



Ozark Mountain School District

Regular Session– St. Joe

September 22, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Travis Freeman, Andy McCutcheon, James Morris, Kenneth Hancock, Bart Beaver, Travis Dixon, and Allen Glidewell

Board Members Absent: None

1. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. The meeting was called to order by Board President Andy McCutcheon at 6:00 p.m.
3. Public Comment: Frances Zemlick, a resident of the district, addressed the Board regarding the need for a strategic plan for the future of the district. She expressed concerns regarding school letter grades, administrative turnover, division among Board members, and the need for additional space at the Western Grove campus.
4. Student Achievement: Brooklyn Holder and Emma Wyatt presented the fair results and recognized students who placed in various categories. No action was taken.
5. Allen Yarborough, former superintendent of SCSD, presented information regarding the potential development of a district-operated virtual learning program. He discussed current homeschool enrollment, projected enrollment, estimated program costs and revenue, and opportunities for student recruitment and retention.

A motion was made by James Morris and seconded by Kenneth Hancock to authorize Mr. Knapp to sign the policy and move forward with the virtual program. Matt Smith was identified as a potential liaison for the program. As he is currently receiving a stipend, the wording of the stipend would be revised to reflect these additional duties. Motion carried.

6. Information was presented regarding the potential establishment of a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO), including the tax-credit opportunity, administration and distribution of contributions, and potential benefits to students and the district. This item was informational only; no action was taken.
7. Motion was made by Allen Glidewell and seconded by Bart Beaver to table discussion and action on the Bear Improvement Fund until the October meeting. Mr. Knapp will meet with the Certified PPC to obtain input regarding concerns with the policy as it currently exists. Motion carried.

8. Motion was made by Travis Dixon and seconded by Travis Freeman to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2026 Regular Session. Motion carried.

9. Motion was made by Travis Freeman and seconded by James Morris to approve the financial report for the month of August 2026. Motion carried.

Ending Balance: \$8,050,290.16

10. Motion was made by Travis Freeman and seconded by Bart Beaver to approve the AFR Level 1 Report (25/26 Actuals and 26/27 budget). Motion carried.

11. Motion was made by Travis Freeman and seconded by Allen Glidewell to approved the reassignments as presented. Motion carried.

a. Mikhaila Manning – Sped at WGES/SJES to Sped at SJES

b. Patricia Jones- Yearbook Advisor

12. Motion was made by Travis Dixon and seconded by Travis Freeman to approve the slate of petitions for transfer. Motion carried.

13. Motion was made by Travis Freeman and seconded by Travis Dixon to purchase two used buses from Central States Bus Sales. Motion carried.

14. A motion was made by Travis Freeman and seconded by James Morris to roll over the original \$2,000,000 certificate of deposit (CD), including accrued interest, into a new 12-month CD at an interest rate of 4.30%. The projected rollover balance is \$2,213,760.55. Motion carried.

15. General Discussion: Aliza Jones joined the meeting via Zoom to provide an update regarding district facilities. Several reports concerning mold, asbestos, and structural issues at the Bruno-Pyatt campus were presented to the Board. The building has been deemed unsafe for occupancy. Estimated mold/asbestos abatement and remediation costs are approximately \$89,500; however, significant structural repairs would also be necessary. A complete renovation was estimated at approximately \$7.5 million. It was noted that asbestos abatement would be required prior to demolition. The gymnasium, cafeteria, and kitchen may potentially be preserved, although asbestos is also present in those areas. The district has spent approximately \$35,000 on the Bruno-Pyatt facility since January, excluding property insurance. The Board discussed whether to continue investing in remediation or pursue demolition or sale of the property.

Other district facility needs were also reviewed. Renovation of the St. Joe K–4 building was estimated at approximately \$2.2 million. Western Grove was identified as currently lacking approximately 21,000 square feet of needed space. A proposed six-classroom addition consisting of approximately 6,041 square feet was estimated at \$400 per square foot, for a

projected cost of approximately \$2,416,400. A larger modular building was also discussed at an estimated cost of approximately \$750,000; however, this option was not recommended given the district's ability to potentially construct a permanent addition.

The Board discussed whether to proceed with the Western Grove addition using available Building Fund resources or wait until 2028 to seek Partnership Program funding. Aliza Jones advised that she would not recommend another modular building and, if moving forward with current resources, would favor construction of the six-classroom addition. It was clarified that Partnership Program funding would not reimburse the district retroactively for a project begun prior to approval.

****Mr. Knapp:** I recommend that we pursue a six-classroom addition at Western Grove to the tune of square footage being 6,041 square feet at a price of roughly \$400 per square foot and to the tune of \$2,416,400.00, knowing that that's going to have to be adjusted as we continue.

Aliza: This is simply an estimation, so we know that it's going to go up as we move forward. So, what will happen now is I will reach out to Craig. I will tell Craig what we are doing, our construction manager, if we want to stay with the same construction manager. I will tell them what we are doing, and Craig is the one who will do the design development. I will require our construction manager to give me cost estimates at schematics, 20%, 60%, and two weeks before bid, so that at any point during this, so that we see if it is getting over \$3.5 million, we can pull the plug and go, "Let's pause. We need to wait. We need to apply for partnership funding." **

Mr. Knapp recommended proceeding with the proposed six-classroom addition at Western Grove, estimated at 6,041 square feet and approximately \$2,416,400, with the understanding that costs may change due to inflation. Cost estimates would be provided intermittently throughout the schematic design stages, as well as approximately two weeks prior to bidding. This would allow the district to reevaluate the project if projected costs become too high and consider pursuing Partnership Program funding instead.

****Mr. Knapp:** I think I need to add to my recommendation the criteria she mentioned and that we reevaluate at schematic at 20% and 40%, and two weeks before bid. I am going to go ahead and make that recommendation.

Andy: Do I hear a motion to move forward on the construction of six classrooms with the criteria set out from Aliza on cost estimates? **

A motion was made by Travis Freeman and seconded by Travis Dixon to approve Mr. Knapp's recommendation to proceed with the six-classroom addition at Western Grove under the stated schematic and cost-review criteria.

Voting in favor: Andy McCutcheon, Travis Freeman, Bart Beaver, and Travis Dixon.

Voting opposed: James Morris, Kenneth Hancock, and Allen Glidewell.

Motion passed 4–3.

16. Motion was made by Travis Freeman and seconded by Allen Glidewell to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Motion carried.

Board President, Andy McCutcheon

Board Secretary, Travis Dixon