Hayes noted times have changed. She has been researching transgender policies in other states/areas and the law. The board wants to provide a safe environment, protect civil rights and vulnerable students. Transgender individuals exist. We could have done better to include the community voice initially, and we want to listen to those voices. The board appears divided, but we all want to protect all students.

Mr. West would like the policy subcommittee to look at the proposal again.

It was agreed the board would like to hold a special board meeting with the policy committee of the whole board and include the Commons project consideration on that agenda.

Mrs. Hayes suggested the policy subcommittee meet first to draft language for discussion by the committee of the whole board at a special meeting prior to the November 6th meeting. The goal is to vote on November 6th.

**ACTION ITEMS**
**ROUTINE ITEMS--CONSENT CALENDAR**
**Approval of minutes**--regular meeting October 2, 2017, minutes were approved by consensus.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ITEMS**—None

**SEPARATE ACTION ITEMS**
Mr. Talberg read the items on the agenda: I. **Consideration of proposed changes to board policies 1330 Quorum and 1350 Voting Method**

Dr. Lewis, supported by Mrs. Belanger moved that this item be considered by the board.
Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0  
Motion carried.

Dr. Lewis, supported by Mr. Gerring moved that the Williamston Board of Education approve the revisions to board policies 1330 Quorum and 1350 Voting Method as presented.
Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0  
Motion carried.

**REVIEW OF BOARD GOALS**
Goal One: Develop organizational capacity to ensure a culture conducive to personal and academic achievement. Goal Two: Focus on practices and programs that promote academic excellence and innovation. Goal Three: Strengthen communication with students, parents, staff and community.
CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence regarding Proposed Policy 8011 received from: Abraham, Christopher; Allen, Sonia; Back, Jessica; Ball, Ali; Ball, Ian; Barrett, Jason; Berger, Danielle; Bode, Brent; Bode, Ellen; Bond, Lisa; Bouteiller, Jennie; Bouni, Susan; Buckley, Rebecca; Byrd, Jessie; Campbell-Hunt, Amanda; Castonguay, June; Chester, Jon; Chester, Monica; Cobb, Gayle; Cobb, Kevin; Cobb, Sydney; Conley, Julie; Davis, Sandra; Donahue, Craig; Elenbaas, Angie; Farness, Meg; Feltz, Deborah; Flynn, Sheila; Fultz, Jill; Grimes, Toni; Grischke, Deb; Gruber, Alyssa; Hagelberger, Craig; Hayward, Jocelyn; Heilman, Elizabeth; Hicks, Collin; Hudgins, Dianne; Hughes, Bridget; Hughes, Linda; Johnchech, Lori; Jones, Sean and Christine; Kittendorf, Michelle; Laforet, Kim; Ledford, Elizabeth; Ledford, Kenneth; Lemmen, Kurt; Lemmen, Ray and Ann; Lippe, Justin; Lippe, Wendy; Lusk, Brad; Lycos, Tristen; McCann, Lisa; McCutcheon, Gary; McKimmy, Jamie; Mesko, Nancy; Montgomery, Georgina; Moyalson, Lisa; Nelson, Keith and Sandy; Nichols, Patricia; O’Brien, Corey and Kim; Palmatier, Adam; Palmer, Suzie; Patterson, Chris; Patterson, Jeanne; Pennington, Craig; Pennington, Natalie; Pisarczyk, Joellen; Reynolds, Erin; Rhee, Courtney; Ruedisale, Janna; Rutherford, Ruth; Sawdon, Chris; Sawdon, Christopher; Sawdon, Heather; Sawdon, Jeanne; Schelterlein, Patricia; Schneider, Alexis and Jesse; Seaman, Geoffrey; Sharp, Brad; Sharp, Lou; Sinke, Jake; Smalley, Cathy; Smek, Dave; Smith, Jordan; Smith, Pam; Smith, Roger; Stampfly, Christopher; Stampfly, Deanna; Stevens, Amanda; VanLuven, Patty; Wagenheim, Chris; Wagner, Jennifer; Waligorski, Lawrence and Fayette; Walker, Ron; Walker, Teri; Ware, Karin; Williams, Erica; Williams, LeeAnn; Wilson, Tim; Wilson-Daeschlein, Lillie; and Woodbury, Michael

Correspondence also received from Mitch Keesler re: elementary pedestrian crossing and from Carl Norberg re: fighting drug abuse

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/REQUESTS--None

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Comments made regarding proposed policy 8011 by: Chris Patterson, 2516 Bell Oak Road; Sydney C., 3436 Douglas Street; Laura Sanders #12, 1774 Quigley Road, Dexter, Washtenaw County; Kathryn Fessler, 49295 Gyde Road, Canton; David Fortin, 730 Hickory Lane; Catherine Flynn 3890 Highlander Way, Ann Arbor; Reid Ellefsen-Frank, 3650 Golf View Drive; Nicole Ellefsen, 3650 Golfview; Erik Wurtz, 520 E. Jefferson, Grand Ledge; David Kallman, WHS graduate, lives in Lansing; Faith S., 1691 Osprey Avenue; Erica Spitzfaden, 1891 Island Hwy, Charlotte; Joe Estep, 4583 N. Harrington Road, Webberville; Joellen Pisarczyk, 124 Prospect Court; Teresa Severy, 15260 Club Course Drive, Bath; Shane Shananaagold, 785 Riverside Ave., Adrian, MI; Corey Maisen, 5990 New Haven Road, New Baltimore; Stella Shananaaguel, 785 Riverside Ave. Adrian; Charles Bethke, 77 Granite Road, Williamston; Brian Rafferty, 244 Church Hill Downs, Blvd.; Andrea Rafferty 244 Church Hill Downs; Dan Rhines, 923 Williams; Missy Cooke, 719 Georgia; Jack S. 1691 Osprey Ave.; Shawn Loewen, 115 Turner Road; Walter Holm, 1936 Live Oak Trail; Kim O’Brien, 1144 Bonanza Drive, Okemos (Williamston Schools); Laurie Hereza, 151 Gladie Lane, Okemos, (Williamston Schools); Bailey Steadman, 815 Quinlan Drive; Jennifer Ramsey 3730 Burbale Road; Craig Campbell, 1150 Wild Cherry; Anna R., 246 McCormick; Stephanie Lee, 1229 Jack Pine Drive; Autumn Millera 122 Lloyd Street; Steve Berg, 4041 Meadowdale Drive; Cheryl Overley, 4910 Grandwoods Drive, Lansing; Djinn Thompson, 3000 N. Cambridge, Lansing; Keisha Griswold, 1501 Vermont Avenue, Lansing;
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Olivia E., 4583 N. Herrington Rd., Webberville; Chris Johneck, 3434 Skyway Drive; Eva Korum 315 E. Church Street; Evan Borgman, 3010 Staten Avenue, Lansing; Craig Stiles, 4896 Harris Road; Tricia Woods, 782 Winding River Drive; Joe Fabbo, 2352 Knoilridge Lane; Robyn Bartig 415 Fulton Street; Patty VanLuven, 6143 Pittsburg Road, Laingsburg (children attended Williamston); Scott Torra, 1699 Snedecker Road; Rozelin Conklin, 211 Brady Street, Chesaning; Maia Guenther, 1864 Maple Shade Drive; Katrina Cummins-Freund, 1592 Downing Street, Haslett; Kelly Lowe, 1900 Snedeker Road; Monica Schafer 1691 Osprey Ave.; Tami Carlone, 45784 White Pines Drive, Novi; Jason Barnstable 3846 Bell Oak Road; Angie Elensaas, 3003 Linn Road; Kim Medina, 734 E. Church Street; Elizabeth Myoile, 215 W. Middle St.; Sam Mercer, 3509 Meridian Road; Amanda Moran, 3200 Rovley Road; Jonathan Brandt, 4725 N. Branch Road, (representing Delegation of Tim Baise, Tracy Baise, Amber Smith, Dan Buckley).

ADJOURNMENT
Mr. Gerring, supported by Dr. Lewis, moved that the meeting be adjourned.
Ayes: 6  Nays: 0  Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Belanger, Acting Secretary
Williamston Board of Education
(Greg Talberg) voted to pass Access to Gender-Segregated Activities and Facilities when the policy language does not mandate administrators to enforce that every person will use the facility matching their biological sex even though the meeting minutes state: “...the intent is for boys to use boys’ restroom facility and girls use girls’ restroom facility.”

I reviewed the Michigan Election Law (MCL 168.952) to prepare my statement. Based on that, my recall petition language is factual and clear enough “to enable the officer whose recall is sought and the electors to identify the course of conduct that is the basis for recall.”

I will provide the evidence for this Election Commission to confirm that.

The November 6, 2017 meeting minutes document the quoted statement in my petition language and prove this occurred while Mr. Talberg was in office. The attached minutes show he was present at that meeting.

Here is a screen capture from those meeting minutes that shows my quoted language:

9260 Access to Gender-Segregated Activities and Facilities
Mr. Gerring, supported by Mrs. Hayes, moved that the Williamston Board of Education approve policy 9260 Access to Gender-Segregated Activities and Facilities as presented.

Discussion: Mrs. Hayes asked Mr. West to explain the intent of this policy. Mr. West stated the intent is that boys use boys’ restroom facility and girls use girls’ restroom facility.

Ayes: 7  Nays: 0  Motion carried.

All seven board members voted, “Aye,” which includes Mr. Talberg.

That excerpt clearly shows the quote is in reference to policy 9260. I intentionally left off “Mr. West stated,” because it might confuse petition signers to see Mr. West’s name when they are signing a petition to recall “Mr. Talberg.”

All along the Williamston Community has expressed objections over anyone using a bathroom, locker room, shower or changing facility opposite their biological sex. Yet, this board adopted a policy that does NOT close the door on that happening.

Jessica Olsen
"Boys will use the boys’ restroom and girls will use the girls’ restroom" is not in this policy, therefore it does not mandate administrators to enforce that every person will use the facility matching their biological sex:

**Access to Gender-Segregated Activities and Facilities**

Any student who is uncomfortable using a gender-segregated facility, regardless of reason, shall notify WCS staff of his or her discomfort. WCS staff will work with the student to find an alternative that takes into account the privacy rights of all students, staff, and visitors. The Board directs administration to incorporate single-user facilities and measures to ensure greater privacy into new construction or renovation. The Board also directs administration to assess ways to increase privacy for all students in existing facilities. This may include, for example, the addition of a privacy partition or curtain, provision to use a nearby private restroom or office, or a separate changing schedule. WCS will follow all local, state, and federal laws with respect to restrooms, locker rooms, and changing facilities.

This policy applies to the entire school community, including educators, school district staff, students, parents, volunteers, and visitors.

*Adopted: November 6, 2017*

By reviewing both documents, you can verify the factual nature of my petition language.

So, my objection to Mr. Talberg’s conduct while in office is that he voted “Aye” to adopt Access to Gender-Segregated Activities and Facilities when the intention stated at the board meeting (and in the approved minutes) does not match the policy he voted for. I find his conduct irresponsible and in direct violation of the wishes of the Williamston community.

Who cares about intentions if you have a vague policy?

The Williamston school board had the opportunity to provide crystal clear guidance to administrators on this issue. They did not. Instead, they passed a policy that’s just vague enough for someone to push for opposite biological sex facility usage. Mr. Talberg voted for that policy.

On a related clarity note, I am troubled by the objections these board members keep raising at Election Commission meetings. They argue that petition circulators will say misleading things. That’s irrelevant and certainly not an “argument” this Election Commission should entertain.

You won’t find their “argument” anywhere in election law as a reason to reject petition language. A petition circulator is free to say whatever they wish. The first amendment right to free speech does not suddenly cease because I am circulating a recall petition.

Board members also raise “clarity concerns” over petition signers not being familiar with a portion of policy or the entire policy. This is again a moot point. Nowhere in election law is it a standard that an entire policy must be included with a petition. The petition circulator is not
responsible for the signer educating themselves. That would be like giving voters a quiz on the ballot measures before allowing them to vote.

A person is free to sign anything they choose to — or not. Just like they are free to vote or not vote. The Williamson community is coming to an increasingly reasonable conclusion that the right to recall an elected official is being obstructed.

Of course it would be ridiculous to mandate that a petition signer must educate themselves on any election-related issue, but they do have the opportunity.

I will now show you how every person in the Williamson voting district has 24/7 access to any WCS policy.

I will use 9260 Access to Gender-Segregated Activities and Facilities as an example.

1. Hover over the “BOARD OF EDUCATION” tab from the home page.

2. Drop-down menu appears.


4. Search for any WCS policy by typing the policy NAME or NUMBER.
5. Select “Search.”

Notice that ONLY this one policy appears as a search result. Easy to locate.

It’s the same thing for meeting minutes if someone wanted to track those down. They would go to “Board Meeting Information” from the drop-down menu.

And, here is what they’d see for November 6, 2017 if they wanted to find the quoted statement in my petition language before you.

However, (according to Election Law), neither action is necessary. It’s the Election Commission’s job to vet petition language as being factual so that the petition signer doesn’t have to if they don’t choose to. I thank you for doing your job and look forward to being able to have the opportunity provided for in Michigan Law to recall Mr. Talberg without delay.

Jessica Olsen
CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Williamston Board of Education was called to order by President Greg Talberg, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Middle School multi-purpose room at 3845 Vanneter Road, Williamston, MI 48895.

PRESENT: Greg Talberg, Sarah Belanger, Nancy Deal, Joel Gerring (arrived late), Kathy Hayes, Christopher Lewis, Jeff West, and administrators Adam Spina and Rick Jensen.

ABSENT: None

Mr. Talberg began the meeting asking for a moment of silence to honor those affected by the events of the Texas Church Shooting that left 26 dead.

Dr. Spina introduced Ash Wilkie who is being recommended for the Pool and Fitness Center position. Ms. Wilkie is scheduled to begin her new position, Tuesday, November 7.

Presentation of Audit—Jim Frendt of Stevens, Kirinovic and Tucker, P.C. provided an overview of the October 17, 2017, financial report for Williamston Community Schools. A clean opinion was received.

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS
Comments made regarding proposed policy 8011 by: Nicole Ellefson, 3650 Golfview Dr; Delegation Williamston for Truth: (Dave Fortin, 730 Hickory Lane; Chris Patterson, 2516 Bell Oak; Steve Berg, 4041 Meadowdale; Ed Reynolds, 246 McCormick); Emily Homeszyn and Emily Christy, 123 Wint; Phil Dufrin, 4926 Harris Rd; Julie Conley, 1156 E. Sherwood Rd; Lori Johncheck, 3434 Sky Way; Dave Smeak, 304 E. Church; Craig Stiles, 4896 Harris Rd; Joseph Estep, 4583 N. Herrington Rd; Lindsay Estep 4583 N. Herrington Rd; Joellen Pisareczyk, 124 Prospect Ct.; Brendan Guenther, 1864 Maple Shade Dr; Dan Rhines, 923 Williams; Elizabeth Moyle, 215 W. Middle St; Anja Guenther, 1864 Maple Shade Dr, Jonathan Brandt, 4725 N. Branch Rd; Malin & Mike Moran, 3200 Rowley Rd; Chris Beard, 431 E. Riverside; Yvonne Binns, 3341 Linn Rd; Michael Flory, 3337 Camino Del Sol; Jonathan Brandt, 4725 N. Branch Rd; Monica Schafer, 1691 Osprey Ave; Trisha Fountain, 649 Spaulding; Tracie Baise, 1950 Barry Rd.

CELEBRATIONS
Dr. Spina reviewed celebrations—A Buddy Bench purchased in Memory of Mike Craig has been installed at the Elementary Playground. Aitana was named Williamston High School Art Student of the Month. The Football Team will be travel to Escanaba Friday, November 10 for Regional Competition.

EDUCATION UPDATE—None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Upcoming presentation and discussion items—accepted upcoming presentation and discussion items for Special Meeting November 7, Regular Meeting November 20 and December 4.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS
Policy Subcommittee (Goals One, Two and Three) Minutes from Special Meetings October 25 and 31. Mr. West shared the Policy Committee has been working on Policies 1370 Public Participation, Policy 8011 and 8011-R Transgender and Nonconforming Students and Policy 9260 Access to Gender-Segregated Activities and Facilities which will be further discussed and acted upon later in tonight’s agenda, respectively.

Board Goals and Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee—Reminder November 7th Goal Setting session. Dr. Lewis reminded Board Members to turn in their completed surveys and reminded Dr. Spina to turn in his self evaluation for Board review.

DISCUSSION ITEM
Discussion of proposed revisions to policy 1370 Public Participation—Mr. West explained proposed revisions under Contacting the Board, Handling of Complaints, and Public Comment. It is recommended this item return for action at the November 20, 2017, Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS
ROUTINE ITEMS—CONSENT CALENDAR
Mr. Talberg read consent calendar items A. Approval of Minutes.

Approval of minutes—regular meeting October 16, 2017, were approved by consensus.

ROLL CALL VOTE ITEMS—None

SEPARATE ACTION ITEMS
Mr. Talberg read separate action items: 1. Consideration of proposed policies 8011 Gender Identity and 9260 Access to Gender-Segregated Activities and Facilities.

Mr. West, supported by Mrs. Deal, moved to separate the two items for action in Item I: 8011 Gender Identity (1.a) and 9260 Access to Gender-Segregated Activities and Facilities (1.b).

Ayes: 6  Nays: 0  Motion carried.

Mr. Gerring arrived at 9:17 p.m.

8011 Gender Identity—Mr. West provided information that precluded him from moving this policy forward to a vote.

Board members followed...some with reasons why the vote should not move forward, and others with reasons why the vote should move forward.
Mr. West, supported by Mrs. Deal moved to table Item 1.a: Policy 8011 Gender Identity as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes:  3  Mr. West  Mrs. Deal  Mrs. Hayes  
Yays: 4  Mrs. Belanger  Mr. Gerring  Dr. Lewis  Mr. Talberg  
Motion failed.

Mrs. Belanger, supported by Dr. Lewis, moved to approve Policy 8011 Gender Identity as presented.

Roll Call Vote:  Ayes:  6  Mrs. Belanger  Mr. Gerring  Dr. Lewis  Mrs. Hayes  
Nays: 1  Mr. West  Mr. Talberg  
Motion carried.

9260 Access to Gender-Segregated Activities and Facilities
Mr. Gerring, supported by Mrs. Hayes, moved that the Williamston Board of Education approve policy 9260 Access to Gender-Segregated Activities and Facilities as presented.

Discussion: Mrs. Hayes asked Mr. West to explain the intent of this policy. Mr. West stated the intent is that boys use boys' restroom facility and girls use girls' restroom facility.

Ayes:  7  Nays: 0  
Motion carried.

Consideration of Commons proposal
Dr. Lewis, supported by Mrs. Deal, moved that the Williamston Board of Education approve the resolution for the easement as presented.

Ayes: 7  Nays: 0  
Motion carried.

Consideration of proposed changes to board policies 4900, 7500, and 8010
Dr. Lewis, supported by Mrs. Belanger, moved that the Williamston Board of Education approve the revisions to board policies: 4900 Fair Employment Clause, 7500 Guidance Program and 8010 Equal Educational Opportunity as presented.

Ayes: 7  Nays: 0  
Motion carried.

Dr. Lewis, supported by Mrs. Belanger, moved to approve Items IV. Consideration of employing Director of Pool, Fitness Center and Enrichment and V. Consideration of approving Superintendent’s Evaluation Tool be moved together.

Ayes: 7  Nays: 0  
Motion carried.

Dr. Lewis, supported by Mr. Gerring, moved to approve Item IV. and V.

IV. Consideration of employing Director of Pool, Fitness and Enrichment—that the Williamston Board of Education employ Ash Wilkie as the Director of Pool, Fitness Center and Enrichment per the terms of the administrative contract as presented.
V. Consideration of approving Superintendent’s Evaluation Tool—that the Williamson Board of Education approve the Superintendent’s Evaluation Tool as presented.

Ayes: 7  Nays: 0  Motion carried.

REVIEW OF BOARD GOALS
Goal One: Develop organizational capacity to ensure a culture conducive to personal and academic achievement. Goal Two: Focus on practices and programs that promote academic excellence and innovation. Goal Three: Strengthen communication with students, parents, staff and community.

CORRESPONDENCE
Received correspondence from Carl Norberg, Lisa Dalton, Jonny Ellis. Received correspondence regarding Policy 8011 from: Adams, Susan; Anderson, Ryan; Bauer, Dan; Belongie, Jennifer; Berg, Jen; Berg, Steven; Berger, Danielle; Bertolino, Sean; Brandt, Melissa; Brophy-Herb, Holly; Buckley, Rebecca; C., Ryan; Cotter, Kelli; Daeschlein, Michael; Dalton, Lisa; Davis, Penny; Demers, Susan; DeYoung, Bridget; Donahue, Denise; Dufrin, Sandy; Edgar, Seth and Lauren; Eggers, Dave; Eggers, Walt and Suzanne; Eichler, Benjamin; Estep, Joe; Eyster, Mark; Ezmerlian, Mary Anne; Flory, Cassie; Fulton, Edith; Grant, Norman; Gulick, Andrea; Hagelberger, Craig; Halverson-Smith, Melissa; Hawkins, Lisa; Hereza, Laurie; Holcomb, Austin and Kari; Holtschlag, David and Margaret; Holm, Walter; Hunt, Karen; Indish, Melissa; Johnewech, Chris and Lori; Kaplan, Jay; Lansing Association of Human Rights; Mack, Charlie & Christine; Martin, Kristy; McCutcheon, Gary; McGregor, Christine and Dale; Medina, Kimberly; Messner, Corey; Moore, Emily; Moran, Mike; Nestell, Jann; North, Tanya; Palmer, Suzie; Parker, David; Payton, Lisa; Pennington, James and Kathie; Pennington, Natalie and Craig; Pisarczyk, Joellen; Reynolds, Erin; Sanchez, Katherine; Sawdon, Chris; Schotzko, Michelle and Paul; Schuiteman, Jayne; Smeak, Dave; Smeak, Debbie; Smeak, Kathleen; Smith, Amber; Smith, Chris; Smith, Jennifer; Stenzel, Corey and Kelly; Stevens, Amanda; Strzalkowski, Elizabeth; Tobias, Carroll; VanLuven, Patty; Wallace, Joel; Whelan, Sallie.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/REQUESTS
Mrs. Deal gave kudos to Williamson High School Band who placed 2nd at the Grand Ledge Exhibition, The Varsity Football Coach, Steve Kersten, celebrated his 100th win! and kudos to a Williamson student who received the highest score and 3rd highest score in the county at the Mid-Michigan Math Competition.

Dr. Lewis shared the Solo and Ensemble Festival is Saturday in Charlotte.

Mr. West shared the Varsity Football Team looked great Friday Night Football, November 3, kudos to Coach Kersten. The team does not have an easy road but will travel to Escanaba Friday night, November 10 for Regional Competition and this team deserves all the support the community can give.
CITIZENS' COMMENTS
Comments made regarding the action to support policy 8011 by: Jonathan Brandt, 4725 N. Branch Rd; Monica Schafer, 1691 Osprey Ave; Trisha Fountain, 649 Spaulding; Lori Jonacheck, 3434 Sky Way; Tracie Baise, 1950 Barry Rd; Michael Flory, 3337 Camino Del Sol, Dan Rhines, 923 Williams; Elizabeth Moyle, 215 W. Middle St.

ADJOURNMENT
Mr. Gerring supported by Mr. Talberg moved that the Williamston Board of Education meeting be adjourned.
Ayes: 7  Nays: 0  Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Deal, Secretary
Williamston Board of Education
WILLIAMSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
November 7, 2017  

CALL TO ORDER
The special meeting of the Williamston Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Greg Talberg on November 7, 2017, beginning at 6:33 p.m. in the Williamston Middle School Multi-Purpose Room, 3845 Vanneter Road, Williamston, MI 48895.

Present: Greg Talberg, Jeff West, Nancy Deal, Sarah Belanger, Kathy Hayes, Chris Lewis and Superintendent Adam Spina

Absent: None

Also in attendance: Debbie Stair, M.A.S.B.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS--None

Michigan Association of School Boards Goal Setting Workshop led by Debbie Stair

Reviewed current guiding documents: Mission and Vision Statements and Board Goals

Assessed where we are now: Essential district information—Superintendent’s Report and Key issues district must address

Determined three-five major priority goal areas on which the district will focus for the next one-two years: 1) Provide high quality educational experience for all students. 2) Increase fund balance to five percent. 3) Strengthen communication with students, parents, staff, and community.

Discussed what the key indicators for measuring the goals are.

Discussed next steps to include: 1) tentative date for board adoption, 2) implementation plan and 3) Board monitoring schedule. Board adoption for the board goals was scheduled for December 18th.

ADJOURNMENT
Mr. West, supported by Mrs. Belanger, moved that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Deal, Secretary  
Williamston Board of Education
Attachment C – Submitted by Kelly Lowe

Petition language: Nancy Deal voted to remove the words “gender identity” and “gender expression” from the Williamston Community School’s Fair Employment Clause policy on November 6, 2017.

My Statement

The reason I wish to circulate a petition to recall Nancy Deal is because I found her vote to remove the words “gender identity” and “gender expression” from the Williamston Community School’s Fair Employment Clause offensive.

This conduct occurred while she was in office. The meeting minutes from November 6, 2017 show that all seven board members voted “Aye” to remove these words. See image. Full approved minutes as attachment.

Consideration of proposed changes to board policies 4900, 7500, and 8010

Dr. Lewis, supported by Mrs. Belanger, moved that the Williamston Board of Education approve the revisions to board policies 4900 Fair Employment Clause, 7500 Guidance Program and 8010 Equal Educational Opportunity as presented.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
Motion carried.

There is absolutely no reason that Ms. Deal or anyone handed this petition would be confused in the slightest about my objection to Ms. Deal’s conduct. This Election Commission can easily confirm that her conduct occurred while she was in office. Her name is listed as “present” at the November 6, 2017 board meeting. See image.

Williamston Board of Education
November 6, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Williamston Board of Education was called to order by President Greg Talberg, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Middle School multi-purpose room at 3845 Vanneter Road, Williamston, MI 48895.

PRESENT: Greg Talberg, Sarah Belanger, Nancy Deal, Joel Gerrin (arrived late), Kathy Hayes, Christopher Lewis, Jeff West, and administrators Adam Spina and Rick Jensen.

ABSENT: None

Lowe vs. Deal 6/11/18 Recall Petition Language
The petition language is based on facts and also clear enough for Ms. Deal and the electors to "identify the course of conduct that is the basis for recall." These are the only standards required by Michigan Election Law (MCL 168.952). See image.

MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW (EXCERPT)
Act 116 of 1954

168.952 Recall petition under MCL 168.960; requirements; submission to board of county election commissioners; determination that reason for recall is factual and of sufficient clarity; notice; meeting; presentation of arguments; appeal; validity of petition.

Sec. 952.

(1) A petition for the recall of an officer listed in section 960 shall meet all of the following requirements:

(a) Comply with section 544c(1) and (2).

(b) Be printed.

(c) State factually and clearly each reason for the recall. Each reason for the recall shall be based upon the officer's conduct during his or her current term of office. The reason for the recall may be typewritten.

(3) The board of county election commissioners, not less than 10 days or more than 20 days after submission to it of a petition for the recall of an officer under subsection (1), shall meet and shall determine whether each reason for the recall stated in the petition is factual and of sufficient clarity to enable the officer whose recall is sought and the electors to identify the course of conduct that is the basis for the recall. If any reason for the recall is not factual or of sufficient clarity, the entire recall petition shall be rejected. Failure of the board of county election commissioners to meet as required by this subsection shall constitute a determination that each reason for the recall stated in the petition is factual and of sufficient clarity to enable the officer whose recall is being sought and the electors to identify the course of conduct that is the basis for the recall.

Lowe vs. Deal 6/11/18 Recall Petition Language
How will this Election Commission know what was up for vote regarding the WCS Fair Employment Clause on November 6, 2017?

I will provide that documentation evidence too.

The October 11, 2017 policy meeting minutes document the motion to remove “gender identity and gender expression” from the Fair Employment Clause policy. It occurred immediately after the closed session with their attorneys. See image below. Full approved minutes as attachment.

The motion “to strike gender identity and gender expression” from the Fair Employment Clause then went to the full board for discussion on October 16, 2017. See October 16, 2017 meeting minutes image below that documents the discussion.

WILLIAMSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 16, 2017

CALL TO ORDER
The regular meeting of the Williamston Board of Education was called to order by President Greg Talberg on October 16, 2017, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Middle School Cafeteria/Commons at 3845 Vanneter Road, Williamston, MI 48895.

Discussion of proposed changes to board policies--Mr. West reviewed policies 4900 Fair Employment Clause, 7500 Guidance Program and 8010 Equal Educational Opportunity where the word “religion” was added.

It next went to vote November 6, 2017 (as I’ve already documented).

My one sentence petition language is verifiably factual. There is nothing false about the language this petition contains.

It’s this clear: Either Nancy Deal voted to remove those words on November 6, 2017 or she did not. She did.

Lowe vs. Deal 6/11/18 Recall Petition Language
Williamston Board of Education
November 6, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Williamston Board of Education was called to order by President Greg Talberg, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Middle School multi-purpose room at 3845 Vanneter Road, Williamston, MI 48895.

PRESENT: Greg Talberg, Sarah Belanger, Nancy Deal, Joel Gerring (arrived late), Kathy Hayes, Christopher Lewis, Jeff West, and administrators Adam Spina and Rick Jensen.

ABSENT: None

Mr. Talberg began the meeting asking for a moment of silence to honor those affected by the events of the Texas Church Shooting that left 26 dead.

Dr. Spina introduced Ash Wilkie who is being recommended for the Pool and Fitness Center position. Ms. Wilkie is scheduled to begin her new position, Tuesday, November 7.

Presentation of Audit—Jim Frendt of Stevens, Kirinovic and Tucker, P.C. provided an overview of the October 17, 2017, financial report for Williamston Community Schools. A clean opinion was received.

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

Comments made regarding proposed policy 8011 by: Nicole Ellefson, 3650 Golfview Dr; Delegation Williamston for Truth: (Dave Fortin, 730 Hickory Lane; Chris Patterson, 2516 Bell Oak; Steve Berg, 4041 Meadowdale; Ed Reynolds, 246 McCormick); Emily Homeszyn and Emily Christy, 123 Wint; Phil Dufrin, 4926 Harris Rd; Julie Conley, 1156 E. Sherwood Rd; Lori Johnnecheck, 3434 Sky Way; Dave Smeak, 304 E. Church; Craig Stiles, 4896 Harris Rd; Joseph Estep, 4583 N. Herrington Rd; Lindsay Estep 4583 N. Herrington Rd; Joellen Pisarczyk, 124 Prospect Ct.; Brendan Guenther, 1864 Maple Shade Dr; Dan Rhines, 923 Williams; Elizabeth Moyle, 215 W. Middle St; Anja Guenther, 1864 Maple Shade Dr., Jonathan Brandt, 4725 N. Branch Rd; Malin & Mike Moran, 3200 Rowley Rd; Chris Beard, 431 E. Riverside; Yvonne Binns, 3341 Linn Rd; Michael Friley, 3337 Camino Del Sol; Jonathan Brandt, 4725 N. Branch Rd; Monica Schafer, 1691 Osprey Ave; Trisha Fountain, 649 Spaulding; Tracie Baise, 1950 Barry Rd.

CELEBRATIONS

Dr. Spina reviewed celebrations—A Buddy Bench purchased in Memory of Mike Craig has been installed at the Elementary Playground. Aitana was named Williamston High School Art Student of the Month. The Football Team will be travel to Escanaba Friday, November 10 for Regional Competition.

EDUCATION UPDATE—None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Upcoming presentation and discussion items—accepted upcoming presentation and discussion items for Special Meeting November 7, Regular Meeting November 20 and December 4.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS
Policy Subcommittee (Goals One, Two and Three) Minutes from Special Meetings October 25 and 31. Mr. West shared the Policy Committee has been working on Policies 1370 Public Participation, Policy 8011 and 8011-R Transgender and Nonconforming Students and Policy 9260 Access to Gender-Segregated Activities and Facilities which will be further discussed and acted upon later in tonight’s agenda, respectively.

Board Goals and Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee—Reminder November 7th Goal Setting session. Dr. Lewis reminded Board Members to turn in their completed surveys and reminded Dr. Spina to turn in his self evaluation for Board review.

DISCUSSION ITEM
Discussion of proposed revisions to policy 1370 Public Participation—Mr. West explained proposed revisions under Contacting the Board, Handling of Complaints, and Public Comment. It is recommended this item return for action at the November 20, 2017, Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS
ROUTINE ITEMS—CONSENT CALENDAR
Mr. Talberg read consent calendar items A. Approval of Minutes.

Approval of minutes—regular meeting October 16, 2017, were approved by consensus.

ROLL CALL VOTE ITEMS—None

SEPARATE ACTION ITEMS
Mr. Talberg read separate action items: I. Consideration of proposed policies 8011 Gender Identity and 9260 Access to Gender-Segregated Activities and Facilities.

Mr. West, supported by Mrs. Deal, moved to separate the two items for action in Item I: 8011 Gender Identity (1.a) and 9260 Access to Gender-Segregated Activities and Facilities (1.b).
Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Mr. Gerring arrived at 9:17 p.m.

8011 Gender Identity—Mr. West provided information that precluded him from moving this policy forward to a vote.

Board members followed...some with reasons why the vote should not move forward, and others with reasons why the vote should move forward.
Mr. West, supported by Mrs. Deal moved to table Item 1.a: Policy 8011 Gender Identity as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 3 Mr. West Mrs. Deal Mrs. Hayes Nays: 4 Mrs. Belanger Mr. Gerring Dr. Lewis Mr. Talberg

Motion failed.

Mrs. Belanger, supported by Dr. Lewis, moved to approve Policy 8011 Gender Identity as presented.

Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: 6 Mrs. Belanger Mr. Gerring Dr. Lewis Mrs. Deal Mrs. Hayes Nays: 1 Mr. West Motion carried. Mr. Talberg

9260 Access to Gender-Segregated Activities and Facilities
Mr. Gerring, supported by Mrs. Hayes, moved that the Williamston Board of Education approve policy 9260 Access to Gender-Segregated Activities and Facilities as presented.

Discussion: Mrs. Hayes asked Mr. West to explain the intent of this policy. Mr. West stated the intent is that boys use boys' restroom facility and girls use girls' restroom facility.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Consideration of Commons proposal
Dr. Lewis, supported by Mrs. Deal, moved that the Williamston Board of Education approve the resolution for the easement as presented.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Consideration of proposed changes to board policies 4900, 7500, and 8010
Dr. Lewis, supported by Mrs. Belanger, moved that the Williamston Board of Education approve the revisions to board policies: 4900 Fair Employment Clause, 7500 Guidance Program and 8010 Equal Educational Opportunity as presented.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Dr. Lewis, supported by Mrs. Belanger, moved to approve Items IV. Consideration of employing Director of Pool, Fitness Center and Enrichment and V. Consideration of approving Superintendent's Evaluation Tool be moved together.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Dr. Lewis, supported by Mr. Gerring, moved to approve Item IV, and V.

IV. Consideration of employing Director of Pool, Fitness and Enrichment—that the Williamston Board of Education employ Ash Wilkie as the Director of Pool, Fitness Center and Enrichment per the terms of the administrative contract as presented.
V. Consideration of approving Superintendent’s Evaluation Tool—that the Williamston Board of Education approve the Superintendent’s Evaluation Tool as presented.  
Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0  
Motion carried.

REVIEW OF BOARD GOALS
Goal One: Develop organizational capacity to ensure a culture conducive to personal and academic achievement. Goal Two: Focus on practices and programs that promote academic excellence and innovation. Goal Three: Strengthen communication with students, parents, staff and community.

CORRESPONDENCE
Received correspondence from Carl Norberg, Lisa Dalton, Jonny Ellis. Received correspondence regarding Policy 8011 from: Adams, Susan; Anderson, Ryan; Bauer, Dan; Belongie, Jennifer; Berg, Jem; Berg, Steven; Berger, Danielle; Bertolino, Sean; Brandt, Melissa; Brophy-Herb, Holly; Buckley, Rebecca; C., Ryan; Cotter, Kelli; Daeschlein, Michael; Dalton, Lisa; Davis, Penny; Demers, Susan; DeYoung, Bridget; Donahue, Denise; Dufrin, Sandy; Edgar, Seth and Lauren; Eggers, Dave; Eggers, Walt and Suzanne; Eichler, Benjamin; Estep, Joe; Eyster, Mark; Ezmerlian, Mary Anne; Flory, Cassie; Fulton, Edith; Grant, Norman; Gulick, Andrea; Hagelberger, Craig; Halverson-Smith, Melissa; Hawkins, Lisa; Hereza, Laurie; Holcomb, Austin and Kari; Holtsclag, David and Margaret; Holm, Walter; Hunt, Karen; Indish, Melissa; Johncheck, Chris and Lori; Kaplan, Jay; Lansing Association of Human Rights; Mack, Charlie & Christine; Martin, Kristy; McCutcheon, Gary; McGregor, Christine and Dale; Medina, Kimberly; Messner, Corey; Moore, Emily; Moran, Mike; Nestell, Jann; North, Tanya; Palmer, Suzie; Parker, David; Payton, Lisa; Pennington, James and Kathie; Pennington, Natalie and Craig; Pistaczyk, Joellen; Reynolds, Erin; Sanchez, Katharine; Sawdon, Chris; Schotzko, Michelle and Paul; Schulterman, Jayne; Smeak, Dave; Smeak, Debbie; Smeak, Kathleen; Smith, Amber; Smith, Chris; Smith, Jennifer; Stenzel, Corey and Kelly; Stevens, Amanda; Strzalkowski, Elizabeth; Tobias, Carroll; VanLuyen, Patty; Wallace, Joel; Whelan, Sallie.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/REQUESTS
Mrs. Deal gave kudos to Williamston High School Band who placed 2nd at the Grand Ledge Exhibition. The Varsity Football Coach, Steve Kersten, celebrated his 100th win! and kudos to a Williamston student who received the highest score and 3rd highest score in the county at the Mid-Michigan Math Competition.

Dr. Lewis shared the Solo and Ensemble Festival is Saturday in Charlotte.

Mr. West shared the Varsity Football Team looked great Friday Night Football, November 3, kudos to Coach Kersten. The team does not have an easy road but will travel to Escanaba Friday night, November 10 for Regional Competition and this team deserves all the support the community can give.
CITIZENS' COMMENTS
Comments made regarding the action to support policy 8011 by: Jonathan Brandt, 4725 N. Branch Rd; Monica Schafer, 1691 Osprey Ave; Trisha Fountain, 649 Spaulding; Lori Jonacheck, 3434 Sky Way; Tracie Baise, 1950 Barry Rd; Michael Flory, 3337 Camino Del Sol, Dan Rhines, 923 Williams; Elizabeth Moyle, 215 W. Middle St.

ADJOURNMENT
Mr. Gerring supported by Mr. Talberg moved that the Williamston Board of Education meeting be adjourned.
Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Deet, Secretary
Williamston Board of Education
WILLIAMSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 7, 2017

CALL TO ORDER
The special meeting of the Williamston Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Greg Talberg on November 7, 2017, beginning at 6:33 p.m. in the Williamston Middle School Multi-Purpose Room, 3845 Vanneter Road, Williamston, MI 48895.

Present: Greg Talberg, Jeff West, Nancy Deal, Sarah Belanger, Kathy Hayes, Chris Lewis and Superintendent Adam Spina

Absent: None

Also in attendance: Debbie Stair, M.A.S.B.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS—None

Michigan Association of School Boards Goal Setting Workshop led by Debbie Stair

Reviewed current guiding documents: Mission and Vision Statements and Board Goals

Assessed where we are now: Essential district information—Superintendent’s Report and Key issues district must address

Determined three-five major priority goal areas on which the district will focus for the next one-two years: 1) Provide high quality educational experience for all students. 2) Increase fund balance to five percent. 3) Strengthen communication with students, parents, staff, and community.

Discussed what the key indicators for measuring the goals are.

Discussed next steps to include: 1) tentative date for board adoption, 2) implementation plan and 3) Board monitoring schedule. Board adoption for the board goals was scheduled for December 18th.

ADJOURNMENT
Mr. West, supported by Mrs. Belanger, moved that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Deal, Secretary
Williamston Board of Education
Petition 4 – June 11

In regards to the petition submitted from the petitioner Ms. Lowe, the entire language as presented is neither clear nor factual. The petitioner blends together two separate policies into one which is neither clear or factual. Also, by cutting language from two different policies the voters of our community will be unaware of the fact that the Gender Identity policy does not in fact include bathroom or locker room usage.

Additionally, the petitioner only allows voters to read only a few words and topics from the two policies that are referenced and thus the public are not allowed to be fully informed of the intent or reason for why both policies exist. Only taking a few words out of each policy and leaving close to ¾ of the language of the policy out of the petition itself, the petitioner assumes that the voter is already aware of what is included in each policy. As MCL 168.952 reads, the Board of Electors' role is to determine whether “each reason for the recall stated in the petition is factual and of sufficient clarity to enable the officer whose recall is sought and the electors to identify the course of conduct that is the basis of the recall”. On top of this in the recent ruling by Judge Conlin, he stated that in referring to language that refers to a policy in number or name “merely citing a school board policy number is not sufficiently clear for an elector to be able to make an informed decision.” I would argue that not having the full policy listed in this petition puts the voters in our community in the same situation.

Also, the petitioner seems to infer that the district is making decisions without any input from parents or students and this is not the case. In policy 8011 along it is stated “Parental and family support are key determinants of transgender and nonconforming student health; therefore, student support teams, staff, and community partners should provide resources to help families and students locate information, counseling, and support services. School officials must consider the health, safety, and well-being of the student, as well as the responsibility to keep parents informed.” It should also be noted that in policy 9260, the board states “Any student who is uncomfortable using a gender-segregated facility, regardless of reason, shall notify WCS staff of his or her discomfort. WCS staff will work with the student to find an alternative that takes into account the privacy rights of all students, staff, and visitors.” As you can see, in both policies students and/or parents are being included in conversations based on the nature of the concern and are not arbitrary in nature.

Based on the above reasons, I state today that the language written by Ms. Lowe is not specific enough to make it clear what the electorate is signing.
# Williamston Community Schools

**Meeting Agenda/Minutes**  
**Policy Subcommittee**

**Date:** 11 OCT 17  
**Time:** 4:00-5:00 pm  
**Location:** MS Multi-Purpose Room

**Present:** Sarah Belanger, Greg Talberg, Jeff West, Adam Spina  
**Also Attending:** Steve Gruber, Monica Shafer, Jonathan Brandt, Lori Johnecheck, Dan Buckley, Phil Dufin, Craig Stiles

**Absent:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Minutes</th>
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| 4:00- | Policy #7500 Guidance Program                     | Mr. West called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.  
Mr. West addressed the process for the meeting and how public comment would work.  
Mr. West stated that “religion” is added to the policy. Policy will go to the board for discussion at 16 OCT board meeting. |
| 4:05- | Policy #8010 Equal Educational Opportunity        | Mr. West proposed that “religion” is added to the policy. Policy will go to the board for discussion at 16 OCT board meeting.  
Religion was not taken out by the board. It was not included at the last overall policy review in 1997. |
| 4:10- | Policy #4900 Fair Employment Clause               | Ms. Belanger motioned to go into closed session attorney client privilege. Mr. Talberg seconded.                                                                                                           |
|       |                                                   | Roll Call: Yes: 3 Ms. Belanger, Mr. Talberg and Mr. West  
No: 0  
Mr. Talberg motioned to come out of closed session. Ms. Belanger seconded.  
Mr. West motioned to strike “gender identity and gender expression” from the policy. Committee will take this revision to the board for discussion on 16 OCT |
| 4:20- | Policy #1370 Public                               | Clarification to handling of complaints will be edited to include a sequential step progression. Additionally, there will be additional language added to clarify the |
A General Statement Regarding “Clarity” that applies to submitted petitions:

Board members have leaned heavily on Judge Conlin’s May 1, 2018 Opinion and Order.

The main problem is that his opinion applies only to the specific, approved language that he opted to reverse. It does not set a binding precedent, nor does it function like case law.

Perhaps a more significant problem (with citing that document) is his own errors.

Ironically, he opines on factualness, then goes onto make a nonfactual statement (p. 3):

“The court finds this statement is factually correct.” [VOTED YES TO PASS GENDER IDENTITY POLICY 8011 ON 11/6/17.] “However, this language is not clear. It is doubtful that the average Ingham County voter would be familiar with Williamston School District’s Gender Identity Policy 8011.”

Three flaws:

1. Only those in the Williamston School voting District are eligible to sign the recall petition – not all of Ingham County.
2. The language will not be seen at the ballot box, but only on the circulated petitions.
3. His clarity “requirement” of petition signers being familiar with 8011 is irrelevant since it’s not a standard of MI Election Law.

He continues (on p. 4), “However, merely citing a school board policy number is not sufficiently clear for an elector to be able to make an informed and deliberate decision.”

The State Board of Canvassers would disagree. They are well-versed in all things election. For example, see approved language from March 7, 2016 minutes:

Senator Stamas’ “yea” roll call votes, numbers 475 and 476, as recorded in Senate Journal 100 dated November 3, 2015, to increase the vehicle registration tax (475) and diesel and gasoline fuel taxes (476).

Judge Conlin goes on to make a disturbing statement that violates the Michigan Constitution’s separation of powers:

Title IX and the Elliott-Larsen Act are statutory law. Second, absent express legislation, it is the function of the judiciary to determine whether or not gender identity and gender expression are protected classes under the law.

(p. 4 of Judge Conlin’s Opinion and Order)
Legislation DOES expressly define protected civil rights categories in Michigan:

ELLIOTT-LARSEN CIVIL RIGHTS ACT
Act 453 of 1976

AN ACT to define civil rights; to prohibit discriminatory practices, policies, and customs in the exercise of those rights based upon religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status, or marital status; to preserve the confidentiality of records regarding arrest, detention, or other disposition in which a conviction does not result; to prescribe the powers and duties of the civil rights commission and the department of civil rights; to provide remedies and penalties; to provide for fees; and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts.


Whether someone believes those protections should be expanded is irrelevant. The legislature creates law – not judges or commissions. And, local school boards certainly should not be adding protected civil rights categories to their policies.

Article III § 2
شرح الفصل الثالث الفقرة الثانية

STATE CONSTITUTION (EXCERPT)
CONSTITUTION OF MICHIGAN OF 1963

§ 2 Separation of powers of government.

Sec. 2.

The powers of government are divided into three branches: legislative, executive and judicial. No person exercising powers of one branch shall exercise powers properly belonging to another branch except as expressly provided in this constitution.


I believe Judge Conlin is, or will soon be, under Judicial Tenure review because of the ethical violation in the statement he made in his Opinion and Order. That nearly guarantees any appeal related to the Williamstion recall will not end up in front of him again.
Another faulty clarity argument is that petitioners will “mislead the public while circulating.” This too is irrelevant social policing. A petition circulator does not lose their First Amendment right to free speech while they are collecting signatures.

They can offer any information they like. They can ask questions. They can answer questions. This is not an argument, but rather a tactic to confuse the issue of clarity as it pertains to recall language.

Whether or not someone researches what they sign is up to them. All Williamston Community School policies are accessible online.

**ACCESSING POLICIES. I will now demonstrate how to access WCS policy at any time (24/7).**

1. Hover over the “BOARD OF EDUCATION” tab from the home page.

2. Drop-down menu appears.

4. Type policy NAME or NUMBER.
5. Select “Search.”
   a. For example, let’s say I wanted to research before signing a particular petition. I could type, “Fair Employment Clause.”
Notice it is the only “hit.” It is also straightforward to locate.

In closing, the precise function of the Election Commission is explained well in the January 9, 2018 minutes when petition language was first approved, “Judge Garcia stated that the role of the Election Commission was very narrow...the Election Commission was there to monitor those things that were put in front of the electorate to make sure they were clear and factually accurate.”