

Board of Education Regular Meeting (Tuesday, November 11, 2025)

Generated by Kimberly Grilli on Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Members present

LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM**A. Opening Items**

Procedural: 1. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion: 2. Five Principles of Cruiser PLC

Procedural: 3. Roll Call - Ms. Walsh is absent for medical reasons.

Discussion: 4. Review of Belief Statement and Board Norms

B. Agenda Approval

Action 2025-280: 1. Adoption of Meeting Agenda

Move that the Board of Education approve the agenda - Mr. Kershner asked that the Certificated, Non-Certificated, and Special Ed contracts be moved to after the second executive session. Mr. Bower asked that the NCH and the Policy items under Board Items be switched so that NCH is discussed first.

Motion by Libby Gray, second by John Kershner.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

C. Call to Order

D. Public Participation - Jane Decker - Thank you for all the Veterans. As a community member I was appalled about Mr. Kershner and Ms. Walsh posts on Social Media. I have time to look at all the Board docs items. I see the posts serves only to throw shade at Mr. Bower and make the Board and district look bad.

E. Recognitions and Presentations

Action 2025-281, Recognition: 1. Approve Resolution in Recognition of Veterans Day observed on November 11th, celebrating the service of all U.S. military veterans
The Board President recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education recognize November 11 as Veterans Day.

Motion by Libby Gray, second by John Kershner.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2025-282: 2. Approve Resolution to Honor Native American Heritage Month

The Board President recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education recognize November as Native American Heritage Month.

Motion by John Kershner, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2025-283: 3. Approve Proclamation to Recognize Ohio Public Education Appreciation Week

The Board President recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Proclamation to Recognize Ohio Public Education Appreciation Week

Motion by Libby Gray, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Discussion: 4. Ohio Report Card and GMLSD's Similar Districts - Mr. Morbitzer - Tonight we will compare Groveport to our nearest neighbors and similar districts. 7 Criteria items from income level property tax. Hamilton and Reynoldsburg are similar. It shows how we now are higher than both. We have increased while they decreased. Tabs on the State website can give you everything that you need. Go to DEW and then type in Similar Districts and then put in Groveport and it will give the 20 school comparison that shows 20 schools that we are similar too. Groveport is at 3.5 stars and hopefully we get to 4 stars next year. This year was best performance in Groveport history of State report card. Give credit to all teachers and principals.

F. Board Items

Discussion: 1. Nationwide Children's Hospital Discussion - 3 individuals were here from Nationwide.

- Mr. Kershner - Looks like the equipment was cured and language states that Groveport gets back the equipment if NCH leaves .
- Ms. Mary Kay from NCH - spoke about if we leave you before the 3 years you get to keep the equipment. If we reach the 3 yr term than we would get to keep the equipment. This center, as is all school based, is a LOSS for NCH. We are not making money here to serve your kids. NCH assumes liability of equipment but NCH must own it during the course of time they are here. Dental equipment stays here and we get CCS's equipment and then our vision goes to CCS for the time period they are here. Our hope is that this center is very busy. We are open to expand and bring vision equipment here.
- Mr. Kershner - If we did not have the equipment then would you bring the equipment? Also, it seems at the end of this term NCH gets to keep the equipment. Is that correct?
- Ms. Mary Kay -We are looking to be your partner and we will lose a lot of money upfront. We do bill Medicaid and private insurance. The other districts have already done the same agreement we want to have with Groveport.
- Ms. Gray - This is a partnership that needs to happen and if we have to give the equipment to NCH that is fine. We do not lose any money.
- Mr. Bower - We need to do this and service our kids.
- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - This is a partnership that needs to happen and if we have to give the equipment to NCH that is fine. We do not lose any money.

Action 2025-284: 2. Motion to accept the contract and MOU from Nationwide Children's Hospital

Motion by Libby Gray, second John Kershner.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Discussion: 3. First Read of OSBA Policies/Policy Review - Mr. Grube - Please lets review. Board and Mr Grube reviewed several policies and had discussion. Board questions on any policy to Jamie and Adam by Nov 18th. They will turn them around by Thanksgiving and get them back out to the Board and then 2nd vote on Dec agenda. All 4 Bd members agree.

Discussion: 4. Radon Discussion - Mr Grube asks Mr. Hausmann to come up and give an update. They are considering having mitigation done over the holiday break. This is a time sensitive matter.

- Mr. Hausmann - A radon concern was first reported at Dunloe Elementary in mid-May. The district involved its long-time environmental consultants and a local radon expert, who tested the affected classroom and confirmed high levels. A mitigation plan was created in June, work began in early July, and by August the room's radon levels were reduced to acceptable standards. Because state guidelines require full-building testing during October-March, the district waited until mid-October to complete a three-day test of the entire building.
The district received those results at the end of October and immediately began meeting with its consultants, as well as the Ohio Department of Health and Franklin County Public Health, to determine the next steps. Families and staff were informed of the situation, and additional testing is happening this week to plan for building-wide mitigation. The goal is to have the mitigation systems installed over Christmas break—though the work typically takes at least 12 days—so that follow-up testing can occur soon afterward and results can be reported a few weeks later.
- Mr. Grube - It would take nine systems, each serving four to five classrooms. These systems work by using fans to create a vacuum that draws radon gas out of the ground and vents it safely outside. In addition to installing the systems, all cracks or openings in the building must be sealed to prevent radon from entering. The Ohio Department of Health requires radon testing to occur during the heating season—October through March—because warm indoor air rising in cold weather creates a chimney effect that pulls from the ground up. Standard protocol also calls for a second test and averaging the results.
Given that the initial radon readings were high, we think mitigation should move forward without delay to protect staff and students. If the district hopes to complete the mitigation work over Christmas break, action must be taken immediately; otherwise, the project would likely be pushed to next summer.
- Ms. Gray - What does the Health Department say for our students and staff? What does prolonged exposure do?
- Mr. Hausmann - They don't give you a number where they say you've got to evacuate the building or close down the building. They just give you the numbers on what they recommend the level should be.
- Mr. Grube - They recommend that you address it if it's over four. You're probably not going to ever get the health department to say that this is a safe level of radiation you're being exposed to. But I think what they recommend to us for testing, what they recommend to individuals in your home, is if it's over four, you do the mitigation and they have it checked again and under four is under their mitigation request.
- Mr. Kershner - The EPA and the administration now is looking to roll this back. It's always been very controversial. Initially, what they did was, they took if it's a thousand units if you're working in a uranium mine then one 100th of that must be 1/100th is bad but some scientists and agencies actually say that low dose radon is regenerative and they've actually run tests on animals where they show that it actually helps in the healing process because it is part of our normal air. So that's why you get the different answers because there's two totally different scientific sides to this. But when it comes to December versus June I don't think from what I can see, I don't know that there's some fire there. The real question I have and what we know is that if someone's complaining about a health issue, it's affecting my health now, that's not radon. So, what other air quality tests have we done in there? I know you mentioned asbestos, but did we totally figure out what else is in there?
- Mr. Hausmann - No other indoor air quality tests yet. This is where we started. We started bringing in more fresh outside air.
- Mr. Kershner - If it's an immediate health issue, it's not radon. Radon doesn't make you feel sick. Possibly, if you believe it, lung cancer 20 years down the road. But also countries that have higher levels of radon like Sweden and higher levels of smoking have per capita lower lung cancer rates, which kind of adds to the controversy. But anyway, I think you might have answered my next question. Are we doing fresh air into our HVAC system? In other words, we're not re just recirculating. We have an efficiency system that actually pulls outside air to heat.
- Mr. Hausmann - Yes, that's correct. The outside air dampers are bringing in as much outside air as possible.

- Mr. Kershner - A higher efficiency HVAC system might be the best option. There could be energy credits.
- Mr. Grube - HVAC seems like a good option as a long term fix, but should we consider mitigation as a short term fix?
- Mr. Hausmann - No way HVAC improvements could happen before Christmas break. Mitigation systems in Dunloe would probably be around \$70,000. My guess is if we did HVAC systems throughout that building with architects, engineering fees, and things of that nature, it would be several hundred thousand dollars.
- Mr. Kershner - Plenty of ways to air out a building. Shouldn't cost anything to get estimate from HVAC company. Engineers and Architects won't really know.
- Ms. Gray - I just want what is best for the families and staff. We don't want to put families at risk.
- Mr. Grube - Just to be clear, we're not moving forward with mitigation?
- Mr. Kershner - We don't know the HVAC cost. We're being very reactive. I want to make an informed decision after seeing numbers.
- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - I think it's important to move forward with mitigation and then look at HVAC.
- Mr. Bower - I agree. I'm airing on what the Department of Health has recommended.
- Mr. Kershner - Did Department of Health say we had to do this over Christmas?
- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - Doing it over Christmas just works better because everyone is gone. Classes wouldn't have to be cancelled, etc.
- Mr. Hausmann - OH Dept of Health typically recommends two test, but our numbers were not that close to 4, so we were trying to expedite the process. Not pay the extra money for a second test, because we knew they levels were not going to come down low enough. That way we wouldn't incur the cost of the second test. As of right now, they believe it will be under the threshold of \$75,000 for going out to public bid.
- Ms. Gray and Mr. Bower feel we should move forward immediately.
- Mr. Kershner - We are skipping over the step that ODE recommended. It seems like we're rushing into things. I don't think we've thoroughly researched this.

G. Superintendent's Agenda

Discussion: 1. Department Reports -

- CBS - Transportation - Report stands as submitted. Safety week was last week. Everything is going great. Jared won State Rodeo again. Auto FUEL dispenser will be installed shortly. External cameras will cost \$300,000. We are working on grants to get the money for this. CBS promises \$150,000 to it. Hopefully the grants cover the other \$150k.
- Special Ed - Met with OSU Ed Department and work with Special ed students at OSU. A student will come into Groveport and work with us and hopefully stay here once they graduate. GROW YOUR OWN
- Business update - Water/Flooding - MSC and Groveport Elementary. We talked about the civil survey and storm line. I need guidance, do we move forward? Estimate is \$250K. What we have done so far has kept all the water out as of now. I would put an awning over it and landscape it better also so the water runs away. Board agrees to not do big project but add awning and do some landscaping and look for barrier for door out front. WIRT Road - handout to Board just so you can have it. Will start project this month. AEP needs access on easements.
- HR update - Dec 2 is Parapro testing. Try to do it 4 times per year. College recruiting sign ups have begun. We will go to as many as we can to get great teachers. Digital footprint is very important.
- Student Services - Continue to enroll students. Have enrolled 1171 students so far this year. United Way came and brought many resources to us for food insecurities if kids are going hungry. Thank you for approving NCH.

Action 2025-285: 2. Approve the Minutes for the October 14, 2025 Regular Meeting

The Treasurer recommends the Groveport Madison Local Board of Education approve the minutes for the October 14, 2025 regular Board meeting.

Motion by Libby Gray, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2025-286: 3. Approve GMLEA Lean Six Sigma MOU

The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the GMLEA Lean Six Sigma MOU.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Libby Gray.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2025-287: 4. Approve the Contract with the Fairfield County Educational Service Center

The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the contract with the Fairfield County Educational Service Center for access to Lean Six Sigma and Leadership Excellence online learning courses.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by John Kershner.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2025-288: 5. Approve the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 School Calendars

The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 School Calendars.

Motion by Libby Gray, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2025-289: 6. The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 School Calendars to strike the previous Motion #1 to approve the calendar.

Motion by John Kershner, second by Seth Bower.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2025-290: 7. The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve as 1st read the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 School Calendars.

Motion by John Kershner, second by Seth Bower.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2025-291: 8. Approve Payment-In-Lieu Transportation Reimbursement

The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve payment-in-lieu of transportation reimbursement. The Ohio law allows for public school districts to determine the impracticality of transporting resident students attending schools not located within the district after consideration of a number of factors. Upon that determination, the school district is permitted to offer payment-in-lieu of transportation to the parent/guardian. The Transportation Department has completed studies and residents in affected areas will be offered payment-in-lieu of for the 2025-2026 school year. The initial list of families being offered payment-in-lieu-of transportation is attached as Executive Content since it lists students' names.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Libby Gray.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2025-292: 9. Approve AEP Temporary Easement and Right of Way

The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the AEP Temporary Easement and Right of Way.

Motion by Libby Gray, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, John Kershner

Abstain: Seth Bower

H. Treasurer's Agenda

Procedural: 1. Treasurer's Reports

I. Executive Session

Action 2025-293: 1. Recommendation to Adjourn to Executive Session at 9:27 pm. Reconvene at 11:21 pm.

The board moves to enter into executive session to consider the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the individual requests a public hearing pursuant to R.C. 121.22 (G) (1).

Motion by Libby Gray, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

J. Reconvene from Executive Session

K. Executive Session

Action 2025-294: 1. Recommendation to Adjourn to Executive Session at 11:22 pm. Reconvene at 12:23 am

It is recommended that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education enter executive session for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official in accordance with ORC 121.22.

Motion by Libby Gray, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

L. Reconvene from Executive Session

M. Superintendent's Items

Action 2025-295: 1. Approve Certificated Personnel Items

The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Certificated Personnel Items: Ms. Gray would like to pull out the 4 admin contracts and vote separately.

Motion by Libby Gray, second by John Kershner.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2025-296: 2. The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Certificated Personnel Items except for the 4 admin contracts.

Motion by Libby Gray, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2025-297: 3. The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Certificated Personnel Item Ty Debevoise

Motion by Seth Bower, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower
No: John Kershner

Action 2025-298: 4. The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Certificated Personnel Item for David Hausmann

Motion by Seth Bower, second by Libby Gray.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower
No: John Kershner

Action 2025-299: 5. The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Certificated Personnel Item for Kellie Hayden

Motion by Seth Bower, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.
Final Resolution: Motion Fails
Yes: Seth Bower
No: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, John Kershner

Action 2025-300: 6. The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Certificated Personnel Items for Mark Trace

Motion by Seth Bower, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.
Final Resolution: Motion Fails
Yes: Seth Bower
No: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, John Kershner

Action 2025-301: 7. Approve Non Certificated Personnel Items
The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Non Certificated Personnel Items:

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Libby Gray.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2025-302 : 8. Approve Special Education Contracts
The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Special Education contracts.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Libby Gray.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

N. Comments, Announcements, and Other Business

Discussion: 1. Board member comments and/or special announcements, and other business - Capital Conference is this week and next week. Greater Southeast is meeting. Mid-Ohio is opening a food center at the old Kroger along with other services at the old site.

O. Adjournment

Action 2025-303: 1. Motion to Adjourn
12:37 am

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by John Kershner
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

