

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
Telephone (269) 337-0123 | TDD (269) 337-0152
Fax (269) 337-0149

September 23, 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 25, 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 25, 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**
 - September 4, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - September 5, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes
 - B. Business and Financial Reports**
 - Purchase Recommendation 2026-9, 2026-10
 - Designated Depositories and Signers Resolution
 - 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**
 - A. Professional Development Request for Takisha Johnson
 - B. Professional Development Request for Yvonne Payton
- X. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent**
- XI. Closed Session (if needed)**
- XII. Next Regular Board of Education Meeting: Thursday, October 16, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.**

					V
					File #23
KPS Board of Education					
Correspondence Log					
September 3- September 23, 2025					
U.S. Mail Correspondence					
Date Rec'd	Date of Corres.	From	Subject	Disposition	Date of final disposition
E-Mailed, Faxed, or Hand-Delivered Correspondence					
9/9/25	9/9/25	Karmella Todd	PowerSchool Concern	Secretary Hill replied	9/23/25
9/9/25	9/9/25	Lesa Brenner	Enrollment Concerns	Dr. Slade and Secretary Hill replied	9/17/25 and 9/23/25
9/20/25	9/20/25	Jamie Dault	Seeking assistance getting connected to the KRESA Board of Ed.	Secretary Hill replied	9/23/25
9/22/25	9/22/25	John McNeill	Sharing information on the Kalamazoo County proposed budget.	Secretary Hill replied	9/23/25
9/20/25 - 9/23/25	9/18/25 - 9/23/25	Sharlene Timmons, Debra Brookins, Wes Williams, W K Smith, D. Long, Brenda Hopper, David Trindle, Jasmin Collins, Shane Williams, Leon Stachurski,	JV Football Incident	Dr. Slade replied	9/25/25

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Meeting
1220 Howard Street
September 4, 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 Vice President McGlinn, 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, Karla Murphy, Takisha Johnson, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Yvonne Payton. Board members absent: Jennie Hill. Dr. Darrin Slade was also present.

V. Correspondence

Treasurer McGlinn reported the correspondence for the period of August 20 - September 2 2025.

- Email received from Shona Espinaza sharing information about the ESP Bill of Rights. Secretary Hill replied on September 2.
- Email received from Angela Gross showing support for the installation of weapon detectors in secondary buildings. Secretary Hill replied on September 2.
- Email received from Marvinetta Penn inviting a school board member to attend the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo Community Conversation. Secretary Hill replied on September 2.
- Email received from Esther Bouwman regarding a school bus being available for Parkwood-Upjohn students. Secretary Hill replied on September 2.

VI. Consent Calendar

President Harrison presented the Consent Calendar items: VI.A.1 August 21, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes, VI.B1. Purchase Recommendations 2026-8, 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

Carol McGlinn

- Showed excitement towards the purchase recommendation. Believes the books will benefit students who are struggling with reading.
- Emphasized the importance of providing professional development and coaching for teachers who use this curriculum.

Yvonne Payton

- Commended the district for using grant funds. Asked for clarification on what the grant funds can be used for. Chief Financial Officer, Laura Kayser, answered that the district will spend about \$850,000 per year, and the funds can be used for some staffing purposes, but are mainly used for purchasing materials.

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Thanked the staff for helping with the grant.
- Shared importance for the new curriculum.

TiAnna Harrison

- Thanked the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development, Dr. Angela Justice, for her hard work on preparing a new curriculum for the district.

VII. Reports and Recommendations

A. Superintendent's Update

Dr. Slade thanked all teachers, students, and staff for such a successful first two weeks of school. He announced that he attended several secondary school open houses and that the elementary school open houses will take place on September 11.

Director of Technology Systems and Services, Ian Haight, presented on PowerSchool and the MyPowerHub application. He announced the newest addition to this app is a two-way messaging between teachers/staff and parents/guardians. He mentioned this is a district-owned communication source.

Dr. Slade announced there will be two teacher input meetings taking place on September 23 at 3:30 pm and 4:30 pm at the West Main Professional Development Center. He also thanked Barb Miller and Vonalea Swanson for planting the seed for the KPS gold cards.

Discussion from the board:

Karla Murphy

- Asked if the newsfeed portion of the MyPowerHub application will be distributed to families via email or directly within the app. Mr. Haight answered that he believes teachers can send either way.
- Asked if there are kiosks for parents to use at the schools if they do not have a phone for two-way communication. Mr. Haight answered that any time during office hours, parents may go into their student's building and use the kiosks for school purposes.
- Asked what languages are included in the application translation. Mr. Haight answered that the major languages that our families speak are included, as well as many more.

Carol McGlinn

- Asked if buildings can use the application for robocall announcements. Mr. Haight answered that it is not available yet, but he would like to see that feature included.

Yvonne Payton

- Asked what percentage of the district's parents are currently using the application. Mr. Haight answered that about 60% of secondary parents are logged in, with a lower rate for elementary parents, but we are encouraging more elementary parents to log on for attendance tracking.

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Asked how the district is engaging parents with the new app. Mr. Haight answered that the district and school are promoting the app in a variety of ways, and it is being promoted at school events like open houses.
- Asked if parents will be excluded from communications if they do not use the app. Mr. Haight answered that mailings and other forms of communication will still continue to be used.

TiAnna Harrison

- Asked how the district is making sure we have the most up-to-date parent email addresses. Mr. Haight answered that secretaries have been trained to ask parents when they are in the office if their information is current and will update them as needed.
- Asked if the MyPowerHub application will generate report cards and if the parent/guardian can opt into mailing a paper copy. Mr. Haight answered that there is no place to opt in for paper copies on the application, but the school can print report cards and mail them out upon request.

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

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Attended several secondary school open houses.
- Welcomed back all crossing guards, bus drivers, and city personnel.
- Thanked all community members who supported the bond.
- Showed appreciation for the new turf at both Loy Norrix High School and Kalamazoo Central High School.
- Provided sports update for Kalamazoo Central:
 - Excited for upgrades to the athletic facilities.
 - Fall sports are off to a strong start. Varsity home opener will be on Sept. 12 against Gull Lake.
- Provided sports update for Loy Norrix:
 - The new field upgrades are a highlight of the new athletic season.
 - Having three football teams for the first time in several years is directly related to the excitement of the upgrades. The freshmen defeated Jackson Northwest 40-20 last week.

- Women's swim and dive started 2-0 with wins over Portage Northern and Mattawan, extending their win streak to 52.
- Men's tennis tied defending SMAC Champ Mattawan 4-4 last week.
- Men's soccer is 3-2-1. The rivalry game is coming up on the 11th and should be another great battle.
- D1 Fall Signing Day is November 12 and will include Taliyah Hanks signing for volleyball with USC and Maddie Chappa signing for soccer with IU Indy (formerly known as IUPUI).
- Loy Norrix showed appreciation for the community support at the first football game of the season.

Carol McGlenn

- Stated she was a greeter for the first day of school at Maple Street and Winchell.
- Showed appreciation for how smoothly the students went through the weapon detectors.
- Showed appreciation to the staff and students who were welcoming to new students at the middle school.

Takisha Johnson

- Stated she was a greeter for the first day of school at Kalamazoo Central and Woodward. Showed appreciation for how excited students were to begin the school year.

Karla Murphy

- Stated she was a greeter for the first day of school at Linden Grove and Indian Prairie.

TiAnna Harrison

- Welcomed the community to the 2025-2026 school year.
- Shared she had the opportunity to visit all schools during the first and second day of school.
- Excited for the innovative ways the district can continue to increase the academic achievement of all students.

Dr. Slade

- Thanked all KPS staff for an amazing second week of school.

XI. Closed Session

Not needed.

XII. Next Board of Education Meeting

The next Regular Board of Education meeting is Thursday, September 25, 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 7:46 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
September 5, 2025 – Board Advance Minutes

President TiAnna Harrison called the special meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. on September 5, 2025, at the West Main Professional Development Center, 1627 W Main St, Kalamazoo, MI 49006. The purpose of this meeting was to assign board committees and discuss the possibility of forming an additional committee in the future. The board also reviewed new board member onboarding procedures, received further training on the Diligent board minutes system, and discussed board operating procedures, grants, literacy initiatives, upcoming curriculum training, potential programs for El Sol Elementary, and testing data.

Board members present: TiAnna Harrison, Carol McGlinn, Jennie Hill, Karla Murphy, Takisha Johnson, Yvonne Payton, and Patti Sholler-Barber. Superintendent Dr. Darrin Slade, Nicole DeGraaf, Dr. Micole Dyson, and Dr. Angela Justice were also present.

President TiAnna Harrison adjourned the meeting at 6:45 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: September 25, 2025

Request Number: 2026-9

Amount: \$76,344.89

Item: Thirty-two (32) Cafeteria Tables

Cost Center: 2022 Bond

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

Description of Need:

This purchase recommendation is for the purchase of thirty-two (32) new cafeteria tables. They will replace existing tables at the following buildings: Arcadia - 11; Lincoln - 11; Parkwood-Upjohn - 8. Two (2) additional tables will be installed at Milwood Magnet.

The existing tables that will no longer be in use will be salvaged for spare parts.

Vendor: Dew-El Corporation
Holland, MI

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

Low Bid Accepted: Yes

Additional Information:

The 2022 bond included a district-wide budget for furniture replacement. This purchase is within the overall parameters of that budget.

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION DATA SHEET

Board Meeting Date: September 25, 2025

Request Number: 2026-10

Amount: \$326,150.00

Item: Boiler Replacement at West Main Professional Development Center

Cost Center: 2022 Bond

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

Description of Need:

The boiler at West Main School Professional Development Center has reached its useful life and must be replaced. The existing boiler was retrofitted in 2001 when the building was remodeled. At that time, the boiler was converted from steam to hot water and a new boiler burner was installed. The cast iron casing has since cracked and is not repairable, therefore, a new boiler must be installed.

Vendor: Jergens Piping Company
Mendon, MI

Number of Proposals Requested: 4 **Received:** 2

Low Bid Accepted: Yes

Additional Information:

Bid Amount \$296,500.00

Contingency 29,650.00

Total \$326,150.00

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Darrin Slade, Superintendent

DATE: September 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Designated Depositories and Signers Resolution

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board designate PNC Bank as the District's central depository, and the following institutions as additional depositories/investment accounts: JPMorgan Chase, First National Bank, Michigan Liquid Asset Fund Plus (MILAF), Huntington Bank, UMB Bank, Bank of New York, and Fifth Third Bank, and to authorize the following employees to have authority to perform fund transfers and be signers on the depository and investment accounts of the District:

Laura Kayser	-Chief Financial Officer
Barbie Hillman	-Accounting Supervisor

RATIONALE: This is a re-affirmation of designated depositories and a change in signers due to retirement.

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOL
Office of the Superintendent

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Darrin Slade, Superintendent

DATE: September 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Personnel Changes

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

- I. Employment
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
 - Nadia K. Famiano**, Multilingual Paraprofessional, Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science, and Technology, 09/15/2025
 - Sandra L. Giddings**, Special Education Resource Room Paraprofessional, Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science, and Technology, 09/15/2025
 - Alison C. Grau**, Assistant School Secretary - Child Accounting, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Westwood Elementary School, 09/16/2025
 - Jennifer L. Newton**, School Library Assistant (0.1 FTE), Greenwood Elementary School, 09/22/2025
 - Ronda L. Swinehart**, Assistant School Secretary - Child Accounting (0.5 FTE), Woodward School, 09/08/2025
 - Kharen G. Warfield-Shelton**, Temporary Success Navigator, Adult Education, 09/08/2025
 - Catherine L. West**, Home-School Support Specialist, Woodward School, 09/15/2025
 - Laila K. Vincent**, Early Childhood Special Education Paraprofessional, Milwood Elementary School, 09/08/2025
- II. Promotions/Key Transfers
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
 - Rahel Afwerky**, transfer from Multilingual Paraprofessional, Phoenix High School, to Multilingual Paraprofessional, Linden Grove Middle School, 09/08/2025
- III. Leaves of Absence
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
- IV. Terminations
 - A. Professional/Management
 - Yan C. Hernandez Suner**, Computer Applications Teacher, Linden Grove Middle School, Resignation, 8/18/2025
 - Sara J. Gokey**, Teacher Consultant, Special Education- Itinerant, Resignation, 08/18/2025
 - Jack B. Lambert**, Science Teacher, Kalamazoo Central High School, Resignation, 08/18/2025

Ashley O. Lepsh, Art Teacher, Northglade Montessori Magnet School, Resignation, 9/5/2025

Tisha L. Pankop, English Teacher, Loy Norrix High School, Retirement, 9/4/2025

B. Classified

Kacey M. Melnik, ASD Self-Contained Paraprofessional, Milwood Elementary School, Resignation, 10/17/2025

Marita Mukantwali, Multilingual Paraprofessional, Kalamazoo Central High School, Termination, 08/29/2025

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

Professional Development Request

(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.

Takisha Johnson

Name

9/11/2025

Request Date

CBA 308 Webinar

Name of Event

3/3/2026

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.**

CBA 308: A Guide to Understanding the Legislature Webinar

LODGING INFORMATION

Lodging required? ☐ Yes ☒ No Check-in and check-out dates? _____

Conference hotel name _____

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 _____

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Professional Development Request

(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.

Yvonne Payton

Name

9/16/2025

Request Date

CBA 108

Name of Event

n/a - on demand class

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.**

CBA 108: Navigating the Legislative Process

LODGING INFORMATION

Lodging required? ☐ Yes ☒ No Check-in and check-out dates? _____

Conference hotel name _____

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 _____