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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meeting

Thursday, March 8 & 22, 2018
7 p.m.
Administration Building
1220 Howard St.

For more information, call
(269) 337-1572

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Superintendent Column: Two Funding Issues on Horizon for KPS

KPS Board Approves Bond Scope Committee Recommendation

Kalamazoo Public Schools will present voters with a bond issue to provide routine facility upkeep and upgrades, improve security, update technology, replace Edison Environmental Science Academy, expand Phoenix High School, and provide the district with a new districtwide kitchen.

The proposal for a 1.25 mill district millage rate increase for the \$96.7 million bond will be on the May 8 ballot. The proposal would increase taxes \$62.50 annually over the 2017-18 tax rate for the owner of a \$100,000 home.

Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice received and affirmed the recommendation from the Citizens' Bond Scope Committee, formed by the KPS Board of Education in the early fall. Rice recommended approval to the board, which voted on Jan. 25 to place the bond on the ballot for vote by the district.

The recommendation is:
● \$44,828,590 for upkeep and upgrades of facilities such as roofs, boilers, and parking lots; replacement of buses, playground equipment, food service equipment, art and music equipment and other equipment; replacement of furniture; and replacement and acquisition of library books.

(continued on page 3)

Families Are Invited to School Begins at 4! on March 14

Kalamazoo Public Schools' kindergarten and PEEP pre-kindergarten programs are inviting families to attend School Begins at 4! PEEP (4-year-olds) and Kindergarten (5-year-olds) Orientation/Registration on March 14.

Parents of children who will be 4 years old by Dec. 1 can sign up their children for PEEP, the Pre-kindergarten Early Education Program, while parents of children who will be 5 years old by Sept. 1 can register for kindergarten during the event.

Applications for PEEP will be available that day. PEEP is part of the state's Great Start Readiness initiative. The program



Amor Salinaz took time out of kindergarten orientation to color at Northeastern Elementary School in 2017.

offers half-day or full day pre-kindergarten classes with highly trained teachers and two support paraprofessionals per classroom in elementary schools across the district. Meals are provided, and transportation is provided for students who live more than a mile from the school in their attendance district or to magnet schools that are outside a child's attendance district.

Participants must meet state eligibility requirements for the program.

"It is important that children start school at 4 years old to lay a strong foundation for future learning," said Elizabeth

(continued on page 3)

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Two Major Resource Issues Come Before the Community in 2018

There are two major resource issues for Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) students, staff, and community in 2018: a bond proposal on the May 8 ballot and a new state school financial adequacy study.

KPS Bond Proposal. On Jan. 25, the Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education approved the placement of a \$96.7 million bond referendum on the May 8 ballot. If approved, the bond would permit the replacement of roofs, boilers, windows, doors, flooring, and other capital items at the end of their useful lives. It would fund more secure entrances in many schools in the district. It would fund the replacement of Edison Environmental Science Academy, the oldest school in continuous use in the district, constructed in 1923. It would fund new buses and computers. It would fund a new district-wide kitchen to help improve the quality of meals in the district

for students, and a small but significant addition onto Phoenix High School.

Districts across the state often use bonds to fund major building and other capital items. KPS voters have consistently approved bonds over a period of years to help keep district buildings in good shape for students, staff, and community.

A New State Financial Adequacy Study. The School Finance Research Collaborative (SFRC) is a statewide coalition of business people and educators who believe that the school finance system in Michigan is outdated and needs to be replaced. In the spring, the SFRC contracted with the two top school financial adequacy firms in the country – Augenblick, Palaich, and Associates



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
Superintendent

and Picus, Odden, and Associates – to produce a study on Michigan school finance and to recommend the strongest possible state school finance system.

In mid-January, the resultant study was published and disseminated. The study recommends the following:

- Base funding of \$9,590 per student in state, local, and federal funding for all students.
- An additional 35 percent beyond base funding – another \$3,356 – for every poor student.
- Additional funds for English language learners based on the English language level of the individual student. For English language learners with very little English, the additional funding would be 70 percent more, or \$6,713 per student. For those with somewhat greater English, the added funding would be 50 percent more, or \$4,795 per student. For those with the ability to be mainstreamed in general

education classrooms but who still require some continued support, the extra funding would be 35 percent more, or \$3,356 per student.

• Additional funds for special needs students. These additional funds would be 70 percent more, or \$6,713 for each child with a mild handicap or a disability, and 115 percent more, or \$11,028 for each child with a moderate challenge. Children with severe special needs would have the added costs of their education fully reimbursed by the state under this study's recommendations.

• Pre-kindergarten for three- and four-year olds funded at \$14,155 per full day student. Currently, pre-kindergarten is funded by the state at \$3,625 for every half day, or \$7,250 for full day.

• Additional funding of 4 percent, or \$380, for each geographically isolated student. This is not an issue for KPS and other urban districts, but is an issue for

districts in the Upper Peninsula.

• Transportation funding at \$973 per transported student.

• In addition to the above recommendations, the report suggests added study in the following areas: capital needs of local school districts, who receive no funding from the state for such needs; more precise transportation needs, costs, and appropriate funding; and the costs of high-needs poverty students.

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve on the School Finance Research Collaborative Steering and Technical Committee and to play a very small role in making this new study a reality. I encourage you to review the study at the SFRC website and to share your thoughts with your locally elected state officials, whose responsibility it is each year to craft and approve a state budget that appropriately funds pre-K-12 school children across Michigan.

15TH ANNUAL

Teen Filmmaker Festival

Saturday, March 17, 2018
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Kalamazoo Public Library

Kindergarten Orientation (cont. from page 1)

Jackson-Spaner, the KPS early childhood coordinator.

Applications for PEEP will be taken at all schools but the program is run in 12 schools: Arcadia, Edison, Greenwood, Indian Prairie, Lincoln, Northeastern, Parkwood-Upjohn, Prairie Ridge, Spring Valley, Washington, Winchell, and Woodward.

Kindergarteners will be members of the Class of 2030 and their families are invited to take the first steps toward graduation on that day. Students who will be 5 years old by Sept. 1 and their parents are invited to attend orientation. Parents also may request kindergarten enrollment waivers for children who will be 5 years old not later than Dec. 1.

Children may tour buildings, meet teachers, visit classrooms, and learn about the programs that Kalamazoo Public Schools offers. Students who graduate

from KPS are eligible for the Kalamazoo Promise scholarship, which covers college tuition and fees at most Michigan colleges and universities.

Parents should bring the incoming child's birth certificate, immunization record, proof of hearing and vision screening (if available), and two proofs of residency (for example, a utility bill, lease agreement, or mortgage agreement).

Children who need immunizations can visit Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services, 3299 Gull Road. The immunization clinic is open 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Friday, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-6 p.m. Thursday. For more information, call KCHCS at (269) 373-5203.

For more information on kindergarten, please call Student Services at (269) 337-0161. For information on PEEP, call (269) 337-0095.

Arcadia Elementary School 932 Boswell Lane 9:30-11 a.m. / 5:30-7 p.m.
Edison Environmental Science Academy • 924 Russell St 9:30-11 a.m. / 5-6:30 p.m.
El Sol Elementary School 604 W. Vine St. 9:30-11 a.m. / 5:30-7 p.m.
Greenwood Elementary School 3501 Moreland Ave. 9-10:30 am / 5:30-7 p.m.
Indian Prairie Elementary School • 3546 Grand Prairie Rd. 10-11:30 am / 5:30-7 p.m
King-Westwood Elementary School • 1100 Nichols Road 9:30-11 a.m. / 5:30- 7 p.m.
Lincoln International Studies School • 912 N. Burdick St. 8:05-11:10 a.m. / 4:30-6 p.m.
Milwood Elementary School 3400 Lovers Lane 9:30-11 a.m. / 5:30-7 p.m.
Northeastern Elementary School • 2433 Gertrude St. 9-10:30 a.m. / 5-6:30 p.m.

Northglade Montessori Magnet School • 1914 Cobb Ave. 9:30-11 a.m. / 5:30-7 p.m.
Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School • 2321 S. Park St. 1:30-3 p.m. / 5:30-7 p.m.
Prairie Ridge Elementary School • 2294 S. Ninth St. 9:15-10:45 a.m. / 5:30-7 p.m.
Spring Valley Center for Exploration 3530 Mt. Olivet Road 9:30-11 a.m. / 5-6:30 p.m.
Washington Writers' Academy 1919 Portage St. 9-10:30 a.m. / 5:30-7 p.m.
Winchell Elementary School 2316 Winchell Ave. 9-11:30 a.m. / 5:30-7 p.m.
Woods Lake: A Magnet Center for the Arts • 3215 Oakland Drive 9-10:30 a.m. / 5:30-7 p.m.
Woodward School for Technology and Research 606 Stuart Ave. 9:30-11 a.m. / 5:30-7 p.m.

KPS Board Approves Bond Scope Committee Recommendation (continued from page 1)

It also includes an additional 200,000 square feet of new air conditioned space in schools.

● \$4,203,454 for improved security, including secured entrances, and security equipment.

● \$9,580,300 for technology, such as Chromebooks, desktop computers, network electronics, network printer replacement, and classroom AV replacement.

● \$25,680,000 for the replacement of Edison Environmental Science Academy.

● \$6,412,656 for additions at Phoenix High School. The project includes four classrooms, a gym, locker rooms, restrooms, and office space.

● \$4,995,000 for a districtwide kitchen, which would increase the district's ability to provide scratch cooking.

● \$1,000,000 for bond issuance costs.

Two projects considered by the Citizens' Bond Scope Committee but ultimately not included in its recommendation were multipurpose athletic practice facilities at Kalamazoo

Central and Loy Norrix and the replacement or substantial renovation of a second older building. These elements tested lower on the survey of likely voters and were not considered to be as beneficial to the district by the committee as other potential projects.

The committee began its work with an architectural assessment that looked at the needs of all district facilities and calculated a facilities cost index for each building that compared the cost of renovating buildings versus that of replacing them. Based on those calculations, the committee determined the district should consider replacing Edison.

The committee was also charged with completing a survey of likely voters, conducted by the public polling firm of EPIC-MRA. EPIC-MRA surveyed 400 likely voters, which resulted in a survey with a margin of error of 4.9 percent.

In addition to surveying potential voters about the bond issue, the survey asked about attitudes toward KPS. The survey found 82 percent believe

the district is doing a good, very good, or excellent job, compared with just 11 percent that believe the district is doing a not good or poor job. Also, 59 percent said they believe that the district has improved, compared with just 7 percent that believe the district has gotten worse.

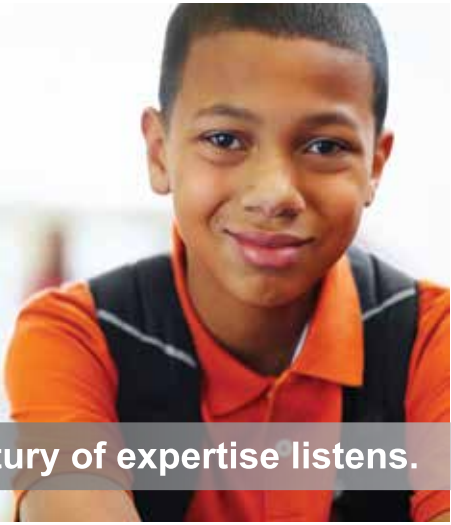
The panel of potential voters were given three possible millage scenarios:

● A \$117 million bond proposal with a 1.5 mill increase that would cost \$75 annually for the owner of a \$100,000 home. Seventy-one percent of those surveyed were supportive of this proposal.

● An \$87 million bond proposal with a 1.0 mill increase that would cost \$50 annually for the owner of a \$100,000 home. Seventy-six percent of those surveyed were supportive of this proposal.

● A \$68 million bond proposal with a 0.5 mill increase that would cost \$25 annually for the owner of a \$100,000 home. Seventy-nine percent of those surveyed were supportive of this bond proposal.

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MLK Day Around KPS

Schools across the district marked MLK Day with special activities and events. Here is a sampling from various schools:

Northeastern Elementary School held a celebration honoring what would have been the 89th birthday of the slain civil rights leader the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., which included music, dancing and speeches. Performance included praise dancing by the Northeastern drill team, a medley by the school's orchestra, and speeches by fourth- and fifth- grade students. One group of students portrayed significant figures from the Civil Rights movement praising Dr. King for his work, while another group of student recited King's famous "I have a Dream" speech. Each classroom made a display honoring the life and legacy of Dr. King.



Ayanna Lee portraying Rosa Parks at the Northeastern Elementary School Martin Luther King MLK Day celebration.



Raniyah Pines shows off a note of thanks at Winchell Kindness Week/MLK Day.

Spring Valley Center for Exploration students were surrounded by celebration and new learning of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The morning began with students listening to Stevie Wonder sing "Happy Birthday." At lunchtime, students watched video clips about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and participated in "I Have A Dream" activities during indoor recess. All classrooms participated in various activities to learn more about MLK Day, such as special art lessons where students discussed vocabulary words, drew handprints, and used crayon to create as many skin tones as possible.

Lincoln International Studies School students researched the life of King in their classrooms, and a recording of King's "I Have a Dream" speech was played during the morning

announcements. At **Edison Environmental Science Academy**, activities were built around a viewing of the movie "Our Friend Martin." Students participated in pre-movie activities in the classrooms, then they all watched the movie together. They discussed the movie back in their classes.

For the second year, **Winchell Elementary School** celebrated Kindness Week in conjunction with MLK Day. In addition to gathering donations of toiletries for community organizations, the students were encouraged to practice kindness by leaving notes of thanks in special mailboxes set out for the school staff.

Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts invited special guests from Western Michigan University to the school for MLK Day. Communications professor Dr.

Mark Orbe visited the school along with members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. and the Alpha Phi Alpha and Omicron Delta Phi fraternities to help the students discuss King's life and their own aspirations. In addition, during lunch, staff helped the students learn more about King's life and work.

Phoenix High School remembered Dr. King with a showing of the documentary

"Witness: From the Balcony of Room 306," which focuses on the Rev. Samuel "Billy" Kyles recollection of King's assassination. For several years, principal Mark Hill has taken students to the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel, where King was killed. Photographs from those visits and of the museum were on display at Phoenix before the documentary screening.



Students at Edison Environmental Science Academy watched the movie "My Friend Martin" on MLK Day 2018.



Western Michigan University students visited Woods Lake Elementary to talk about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on MLK Day 2018. At this table, WMU students Hunter Haley, dark shirt, and Darius Phillips talked to students about King and asked about their aspirations, starting with Randy Hamilton, purple shirt and moving clockwise, Ryan Kelley, Jamarre-Perry-Bennett, Ronnell Burnett, Renato Vega, and Kardierre Williams.



Phoenix High School set up a display of photographs taken at the National Civil Rights Museum on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Principal Mark Hill has taken students on a trip to the museum for several years.



Grant Tiffany, left, Dan'Quevion Walker-McDonald, and Da Tavion Anderson celebrate MLK Day at Spring Valley Center for Exploration.



Jayden Freeman-McKenzie, left, and Semaj Smith researched the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Lincoln International Studies School on MLK Day 2018.

NOTICE

Kalamazoo Public Schools welcomes all students and staff of any religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, gender identification, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, and disability.

The District will not tolerate or condone any act of bias or discrimination toward any person on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, gender identification, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, and disability in any of its activities, hiring practices, programs or services.

Inquiries by students and/or their parents/guardians should be directed to:

Director of Student Services

Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0161

All other inquiries should be directed to:

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

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Students Win Social Justice Award For Community Work

Four Kalamazoo Public Schools seniors were named winners of the 2018 Dr. Lewis Walker Social Justice Youth Award for their commitment to community service.

Kalamazoo Central students Yasmin Abdullah-Bush and Kendra Parkman and Loy Norrix seniors C.J. Washington and Samantha Fuller were honored as part of the City of Kalamazoo's MLK Day celebrations in January. A fifth award was given to Portage student Issra Said. The students each received \$200, a one-year membership to the NAACP and a certificate.

Clifton "C. J." Washington mentors younger students ranging from elementary-age students to freshmen in high school, serving as a role model for them to continue their education. He works with middle school students in a KAPPA League program called "Stepping to Success," that teaches students time management, goal setting, how to succeed in school and the importance of



Dr. Lewis Walker Social Justice Youth Award winners were honored in January. From left, Dr. Lewis Walker, Loy Norrix seniors Samantha Fuller and C. J. Washington, and Kalamazoo Central students Yasmin Abdullah-Bush and Kendra Parkman, Portage student Issra Said, and Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell. They were honored as part of the City of Kalamazoo's MLK Day celebrations in January.

good attendance and community service. Washington is leader on the Loy Norrix football team, joining his teammates to read to younger students. Washington is dual enrolled at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. His award was presented by Fifth Third Bank.

Samantha Fuller always puts others first and dedicates a tremendous amount of time to helping those in need. She helps coordinate food drives, shoe collections, and the Winter Wear Drive for families at her school and for Project Connect, a community service event. She also volunteers with the Salvation Army, sings Christmas carols at nursing homes, and helps to coordinate the Norrix/Edison Literacy Project, which helps fourth graders improve their comprehension skills. She also visited the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission and Kalamazoo Deacon's Conference with fellow students to help them learn about local efforts to help community members in need. Her award was presented by Schuphan & Sons.

Yasmin Abdullah-Bush has volunteered her time as a counselor in training with the City of Kalamazoo's Parks & Recreation

Department for several years. She logs nearly 350 hours each summer working with youth during the city's summer camp programs. In this work, Yasmin serves a positive role model for Kalamazoo-area youth from many backgrounds and handles every interaction with a positive, caring and understanding demeanor. She currently works with the After School Program at Station 5, helping to inspire elementary school students to become the next generation of leaders. Her award was presented by Consumers Energy.

Kendra Parkman volunteers for Charlie's P.L.A.C.E. whenever possible helping prepare for events, handing out information, and encouraging others to get involved. She has traveled with groups such as Jeter's Leaders, ACT-SO, and Summer Discovery allowing her to experience different cultures and to interact with people from all backgrounds. She shares her talents performing with the Hawthorne Singers and in Kalamazoo Central musicals and is the president of her class and a member of National Honor Society. Her award was presented by Life EMS.

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Literacy Night 2018: A Celebration of Reading in Many Forms

Elementary School Literacy Night activities will be March 7, while Middle School events will be held March 8.

Arcadia Elementary School
“Building Literacy at Home – A Make and Take for Arcadia Families”
5:30-7 p.m.
Parents and students will enjoy a pizza dinner and will learn ways to read with a child, how to make learning fun by playing games that promote literacy, and how to build language and increase vocabulary. All students attending will receive books. Families will receive raffle tickets for games and prizes drawings at 6:45 p.m.

Edison Environmental Science Academy
“Superhero Family Literacy Night: Reading is Our Superpower”
5:30-7 p.m.
Families can participate in a fun night of reading and writing activities, such as the cozy Reading Headquarters Station, grade-level activities in the

gym, and a Superhero City Photo Booth where kids can have their picture taken with a favorite book.

El Sol Elementary School
“Connecting Content through Poetry”
5:30-7 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 S. Rose St.
Students will be publishing a piece of poetry that is related to content they are learning. Families will have the opportunity to see students’ work and create some of their own poetry as well. Children should bring their library cards so they can check out a book while there.

Greenwood Elementary
5:30-7 p.m.
Greenwood families will have an evening full of possibilities. They will hear from various workers in our community on how they use literacy at work. Students will listen to stories about different occupations, interact with the community and write in response to reading. It will be a night that they will never forget.

Indian Prairie Elementary School
5:30-7 p.m.
Reading and literacy activities will be held in an open house-style scavenger hunt. Teachers will put together a list of literacy-based items to find in their classes, as well as things that can be found in the entrance, lobby and hallways of the school. Students can present their completed scavenger hunt checklist for a special incentive at the end of the evening.

King-Westwood Elementary School
5:30-7 p.m.
Join King-Westwood staff in celebrating its Olympic Readers! Each grade level will offer a reading/writing Olympic-themed activity. Students can have fun playing sports trivia, win a book in the Olympic Book Walk, test their knowledge on the Olympics, and join staff for a pizza snack in the cafeteria.

Lincoln International Studies School
4:30-6 p.m.

Lincoln will celebrate with an international theme. Each grade level has an assigned country. Each student will produce a piece of informational writing about the country. Students will also produce a piece of artwork from that country in art class to be displayed at Literacy Night. Traditional foods from the various countries will be available for families to sample.

Milwood Elementary School
“Pathways to the Promise”
5:30-7 p.m.
The evening’s activities will center around preparing students for career and college choices and opportunities in the 21st century. There will be focused grade-level activities from 5:30-6:30 p.m. with a guest speaker from the Kalamazoo Promise to share information and answer questions for parents and students from 6:30-7 p.m.

Northeastern Elementary School
“A Taste of Northeastern”
5-6:30 pm
Students and their families will experience literacy through six different cultures and foods. The school will celebrate diversity with literature, interactive projects and food and make it a delicious night of literacy and fun.

Northglade Montessori School
“We’re Game for Reading”
5:30-7 p.m.
There will be interactive literacy games at every grade level, and the teachers will serve as game show hosts. The school-wide writing project theme is, “What can I do to bring peace to the world?” Families will be provided with literacy-building strategies that are transferable to home.

Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School
5:30-7 p.m.
This year Parkwood will have workstations set up in each grade for math and reading, so parents can experience what students do during the school day. They also will have a presentation on the new Eureka Math program and the online MSTEP practice test. Parents will be able to participate in grade level work stations for ELA and Math.

Prairie Ridge Elementary School
5:30-7 p.m.
Prairie Ridge is hosting a camping-themed Literacy Night. Students will be able to enjoy camp food (hot dogs and chips) in the cafeteria and variety of camping-related activities throughout the building. Come

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Literacy Night 2018: A Celebration of Reading in Many Forms *(continued from page 6)*

out and read s'more by a pretend fire and join in campfire songs.

Spring Valley Elementary School
5-6:30 pm
SpringValley's focus this year will be on nature. Activities will include a presentation from our neighbors at Bow in the Clouds, book giveaways, take a walk through nature-themed hallway displays and a book fair from Book Nook.

Washington Writers' Academy
5:30-7 p.m.
Washington Writers' Academy will hold a Promising Futures Career Fair on literacy night. It's never too early to sow the seeds for the future and get students thinking and dreaming about all the possibilities. The purpose of the career fair is to expose Promise students and their families to potential careers, local colleges, tech programs and businesses that can help them explore and realize their dreams. The connection between each career and literacy will be highlighted. Students will leave book-in-hand.

Winchell Elementary
5:30-7 p.m.
Literacy Night at Winchell Elementary integrates mathematical literacy into art exploration. Students will have the opportunity

to read biographical information about famous artists and study the craft these artists use as it connects to different geometrical concepts students are studying in each grade level.

Woods Lake Elementary
"Camp Read S'more"
6-7:30 p.m.
Families are invited to Grab a flashlight and take a hike through the wonderful world of reading. Here they can explore a number of math, science, and literacy activities. Watch as the school transforms to a "sweet" campground, where all paths lead to reading.

Woodward School for Technology and Research
"Passport to Reading"
5:30-7 p.m.
Travel around the world (school) and learn about diverse books, authors and reading activities.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS
Hillside Middle School
"Wonder: Self-Acceptance, Friendship, Empathy"
6-7:30 p.m.
During Literacy Night, students and their families will gather in the cafeteria for food, drinks, and the opportunity to meet several local authors. Students, parents,



Third grader Stella Hensley used her super cookie-selling powers during Woodward's superhero-themed literacy night in 2016.

and guardians will move from station to station using a passport. Stations will include interactive opportunities for families: library card sign up, a book walk, book fair, team-led activities, and a family photo booth. Students will showcase their original poetry and their interpretation of other poets' works.

Linden Grove Middle School
"A Night at the Movies"
5-6:30 pm
Literacy Night at Linden Grove Middle School will feature books that have been made into films. Upon entering Linden Grove, students and their families will

receive a movie ticket featuring the titles of "The Hunger Games," "Maui the Demigod," "Alice in Wonderland," "Wonder," and "Diary of a Wimpy Kid." Participants will complete tasks at various "movie stations" to earn "admittance" to additional entertainment such as a free book, free popcorn, a book walk, and more.

Maple Street Magnet School
"The Playbook"
6-7:30 p.m.
Literacy Night will feature activities focused around the themes of grit, motivation, passion, focus, teamwork, and

resilience from "The Playbook" by Kwame Alexander. Students and families are invited to participate in a write-a-thon. Choir students will do sight readings. Also, there will be literacy and numeracy activities, as well as booths featuring Maple Street's community partners.

Milwood Magnet School
"Uglies"
5:30-7 p.m.
Milwood Magnet families and community members are invited to explore biotechnology through the world of "Uglies" by Scott Westerfield. Students will navigate and engage in interactive activities throughout the building exploring the book's various cities: Uglyville, New Pretty Town, The Smoke, Rusty Ruins, and the World. The night will be filled with fun, literacy and academic enrichment experiences. A spaghetti dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m., with activities beginning at 5:45 p.m.

Alternative Learning Program
"The Olympics"
4-5 p.m.
Literacy Night will focus on math and reading enrichments. Students will participate in an Olympic-themed workshop of activities and earn "sticker medals" for each activity completed.

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High School State Testing

This spring, juniors will once again be taking the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), which includes a college entrance exam (SAT), a career-readiness exam (WorkKeys), and Michigan science and social studies tests (M-STEP). On Tuesday, April 10, juniors will take the SAT plus essay. This is followed by the WorkKeys examination on Wednesday, April 11 and the M-STEP science and social studies tests on Thursday, April 12. The SAT and WorkKeys tests are taken in the traditional paper-pencil format. The M-STEP science and social studies tests are administered online.

Additionally, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) expects that students in grades 9 and 10 will take the PSAT test on Tuesday, April 10.

Testing students should report to school at the regular time on each testing date. Non-testing students should report as indicated in the chart below. All students will be released at the regular time.

Students are encouraged to utilize Khan Academy online resources to prepare for these assessments. Khan Academy offers free practice tests and individualized learning activities to prepare students for the SAT and PSAT tests. Additional information on testing can be found on the MDE website, www.khanacademy.org, and www.michigan.gov/mme.

Date	Assessments	Additional Information
Tuesday, April 10, 2018	SAT Testing for Grade 11 Students (Grade 12 Students Who Did Not Test Previously Are Required to Test) PSAT Testing for Grade 9 and 10 Students	Instructional Field Trips for Grade 12 Students – Sign Up in Counseling Office, Students Report at Regular Time
Wednesday, April 11, 2018	WorkKey Testing for Grade 11 Students (Grade 12 Students Who Did Not Test Previously Are Required to Test)	Instructional Day: 11:50–2:20 Non-Testing Students (Grades 9, 10 & 12) Report by 11:45 p.m. (No Lunch Served for Non-Testing Students)
Thursday, April 12, 2018	M-STEP Testing for Grade 11 Students (Grade 12 Students Who Did Not Test Previously Are Required to Test)	Instructional Day: 11:00–2:20 Non-Testing Students (Grades 9, 10 & 12) Report by 10:55 p.m. (No Lunch Served for Non-Testing Students)

M-STEP Testing in Grades 3 Through 8

This spring, students in grades 3 through 8 will take part in the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP). The M-STEP is an online test and is required by the Michigan Department of Education. The table below lists the specific subjects tested and testing windows for each grade level. More detailed testing schedules will be shared by each building. Please note that although the test is untimed, most students will spend no more than two hours testing on each day. When not testing, students will continue to receive instruction from their classroom teachers.

It is important that students are prepared to take the state assessments. If possible, please avoid removing students from school on the primary testing days. It is also critical that students get plenty of sleep before testing, arrive at school on time, and eat a healthy breakfast.

The M-STEP is a curriculum-based exam and the best preparation for students is to attend school regularly and complete classwork and homework to the best of their abilities. Although teachers will spend some time familiarizing students with the item types and format of the test, we believe teaching our curriculum is the primary method to ensure student success.

For additional information on the M-STEP, including practice problems and resources, visit: www.michigan.gov/mstep

Grade	Tests/Subjects	Primary Testing Window	Make-Up Testing Window
5 & 8	ELA, Math, & Social Studies	April 9–20, 2018	April 23–May 4, 2018
3, 4, 6 & 7	ELA & Math	April 30–May 11, 2018	May 14–25, 2018



Dawoud Bey, *A Boy in front of the Loew's 125th Street Movie Theater*, 1976, silver gelatin print. ©Dawoud Bey, Courtesy of Stephen Daiter Gallery

Dawoud Bey: Harlem, USA and Harlem Redux

January 13 - April 11

Explore everyday life in 1970s Harlem and the transitioning landscape of this historic neighborhood 35 years later. Bey holds an MFA from Yale University and is professor of art at Columbia College, Chicago. In October, Bey was named MacArthur Foundation Fellow.



Artist's Talk with Dawoud Bey
March 22
6:30 pm, \$5

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March Mobile Health, Dental Clinic Schedules

The Family Health Center Mobile Health Clinic serves Kalamazoo Public Schools students and their families. It provides physicals, immunizations, well-child visits, and other services. The clinic takes insurance and offers a sliding scale fee. Here is the medical clinic's schedule for March, along with the schedule for the Kalamazoo County mobile dental clinic. For more information, visit fhckzoo.com. Appointments can be made by calling (269) 349-2641 or contacting Community in Schools at your school.

Mobile Health

March 1, 5 - Northglade

March 6-7 - Parkwood-Upjohn

March 8, 12 - Washington

March 13-14 - Maple Street

March 15, 19 - Prairie Ridge

March 20-21 - Northeastern

Dental

March 5-7 - Washington

March 12-14 - Prairie Ridge

March 19 - Northglade

March 20 - Loy Norrix



Artists' Corner

Fourth-grade students at Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School have been learning about radial symmetry found in nature. First, they made custom paper with oil pastels and watercolor.

Through the next few art classes, students cut and folded their custom papers to create three-dimensional flowers filled with petals, leaves, stigma, style, filament and anther. Their teacher is Jamie McKinney.



Jaída Wilson



Dylan Duguay



Kaelyn Averhart



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Facts for the May 8, 2018 Bond Election

Kalamazoo Public Schools

On Tuesday, May 8, 2018, voters in Kalamazoo Public Schools will be asked to vote on a bond issue to update the district's buildings and equipment.

Q: What is on the ballot?

A: Kalamazoo Public Schools is asking the public to support a \$96.7 million bond issue. This bond issue provides funds to:

- Replace outdated facilities and equipment such as roofs, boilers, parking lots, lighting, windows, and buses (46% of the total bond);
- Improve/replace technology (10%);
- Replace Edison Environmental Science Academy (27%);
- Improve security in schools by modifying entrances and adding/replacing cameras (4%);
- Construct an addition to Phoenix High School (7%);
- Construct a districtwide kitchen (5%); and
- Fund mandatory costs related to the issuance of bonds (1%).

Q: Was the community surveyed to assess support for this proposal?

A: Yes. EPIC-MRA, an independent consulting firm, surveyed likely May voters. When respondents were asked how likely they would be to support a bond proposal of \$117 million with a tax increase of 1.5 mills, 71 percent were supportive. Seventy-six percent were supportive of a proposal of \$87 million with a tax increase of 1.0 mill, while 79 percent were supportive of a proposal of \$68 million with a tax increase of 0.5 mills.

Q: How much would this millage cost taxpayers?

A: If approved, this proposal would increase tax rates by 1.25 mills compared with 2017-18, which would cost the owner of a \$100,000 house \$62.50 per year.

Q: Why replace outdated facilities and equipment?

A: The facilities and equipment used by Kalamazoo Public Schools are public property. The district has a duty to upgrade and replace items on a timely basis. If not addressed, serious issues could develop that would negatively affect the learning environment and/or create safety issues. Delaying certain replacements, such as roofs, could result in significantly greater costs to taxpayers.

Q: Why improve and replace technology?

A: Technology is critical to the learning process. Students need up-to-date technology to gain the educational experiences required to prepare for a 21st century world and job market.

0Q: Why is Edison Environmental Science Academy recommended for replacement?

A: TowerPinkster, a local architectural and engineering firm, assessed the district's facilities and found that Edison was in the greatest need of replacement of all district facilities.

Q: Why do we need to improve security?

A: Keeping students safe is a critical issue for schools. In a number of cases, school security can be improved by relocating main entrances, so visitors enter directly into offices rather than student-occupied areas. Security cameras need to be replaced and added where appropriate.

Q: Why is the addition to Phoenix High School needed?

A: Space is limited at Phoenix High School. This project includes the addition of four classrooms. It also includes construction of a gymnasium and locker rooms, which do not presently exist in the facility and are needed in a high school.

Q: Why construct a districtwide kitchen?

A: A districtwide kitchen would increase the opportunity for scratch cooking and create a more efficient operation. As a result, food quality would improve.

Q: What would be the impact to Kalamazoo Public Schools if this bond question does not pass?

A: Most of the projects funded by this bond are basic needs. Without the bond, these projects would still need to be addressed and would be paid through the general budget, which would require cutting educational programs and services for students.

Q: When is the last day to register to vote?

A: The last day to register to vote in this election is April 9, 2018.

Q: How can I find out where I vote?

A: You can find where to vote at the Secretary of State website (www.mich.gov/vote). Voting locations are also available from the clerk's office in the city or township in which you reside. These offices can be reached at: City of Kalamazoo, (269) 337-8793; Oshtemo Township, (269) 216-5224; Kalamazoo Township, (269) 381-8080; and Texas Township, (269) 978-0710.

Q: Can I vote by absentee ballot?

A: Absentee ballots may be requested from the city or township clerk where you reside.

Please vote in this election. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 8, 2018.

Chef Shaun • KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF

Garlic Roasted Broccoli

Hello, Kalamazoo. As we march into the spring, please try this simple and fresh recipe with family and friends. Broccoli is an important staple on our menu at Kalamazoo Public Schools. A cruciferous vegetable, broccoli is rich in fiber, vitamins, minerals and phytochemicals. An excellent source of Vitamins A, C, K, and folate, broccoli promotes healthy blood cells in our body and a healthy heart. Best Regards, Chef Shaun



Shaun Robinson is the district chef for Chartwells at KPS Food Service.

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. In a large bowl, toss the broccoli with oil, garlic, salt and pepper. Spread the broccoli in a single layer on a rimmed baking sheet.
3. Bake until florets are tender enough to pierce with a fork and the edges are browning, about 15 minutes. Turn once halfway through the baking process and add red pepper flakes, if using. After baking, squeeze lemon juice liberally over the broccoli before serving. **Servings: 4**

Ingredients

- 2 heads of broccoli, cut into small florets
- 3 Tbs. melted coconut oil
- 5 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 tsp sea salt
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 1 tsp fresh lemon juice
- Pinch of red pepper flakes (optional)



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Bipartisan Research Collaborative Argues For School Finance Reform

Michigan’s school funding formula is “broken,” according to a report released by a bipartisan group of business and education leaders from across the state.

At a press conference held in Grand Rapids in January, members of the School Finance Research Collaborative called for the state’s “broken” school funding formula to be revamped, with special attention paid to meeting the needs of students who come from low-income backgrounds, require support to learn English, or are in need of special education services.

Kalamazoo Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice serves as a member of the steering and technical committee of this broad-based and bipartisan collaborative that formed in 2016.

“Oscar Wilde, the great English playwright, once defined a cynic as someone who knows the cost of everything and the value of nothing,” Rice said at the press conference. “We discuss today investments into the education of children – not simply expenses. The difference: an investment pays a dividend, in this case measured in better-educated children, a more productive workforce, and a higher quality of life.”

Generally, Michigan funds schools using a per-pupil funding formula that provides a base amount for each student, with a minimum of \$7,631.

The state allocates additional dollars to districts for special



KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice addresses media at a press conference for the School Finance Research Collaborative, which has suggested increasing state funding for K-12 students.

needs and poor children, though these added funds do not fully address the added costs.

The collaborative study, however, estimated the base cost of educating a student in a large district as \$9,590, which does not include food, transportation or capital costs. The price is even higher for certain groups of students, such as those from smaller, rural districts, Rice said.

The report “makes specific, data-driven recommendations that policymakers can put to use for the benefit of students throughout our state,” said Ron Koehler, Kent Intermediate School District assistant superintendent.

Rice said improving student performance isn’t “all about money,” but adequate funding can help ensure students are more likely to achieve. At the press conference announcing the study, Rice highlighted four points in the report:

- The study calls for funding high-quality early childhood education for four-year-olds. “High quality, early childhood education is research-based and needs to be fully and completely funded in Michigan,” Rice said.

- The study begins to address more accurately the cost to educate poor children as individuals and in large concentrations. He said, “The report also calls for additional study

regarding the costs associated with poor students with particularly high needs.”

- The study provides a system for funding the education of a wide range of special needs children, whose educational and other needs can be “profoundly greater and whose education costs more as a result,” Rice said.

- The study develops a mechanism for funding the education of English language learners, who have virtually been ignored in the state funding system.

Speaking specifically about preschool funding, Rice said,

“It is critical that we lay the groundwork to educate our youngest learners, but Michigan currently lacks a system that provides adequate funding for preschool programs across the state. This new report provides a step in the right direction by clearly showing the cost of educating a preschool student and laying out the need to provide preschool education for all of Michigan’s children.”

The collaborative is funded by the W.K. Kellogg, Charles Stewart Mott and Skillman foundations, 22 Michigan Intermediate School Districts, and non-profit organizations statewide.



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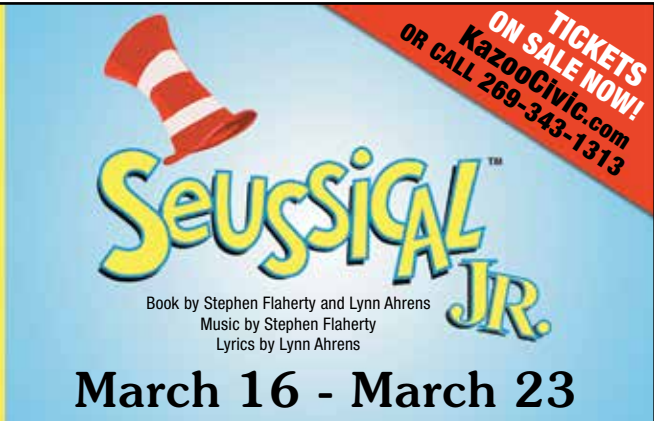
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Meet Children's Author, Ruth Spiro!

The Air Zoo welcomes Chicago based author Ruth Spiro for a reading of "Baby Loves Aerospace Engineering", followed by hands-on interactive crafts and movement activities. Ruth will lead stories, songs, and science fun for ages 1-5, and sign copies of her books including "Baby Loves Aerospace Engineering!" and "Baby Loves Quantum Physics!"

Saturday, March 10th
11:00 – 11:45 am
Location: Children's Room

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**Super Science Adventure Loop
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