

**JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Organizational/Regular Meeting
January 20, 2026**

The Board of Education of the Jackson Public Schools held its Organizational/Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at Jackson High School, 544 Wildwood Ave., pursuant to notice duly given.

Present: Marilyn Acton, Derek Dobies, Kesha Hamilton, Subba Redday, Cheryl Simonetti, Tabitha Williams, Alaina Sharp (left at 6:33pm)

Approval of Agenda

Motion by D. Dobies, supported by C. Simonetti, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Organizational Meeting

C.Simonetti made a motion to amend the prior resolution and now permit D. Dobies to serve as an officer of the board of education, supported by M. Acton. *Motion carried unanimously.*

K.Hamilton made a comment that she did not vote in favor of the motion back in June; she did vote to censor D.Dobies

25-26-39 Election of Officers

C.Simonetti nominated M.Acton for President, supported by S.Reddy. Motion carried 6-1 (no-Hamilton).

Motion by M.Acton, supported by D.Dobies, to nominate S.Reddy for Vice President Motion carried 6-1 (no-Hamilton).

*S. Simonetti nominated A.Sharp for Secretary. Motion failed 3-4 (no- Hamilton, Reddy, Williams, Acton)
M.Acton nominated C.Simonetti for Secretary. Motion failed 2-5 (no - Hamilton, Simonetti, Williams, Sharp, Dobies)*

Secondary roll call was done for the nomination of A.Sharp for Secretary. Motion carried 6-1 (no-Hamilton)

Motion by T. Williams, supported by M.Acton, to nominate D. Dobies for Treasurer. Motion carried 4-3 (no-Hamilton, Simonetti, Sharp).

The officers recited their oath of office.

25-26-40 Organizational Resolutions

- A. Schedule of Regular Board Meeting Dates: That the meeting dates for the 2026 calendar year shall be as follows: January 20, February 17, March 17, April 28, May 26, June 23, July 28, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17 and December 15. The regular meetings will begin at 6:00 pm unless posted otherwise.

- B. Legal Advertisements: That mLive Media Group and The Jackson Blazer will be used for the purpose of legal advertisements as may be required by law.
- C. Name of each Committee and Charge:
- Jackson County School Board Association
 - Jackson Parks and Recreation Commission
 - Board Committees: Finance/Facilities, Policy, District Improvement

Members discussed committees that they would like to be a part of:

M.Acton will represent at the Jackson County School Board Association

D. Dobies, S. Reddy and T.Williams will represent at the Jackson Parks and Recreation Commission

D. Dobies, C. Simonetti and M.Acton will represent at the finance/facilities committee meeting

C.Simonetti, M.Acton and T.Williams will represent at the policy committee

K.Hamilton and A.Sharp will represent at the district improvement meetings

- D. Approval of Organizational Memberships: Michigan Association of School Boards, Greater Jackson Chamber of Commerce, Jackson Lunch Rotary Corporate, and Jackson County NAACP.
- E. Delegation of Election Duties: Secretary of the Board of Education delegates the election duties to the Superintendent/designee of Jackson Public Schools.
- F. Approval of Annual Retainer Contracts: Resolved, that Brendon Beer, Abbott, Thompson, Mauldin, Parker & Beer, PLC shall continue as legal counsel for the Board during the 2025 calendar year, provided that the Board may employ other legal counsel to handle matters as deemed appropriate by the Board.

Motion by D.Dobies, supported by A. Sharp , to approve the organizational resolutions with the change to item A moving the August meeting to the 3rd Tuesday (August 18th). Under item C, change Jackson Parks and Recreation Department to Jackson Parks and Recreation Commission. Under item F remove and place on February 17, 2026. *Motion carried 6-1 (no-Simonetti).*

25-26-41 Financial Resolutions

Motion by D. Dobies, supported by C.Simonetti, to approve the following depository institutions: Comerica Bank, County National Bank, Huntington Bank, True Community Credit Union, Baker Tilly, MiClass, Southern MI Bank and Trust and PFM. Motion carried unanimously.

25-26-42 Adoption of Legal Reference Note

Motion by D. Dobies, supported by C.Simonetti, to adopt the Legal Reference Note as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

School Board Member Appreciation Month - The Superintendent thanked the Board for their ongoing service to the district. The district has purchased books for each school to add to their media centers.

Hunt Elementary - Students from Hunt Elementary came and presented to the board thank you cards to the board of education.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- 25-26-43 Minutes
- 25-26-44 Human Resources
- 25-26-45 Monthly Financial Report, December
- 25-26-46 Bond Financial Report, December

Motion by D. Dobies, supported by S.Reddy, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizens Requesting to Address the Board

1. Devon Camel

Discussion Items

25-26-47 Superintendent Evaluation Process

Mr. Patterson discussed the MASB evaluation tool he will use for the Superintendent evaluation process, which includes planning components and established checkpoints. As part of this process, Mr. Patterson provides monthly updates to the Board. A midyear evaluation will be conducted in July, followed by a formal evaluation in December 2026.

25-26-48 E-rate projects

Mr. Leon expanded on the E-rates that we use as it's a federal program that reimburses districts to help provide connectivity, make upgrades and purchase technology. Marcus and his team have looked at some technology needs going forward over the next few years. They have placed a bid out for replacement of network switches and battery backups at several locations; more discussion will be made at the finance/facilities committee this month. E-Rate projects will come to the board for approval at the February board meeting.

Action Items

25-26-49 Bond Extra Duty

Board members had the opportunity to present their opinion on the bond extra duty pay.

Motion by C.Simonetti, supported by D.Dobies, to approve bond extra duty. Motion carried 5-2 (no-Hamilton, Acton)

25-26-50 Health Insurance (WMHIP) Resolution

Motion by D.Dobies, supported by S.Reddy, to approve the Health Insurance WMHIP Resolution and the appointment of Carrie Putman as trustee and Marcus Leon as alternate trustee as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Comments

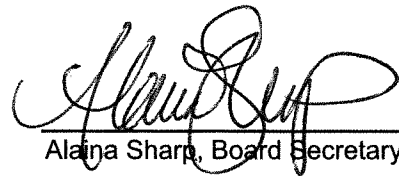
The Board members were given an opportunity to provide comments.

Calendar

- February 11, 2026 - Student Count Day
- February 16, 2026 - No School - President's Day
- February 17, 2026 - Regular Board Meeting, JHS Media Center, 6:00 pm
- March 20, 2026 - JHS Ambassador Auction, more details to follow

Adjournment

Motion by D.Dobies, supported by S.Reddy, to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 pm. Motion carried unanimously.



Alaina Sharp, Board Secretary