

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
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August 19, 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, August 21, 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

Revised: November 21, 2024

This policy supersedes all other policies on this issue.

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Meeting
1220 Howard Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49008
August 21, 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. Correspondence**
- VI. Consent Calendar Items**
 - A. Minutes**
August 7, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - B. Business and Financial Reports**
Purchase Recommendation 2026-7
 - C. Personnel Items**
Personnel Changes
- VII. Reports and Recommendations**
 - A. Superintendent's Report**
- VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board (3-minute individual limit)**
- IX. Other Business**
- X. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent**
- XI. Closed Session (if needed)**
- XII. Next Regular Board of Education Meeting: Thursday, September 4, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.**

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Meeting
1220 Howard Street
August 7, 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: Secretary Jennie Hill, supported by Trustee Patti Sholler-Barber, 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, Carol McGlinn, Jennie Hill, Karla Murphy, Takisha Johnson, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Yvonne Payton. Dr. Darrin Slade was also present.

V. Correspondence

Secretary Hill reported the correspondence for the period of July 16 - August 5, 2025.

- Email received from Shona Espinaza requesting endorsement and sharing information regarding the ESP Bill of Rights. Secretary Hill replied on August 7.
- Email received from Jennifer Nardi regarding concerns on athletic registration forms. Dr. Slade replied on August 4 and Secretary Hill replied on August 7.

VI. Consent Calendar

President Harrison presented the Consent Calendar items: VI.A.1 July 17, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes, VI.A.2 August 1, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes, VI.B1. Purchase Recommendations 2026-5, 2026-6, and VI.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.

Comments by Trustees

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Showed appreciation for the 31aa grant.

VII. Reports and Recommendations

A. Superintendent's Update

Dr. Slade thanked all summer school students and staff for their hard work and commitment to the district. He thanked Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Leadership, Rikki Saunders, and the student services team for initiating the Rise Up Summer Program.

Dr. Slade welcomed all of the new teachers and administrators to the district. He also thanked Kalamazoo Central band director, Ryan Kasperski, and Loy Norrix band director, Aaron Mirakovits for their hard work throughout the summer and for coordinating band camp.

Dr. Slade congratulated all students, teachers, and principals for having the highest passing rate for Advanced Placement exams that the district has seen.

B. Approval of the 2025-26 Contractual Agreement with the Food Service Managers Collective Bargaining Unit

Dr. Slade recommended the board approve the 2025-26 Contractual Agreement with the Food Service Managers Collective Bargaining Unit.

Motion: Trustee Sholler-Barber, supported by Secretary Hill, moved to approve the 2025-26 Contractual Agreement with the Food Service Managers Collective Bargaining Unit.

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

Discussion from the board:

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Congratulated the district for a successful bargaining agreement.

C. Approval of 2025-26 Contractual Agreement with the Service Employees International Union, Local 517M-Unit 84

Dr. Slade recommended the board approve the 2025-26 Contractual Agreement with the Service Employees International Union, Local 517M-Unit 84.

Motion: Trustee Johnson, supported by Secretary Hill, moved to approve the 2025-26 Contractual Agreement with the Service Employees International Union, Local 517M-Unit 84.

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

Discussion from the board:

Carol McGlinn

- Acknowledged how important both bargaining groups are and how important food service and custodians are to students.

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Acknowledged how important building custodians are to the students.
- Thanked both groups for a successful bargaining agreement.

D. Administrative Appointment – Principal of Washington Writers’ Academy

Director of Human Resources, Steve Leland, recommended the board appoint Dr. Amira Mogaji as principal of Washington Writers’ Academy.

Motion: Trustee Sholler-Barber, supported by Treasurer Murphy and Vice President McGlinn, moved to appoint Dr. Amira Mogaji to Principal of Washington Writers’ Academy.

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

E. Administrative Appointment – Principal of Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts

Director of Human Resources, Steve Leland, recommended the board appoint Ms. Sierra Prather to Principal of Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts.

Motion: Secretary Hill, supported by Trustee Sholler-Barber moved to appoint Sierra Prather to Principal of Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts.

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

F. Administrative Appointment – Assistant Principal of Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts

Director of Human Resources, Steve Leland, recommended the board appoint Ms. Miranda Rooy to Assistant Principal of Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts.

Motion: Trustee Johnson, supported by Secretary Hill, moved to appoint Ms. Miranda Rooy to Assistant Principal of Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts.

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

G. Administrative Appointment – Principal of Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology

Director of Human Resources, Steve Leland, recommended the board appoint Mr. Aaron Sauter to Principal of Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology.

Motion: Treasurer Murphy, supported by Vice President McGlinn, moved to appoint Mr. Aaron Sauter to Principal of Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology.

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

H. Administrative Appointment – Assistant Principal of Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology

Director of Human Resources, Steve Leland, recommended the board appoint Ms. Brandy Stiver to Assistant Principal of Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology.

Motion: Secretary Hill, supported by Trustee Sholler-Barber moved to appoint Ms. Brandy Stiver to Assistant Principal of Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology.

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

I. Administrative Appointment – Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction and Leadership

Director of Human Resources, Steve Leland, recommended the board appoint Mr. Craig McCane to Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction and Leadership.

Motion: Trustee Sholler-Barber, supported by Vice President McGlinn, moved to appoint Craig McCane to Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction and Leadership.

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

J. Administrative Appointment – Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Leadership

Director of Human Resources, Steve Leland, recommended the board appoint Ms. Reuquiyah Saunders to Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Leadership.

Motion: Secretary Hill, supported by Treasurer Murphy, Trustee Sholler-Barber, and Trustee Johnson, moved to appoint Ms. Reuquiyah Saunders to Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Leadership.

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

K. Administrative Appointment – Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Instruction and Leadership

Director of Human Resources, Steve Leland, recommended the board appoint Dr. Micole Dyson to Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Instruction and Leadership.

Motion: Treasurer Murphy, supported by Trustee Johnson, moved to appoint Dr. Micole Dyson to Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Instruction and Leadership.

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

Discussion from the board:

Carol McGlinn

- Congratulated all three assistant superintendents for their hard work.
- Loves seeing all the experience the administrators bring with them.

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Showed appreciation for all three assistant superintendents and thanked them for their hard work.

L. Acceptance of the 2025-2030 District Strategic Plan

Dr. Slade recommended the board accept the 2025-2030 District Strategic Plan.

Motion: Trustee Johnson, supported by Trustee Sholler-Barber and Vice President McGlinn, moved to accept the 2025-2030 District Strategic Plan.

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

Discussion from the board:

Jennie Hill

- Acknowledged how many strategic plan meetings were in the district.
- Thanked the community for participating in the meetings.

Carol McGlinn

- Acknowledged the hard work that went into the document to make it a living document and not one that can be set aside on a shelf.

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Feels the strategic plan assists in the stability of the school district.
- Thanked all staff and community members for their involvement in the planning meetings.

Takisha Johnson

- Appreciated the “boots on the ground” approach and that everyone’s opinion was carefully noted.

Karla Murphy

- Grateful that one of the first things Dr. Slade mentioned he would do when joining the district is being done.
- Glad there is a reference for decision-making in the district.

TiAnna Harrison

- Thanked Dr. Slade for his leadership.
- Thanked the leadership team for their role in moving the district forward.

Dr. Slade:

- Thanked the entire senior leadership team for formatting the strategic plan.
- Thanked the entire community for their effort and involvement.

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

Public comments/audience participation. No actions taken.

IX. Other Business

A. MASB Delegate Assembly Representatives and Alternate

President Harrison asked for volunteers to serve as MASB delegate assembly representatives. Treasurer Murphy, Trustee Sholler-Barber, and President Harrison volunteered to serve as representatives.

B. Professional Development Request for TiAnna Harrison

C. Professional Development Request for Jennie Hill

D. Professional Development Request for Yvonne Payton

X. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent

Yvonne Payton

- Asked Dr. Slade what the next steps would be since the strategic plan was approved.

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Thanked all staff who were involved with summer school.
- Shoutout to teachers and faculty who are working on post-bachelor’s education.
- Shoutout to the facilities department and their hard work.
- Asked for clarification on advanced placement with transcripts and transferring to the university.
- Welcomed all new teachers in the district.
- Acknowledged multiple community partners in the district are in need of funds. Urged the community to donate to community partners if they are able.

Jennie Hill

- Thanked all staff for keeping their talent here and working in the district.

- Acknowledged the hard work for the negotiations team.
- Loves the new KPS billboards around town.

Karla Murphy

- Having the billboards in front of the projects the district is directly working on shows transparency and clarity for the voters.
- Thanked all who are on the interview teams for KPS.
- Congratulated all the contracts that have been ratified.

TiAnna Harrison

- Welcomed all new teachers joining KPS.
- Looks forward to the strategic plan rolling out.
- Thanked Ms. Saunders for her hard work in the district.

Dr. Slade

- Thanked Steve Leland and the entire HR team for their hard work hiring throughout the summer.
- Thanked Karen Jackson and the facilities team for their hard work all summer.
- Amazed how many back-to-school activities are in Kalamazoo. Urged the community to attend one of the events.

XI. Closed Session
Not needed.

XII. Next Board of Education Meeting

The next Regular Board of Education meeting is Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: Trustee Johnson, supported by Trustee Sholler-Barber 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 7:55 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: August 21, 2025

Request Number: 2026-7

Amount: \$2,360,875.00

Item: 2 2025 65-passenger Lift Buses @ \$189,415.00 each
6 2025 65-passenger School Buses @ \$179,495.00 each
5 2025 71-passenger School Buses @ \$181,015.00 each

Cost Center: 2022 Bond

Cost Center Representative(s) Attending Board Meeting: Terri Aman

Description of Need:

Safety in school bus operations requires regular replacement of vehicles. We will be replacing buses that have passed their useful life in miles and years. Safety and mechanical systems of the units being retired have reached a point of diminishing returns.

Vendor: Midwest Transit
Marshall, MI

Number of Proposals Requested: N/A **Received:** N/A

Low Bid Accepted: N/A

Additional Information:

In 1994, Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO) joined with the Michigan Association of Pupil Transportation to initiate a group bus purchasing program to save their members time and money. With cooperation from school bus vendors, the MSBO Bus Specifications Committee combined to design a program in which all districts could take advantage of group purchasing.

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOL
Office of the Superintendent

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Darrin Slade, Superintendent

DATE: August 21, 2025

SUBJECT: Personnel Changes

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

I. Employment

A. Professional/Management

Abigail E. Adams, Spanish Teacher, Loy Norrix High School, 08/19/2025
Heather K. Allbee, Counselor, Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center, 08/14/2025
Vanessa Cervera, School Psychologist, Itinerant, 08/19/2025
Andreana A. Farrell, Grade 4 Teacher, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Westwood Elementary School, 08/19/2025
Morgan P. Greenberg, ELA Teacher, Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science, and Technology, 08/19/2025
Elizabeth T. Hamm, Music Teacher, Itinerant, 08/19/2025
Kerry L. Oostdyk, Math Teacher, Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, 08/19/2025
Rebecca J. Osborn, ECSE Teacher, Arcadia Elementary School, 08/19/2025
Jennifer L. Peake, Climate and Culture Coach, Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology, 08/19/2025
Robert M. Verduzco, Math Teacher, Linden Grove Middle School, 08/19/2025

B. Classified

James T. Buchanan, Character Development Coach, Kalamazoo Central High School, 08/18/2025
Kelly A. Copeland, Lead School Secretary, Phoenix High School, 08/12/2025
Barbara J. Hillman, Accounting Supervisor, Business and Finance Office, 08/11/2025
Rahya K. Kelley, ASD Self-Contained Paraprofessional, Washington Writers' Academy, 08/22/2025
Jennifer M. Lavender, ASD Self-Contained Paraprofessional, Washington Writers' Academy, 08/22/2025
Kacey M. Melnik, ASD Self-Contained Paraprofessional, Milwood Elementary School, 08/22/2025
Arianna R. Milliner, Lower Elementary Special Education Resource Room Paraprofessional, Washington Writers' Academy, 08/22/2025
Derek L. Minnema, Home-School Support Specialist, Prairie Ridge Elementary School, 08/18/2025
Katie E. Ranson, School Library/AV Assistant, Loy Norrix High School, 08/15/2025
Jacob A. Seager, Character Development Coach, Kalamazoo Central High School, 08/18/2025

Baileigh M. Strong, Montessori Teaching Assistant, Northglade Montessori Magnet School, 08/22/2025

Kaitlynn J. Taylor, Moderate Cognitively Impaired Self-Contained Paraprofessional, Spring Valley Center for Exploration, 08/22/2025

Alonja M. Wilson, PEEP Paraprofessional, Woodward School, 08/22/2025

II. Promotions/Key Transfers

A. Professional/Management

Graciela A. Arevalo, transfer from Lead School Secretary, El Sol Elementary School, to Grade 5 Teacher, Prairie Ridge Elementary School

Sarah A. Tidd, transfer from Montessori Teaching Assistant, Northglade Montessori Magnet School, to Montessori Teacher, Northglade Montessori Magnet School, 08/19/2025

B. Classified

Aliyah Dunigan, transfer from Assistant School Secretary - Attendance, to 504/Testing Supervisory/Technical, Kalamazoo Central High School, 08/18/2025

III. Leaves of Absence

A. Professional/Management

B. Classified

IV. Terminations

A. Professional/Management

Kirsten M. Fabiano, Grade 1 Teacher, Arcadia Elementary School, Resignation, 08/12/2025

Arthur A. Mixis, Math Teacher, Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, Resignation, 08/07/2025

Ayat N. Rizeq, Multilingual Teacher, Kalamazoo Central High School, Resignation, 07/31/2025

Timothy J. Smith, Grade 5 Teacher, Winchell Elementary School, Retirement, 08/04/2025

Lisa A. Thomas, Grade 5 Teacher, Spring Valley Center for Exploration, Resignation, 06/30/2025

Monica S. Violante, Grade 4 Teacher. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Westwood Elementary School, Resignation, 08/15/2025

B. Classified

Samantha M. Alvarez, Early Childhood Special Education Paraprofessional, Milwood Elementary School, Resignation, 08/19/2025

Tavaris J. Hawkins, ASD Self-Contained Paraprofessional, Indian Prairie Elementary School, Resignation, 08/18/2025

Jennifer A. Losey, Assistant School Secretary - Child Accounting, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Westwood Elementary School, Resignation, 08/07/2025

V. Termination from Leave of Absence

A. Professional/Management

Michelle M. Scott, School Psychologist, Itinerant, 06/30/2025, Did not return from Leave of Absence

B. Classified

VI. Return from Leave of Absence

A. Professional/Management

B. Classified

VII. Lay-offs

A. Professional/Management

B. Classified