

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
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March 19, 2024

**MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE
KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Kalamazoo Public Schools will be held on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49008. The meeting will be live streamed on Public Media Network on the Live TV Channel PMN 5: <https://www.publicmedianet.org/pmn-discover-live>.

The Board of Trustees, Superintendent, and senior staff will have an informational dinner meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Superintendent's office area and will also discuss any matters that may come before the Board.

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jennie Hill, Secretary
Board of Education

- ❖ Please contact the Superintendent's Office in advance of the meeting if auxiliary aids or services for individuals with disabilities are needed.
- ❖ Official minutes of Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education open meetings are available for inspection within eight working days of the meeting at the Superintendent's Office, 1220 Howard Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49008.

**POLICY
of the
BOARD OF EDUCATION
KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

1.2 Public Participation During a Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Policy

While balancing legitimate privacy interests of students and staff, the Board of Trustees welcomes community input at public meetings of the Board of Trustees.

Specifics

1. Persons requesting to address the board will be asked to complete a sign-in sheet by the end of the public comment period. The portion of that sign-in sheet requiring completion will include: name, school district in which the person resides, and connection to/interest in the Kalamazoo Public Schools. The optional portion will be held private and will include: mailing address, email address, phone number, topic about which they will be speaking and, if authorized and applicable, the organization they represent.
2. The presiding board officer will invite persons to come to the podium in the order in which the sign-in sheets were completed.
3. If after 30 minutes everyone who has completed a sign-in sheet has not had the opportunity to address the board, the public comment period will be tabled and resume before adjournment.
4. Speakers have three minutes each and must stop speaking promptly when signaled.
5. Speakers may not address confidential student or personnel matters, but may submit such concerns to the board in writing.
6. Speakers are encouraged to provide the board with a written copy of their comments and other appropriate supporting documentation, which will be copied and distributed as needed to appropriate staff/personnel.
7. The public is required to exercise common courtesy during the meeting and must follow rule of order. The presiding board officer may terminate public comments that are profane, vulgar, or defamatory, especially if these comments result in a disturbance or breach of peace. Personal attacks against an employee or board member that are totally unrelated to his or her duties are prohibited. If a person engages in disruptive conduct or is out of order, the board presiding officer will strike his or her gavel and warn the person to discontinue their behavior. Further disruptions will result in the person being asked to leave. Refusal to leave will result in being escorted out of the building. (MCL 380.1808)

Adopted: February 13, 2003

Revised: December 17, 2009

Revised: June 25, 2013

Adopted: December 19, 2019

This policy supersedes all other policies on this issue.

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Meeting
1220 Howard Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49008
March 21, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.
A G E N D A
(Revised March 21, 2024)

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Acceptance of Agenda**
- IV. Attendance**
- V. Board Recognitions**
- VI. Committee Reports/School Reports**
- VII. Correspondence**
- VIII. Consent Calendar Items**
 - A. Minutes**
 - March 7, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - March 16, 2024 Board Advance Meeting Minutes
 - B. Business and Financial Reports**
 - Purchase Recommendations 2024-33
 - C. Personnel Items**
 - Personnel Changes
- IX. Reports and Recommendations**
 - A. Superintendent's Report**
 - B. Administrative Appointment - Director of Student Services**
- X. Persons Requesting to Address the Board (3-minute individual limit)**
- XI. Other Business**
- XII. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent**
- XIII. Closed Session (if needed)**
- XIV. Next Regular Board of Education Meeting: Thursday, April 11, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.**

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Meeting
1220 Howard Street
March 7, 2024 – Regular Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

President Harrison called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Acceptance of Agenda

President Harrison asked for a motion to accept the agenda.

MOTION: Secretary Hill, supported by Trustee Johnson, motioned to amend the agenda to remove travel request for Jennie Hill.

Disposition: Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried unanimously by trustees present.

IV. Attendance

Board members present: TiAnna Harrison, Jennie Hill, Jermaine Jackson, Takisha Johnson, Karla Murphy, and Carol McGlinn. Virtually present: Patti Sholler-Barber. Superintendent Dr. Darrin Slade was also present.

V. Board Recognitions

Aaron Mason, assistant principal, at King Westwood Elementary School recognized students Kevin Walls, A'Myah Brown, Micah Dresden, Dawson Rumsey, and Olivia Bruen.

Chris Aguinaga, principal, and Andrew Laboe, athletic director, at Loy Norrix High School recognized students Myalena Alvarez, McKenna Bradley, Alanna Brockman, Elyssa Burse, Te'ya Dawson, Sophia DeAnda, Taliyah Hanks, Riley Ketchum, Elyse Link, Arianna McCord, Ellie Reeves, Zoe Reeves, Sade Worthy, Ethan Hall, Owen Pirochta, and Quince' Lesley.

VI. Committee Reports/School Reports:

None.

VII. Correspondence

Secretary Hill reported the correspondence for the period of Feb. 21 - March 7, 2024.

- Email received Feb. 21 from J.F., a Hillside student, regarding computer chargers. Secretary Hill replied on March. 2.
- Email received from an anonymous email regarding head lice policies. Dr. Slade replied on Feb. 28 and Secretary Hill replied on March 2.

VIII. Consent Calendar

President Harrison presented the Consent Calendar items: VIII.A.1 February 22, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, VIII.B. Purchase Recommendations 2024-30, 2024-31, and 2024-29, VIII.C. Personnel Changes.

Board discussion:

Jermaine Jackson

- Grateful for the replacement of elementary school equipment.

Jennie Hill

- Glad the district is monitoring safety equipment as it comes to the end of the lifecycle.

Karla Murphy

- Thanked Loy Norrix Counselor, Ms. Learner, for being her children's counselor. Wished her well in retirement.
- Wished Ms. Laurie Sipes well in retirement.

MOTION: Implied motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Disposition: Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried unanimously by trustees present.

IX. Reports and Recommendations

A. Superintendent's Update

Dr. Slade announced the Safety and Security Threat Response presentation. Director of Special Education, Rikki Saunders, presented along with Chief of Campus Safety, Don Webster. They stated a learning environment needs to be safe and orderly and overall the critical priority. School administration contact law enforcement as soon as possible when alerted of a threat. Under Chief Webster, staff are trained to collaborate with law enforcement and keep open communication. This includes safety visits to homes, as needed, as well as interviewing staff, students, and other relevant individuals. Ms. Saunders mentioned the district uses communication with parents and guardians while respecting privacy laws. Some information cannot be shared due to students being juveniles. Robo calls, letters, and parent/guardian meetings are ways we can communicate after an incident. Follow up can include consultation with attorneys, and reflection and review to stay compliant. The district looks for ways to improve and continues to collaborate with other districts for updated protocols. There is a reintegration plan if a student is involved in a threat.

Comments from the board and superintendent:

Takisha Johnson

- Asked Chief Webster about ways of communication and how many supports are given to a student before law enforcement gets involved.
- Chief Webster answered there is a threat assessment done.
- Law enforcement involvement does not always mean a charge is brought to a student.

Jermaine Jackson

- Thanked Chief Webster and Ms. Saunders for efforts to keep students safe.
- Asked what type of training is provided for staff and students.
- Asked for an example where this training would be needed.

- Ms. Saunders responded with an example of a water main break. There is training on how to evacuate and keep everyone safe.
- Chief Webster stated that the emergency management team is not just upper administration.
- Jackson stated there are cases where law enforcement is needed. Mentioned crossing guard hit at elementary school. Appreciates safety measures taken during construction around town.

Dr. Slade

- Thanked students for sharing information with staff regarding threats. Thanked teaching and support staff, as well as Chief Webster and Ms. Saunders.

Jennie Hill

- Is happy for community involvement. Asked what families can say to students about computer etiquette and how to act at school.
- Ms. Saunders stated for acting at school, documents are given out at the beginning of the school year. For computer etiquette, she urged parents to check student's social media and phones to keep them safe.

Carol McGlinn

- Appreciated staff communication efforts.
- Encouraged families and students to give grace to schools who are doing the best they can.

Dr. Slade then presented student attendance data. A chronically absent student is a student who misses 10% or more of available days. These include excused and unexcused absences. He advised parents to keep their student home if they are sick or for extenuating circumstances. Families must keep in contact with school principals. He celebrated the preliminary data pulled from PowerSchool. There is a 5.38% improvement over last year's data. Explained district attendance initiatives including knock and talk, letters home, attendance committees, parent meetings, principal meetings, certified letters home that will require a group meeting in person with him or a designee.

Comments from the board:

Jermaine Jackson

- Appreciated measures that are put in place.
- Stated Michigan is one of the top states in the country with chronic absentees. Any improvement is good improvement.
- Mentioned seeing several students in the community where he works not at school.

Carol McGlinn

- Agreed there are exceptions to the attendance policy.
- Loves that they are making attendance a priority. Mentioned the pandemic and how students were not in school then and feels they shouldn't be now.

Jennie Hill

- Looked for advice for parents who are in this situation. Gave example of an elementary student who went on a vacation and came home ill. She asked who would be the person of contact.
- Dr. Slade stated the first person to contact in absence situations is the school principal and to let teachers know as well.

B. Administrative Appointment

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Sheila Dorsey-Smith, read the recommendation to appoint Ms. Jamie Rogers to the position of Special Education Compliance Coordinator.

MOTION: Moved by Trustee Murphy, supported by Trustee Johnson and Trustee McGlinn to appoint Jamie Rogers to the position of Special Education Compliance Coordinator.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, all in favor by trustees present.

X. Persons Requesting to Address the Board (3-minute individual limit) Public comments/audience participation. No actions taken.

XI. Other Business

- A. Travel Request for Patti Sholler-Barber
- B. Travel Request for Karla Murphy
- C. Travel Request for Karla Murphy

XII. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent

Jermaine Jackson

- Acknowledged importance of privacy laws in the first presentation. Reminded public that the state has privacy laws.
- Encouraged everyone to attend presentation by Oliver James, who taught himself to read by watching TikTok, at Mount Zion Church on April 18th, hosted by KPL and the Adult Literacy Council. Encouraged community to read and pick up the free books in the challenge.

Jennie Hill

- Attended literacy nights at several elementary schools. Learned to play Kahoot.
- Invited community to Henrietta Lacks exhibit at Kalamazoo College in the spirit of Black History Month for the last week it is open.

Takisha Johnson

- Invited community to Kings and Queens event at the Radisson on March 23.
- Requested community to apply for grants from D9 organizations for seniors. Mentioned a Kalamazoo Central student received a grant from McDonalds Foundation.

Patti Sholler-Barber- Read by Trustee Jackson

- Listed outstanding athletic achievements including:
 - Boys basketball Cedric Huntley reached 1,041 points as a varsity player.
 - Sam Oberlee qualified for MHSSA ski state finals for the second straight season.
 - Tayla Dillard reached 1,000 points in her high school career.
 - Xander Lingman and Isaac Patrick attended diving competition at Oakland University.

Carol McGlenn

- Went with Trustee Sholler-Barber to several buildings for Literacy night. Each building had a different theme.
- Encouraged children to read, visit the library, and talk about their favorite books for reading month.
- Urged families to reach out to teachers or SLD read if students are struggling.
- Mentioned Kids RX in Flint who supports pregnant mothers with a monthly stipend until their child is 12 months old. Would like the program to begin in Kalamazoo as well.
- Mentioned a group of Kalamazoo Central students telling stories of their families.

Karla Murphy

- Apologized for missing last meeting.
- Spoke about being a KAMSC and CTE parent.
- Mentioned the Loy Norrix Forensics competition this weekend. Thanked Coach Dan Lafferty.
- Thanked parent who addressed board for bringing attention to PowerSchool issues.

Tianna Harrison

- Thanked the community for the 5% attendance increase.
- Urged the community for more male mentors in district.
- Commended KVCC for innovating cosmetology program.
- Encouraged students to take advantage of Early Middle College Program.
- Attended first Saturday School session. Thanked community and teachers for making it successful.

Dr. Slade

- Thanked community for attending literacy events.
- Thanked principals, teachers, and Mr. McCane.
- Thanked MLive and press for positive stories in the district.
- Urged families to support students during third trimester.
- Mentioned chain of command for meeting with Superintendent.
- Thanked board for attending community events.

XIII. Closed Session (if needed)
None

XIV. Next Board of Education Meeting

The next regular Board of Education meeting is Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: Trustee Johnson, supported by Trustee Hill, made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Disposition: Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried unanimously by trustees present.

President Harrison adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeGraaf, Recording Secretary,
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Meeting
1220 Howard Street
March 16, 2024 – Board-Superintendent Advance Minutes

President TiAnna Harrison called the special meeting to order at 9:16 a.m. on March 16, 2024, at the West Main Professional Development building, 1627 W Main St, Kalamazoo, MI 49006. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss goals for the district, create a strategic plan by gathering input from teachers, staff, students, families, communities, and stakeholders. Dr. Slade served as facilitator.

Board members present: TiAnna Harrison, Jennie Hill, Jermaine Jackson, Karla Murphy, Takisha Johnson, and Carol McGlinn. Virtually present: Patti Sholler-Barber. Superintendent Darrin Slade, Susan Coney, and the media were also present.

President TiAnna Harrison adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennie Hill, Secretary
Board of Education

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION DATA SHEET

Board Meeting Date: March 21, 2024
Request Number: 2024-33
Amount: \$4,349,583.00

Item: Construction Management Services for 2022 Bond Projects

Cost Center: 2022 Bond

Cost Center Representative(s) Attending Board Meeting: Karen Jackson

Description of Need:

This purchase recommendation is for construction management services for 2022 bond projects identified in the first and second draws approximating \$80,000,000 of construction costs.

Vendor: The Skillman Corporation
Portage, MI

Number of Proposals Requested: 6 **Received:** 5

Low Bid Accepted? N/A

Additional Information:

A selection committee comprised of staff from the Business Office and Facilities Management reviewed the proposals and interviewed the firms. The committee based their selection on the following criteria: budgeting capabilities, bidding/diversity, experience with managing multiple projects, adequacy of staffing, quality control, K-12 experience and cost. Based on these criteria, the committee unanimously recommends that The Skillman Corporation be awarded the contract to provide construction management services.

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOL
Office of the Superintendent

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Darrin Slade, Superintendent

DATE: March 21, 2024

SUBJECT: Personnel Changes

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the board approve the following employment changes:

- I. Employment
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
 - Mandy L. Knickerbocker**, Attendance Interventionist, Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program, 3/11/2024
 - Lori J. Lavin**, Lead Secretary, Northeastern Elementary, 3/18/2024
- II. Promotions/Key Transfers
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
- III. Leaves of Absence
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
- IV. Terminations
 - A. Professional/Management
 - Bethany C. Caswell**, Teacher, Lincoln International Studies School, Retirement, 06/10/2024
 - Norma-Jean Forshey**, Teacher, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Westwood Elementary School, Retirement, 06/30/2024
 - Sarah Giramia**, Teacher, Linden Grove Middle School, Resignation, 06/30/2024
 - Julie A. Labudda**, Teacher, Kalamazoo Central High School, Retirement, 06/10/2024
 - Amanda M. Miller**, Teacher, Prairie Ridge Elementary School, Retirement, 10/11/2024
 - Jared E. Riva**, Teacher, Loy Norrix High School, Resignation, 03/21/2024
 - Lisa A. Thomas**, Teacher, Spring Valley Elementary School, Resignation, 06/30/2024
 - Melissa T. Tijerina-Herwick**, Teacher, Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, Retirement, 06/10/2024
 - Grace E. Wiesner**, Teacher, Linden Grove Middle School, Resignation, 06/30/2024
 - B. Classified
 - John T. Buchanan**, Paraprofessional, Linden Grove Middle School, Retirement, 06/14/2024
 - Margie M. Coleman**, Montessori Teaching Assistant, Northglade Montessori Magnet School, Retirement, 06/10/2024

Lillian (Marie) M. Freeman, Responsibility Thinking Classroom Monitor, Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology, Retirement, 06/13/2024

Sarah M. McAllister, Assistant School Secretary – Child Accounting, Parkwood Upjohn Elementary School, Resignation, 06/30/2024

Brenda L. Richards, Assistant School Secretary – Child Accounting, Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology, Resignation, 06/13/2024

- V. Termination from Leave of Absence
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
- VI. Return from Leave of Absence
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
- VII. Lay-offs
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified