

Board of Education Regular Meeting (Tuesday, January 13, 2026)

Generated by Kimberly Grilli on Friday, January 16, 2026

Members present

LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert, John Kershner

Meeting called to order at 9:30 PM**A. Opening Items**

Procedural: 1. Call to Order at 9:30 pm.

Procedural: 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Procedural: 3. Roll Call - All present

B. Agenda Approval

Action 2026-35: 1. Adoption of Meeting Agenda

Moved to modify the agenda to place the Treasurer's agenda items as Item D, to be addressed prior to executive session.

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by Ashley Zimmer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Action 2026-36: 2. Moved to further modify the agenda to reorder executive session as Item E, immediately following the Treasurer's agenda.

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by John Kershner.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Action 2026-37: 3. Moved to add a new agenda item (Item D-3) under the Treasurer's agenda for discussion of approval of payment of a Speech Law invoice for legal services provided to a Board member.

Motion by Ashley Zimmer, second by Kathleen Walsh.

Final Resolution: Motion Fails

Yes: Kathleen Walsh, Ashley Zimmer

No: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, John Kershner, Dionna Herbert

Action 2026-38: 4. Move that the Board of Education approve the agenda as amended.

Motion by John Kershner, second by Ashley Zimmer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

C. Public Participation

Information: 1. Guidelines for Public Participation - NONE

D. Treasurer's Agenda

Procedural: 1. Treasurer's Reports

Action 2026-39, Discussion: 2. Franklin County Tax Budget

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

E. Executive Session

Action 2026-40, Discussion: 1. Recommendation to Adjourn to Executive Session at 9:46 pm. Mr. Kershner left at 11:15 pm during Executive Session. Reconvene at 11:31 pm

It is recommended that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education enter executive session to consider the investigation of charges or complaints against a district employee or official ORC 121.22 (G)(1) and to confer with the Board's attorney concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action, if applicable ORC 121.22 (G)(3).

The Board further acknowledges that no formal action or vote will be taken in executive session and that any subsequent Board action will occur in open session.

Motion by John Kershner, second by Ashley Zimmer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

F. Reconvene Open Session

G. Recognitions and Presentations

Recognition: 1. School Board Recognition Month

Recognition: 2. Recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service - Make Resolution

Action 2026-41: 3. Move to amend Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service to a resolution.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Ashley Zimmer

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Presentation: 4. Ohio Model United Nations Presentation - Moved to another meeting

H. Board Items

Action 2026-42: 1. 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 School Calendars-Second Read

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

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by Ashley Zimmer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Not Present at Vote: John Kershner

Action: 2. Motion to Establish Discussion Procedures for This Meeting - At the request of Ms. Zimmer, this item was removed from the agenda. No motion or vote occurred.

Action 2026-43: 3. Motion to Table Items H-3 through H-6

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by Ashley Zimmer, to postpone the following agenda items until February 3, 2026:

- H-3: Motion to discontinue and dissolve all existing standing Board committees
- H-4: Resolution establishing Board committees and planning framework
- H-5: Board Policy BDR – First Read
- H-6: Program of Studies – First Read

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by Ashley Zimmer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Discussion 4. (Occurred After Motion Passed)

Ms. Dowdell-Burger noted that she had received emails from students expressing concern regarding the potential impact of dissolving committees, including the student advisory committee, during the school year.

The Treasurer clarified that agenda language listing items as "Superintendent recommends" had been corrected to "Board recommends" on the official agenda.

Additional discussion reflected the Board's intent to allow adequate time for full consideration of the tabled items at a future meeting.

I. Superintendent's Agenda

Action: 1. Approve Job Descriptions

The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached job descriptions.

A motion was initiated; however, following discussion, the Board did not proceed to a vote on approval.

During discussion, the administration clarified that:

- The System Administrator job description was presented without an associated pay scale.
- The Technology Integration Specialist position would move to a different column on the DSC salary scale.
- One newly added position did not yet have a pay-build or salary structure.

Board members raised concerns regarding:

- Whether the proposed changes included significant salary increases.
- Whether the changes aligned with the District's reduction and savings plan.
- The lack of sufficient departmental, financial, contractual, and organizational information.
- The absence of clarity regarding effective dates, funding sources, and whether the changes were temporary or permanent.

- Whether qualification requirements unnecessarily excluded candidates with certifications or trade experience.

Action 2026-44: 2. Motion to table the attached job descriptions until the February 3, 2026 meeting to allow administration time to provide additional information to the Board. Upon request, the Board specified that the additional information to be provided should include, but not be limited to:

- Whether the changes are permanent or temporary
- Effective dates
- Total annual cost, including benefits
- Funding sources
- Justification for departmental changes
- Whether the changes align with the current reduction savings plan

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by Ashley Zimmer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Kathleen Walsh, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

No: LaToya Dowdell-Burger

Action 2026-45: 3. Approve Certificated Personnel Items

The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Certificated Personnel Items:

During discussion, a Board member asked whether the approval of certificated personnel items involving speech pathologists would require the District to terminate an existing contract early and whether any associated costs would be incurred.

Administration responded that:

- Contracted speech pathologists are subject to a 30-day notice provision, and no financial penalty is incurred if proper notice is given.
- One position was a vacancy, and therefore no contract termination was required.
- Another contracted individual had already transitioned out early to accept another position.
- The newly hired speech pathologists were recruited following the closure of Columbus Speech and Hearing.
- Certain hard-to-fill positions, including speech pathologists, may be hired at higher steps on the salary schedule due to market demand.
- Outsourced speech pathology services have previously cost the District significantly more on an hourly basis.

No further questions were raised.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Kathleen Walsh.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Action 2026-46: 4. Approve Non Certificated Personnel Items

The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Non Certificated Personnel Items:

Based on the Board's prior action to table the job descriptions, administration clarified that the salary change for Caitlyn Roose would be removed from this item and placed on the February 3, 2026 agenda.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Ashley Zimmer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Action 2026-47: 5. Approve Special Education Contracts

The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Special Education contracts.

Administration clarified that:

- The contracts were for Kid Thrive Therapeutic, Molly Burch, and Mary Swan.
- The contracts pertain to service providers/employees, not students.
- One contract discussed was outside the Special Education Department but appropriately included.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Ashley Zimmer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Action 2026-48: 6. 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 Kathleen Walsh.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Action 2026-49, Minutes: 7. Approve the minutes for the December 9, 2025 Regular Meeting and the December 16, 2025 Special Meeting

The Treasurer recommends the Groveport Madison Local Board of Education approve the minutes for the December 9, 2025 Regular Meeting and the December 16, 2025 Special Board meeting.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Kathleen Walsh.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Abstain: Kathleen Walsh

J. Comments, Announcements, and Other Business

Information Item

- The Superintendent announced that Dave Hausmann tendered his resignation with a two- week notice, and his last day of service will be February 1, 2026.
- Board members expressed appreciation for his service to the District and wished him well
- in his future endeavors.
- A Board member raised a discussion item regarding upcoming Board policy reviews. To avoid lengthy meetings, it was suggested that Board members submit any questions, proposed changes, or comments on the policies in advance of the February 3, 2026, meeting.
- By consensus, the Board agreed that:
 - ◦ The Treasurer and Superintendent will distribute the relevant policies and definitions to all Board members.
 - ◦ Board members will submit questions, comments, or proposed revisions to the Treasurer and Superintendent by January 23, 2026, at noon.
 - ◦ All materials will be compiled and shared publicly with the full Board in advance of the meeting to allow adequate review time and promote efficient discussion.
 - ◦ This process is intended to reduce extended discussion during the public meeting and does not constitute deliberation or decision-making outside of a duly noticed meeting.
- The Board agreed that, if this process is followed, a special meeting at the end of January may not be necessary.
- Board members offered general remarks, including New Year greetings to District staff and congratulations to newly seated Board members.

K. Adjournment

Action 2026-50: 1. Motion to Adjourn

Adjourn at 12:04 am

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Ashley Zimmer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert