

**President**



**M**ichelle Chevatewa is in her third term as a Board Member. Her term will expire in 2020. She is currently serving as Board President. She has lived in the Fitzgerald community for 39 years and is a graduate of the Fitzgerald Public Schools. She and her husband Jason have two children; one is a graduate of Fitzgerald High School and currently attends Oakland University and the other attends Chatterton. She is the Executive Vice-President for Mike Staff Productions. Currently, she is a member of the \*MASB, \*MCSBA, and the \*NSBA. Mrs. Chevatewa holds a Level 4—Master Board Member Award, advocacy Skills Specialty Award and a Data Specialty Award from \*MASB.

**Vice President**



**E**lizabeth Smith is in her third term as a Board Member. Her term will expire in 2020. She is currently serving as Board Vice-President. She has lived in the Fitzgerald community for twenty-six years. All three of her children have graduated from Fitzgerald. She is currently a member of the \*MASB, \*MCSBA, and the \*NSBA. Ms. Smith holds a Level 5—Master Diamond Award and a Data Specialty Award from \*MASB.

**Secretary**



**R**andy J. Meisner was appointed as a Board Member on October 25, 2012. His term will expire in 2020. He is currently serving as a Board Secretary. He has lived in the Fitzgerald community for twenty-six years. He and his wife, Valerie have two children; both are graduates of Fitzgerald High School. He is in his 12th season as a volunteer coach for the Fitzgerald Wrestling Club and a Board Member with the Michigan Youth Wrestling Association. Mr. Meisner is a Veteran of the Air Force and a Member of the American Legion. He is currently a member of the \*MASB, \*MCSBA, and the \*NSBA and holds a Level Two—Award of Merit from \*MASB.

**Treasurer**



**J**udy Furgal is serving her fourth term as a Board Member. Her term will expire in 2018. She is currently the Board's Treasurer. She has lived in the Fitzgerald community for sixty-four years. She is a graduate of Fitzgerald High School. She and her husband Denis have two children; both are graduates of our district. She chairs the Fitzgerald Foundation for Educational Advancement and holds a seat on the Warren Zoning Board of Appeals. Mrs. Furgal is currently a member of the \*MASB and the \*NSBA. Mrs. Furgal is an officer in the \*MCSBA and holds a Level 6—Master Platinum Award, an Advocacy Skills Specialty Award and a Data Specialty Award from \*MASB.

**Trustee**



**H**ilary Kutella is serving his tenth term as a Board Member. His term will expire in 2016. He is currently serving as a Board Trustee. He has lived in the Fitzgerald community for fifty-four years. Hilary has four children; all graduates of our district. He was employed by DaimlerChrysler Corp. as a senior engineer but now enjoys retirement. He is currently a member of the \*MASB, \*MCSBA, and the \*NSBA. Mr. Kutella holds a President's Award of Recognition and a Data Specialty Award from \*MASB.

**Trustee**



**L**ori M. Eseman-Dreyer is in her fourth year as a Board Member. Her term will expire in 2016. She is currently serving as a Board Trustee. She has lived in the Fitzgerald community for fifty-five years. She and her husband John have three children; one attends Fitzgerald High School and two are graduates from FHS. She is currently a member of the \*MASB, \*MCSBA, and the \*NSBA and holds a Level Two—Award of Merit and a Data Specialty Award from \*MASB.

**Trustee**



**T**erry Wisniewski was appointed as a Board Member in April of 2014 then elected to the board in the fall. His term will expire in 2018. He is currently serving as a Board Trustee. His immediate family has lived in the Fitzgerald community for seventy years. He has two children that graduated with highest honors from Fitzgerald High School and are currently attending Michigan State University. Mr. Wisniewski is a Supervisor at FCA LLC in Auburn Hills and has served on the city of Warren Civil Service Commission since 2008. He is currently a member of the \*MASB, \*MCSBA, and the \*NSBA and holds a Level 1—CBA Certification from \*MASB.

- \*MCSBA—Macomb County School Board Association
- \*MASB—Michigan Association of School Boards
- \*NSBA—National School Board Association

**Board Authority**

Your Board has control over local school matters within the laws and regulations established by the State Legislature and State Board of Education. The Fitzgerald Board of Education is a legislative body which determines general policies for the control, management and care of the district's schools.

It delegates authority to the Superintendent and her administrative staff to operate the schools according to these policies.

**Term of Election**

Your Board Members are local citizens elected to a six year term of office. At least one position is open for election every even year. Any registered voter, who is a resident of the Fitzgerald Public Schools and who has met filing requirements may run for election. Members are elected at-large from the total district.



**Your Superintendent**

**T**he superintendent is the chief executive officer of the district. She is a professional educator employed by the Board to administer school laws and regulations and to carry out policies adopted by the Board. She advises the Board and makes recommendations on matters pertaining to operating the school district and gives direction to the staff. She also assists the Board President in preparing an agenda for each meeting which establishes the formal order of business. **Barbara VanSweden** was appointed Superintendent in 2009. She holds a Bachelors and Masters Degree from the University of Michigan and an Education Specialist Degree in School Administration from Oakland University. She has been employed by the district for eight years. She has held teaching, leadership and administrative positions in other districts before becoming Fitzgerald's Superintendent.

**FITZGERALD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS  
Held on the Fitzgerald High School Campus  
Automotive/Pre-Engineering Building - Multi-Purpose Room  
23200 Ryan Road, Warren, MI  
7:00 p.m.**

Board Meeting Dates:
July 16, 2015
August 13, 2015
September 10, 2015
September 24, 2015
October 8, 2015
October 20, 2015
November 5, 2015
November 19, 2015
December 10, 2015
January 14, 2016
January 28, 2016
February 11, 2016
March 3, 2016
March 24, 2016
April 21, 2016
May 12, 2016
May 26, 2016
June 9, 2016
June 23, 2016

## Welcome

Your Fitzgerald Public Schools' Board of Education and staff welcome you to this meeting. We appreciate your interest in matters pertaining to our student's education.

## Meeting Times

Your School Board meets on the first and third Thursday of each month (with a few exceptions). Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the Fitzgerald High School's Automotive and Pre-Engineering Building.

Board of Education meetings are open to the public. Closed Meetings are called only when necessary and held according to the Open Meetings Act.

The meetings deal with matters concerning curriculum and instruction, and financial matters as well as an opportunity to hear updates from our staff regarding implemented programs along with the opportunity to recognize students and staff.

Other special meetings may be called as needed. All meetings are posted on the entrance door of our FHS Auto/Pre-Engineering Building and on our website.

## Copies of the Agenda

The Board Meeting Agendas are available on our website at [www.fitz.k12.mi.us](http://www.fitz.k12.mi.us) and are available at the meeting.

If you wish to address the Board, you will be given an opportunity to do so under the "audience" portion of the agenda. Before approaching the podium, we ask that you complete a form which requests your standard personal information and give it to the Board's Administrative Assistant. When recognized by the Board President, please state your name and the reason for addressing the Board. Per Board policy, you will be allowed three minutes to address the Board.

The Board will listen to you and take one of three steps:

- Discuss the matter at this meeting.
- Defer discussion until a later meeting.
- Refer you to a school representative.

If you wish to speak at a future Board meeting, contact the Superintendent's office or the Board Secretary, outlining the general nature of your discussion one week before a regularly scheduled meeting.

### Standing Committees

Standing Board Committees are made up of not more than three members. The committees are designed to help the Board, as a whole, be as fully informed as possible on all matters pertaining to the district operations and to gather and develop information.

Members are appointed annually by the Board President. The committees are solely advisory and have no decision-making powers. Currently, until the Organizational Meeting on the first Board Meeting in January, the committees are:

#### Bylaws and Policy

Elizabeth Smith  
Hilary Kutella  
Terry Wisniewski

#### Curriculum

Randy Meisner  
Elizabeth Smith  
Lori M. Eseman-Dreyer

### Finance

Judy Furgal  
Hilary Kutella  
Terry Wisniewski

### Human Resources

Terry Wisniewski  
Elizabeth Smith  
Judy Furgal

### Facilities, Improvement and Modernization

Hilary Kutella  
Randy Meisner  
Lori M. Eseman-Dreyer

### Community Relations

Lori M. Eseman-Dreyer  
Judy Furgal  
Randy Meisner

### MASB Representative

Hilary Kutella  
Elizabeth Smith (Alternate)

### MCSBA Legislative Liaison

Judy Furgal  
Lori Eseman-Dreyer (Alternate)

### NSBA Advocacy Institute

Representative  
Judy Furgal  
Elizabeth Smith (Alternate)

In 2012/13 Fitzgerald Public Schools' Board of Education was awarded the Standard of Excellence Board Award and the Honor Board Award from the Michigan School Board Association.

For more information contact:  
Fitzgerald Public Schools  
Office of the Superintendent  
23200 Ryan Road  
Warren, MI 48091  
586.757.1750 – Phone  
586.758.0991 – Fax

Visit us at: [www.fitz.k12.mi.us](http://www.fitz.k12.mi.us)

# Fitzgerald Public Schools

## Welcome to a Board of Education Meeting

### Vision Statement:

**F**itzgerald Public Schools...continually improving the framework for academic and social excellence, while meeting the challenges of an ever-changing world.

### Mission Statement:

**F**itzgerald Public Schools, in partnership with parents and the community, will advance the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development of all students while providing a relevant, rigorous, and engaging education.