

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
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September 2, 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, September 4, 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
September 4, 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 21, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - B. Business and Financial Reports**
Purchase Recommendation 2026-8
 - 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 25, 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: Trustee Patti Sholler-Barber, supported by Secretary Jennie Hill, 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 August 6 - August 19, 2025.

- Email received from Pearl Rojas-Brown regarding concerns for newcomers and children in the district as well as requesting KPS become a sanctuary school. Secretary Hill replied on August 20.

VI. Consent Calendar

President Harrison presented the Consent Calendar items: VI.A.1 August 7, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes, VI.B1. Purchase Recommendations 2026-7, 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

- Expressed appreciation for all who voted for the 2022 bond.

Jennie Hill

- Gave a shoutout to the transportation department.

Yvonne Payton

- Asked for clarification on the difference between the 65-seat buses and 71-seat buses that were purchased. Director of Transportation Terri Aman explained that the 71-passenger buses are harder to use downtown Kalamazoo and are better suited for routes with more students.

Carol McGlinn

- Welcomed all newly hired employees to the district.

Karla Murphy

- Acknowledged the district's purchase of 13 buses and inquired if this is standard practice annually. Chief Financial Officer Laura Kayser responded that buses usually have a ten-year shelf life, making it routine to purchase several each year. She also expressed appreciation for the mechanical staff in the transportation department.

VII. Reports and Recommendations

A. Superintendent's Update

Dr. Slade acknowledged the success of professional development at the Radisson over the last two days. He thanked the board for approving the 2025-2030 strategic plan.

Chief of Marketing and Communications Susan Coney presented about the strategic plan and where the plan is available on the KPS website. Mrs. Coney announced that the website is available in multiple languages and accessible to visually impaired individuals.

Mrs. Coney also announced that the district will offer gold cards for senior citizens aged 62 or older who live in Kalamazoo. They can pick up their passes at the administration building for complimentary admission to regular-season athletic events at KPS facilities. Seniors without a gold pass will qualify for discounted admission to all KPS athletic events.

Mrs. Coney announced the NMA anti-gun violence community carnival and the Young Kings and Queens Back 2 School Jam taking place on Saturday, August 23. She also reminded the community that August 25 is the first day of school, which will be a half day, and urged everyone to be mindful of the buses in the community.

Dr. Slade reminded everyone that all secondary schools will have weapon detectors, and all students and visitors must walk through the metal detectors at the main entrances. He thanked all staff, students, and parents for making the district the most improved in the state for the second consecutive year.

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

Public comments/audience participation. No actions taken.

IX. Other Business

None.

X. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent

Yvonne Payton

- Visited a few district ice cream socials and met a new teacher setting up her classroom after professional development.
- Spoke to the principal at Winchell regarding the construction of the new PEEP classrooms.
- Commended Ms. Dunning at Lincoln for using DonorsChoose to acquire new equipment for their building.

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Welcomed all students back to school.
- Celebrated new turf at both high schools.
- Provided sports update for Kalamazoo Central High School:
 - Kalamazoo Central currently has over 330 student-athletes participating in the fall season. The football program is strong with around 150 members across the three levels. All summer, football weight room sessions averaged 55 athletes every day.
 - Giant Nation is excited about the beautiful new football field.
- Provided sports update for Loy Norrix High School:
 - Loy Norrix currently has 375 students
 - Men's Varsity Soccer is playing a very challenging schedule. They have started with two wins, including a 3-0 victory over GR Forest Hills Eastern.
 - Men's and Women's Cross Country, Men's Tennis, Women's Volleyball, and Women's Golf have had events.
 - Women's Swimming and Diving has its first event this Saturday.
 - Football teams will have their first games next week on the new turf, beginning on Thursday, August 28, at 7:00 vs. Jackson Northwest.

Carol McGlinn

- Thanked Susan Coney for adding the strategic plan to the KPS website and for making the website inclusive to all.
- Mentioned the gold cards were an idea from former parents, and with the conversation, the cards have come to be.
- Wished everyone a successful school year and reminded the community that there will be a lot of action this weekend and next week.

Jennie Hill

- Welcomed everyone back to school.
- Thanked all teachers for a successful professional development.
- Expressed gratitude for the district's support in sending the board for professional development.

Takisha Johnson

- Expressed excitement for the first day of school.
- Grateful for the systems in place to meet students' basic needs.
- Announced several back-to-school events happening this weekend, including Beta for the Black Wall Street.
- Thanked the teachers for their hard work.

TiAnna Harrison

- Wished everyone well for the school year.
- Thanked the bus drivers, playground assistants, and lunch staff for their hard work.
- Thanked the public for allowing the board to attend professional development.
- Announced that the board will present at two conferences in September and October.

Dr. Slade

- Attended the bus driver professional development and welcomed all bus drivers back to school.
- Urged the community to attend as many back-to-school events this weekend as possible.

XI. Closed Session

Not needed.

XII. Next Board of Education Meeting

The next Regular Board of Education meeting is Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: Trustee Johnson, supported by Vice President McGlinn 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 7:40 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: September 4, 2025

Request Number: 2026-8

Amount: \$202,623.36

Item: 35J Literacy Materials

Cost Center: 35J Grant

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

Description of Need:

This grant directly addresses our district's need to improve Pre-K through 5th-grade literacy instruction by aligning our practices with the research-backed "science of reading." The proposed resources are a carefully selected blend of professional development books, hands-on student manipulatives, and a targeted intervention program. The teacher books will equip our educators with the foundational knowledge and evidence-based strategies to effectively teach reading and writing. Simultaneously, the hands-on student materials, including magnetic letters and comprehension cubes, will provide the tactile and multi-sensory experiences essential for solidifying phonics and comprehension skills. The additional support materials in phonics will provide a brain-based approach to teaching complex phonics patterns, while the acquisition of an intervention program will allow us to implement a structured, systematic intervention that will directly impact our most struggling readers, ensuring all students have the opportunity to become proficient and confident in literacy.

Vendor: See attached spreadsheet

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

Low Bid Accepted: Yes

Additional Information:

35J Literacy Purchase
September 4 2025
2026-8

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Barnes & Noble Portage, MI	The Writing Rope by Joan Sedita	400	\$13,282.50
Bound to Stay Bound Jacksonville, IL	Reading Above the Fray by Julia B. Lindsey	350	7,430.50
	7 Mighty Moves by Lindsay Kemeny	350	7,430.50
Voyager Sopris Dallas, TX	Rewards, Teacher Editions, Student Books Licenses	Various	49,060.00
Lakeshore Learning Carson, CA	Magnetic Letters	500	23,745.00
Learning Resources Manhattan, KS	Reading Comprehension Cubes, Reading and Listening Comprehension Cubes, Blends and Digraphs Phonics Dominoes	500 each	25,486.50
Marenem, Inc. Skyland, NC	Secret Stories Classroom Kits and Flashcards	250	49,935.01
School Specialty, Inc. Greenville, WI	hand2mind Advancing Phonics Word Work Small Group Set	230	14,754.50
Office Depot Plymouth, MI	Magnetic White Boards, Markers, Erasers	Various	<u>11,498.85</u>
			<u>\$202,623.36</u>

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOL
Office of the Superintendent

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Darrin Slade, Superintendent

DATE: September 04, 2025

SUBJECT: Personnel Changes

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

I. Employment

A. Professional/Management

Christopher J. Adams, Business Teacher, Loy Norrix High School, 8/19/2025
Carly L. Anderson, ASD Teacher, Milwood Elementary School, 8/19/2025
Amber L. Booth, Grade 1 Teacher, Winchell Elementary School, 8/19/2025
Nicholas S. Losiewski, Social Studies Teacher, Linden Grove Middle School, 8/19/2025
Jacob D. Frye, Grade 3 Teacher, Arcadia Elementary School, 8/19/2025
Megan L. Mucciolo, School Psychologist, Itinerant, 8/19/2025
Olivia K. Murray, Split 4th/5th Grade Teacher, Washington Writers' Academy, 8/19/2025
Magdalen K. Norris, Science Teacher, Kalamazoo Central High School, 8/19/2025
Korey T. Nuckolls, Social Studies Teacher, Hillside Middle School, 8/19/2025

B. Classified

Francisca Acquaah, ASD Self-Contained Paraprofessional, Indian Prairie Elementary School, 08/22/2025
Ava K. Bernhard, Special Education Resource Room Paraprofessional, Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts, 08/26/2025
Amber L. Hoekstra, Assistant School Secretary - Discipline, Kalamazoo Central High School, 08/25/2025
Quianna M. Jenkins, Special Education Resource Room Paraprofessional, Kalamazoo Central High School, 08/22/2025
Kiera A. McCullough, Temporary Success Coach, Adult Education, 08/25/2025
Jocelyn H. Organ, Academic Classroom Paraprofessional, Linden Grove Middle School, 08/22/2025

II. Promotions/Key Transfers

A. Professional/Management

B. Classified

Debra K. Yerden-Ferguson, transfer from School Library Assistant (.1 FTE), Greenwood Elementary School, to Multilingual Paraprofessional, Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, 08/22/2025

III. Leaves of Absence

A. Professional/Management

B. Classified

- IV. Terminations
 - A. Professional/Management
 - Casey P. Bess**, Social Studies Teacher, Hillside Middle School, Resignation, 8/13/2025
 - Matthew E. George**, Math Teacher, Loy Norrix High School, Resignation, 6/30/2025
 - B. Classified
 - Makalai S. Lasavath**, Multilingual Paraprofessional, Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, Resignation, 06/09/2025
 - Chas S. Price-Willis**, Special Education Resource Room Paraprofessional, Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science, and Technology, Resignation, 08/21/2025
- 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