

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
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April 21, 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 Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom 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
April 23, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.
A G E N D A

- 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**
April 10, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - B. Personnel Items**
Personnel Changes
- IX. Reports and Recommendations**
 - A. Superintendent's Report**
 - B. Implementation of Weapon Detection Systems in Middle and High Schools**
- X. Persons Requesting to Address the Board (3-minute individual limit)**
- XI. Other Business**
 - A. Travel request for Karla Murphy**
- XII. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent**
- XIII. Closed Session (if needed)**
- XIV. Next Regular Board of Education Meeting: Thursday, May 8, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.**

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Meeting
1220 Howard Street
April 10, 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: Vice President McGlinn moved to amend the agenda and add a recommendation for School Bus Driver Appreciation Day under Other Business. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sholler-Barber.

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

IV. Attendance

Board members present: TiAnna Harrison, Carol McGlinn, Jennie Hill, Karla Murphy, Takisha Johnson, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Yvonne Payton. Dr. Slade was also present.

V. Board Recognitions

Kelly Corrigan, principal of Winchell Elementary School, recognized Excelsior students Kei Yin Bloodworth, Caleb Lighthizer, D’Azjah Williams, Diamonique Burton, and Darquin Waller.

Chris Aguinaga, principal, and Andrew Laboe, athletic director of Loy Norrix High School, recognized fall and winter student athletes Audra Tate, Eloise Dunfee, Nadia Moore, Claire Patrick, Abigail Milliken, Lillian Mahar, Jackson Lam, Nicolas Morales-Sanchez, Sofia Bogard, Samuel Schnell, Anelka Faria, Jonathon Pyle, Heaven Cole, Gavin Lepley, Isaac Patrick, Andrew Bol, Ian Wesselhoff, Efrem Masterson, Carson Mortimore, Westlee Weston, Devin Harris, and Samuel Oberlee.

VI. Committee Reports/School Reports

Academic Excellence Chair Trustee Sholler-Barber announced the committee met on April 9th. The committee’s focus areas for April include state testing, promotion, retention, graduation, math interventions, Saturday School debrief, and reviewing the district’s virtual programs. They also reviewed grading practices, how to improve on reading, and discussed parenting classes.

VII. Correspondence

Secretary Hill reported the correspondence for the period March 19 - April 8, 2025.

- Email received March 20 from Kamden Crigger regarding technology concerns for a blocked program on a student computer. Secretary Hill replied on March 21.

VIII. Consent Calendar

President Harrison presented the Consent Calendar items: VIII.A.1 March 20, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes, VIII.B. Purchase Recommendation 2025-34, Approval of ORS Salary Schedules, and VIII.C. Personnel Changes.

Motion: Trustee Johnson, supported by Trustee Sholler-Barber moved to accept the Consent Calendar

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

Discussion from the board:

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Asked for clarification on what a pool surge tank is. Assistant Director of Facilities, Cory Caswell, explained the surge tank helps with recycling the pool water and with sanitization. Currently the tank that is in the pool is not the correct size.
- She thanked all who supported the bond.

Jennie Hill

- Asked where the surge tank is located. Mr. Caswell answered that the tank is located under the tunnel space out of the public view. The pool will be shut down for the summer while repairs are made.
- Thanked Chief Financial Officer Laura Kayser for being transparent with the district and keeping everything up to code. Mrs. Kayser answered this also allows employees in the district to retire.

Karla Murphy

- Asked for clarification on the tank size. Mr. Caswell explained when the pool was originally built, the tank was the correct size. Building codes have changed, and due to the age of the current tank, it will need replacement.
- Asked for clarification on what sanitization includes. Mr. Caswell answered that the tank helps work with the filters to clean the pool.

IX. Reports and Recommendations

A. Superintendent's Update

Dr. Slade thanked all staff and students who attended Saturday School. He thanked all of the senior leadership staff for their hard work. He also thanked principals Frank Rocco, and Dr. Julie McDonald for working during Saturday School.

Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Instruction and Leadership, Dr. Micole Dyson, and Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction and Leadership, Mr. Craig McCane, provided feedback from the 2024-2025 Saturday School Program. They presented data which shows improvement in both English Language Arts and math

programs. Dr. Dyson mentioned the perception survey given to Saturday School staff is being used to begin planning next year's program.

Dr. Dyson and Mr. McCane announced students who finished Saturday School with positive attendance have earned a trip. Elementary students will be attending Craig's Cruisers and secondary students will be attending Michigan's Adventure.

Discussion from the board:

Takisha Johnson

- Grateful for the students who benefited from summer school and who are able to start high school off on the right foot.

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Thanked all staff who were involved with Saturday School and helping students achieve.

Jennie Hill

- Thanked all teachers and principals who worked during Saturday School.
- Thanked all parents for allowing their students to attend Saturday School.

Yvonne Payton

Thanked Dr. Dyson and Mr. McCane for planning Saturday School.

- Asked if the staff have any recommendations for next year. Dr. Dyson answered that there was a survey done and they are currently taking all suggestions under consideration.

Carol McGlinn

- Appreciates the expansion of Saturday School and that it shows the importance of academics.
- Grateful Saturday School is another intervention to pair with summer school and other opportunities.

TiAnna Harrison

- Thanked the team for their innovative approach for improvement.
- Grateful for the expansion and the addition of 8th grade.

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 TiAnna Harrison
- B. Travel request for Karla Murphy
- C. School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

President Harrison called for a motion to adopt April 22 as School Bus Driver Appreciation Day.

Motion: Trustee Johnson, supported by Treasurer Murphy, moved to adopt April 22 as School Bus Driver Appreciation Day.

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

XII. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent

Jennie Hill

- Thanked KalamazooNow for featuring a KPS student's artwork on the weather.
- Announced that the KPS Bronson Art Show will take place on May 14.
- Announced King-Westwood PTO is hosting a carnival.
- Announced several elementary schools will be holding their spring concerts.
- Announced Sunday May 4 from 1-4 pm at Parkwood Upjohn, Westnedge Hill Association is hosting a "How to Fix Your Bike" event and children's clothing swap.

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Thanked the voters for supporting the bonds.
- Attended the NSBA national conference.
- Thanked all staff who organized the 100 Year Chenery Auditorium celebration.
- Thanked Susan Coney for the Excelsior article.
- Invited the community to attend the CHAMPS Celebration on April 18.
- Shoutout to Kalamazoo Crossing Guards.
- Shoutout to Loy Norrix student, Heaven Cole.
- Thanked Trustee Payton for taking care of the board and the treats.
- Provided Kalamazoo Central sports update:
 - Boys varsity basketball coach, Ramsey Nichols, was selected as MLive's Coach of the Year.
 - Junior Isaiah Theodile was selected to MLive's basketball first team Dream Team. Juniors TJ Terrentine and Johnny Edwards were selected as honorable mentions.
 - This year KC had one male and one female student-athlete that participated in 4 sports.
 - We also had 35 that were 3 sport athletes, 197 that were 2 sport athletes, and 321 that played only 1 sport. We had a total of 555 student-athletes this year. That is roughly just over a third of our students that participated in athletics.
 - The track participation numbers are very large this year. We currently have 106 males and 74 females participating in track and field.
 - Senior Jada Jackson was selected first team all conference in Women's Basketball.
- Provided Loy Norrix sports update:
 - The Men's Swimming and Diving Team sent 7 athletes to the state finals. Junior Isaac Patrick was named to the All State team.
 - Senior Heaven Cole was named to the All State Wrestling team for the 4th year in a row and capped off her career with a 3rd place finish at the state finals.
 - Athletic eligibility rate remained between 94 and 96% the entire Winter season. Thank you to all of the coaches for their diligence and consistency and pushing the athletes with high expectations and academic goals.
 - Spring has been very light because of the weather.
 - Baseball team is 2-0 after knocking off state powerhouse Rockford 10-6 just before Spring break.

- Women's Soccer is 1-0 and expected to be a top contender in the SMAC Conference. Junior Maddie Chappa has committed to Division one IU Indy and will be a key contributor.
- Participation numbers are solid with 110 in Track leading the way.
- Senior Isaac Scavarda is the top Baseball pitcher and our #1 golfer this Spring and both teams should do well.
- Both schools have to get extremely creative in makeups so please check the two athletic websites for current schedules.
- Freshman Saniya Brown, junior Lakia Palmer, sophomore Lea Harrison, and junior Angeelah Campbell were honorable mention.
- In Competitive Cheer senior Ashari Palmore, senior Shariah Casey, and senior Lana Hanley were named to the All Conference Team.
- Freshman Ali Dawati was honorable mention.

Carol McGlinn

- Attended a few of the Strategic Plan Meetings with the superintendent. Encouraged the community to attend one of the meetings.
- Showed support for Western Michigan University Athletics.

Karla Murphy

- Attended the NSBA national conference.

TiAnna Harrison

- Thanked the voters who allowed the board to attend the NSBA national conference.
- Attended a parent engagement session at the NSBA conference.
- Explained as a board, the biggest responsibility is governance.
- Presented House Bills 4155, 4156, 4157, 4158, 4159 to follow. She mentioned the safety school package had its first hearing. Testimony has begun and includes House Bills 4122, 4226, 4227, 4228, and 4258.
- Announced MASB government relations team will be holding the next behind the scenes at the State Capitol on May 7.

Dr. Slade

- Announced the district has started state testing this week. State testing will continue for the rest of the month.
- Recognized all custodial staff and maintenance team that worked hard over spring break.
- Recognized all bus drivers and transportation director, Terri Aman.

XIII. Closed Session
Not needed.

XIV. Next Board of Education Meeting

The next Regular Board of Education meeting is Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: Trustee Johnson, supported by Trustee Payton and Secretary 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 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOL
Office of the Superintendent

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Darrin Slade, Superintendent

DATE: April 23, 2025

SUBJECT: Personnel Changes

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

- I. Employment
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
- II. Promotions/Key Transfers
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
- III. Leaves of Absence
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
- IV. Terminations
 - A. Professional/Management
 - Alfredo Aleman**, Third Grade Teacher, Arcadia Elementary School, Retirement, 06/30/2025
 - Joan L. Baker**, First Grade Teacher, Edison Academy, Retirement, 06/30/2025
 - Sherri M. Barwegen**, Special Education ASD Teacher, Indian Prairie Elementary School, Retirement, 06/10/2025
 - Susan M. Bates**, Second Grade Teacher, Winchell Elementary School, Retirement, 06/30/2025
 - Sean C. Bergan**, Secondary History Teacher, Loy Norrix High School, Retirement, 06/30/2025
 - David M. Berlin**, Third Grade Teacher, Washington Writers Academy, Retirement, 06/30/2025
 - Gayla E. Clark**, Third Grade Teacher, Prairie Ridge Elementary School, Retirement, 06/30/2025
 - Jill J. Franz**, Librarian, Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, Retirement, 06/30/2025
 - Lori L. Gardner**, Kindergarten Teacher, Spring Valley Center for Exploration, Retirement, 06/30/2025
 - William M. Hawkins**, Principal, Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science, and Technology, Retirement, 07/01/2025
 - Karyl K. Ketchum**, Physical Education Teacher, Greenwood Elementary School, Retirement, 06/06/2025
 - Cynthia Nguyen**, First Grade Teacher, Washington Writers Academy, Resignation, 06/30/2025

Susan J. Oesterle, Secondary Science Teacher, Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, Retirement, 06/30/2025

Laura M. Payne, Fourth Grade Teacher, Prairie Ridge Elementary School, Retirement, 06/30/2025

Scott J. Robbins, Music Education Teacher, Itinerant, Retirement, 06/30/2025

Melanie J. Sanic-Burke, English Language Arts Teacher, Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, Retirement, 06/30/2025

Linda J. Spicketts, Fourth Grade Teacher, Edison Academy, Retirement, 06/30/2025

Marlena L. Smith, Art Education Teacher, Itinerant, Retirement, 06/30/2025

Leonora I. Tarantino, Physical Therapist, Itinerant, Retirement, 06/30/2025

B. Classified

Linda G. Bennett, Library Assistant, Linden Grove Middle School, Retirement, 06/13/2025

Benny L. Blackburn, Custodian, Arcadia Elementary School, Retirement, 06/30/2025

William D. Blickle, Auditorium Manager, Communications, Retirement, 09/01/2025

Barbara A. Burry, Lead School Secretary, Lincoln International Studies School, Retirement, 06/13/2025

Lynn R. Chio, Community Education Leader, Facilities Management, Retirement, 09/01/2025

Norma J. Dozeman, Food Service Worker, Food Service, Retirement, 06/09/2025

John R. Fleming, Custodian, Facilities Management/Food Service, Retirement, 05/15/2025

Kristin E. Ghiringhelli, Lead Secretary, Student Services/Special Education, Resignation, 05/02/2025

Brenda L. Ingraham, Accounting Supervisor, Business and Finance, Retirement, 06/30/2025

Keith A. Jackson, Custodian, Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science, and Technology, Retirement, 06/30/2025

Deborah J. Jean, Special Education Resource Room Paraprofessional, Loy Norrix High School, Retirement, 06/09/2025

Heather L. Morrison, Lead School Secretary, Linden Grove Middle School, Retirement, 06/13/2025

Lynn L. Richardson, Special Education Resource Room Paraprofessional, Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts, Retirement, 06/30/2025

Patrick J. Salamun, Special Education Resource Room Paraprofessional, Milwood Elementary School, Retirement, 06/9/2025

Ronda L. Swinehart, Assistant School Secretary – Child Accounting, Woodward School, Retirement, 06/30/2025

Thomas J. Talbott, Custodian, Northglade Montessori Magnet School, Retirement, 07/11/2025

Dale Yarbrough, Stock Room Worker, Facilities Management, Retirement, 06/30/2025

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

Instruction and Student Services Department

Recommendation to the Board of Education

Date: Monday, April 21, 2025

Subject: Implementation of Weapon Detection Systems in Middle and High Schools

Overview:

In light of growing concerns about school safety and the national rise in incidents involving weapons on school campuses, Kalamazoo Public Schools must continue to take proactive steps to ensure the safety and well-being of all students, staff, and visitors. This recommendation outlines a proposal to introduce weapon detection systems at the entrances of all middle and high schools within the district.

Background:

Over the past five years, school districts across the country have faced challenges related to weapons being brought onto school property. While Kalamazoo Public Schools has remained vigilant through the implementation of safety protocols, partnerships with law enforcement, and social-emotional supports, the addition of modern, non-invasive weapon detection systems can serve as a deterrent and an additional layer of protection.

Proposal:

We recommend the installation of advanced weapon detection systems, OPENGATE, at all middle and high school entrances. This includes the use of AI-enhanced scanners and walk-through detectors that can quickly and discreetly identify potential threats without significantly disrupting student flow or school operations.

Key Features of Proposed System:

- Rapid, non-invasive screening suitable for high-traffic areas.
- Ability to distinguish between everyday items and potential weapons.
- Integration with security personnel for immediate response.
- Minimal impact on student privacy and educational environment.

Budget Considerations:

Funding sources include federal and state school safety grants, Title IV funds, and/or bond funds designated for safety enhancements.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education approve the phased implementation of weapon detection systems in all district middle and high schools beginning in the 2025–2026 school year.

Rationale:

- Supports the district's commitment to a safe and secure learning environment.
- Aligns with national best practices in school safety and threat prevention.
- Enhances community trust and parent confidence in the school system.
- Provides a modern, effective tool to prevent violence and ensure early intervention.

Prepared by:

Rikki Saunders

Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Leadership(*Interim*)

Kalamazoo Public Schools

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CONFERENCE / TRAVEL REQUEST FORM

(Requests must be made 14 days prior to early registration deadline)

Board Policy 1.3 and The Revised School Code (MCL Act 451 §380.1254) permits the school district to pay actual, reasonable, and necessary expenses incurred by a board member in performing functions as authorized by the Board of Trustees. Registration and travel arrangements can only be completed after board approval.

Karla Murphy

Name

4/14/25

Request Date

MASB Summer Institute

Name of Event

8/15-8/16

Date of Conference/Class

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Is this an MASB conference? ☒ Yes ☐ No If no, please indicate: _____

Is this request in time to receive early registration discount on conference? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Attending: ☒ In person ☐ Virtual ☐ Other; please explain: _____

List courses/sessions you plan to attend. **NOTE: Registration **cannot** be finalized unless this section is completed.**

MASB Summer Institute
CBA 299 Adv. Leadership
CBA 305 Practical Gov.

LODGING INFORMATION

Lodging required? ☒ Yes ☐ No Check-in and check-out dates? 8/15/25

Conference hotel name Crowne Plaza Lansing, MI

Is this request in time to receive the discounted room rate? ☒ Yes ☐ No

OTHER

Dietary requirements? _____

Any additional information? _____

For office use only.

Date received _____

Approval date? _____

☐ Registration _____

☐ Hotel _____

☐ Confirmation(s) sent _____

☐ Per Diem (?) _____

☐ Other _____