

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
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Kalamazoo, MI 49008
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March 18, 2025

**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 20, 2025, 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://publicmedianet.org/pmn-five/>.

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 20, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

A G E N D A

(Revised 3/20/25)

- 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 5, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes and March 15, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes
 - B. Business and Financial Reports**
Purchase Request 2025-32 and 2025-33
 - C. Personnel Items**
Personnel Changes
- IX. Reports and Recommendations**
 - A. Superintendent's Report**
 - B. Trimester to Semester Change**
- 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 10, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.**

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Meeting
1220 Howard Street
March 5, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

President TiAnna Harrison called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Acceptance of Agenda

President Harrison called for a motion to accept the agenda.

MOTION: Treasurer Karla Murphy, supported by Trustee Yvonne Payton, moved to accept the agenda.

Disposition: Voice vote; all in favor. The motion was carried unanimously by trustees present.

IV. Attendance

Board members present: TiAnna Harrison, Jennie Hill, Karla Murphy, and Yvonne Payton.

Virtually present: Patti Sholler-Barber. Board members absent: Carol McGlinn and Takisha Johnson. Dr. Slade was also present.

V. Board Recognitions

ReQwal Duckworth, principal of Northglade Montessori Magnet School, recognized students River Hoffman, Maple Love, Juniper Streeter, David Josiah Tuwey, and Jaselle Ford.

Frank Rocco, principal of Woodward School, recognized students Rory Scruggs, Lazell Sterling, Hope Sanhou, Zahir Gardner, Gus Gibson, and Mekhi Fultz-Jones.

Mitch Hawkins, principal of Milwood Magnet School, recognized teacher Dawn Kahler for being named the 2025 Middle School Science Teacher of the Year by the Michigan Science Teachers Association board.

Tower Pinkster presented a \$35,000 check from the Federal Energy Policy (EPAAct) to Director of Facilities Karen Jackson for the Edison Academy building project tax deduction. .

VI. Committee Reports/School Reports

Treasurer Murphy reported for the Governance Committee, which met on March 3. They reviewed policies that changed at the state level. The committee went over policies 3.10, 3.15, 4.3, and 4.9. It was decided that 3.10 and 3.15 would not change. Policies 4.3 and 4.9 were put on hold. The committee received a draft policy on drones that was referred to the district's attorney. The committee discussed updating policies to pre-authorized versions. They will also update the

enrollment and children of employees' enrollment policies. These are currently under review with the district's attorney.

VII. Correspondence

Secretary Hill reported the correspondence for the period February 18 - March 3, 2025.

- Email received February 24 from Chance McDermott regarding transportation concerns. Dr. Slade replied on February 26 and Secretary Hill replied on March 3.
- Email received February 25 from Jeffery Johnson regarding concerns on a disciplinary matter at Milwood Magnet School. Dr. Slade replied on February 25 and Secretary Hill replied on March 3.
- Email received February 28 from Shari Weber regarding a request to move public engagement earlier in the meeting. Also inquired about using accurate language when reading correspondence and about Loy Norrix receiving artificial turf soon. Secretary Hill replied on March 3.
- Email received February 28 from Shari Weber regarding a request for transparency from KPS in regards to DEI-based complaints or investigations. Secretary Hill replied on March 4.
- Email received February 28 from Percy Gordon regarding concerns while attending a basketball game and a request to remain anonymous while addressing concerns on the board floor. Dr. Slade and Secretary Hill replied on March 3.

VIII. Consent Calendar

President Harrison presented the Consent Calendar items: VIII.A.1 February 20, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes, VIII.B. Purchase Recommendations 2025-27, 2025-28, 2025-29, 2025-30, 2025-31, and VIII.C. Personnel Changes.

MOTION: Treasurer Murphy, supported by Trustee Payton, moved to accept the Consent Calendar.

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

Discussion from the board:

Jennie Hill

- Shoutout to the Finance Department for their hard work.
- Asked for clarification on what the bonds can cover. Chief Financial Officer Laura Kayser answered that they can cover brick and mortar items, for example buildings and lockers.
- Spoke about the importance of state funding to be able to purchase technology for students.
- Thanked all who supported the bond.

Yvonne Payton

- Thanked Laura Kayser and Karen Jackson for their hard work.

- Asked if minority contractors approved in the consent calendar are working on the projects. Laura Kayser answered that she was unsure if they are, but they are always welcome to bid.

Karla Murphy

- Asked for clarification on the VMware server infrastructure and if it is being fully replaced or just upgraded. Director of Technology Systems Ian Haight answered that they are replacing existing VMware and not switching systems. The district is just expanding what we currently have.

TiAnna Harrison

- Thanked the community for continuing to support the bond.

IX. Reports and Recommendations

A. Superintendent's Update

Dr. Slade shared the graduation rate data for the 2023-2024 school year. He mentioned that the district rate improved by almost 10 percentage points. The district outpaced the region and state in growth. All subgroups in the district have made improvements. Michigan had the highest graduation rate in state history. KPS improved by 9.4%. The 2030 goal is to be at 90%. Dr. Slade thanked everyone in the district, especially students, teachers, principals, counselors, and parents. He thanked Valerie Boggan, Chris Aguinaga, Ajamian Gardner, and Kim Kirshman for the part they play as high school principals. He thanked the central office staff: Director of School Improvements, Title 1 and Assessments Geoff Howe, Director of Technology Systems and Services Ian Haight, and Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction and Leadership Craig McCane.

Discussion from the board:

Jennie Hill

- Thanked everyone, especially the students and the superintendent, for their hard work.

TiAnna Harrison

- Thanked everyone, especially the students for their hard work.
- Gave a special thank you to Mr. McCane for his hard work for the school district.

B. Middle and High School Course and Program Recommendations for 2025-2026 Second Reading

Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development, Dr. Angela Justice, presented the second reading of the 2025-2026 Course Bulletin.

Dr. Slade made a recommendation that the 2025-2026 Course Bulletin be approved.

President Harrison called for a motion to accept the recommendation.

MOTION: Treasurer Murphy, supported by Trustee Payton, moved to accept the 2025-2026 Course Bulletin.

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

X. Persons Requesting to Address the Board (3-minute individual limit)

None.

XI. Other Business

None.

XII. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent

Jennie Hill

- Attended Greenwood, Milwood Elementary, Washington Writers' Academy, Edison, and Parkwood-Upjohn's literacy nights.
- Announced Girls on the Run practice will begin March 17. There is an event at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Encouraged anyone interested in coaching to call the Girls on the Run office.
- Announced elementary conferences and encouraged families to attend.
- Announced who is performing at the Chenery 100 Year Celebration.

Patti Sholler-Barber (read by Jennie Hill)

- Thanked all parents, teachers, and staff who took part in Literacy Nights.
- Thanked Dr. Justice and her staff for the exemplary course selection for students.
- Congratulated staff and students for a successful second week of Saturday School.
- Thanked staff and administration for the upcoming 100 Year Celebration at Chenery Auditorium.
- Congratulated all who helped with PEEP and Kindergarten Registration.
- Gave sports update:
 - Kalamazoo Central men's basketball: SMAC East Champs District Champs advancing to Regional Finals tomorrow night at Don Johnson Fieldhouse in Lansing to take on East Lansing at 7:00 p.m.
 - Wrestling had two state qualifiers: senior Alekh Marion and senior Azaylin Lindsey-Allen. Azaylin placed seventh in her weight class becoming the very first Kalamazoo Central female wrestler to place at states.
 - Loy Norrix girls basketball: Won the first game in districts, defeating Mattawan. They play in the District Semifinals tonight at Lakeshore vs Lakeshore. 7:00
 - Loy Norrix wrestling: Senior Heaven Cole made her fourth straight trip to the state finals. She earned All-State honors every year of high school.
 - Loy Norrix bowling: Senior Devin Harris advanced to the state finals, where he made it through the qualifying rounds and finished 13th.
 - Loy Norrix men's swimming and diving ended 8-1 and have qualified 10 athletes for the MHSAA State Final on March 14-15
 - Loy Norrix men's skiing: Junior Sam Oberlee qualified for the MHSAA State Final in both events for the third straight year and finished 25th overall.

Yvonne Payton

- Attended the staff wellness event at Linden Grove.

- Attended literacy nights at Prairie Ridge and Woods Lake.

Karla Murphy

- Congratulated all students, principals, and families who attended the meeting tonight.
- Gave special recognition to Milwood Teacher Dawn Kahler for being named the 2025 Middle School Science Teacher of the Year by the board of the Michigan Science Teachers Association .
- Thanked everyone, especially students for the improvement on graduation rates.
- Attended literacy night at Prairie Ridge.
- Reminded everyone to go out and enjoy the arts programs.
- Loy Norrix just announced the cast for the spring play.

TiAnna Harrison

- Attended literacy night at Lincoln.
- Excited to be a coach for the Global Reading Challenge event taking place at Lincoln. They will be competing tomorrow.

Dr. Slade

- Thanked all staff who are taking part in Saturday School. He thanked all students and families who are attending Saturday School. Also recognized all staff who took part in planning Saturday School.

XIII. Closed Session

Not needed.

XIV. Next Board of Education Meeting

The next Regular Board of Education meeting is Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: Secretary Hill, supported by Trustee Payton, 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 7:39 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 15, 2025 – Board Advance Minutes

President TiAnna Harrison called the special meeting to order at 9:00 a.m on March 15, 2025 at the West Main Professional Development Center, 1627 W Main St, Kalamazoo, MI 49006. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Kalamazoo Community Education building, provide updates on the school finances, and bond spending. There was also a discussion on what is going well in the district, upcoming goals, supports needed, student expulsion rates, weapon detector roll out, revising the administrator handbook, review for the final copy of the strategic plan, and a board trustee onboarding packet was presented to all trustees.

Board members present: TiAnna Harrison, Carol McGlinn, Jennie Hill, Karla Murphy, Takisha Johnson, and Yvonne Payton. Board members virtually present: Patti Sholler-Barber. Superintendent Dr. Darrin Slade, Karen Jackson, Heather Kortlandt, and Laura Kayser were also present.

President TiAnna Harrison adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION DATA SHEET

Board Meeting Date: March 20, 2025
Request Number: 2025-32
Amount: \$189,404.20

Item: Summer Literacy Independent Reading Program 2025

Cost Center: Instruction

Cost Center Representative(s) Attending Board Meeting: Dr. Angela Justice

Description of Need:

The goal of the program is to facilitate continued reading practice over the summer. The Summer Reading Program will distribute 28,000 books to rising 3rd-6th graders. Students get to keep the books and add them to their home book collections. Choice is important in developing reading motivation. Each student in rising 3rd-6th grade participated in grade level voting on 7 books and they will receive 1 additional district selected book for a total of 8 books per student.

Vendor: Follett
McHenry, IL

Number of Proposals Requested: 3 **Received:** 3

Low Bid Accepted? Yes

Additional Information:

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION DATA SHEET

Board Meeting Date: March 20, 2025
Request Number: 2025-33
Amount: \$5,943,970.00

Item: Athletic and Exterior Improvements at Loy Norrix High School

Cost Center: 2022 Bond

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

Description of Need:

This purchase recommendation includes the following 2022 bond projects at Loy Norrix High School:

Replace lawn athletic football field with turf
Replace baseball field, construct press box, construct parking lot, restrooms and walkway
Construct press box for softball complex
Construct permanent band viewing platform

The work also includes a new scoreboard and sound system for the football fields at both Kalamazoo Central High School and Loy Norrix High School.

Vendor: See Attached Spreadsheet

Number of Proposals Requested: 62 **Received:** 12

Low Bid Accepted? Yes

Additional Information:

Budget: \$6,000,000.00

Bid Amount: \$5,403,609.00

Contingency \$ 540,361.00

Over(Under) Budget: \$ (56,030.00)

CONTRACTOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Project: LOY NORRIX HIGH SCHOOL Athletic Improvements

Owner: Kalamazoo Public Schools

Architect: TowerPinkster

Construction Manager: The Skillman Corporation

Bid Date: March 4, 2025

<u>BID CATEGORY</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>BID AMOUNT</u>	<u>ALTERNATES</u>	<u>TOTAL AMOUNT</u>
General Trades	Miller-Davis Company Kalamazoo, MI	\$2,751,550		\$2,751,550
Sitework	Cripps Fontaine Excavating, Inc. Kalamazoo, MI	\$1,973,000		\$1,973,000
Synthetic Turf	Astro Turf Great Lakes Novi, MI	\$568,287		\$568,287
Asphalt Paving	Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc. Kalamazoo, MI	\$110,772		\$110,772
TOTAL AMOUNT OF AWARD:				<u><u>\$5,403,609</u></u>

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOL
Office of the Superintendent

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Darrin Slade, Superintendent

DATE: March 20, 2025

SUBJECT: Personnel Changes

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

- I. Employment
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
 - Timothy T. Cameron**, Special Education Resource Room Paraprofessional, Kalamazoo Central High School, 3/17/2025
 - Gracie M. Coston**, Assistant School Secretary - Guidance, Hillside Middle School, 3/10/2025
 - Johntay A. Hoskin**, Special Education Resource Room Paraprofessional, Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts, 3/17/2025
 - Wassy Nasiryaan**, Multilingual Paraprofessional, Linden Grove Middle School, 3/17/2025
- II. Promotions/Key Transfers
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
- III. Leaves of Absence
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
- IV. Terminations
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
 - Elizabeth N. Doyle**, Special Education Resource Room Paraprofessional, Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, Resignation, 04/07/2025
- 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

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Darrin Slade, Superintendent

DATE: March 20, 2025

SUBJECT: Trimester to Semester Change

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board approve a two-semester calendar beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

RATIONALE: Kalamazoo Public Schools currently operates on a three-trimester calendar. A transition committee composed of central office personnel, principals, and teachers was formed earlier this school year to study switching to semesters. The committee visited several area districts that operate on schedules to learn more. The proposal to switch to a semester calendar was then presented to principals, teachers, and parents.

Moving to a semester calendar will allow students to benefit from flexible scheduling, including yearlong core courses and double blocking. Students will also have more opportunities to make up credit, participate in dual enrollment, and CTE opportunities. Semesters align with Kalamazoo County programs, including the new Career Connect Center. Most districts in our county, as well as colleges and universities, operate on a semester schedule.