

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
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Kalamazoo, MI 49008
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November 4, 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, November 6, 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
November 6, 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**
 - October 16, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - October 29, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes
 - B. Personnel Items**
 - Personnel Changes
- IX. Reports and Recommendations**
 - A.** Superintendent's Report
 - B.** June 30, 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report
 - C.** Approval of El Sol as a PreK-8 building
- X. Persons Requesting to Address the Board (3-minute individual limit)**
- XI. Other Business**
- XII. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent**
- XIII. Closed Session**
- XIV. Next Regular Board of Education Meeting: Thursday, November 20, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.**

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Meeting
1220 Howard Street
October 16, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

President 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 Trustee Takisha Johnson, moved to amend the agenda to include the Communities In Schools report after Correspondence.

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

President Harrison called for a motion to accept the amended agenda.

MOTION: Trustee Patti Sholler-Barber, supported by Trustee Takisha Johnson and Vice President Carol McGlinn, moved to accept the amended 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. Board Recognitions

Greenwood Elementary School Principal Ebony Sikaundi recognized students Jeremiah Kirk, Jack Walters, Lola Pulliam, Emma Goldenbeld, Zayn Foust, and Zayden Smith.

Indian Prairie Elementary School Principal Tammo Nelson recognized students Mariam Ibrahim, Sylvia Northrop, Jasmine Clark, and Leo McKenzie.

VI. Committee Reports/School Reports

Trustee Sholler-Barber updated from the Academic Excellence Committee meeting. The committee set the pace for the school year. They also discussed the data they want to track for the year.

Trustee Takisha Johnson updated from the Community Relations Committee meeting. They discussed future community meetings that could take place in the district.

Trustee Sholler-Barber updated from the Communities In Schools Committee meeting. She shared information from the business leaders' breakfast. She also gave a shoutout to Joseph Burrell for his presentation at the breakfast. Trustee Sholler-Barber shared information from the CIS audit. There were over 100,000 hours of staff work in the buildings and over 19,000 volunteer hours in the buildings. Local foundations have been very supportive of CIS. She invited the board to a site visit. She announced that Macy's is asking customers to "round up" their purchases for the remainder of October to donate to CIS.

Treasurer Murphy updated from the Governance Committee meeting. She shared that they determined the different roles and responsibilities for the superintendent and each board committee. They also discussed policies they want to work on this school year and reviewed those updated last year.

Vice President McGlinn updated from the Operations/Financial Affairs Committee. They received updates on El Sol Elementary, Chenery Auditorium, and the state budget's impact on the district. They also looked at current and future building usage and bond projects.

President Harrison provided an update from the Superintendent Evaluation Committee. They discussed the evaluation process and set a timeline. She explained the role of the board and the superintendent in the district.

VII. Correspondence

Treasurer Murphy reported the correspondence for the period of September 24 - October 16, 2025.

- Email received on October 8 from Ronald Gillam regarding a FOIA request. Dr. Slade replied on October 16.
- Email received on October 10 from Lindsey Seals regarding lacrosse funding. Secretary Hill replied on October 15.
- Email received on October 16 from Daniel Haywood regarding the October 14 discipline meeting. Dr. Slade replied on October 16.

VIII. Consent Calendar

President Harrison presented the Consent Calendar items: VIII.A.1 September 25, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes, VIII.B1. Purchase Recommendations 2026-11, Approval of Temporary Grading Easement - South Westnedge School, and VIII.C. Personnel Changes.

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

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

Comments by Trustees

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Thanked the community for supporting the bond.

Carol McGlinn

- Shared she was involved in the “Able to Play” project with the City of Kalamazoo.
- Shared how important play is to brain and social development.
- Acknowledged the importance of playground maintenance.

IX. Reports and Recommendations

A. Superintendent’s Update

Dr. Slade shared the 2024-2025 end-of-year state testing results for English Language Arts (M-STEP ELA). He mentioned that the student ELA performance improved at every tested grade level in the elementary and middle schools. He also shared that there were mixed results in the high schools, with two out of four of the buildings demonstrating growth.

Dr. Slade shared that the district has begun the Leadership Academy for all staff aspiring to be future administrators. He spoke about the two discipline practices meetings that were held at Lincoln International Studies and Milwood Magnet. He also shared that the school board presented at the Council of Urban Boards of Education conference and was recognized at the Kalamazoo County School Officers Association meeting.

He announced upcoming district events. He also shared that during the next regular board meeting, the board will vote on the El Sol design.

Discussion from the board:

Carol McGlinn

- Thanked everyone involved for presenting the reading scores and showing the district improvement.
- Noted the district is doing a lot more professional development behind the science of reading.
- Shared she expects data to keep improving over the years.
- Shared the importance of learning to read. Urged the students to seek out resources from teachers when they are struggling.

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Commended the staff and students for improvement.

B. Approval of Capital Campaign for Chenery Auditorium

Laura Kayser read the recommendation for the approval of a Capital Campaign for Chenery Auditorium.

Motion: Trustee Sholler-Barber, supported by Trustee Johnson, moved to accept the recommendation for the approval of a Capital Campaign for Chenery Auditorium.

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

Discussion from the board:

Carol McGlinn

- Thanked Chenery Auditorium for their community involvement.

C. Approval of the 2025-2026 contractual agreement with the Kalamazoo Support Professionals bargaining unit

President Harrion read the recommendation to approve the 2025-2026 contractual agreement with the Kalamazoo Support Professionals bargaining unit.

Motion: Vice President McGlinn, supported by Patti Sholler-Barber, moved to approve the recommendation to approve the 2025-2026 contractual agreement with the Kalamazoo Support Professionals bargaining unit.

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

Discussion from the board:

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Gave a shoutout to Kalamazoo Support Professionals and shared how vital they are to the district.

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

Public comments/audience participation. No actions taken.

XI. Other Business

None.

XII. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent

Takisha Johnson

- Urged the community to prepare for Halloween.
- Reminded the community that October is Mental Health Awareness Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and Infant Mortality Loss Awareness Month.
- Urged the community to pay attention to domestic violence in the community and to check in with everyone.

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Announced the projects Warm Kids and the Kids Closet for CIS. Requested the community to pick up materials or volunteer.
- Gave condolences to Secretary Hill for losing her father-in-law this week.
- Announced Cradle Kalamazoo is doing amazing work in the city.
- Gave shoutout to Karen Jackson and the facilities department for their hard work. Acknowledged the district kitchen, Westnedge building, and the new turf fields.
- Shoutout to Dr. Slade's presentation at the discipline practices meetings.
- Urged the community to be careful on Halloween.

Karla Murphy

- Congratulated both Greenwood and Indian Prairie for their hard work managing their space in a small building.
- Grateful to be in a community that values education. Thanked all KPS staff for their hard work every day.
- Wished everyone a great Halloween.

Carol McGlinn

- Provided Kalamazoo Central sports update
 - Shared if the football wins tomorrow against Mattawan and next Friday against Loy Norrix, we will be back-to-back division champs.
 - At tomorrow night's varsity football game, 52 seniors in band, cheer, and football will be recognized at 6:30 before kickoff.
- Provided Loy Norrix sports update
 - The women's swim and dive team is 9-0 and has won 59 meets in a row, and will try to finish the dual meet season at 60 next Tuesday, October 21, when they host St. Joe at 6:00. Loy Norrix is ranked #13 in Division 1, St. Joe is ranked #3 in Division 3.
 - For the second year in a row, the Loy Norrix- Kalamazoo Central football game will determine the East Division Championship. The game is at Loy Norrix next Friday at 7:00, which will also be senior night for the football team and sideline cheer squad.
 - The winter sports season begins in 11 days with Hockey beginning its practice on October 27.
 - Athletes who did not play a fall sport are encouraged to get their athletic physical ASAP and register on the district platform finalforms.com. Each winter sport has a starting date between October 27 and November 24.

TiAnna Harrison

- Congratulated Indian Prairie and Greenwood Elementary
- Attended Cradle Kalamazoo birth summit this afternoon.
- Encouraged the community to utilize all community resources, especially during the colder months.
- Congratulated the district on all reading accomplishments for grades 3-12.
- Showed appreciation for the district's growth.

Dr. Slade

- Recognized Nina LeSuer and Kristin Miller for leading curriculum and instruction in Dr. Justice's absence.
- Recognized today is Boss's Day, and showed appreciation for all supervisors in the district.
- Recognized both high school homecomings
- Shoutout to the cheerleaders at the football games.
- Attended both middle school football games yesterday. Recognized the coaches for their hard work.

XIII. Closed Session
Not needed.

XIV. Next Board of Education Meeting

The next Regular Board of Education meeting is Thursday, November 6, 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 8:01 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, Kalamazoo, MI 49008
October 29, 2025 - Special Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

President Harrison called the October 29, 2025, Special Board of Education meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Acceptance of Agenda

President Harrison asked for a motion to accept the agenda.

MOTION: Trustee Patti Sholler-Barber, supported by Trustee Takisha Johnson, moved to accept the agenda.

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

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

None.

VI. Other Business

President Harrison presented the recommendation for the approval of the 2025-2026 contractual agreement with the Kalamazoo Education Association bargaining unit.

MOTION: Trustee Sholler-Barber, supported by Trustee Payton, made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 contractual agreement with the Kalamazoo Education Association bargaining unit.

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

Discussion from the board:

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Shared she is pleased for the ratification of the contract.
- Sated the importance of teachers, ancillary staff, and behavior specialists in the district.

Jennie Hill

- Thanked both sides of the bargaining team.

Yvonne Payton

- Thanked everyone who worked on the bargaining team.

TiAnna Harrison

- Thanked both sides of the bargaining team.

VII. Comments by Trustees

Yvonne Payton

- Announced the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts is hosting a teacher night on November 21 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

VIII. Next Regular Board of Education Meeting

The next Regular Board of Education meeting date is Thursday, November 6, 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.

President Harrison adjourned the meeting at 6:36 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: November 6, 2025

SUBJECT: Personnel Changes

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

- I. Employment
 - A. Professional/Management
 - Elizabeth A. Burke**, Science Teacher, Kalamazoo Central High School, 10/27/2025
 - Danielle L. Whitaker**, English Teacher, Kalamazoo Central High School, 10/27/2025
 - B. Classified
 - Eana A. Agopian**, Special Education Resource Room Paraprofessional, Woodward School, 10/22/2025
 - Morgan C. Ingalls**, ASD Self-Contained Paraprofessional, Milwood Elementary School, 10/13/2025
 - Danielle M. Kahler**, Special Education Resource Room Paraprofessional, Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science, and Technology, 11/10/2025
 - Marwa Omran**, Multilingual Paraprofessional, Lincoln International Studies School, 10/20/2025
- II. Promotions/Key Transfers
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
- III. Leaves of Absence
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
 - Eursla C. Moore-Doyle**, Administrative Secretary, Facilities Management, 7/23/2025, position posted
- IV. Terminations
 - A. Professional/Management
 - Trina M. Jones**, Grade 2 Teacher, Washington Writers' Academy, Resignation 10/14/2025
 - Dawn M. McAlpine**, Kindergarten Teacher, Lincoln International Studies School, Resignation, 11/7/2025
 - Rachel S. Sharma**, Multilingual Teacher, Prairie Ridge Elementary School, Resignation, 10/10/2025
 - B. Classified
 - Sabagul Akobirova**, Multilingual Paraprofessional, Lincoln International Studies School, Resignation, 10/17/2025
 - Gabrielle L. Casey**, Special Education Resource Room Paraprofessional, Hillside Middle School, Resignation, 11/25/2025

Ramona L. McDavid, ASD Self-Contained Paraprofessional, Loy Norrix High School, Resignation, 10/21/2025

Anna M. Page, 1:1 Self-Contained Paraprofessional, Parkwood Upjohn Elementary School, Resignation, 10/17/2025

Collin K. Schmidt, Multilingual Paraprofessional, Loy Norrix High School, Resignation, 06/09/2025

Destiny A. Youngblood, Montessori Teaching Assistant, Northglade Montessori Magnet School, Resignation, 10/16/2025

- 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: November 6, 2025

SUBJECT: June 30, 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board receive the accompanying June 30, 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Board Governance letter.

RATIONALE: Each year, the auditors are retained to express an opinion on the audited financial statements. The audit procedures and the audited financial statements have been completed. Jon Ringlein, Senior Manager, from Maner Costerisan, will present the statements.

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Darrin Slade, Superintendent

DATE: November 6th, 2025

SUBJECT: Approval of El Sol as a PreK-8 building

RECOMMENDATION It is recommended that the Board approve the construction of El Sol elementary as a PreK-8 building.

RATIONALE: El Sol elementary is a Spanish immersion school that currently serves students from kindergarten to fifth grade. To expand learning and provide a seamless transition to high school, it is recommended that the school be expanded to a prekindergarten to eighth grade school. Some of the benefits of moving to a PreK-8 school include:

- Assisting with a student's transition to middle school by supporting academic, socio-emotional and behavior needs starting in Pre-K, while maintaining positive, caring and nurturing relationships with past teachers and administration.
- Students would be able to continue a designated immersion track through eighth grade. Students who successfully complete this track would be candidates for high school dual enrollment and can graduate with a minor in Spanish by 12th grade.
- El Sol students who graduate with proficiency in English and Spanish would receive the Michigan Seal of Biliteracy certificate.

This grade expansion will be implemented over a three-year period, with sixth grade being added for the 2029/30 school year, seventh grade in 2030/31 and eighth grade in 2031/32.

As an original construction project of the 2022 bond, El Sol will be replaced by a new building, to be built on vacant land owned by the district at 1428 Baker Drive. To accommodate grades PreK-8, a slightly larger building will be required. This will include, but is not limited to, additional classrooms, a larger gym, media center and cafeteria. A team consisting of El Sol and district staff, along with board members, the district architect and construction manager, have been working over the past several months to design the building.

The building is estimated to be approximately 83,000 square feet and will cost approximately \$54.4 million (encompassing the building and furnishings). These amounts will be modified for any final design changes and revised costs. The building is expected to be operational for the 2028/29 school year.