

**DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 27, 2025**

**A. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00pm**

1. Roll Call

**Members Present:** Daniel Alabré, Elise Bruderly, Michael Cipolla, Jennifer Kangas, Amy Reiser, Melanie Szawara; Student Representatives Claire Beneteau and Marty Watson

**Members Absent:** Brian Arnold, Jennifer Kangas

**Administrative & Supervisory Staff:** Ryan Bruder, Barb Leonard, Craig McCalla, Chris Timmis

**DEA:** Jessica Baese

**Guests:** Mara Greatorex, Bill Bernard

**B. MEETING MINUTES**

Melanie Szawara made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 1/8/2025 as presented. Daniel Alabré seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (unanimous).**

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Melanie Szawara made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Daniel Alabré seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (unanimous).**

**D. SCHOOL PRESENTATION**

1. Board of Education Recognition Month

Dr. Timmis shared appreciation gifts with the Board including posters from Wylie and Jenkins ECLC, candles from the DEEC, seed packets from Creekside’s kitchen garden class, and thank yous from Alt Ed. He also read the following statement:

*On behalf of the entire Dexter Community Schools community, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your ongoing dedication and service to our schools. Your commitment to shaping a brighter future for our students and supporting the growth and success of our district has made a lasting impact.*

*School board members dedicate their time and expertise to supporting every student and their success. This selfless commitment to all kids is why communities like Dexter thrive and why our schools are such a special place.*

*This is only possible through your dedication to the common good of all kids and the common good of the community. This requires all of our school board members to be good stewards of taxpayer resources and district finances. For this, we are forever grateful to you. Your careful management of resources ensures that our schools are equipped to provide the highest quality education while maintaining fiscal responsibility. This prudence enables us to invest in critical programs and services that directly benefit our students and staff.*

*Your commitment to academic excellence fosters an environment where both students and teachers thrive. Through thoughtful review and continuous improvement, you help*

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*ensure that our students receive a rigorous and relevant education that prepares them for success in an ever-changing world. Your commitment to academic excellence fosters an environment where both students and teachers thrive.*

*Equally important is the way you foster connections within our community. Your community involvement as volunteers in a variety of organizations as well as your approachability and ongoing engagement with families, staff, and community leaders strengthen the bond between the district and the wider public. This collaboration enhances our ability to support students both in and outside the classroom.*

*Once again, thank you for your unwavering support, leadership, and dedication. The work you do is instrumental in providing our students with the opportunities and resources they need to succeed, and we are truly grateful for your service.*

2. AI Update

Executive Director of Instruction Ryan Bruder and DCS Instructional Coach Beau Kimmey presented on “DeeDee,” Dexter’s internally hosted AI model, which allows staff and students to utilize Instructional AI while protecting user identity and data.

E. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – none**

F. **ADMINISTRATIVE & BOARD UPDATES**

1. Superintendent Update

Dr. Timmis answered trustee questions about temperature thresholds for snow day calls.

2. Board President Update

Elise Bruderly shared several updates with the Board:

- She called attention to the recent Staff Symposium PD and the info item detailing how many DCS staff presented on a variety topics to their peers.
- She noted that there have been WASB meetings and the legislative breakfast; there will be a county-wide PD opportunity on March 13th, 7pm-8:30pm on the subject of dyslexia (details to follow).
- She is now the legislative chair of the WASB and wants to encourage the board to remember that as elected officials, trustees should stay informed on current issues affecting education; it was noted that the State has a budget surplus this year so districts are in a position to push back on questionable funding decisions.
- She reminded trustees that there is a Board Workshop on February 10th from 6pm-9pm.

3. Student Representatives Update

Claire Beneteau shared that DHS Students are finishing up finals that were delayed by the school closures during exam week; this is Drama tech week for Brigadoon; the Dance team will be competing at Nationals. Marty Watson noted

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that he's having lots of feelings about his final semester at DHS; the winter formal dance is returning February 22nd; he also gave a nod to the dance team competing at Nationals; he noted winter sports are in full swing with everyone doing well but especially the hockey team, which is having an outstanding season.

**G. CONSENT ITEMS**

Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Board of Education approve the consent items in bulk. Daniel Alabré seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

The Board of Education Board of Education acknowledged the retirements of Lisa Burgess, Janine Comella, Jason Elmy, Melania Ferradas-Magda, Jill Fyke, Jennifer Johnson, Ken Koenig, Craig McCalla, and Al Snider.

The Board received the November 2025 and December 2025 budget reports.

**H. ACTION ITEMS**

1. Approve 2025 Chevrolet 2500HD Silverado Purchase

Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Board of Education approve an amount not to exceed \$53,854.00 to be allocated from the Committed Fund Balance – Facilities, Equipment, & Maintenance – for the purchase of one 2025 Chevrolet 2500HD Silverado (CK20903) from Berger Chevrolet Inc., from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Daniel Alabré seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous)**

2. Purchase of Outdoor Video and Scoreboard

Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Board of Education approve the purchase of one Live Video & Scoreboard Display from Daktronics, including installation, electrical drawings, running additional power, and a 15% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$469,945.20, with funds allocated from the 2017 Bond monies. Daniel Alabré seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous)**

3. Purchase 4 Buses

Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Board of Education approve the purchase of two Conventional 77 passenger lifts with slide-and-click buses and two Conventional 77 passengers with luggage racks buses from Midwest Transit for a total amount not to exceed \$679,996.00, with funds allocated from the 2017 Bond monies. Daniel Alabré seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous)**

4. Purchase of B&G Equipment

Amy Reiser made a motion that the Board of Education approve an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the purchase of equipment for buildings and grounds with

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funds allocated from the 2017 Bond. Daniel Alabré seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous)**

5. Purchase of Skid Steer Loader

Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Board of Education approve the purchase of one S66 T4 Bobcat Skid Steer Loader for a total amount not to exceed \$52,988.72. Daniel Alabré seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous)**

6. Purchase of Gator

Amy Reiser made a motion that the Board of Education approve the purchase of one John Deere Gator HPX815E for an amount not to exceed an amount not to exceed \$15,909.99. Daniel Alabré seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous)**

7. School Improvement Bond Proposal

Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Board of Education adopt the attached resolution to Submit the School Improvement Bond Proposal for the May 6, 2025 ballot. Daniel Alabré seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous)**

**I. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Trap Team Conversion to School Sport

The Board discussed a recommendation from Superintendent Timmis and Athletic Director Mike Bavineau to convert the DHS Trap Team from a club to a self-funded sport.

**J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – none**

**K. BOARD COMMENTS – none**

**L. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Facilities Minutes 1/8/2025
2. Staff Symposium Recognition
3. Detroit News Article on AI in Schools (1/22/2025)
4. [The Evolution of Dexter Community Schools](#)

**M. CLOSED SESSION** *per MCL 15.268(h)*

At approximately 8:19pm, Daniel ALabré made a motion that the Board move into closed session for the purpose of reviewing material exempt from disclosure [after a short break]. Melanie Szawara seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous)**

At approximately 8:39pm, the Board returned to open session.

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Daniel Alabré made a motion that the Board of Education approve the revised Emergency Operations Plan. Melanie Szawara seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous)**

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

At approximately 8:40pm, President Elise Bruderly adjourned the meeting.

MINUTES/hlv

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Daniel Alabré  
Secretary, Board of Education