Board of Education Regular Meeting (Tuesday, February 3, 2026)
Generated by Kimberly Grilli on Thursday, February 5, 2026

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

Meeting called to order at 6:37 PM

A. Opening Items

Procedural: 1. Call to Order at 6:37 pm

Procedural: 2. Roll Call - All present

Procedural: 3. Pledge of Allegiance

Action 2026-60: 4. Adoption of Meeting Agenda
Move that the Board of Education approve the agenda.

Motion by John Kershner, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer
No: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Dionna Herbert

B. Public Participation

Information: 1. Guidelines for Public Participation - NONE

C. Approval Of Minutes

Action 2026-61, Minutes: 1. Approve the minutes for the January 13, 2026 Regular and Organizational Meeting and the January 20, 2026 Special Meeting
The Treasurer recommends the Groveport Madison Local Board of Education approve the minutes for the following meetings:
a. January 13, 2026 Organizational Meeting
b. January 13, 2026 Regular Meeting
c. January 20, 2026 Regular Meeting
d. All minutes may be approved by one motion unless a Board member requests removal of a specific date(s).

Motion by John Kershner, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

D. Consent Agenda

Action 2026-62 (Consent): 2. Approve Certificated Personnel Items
Resolution: The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Certificated Personnel Items:

Motion by John Kershner, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Action 2026-63 (Consent): 3. Approve Non Certificated Personnel Items
Resolution: The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Non Certificated Personnel Items:

Motion by John Kershner, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Action 2026-64 (Consent): 4. Board of Revisions Resolution for Land/Property
Resolution: The Treasurer recommends the Board of Education approve the Board Revisions Resolution for Land/Property.

Motion by John Kershner, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Action 2026-65 (Consent): 5. Approve the 2025-2026 Membership in Ohio High School Athletic Association.
Resolution: The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following resolution authorizing our 2026-2027 membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association:

Motion by John Kershner, second by Ashley Zimmer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Action 2026-66 (Consent): 6. Approve Field Trip for Middle School Bands
Resolution: The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Middle School Bands trip to Kings Island.

Motion by John Kershner, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

E. Consent Agenda Pulled Items

F. Board Items - Old Business

Discussion: 1. Program of Studies-First Read
- Mr. Kershner - I've observed when working with our students, many of them do not know their multiplication tables. Does this new program of study help with this?
- Ms. Morbitzer - No, High School students are allowed calculators. We are looking at elementary and middle grades to have stronger teaching of multiplication tables. Not just to memorize but have concept behind it. Once calculators are allowed, students use it for everything. We want them to know concepts.
- Ms. Zimmer - Requested explanation about reading fundamental course.
- Ms. Morbitzer - This course was added to catch the struggling readers before they get to high school. It will not count as a reading course, but gives them a foundation of reading fundamentals their freshman year.
- Mr. Morbitzer - CBI classes are for kids at risk and we do get more funding. We are ready for 50 in high school the first year. It is a 9-12 grade program. Students can work outside the buildings or inside the buildings.
- Ms. Walsh - Is it mandatory or optional?
- Ms. Morbitzer - Optional, but teachers will look at which students would benefit the most to take it.
- Ms. Walsh - Math trades, does it align with state standards?
- Ms. Morbitzer - We are looking into it. Mr. Gibbs is looking at other schools and how they are doing it. We are looking to get it a credit.
- Ms. Walsh - Industrial course, how are outcomes seen and who is paying for it?
- Ms. Morbitzer - We have always had the course, but it is added to the Program of Studies now. Exams will be paid for. CTE - Teachers changed the order of course, but not new.

Action 2026-67: 2. Approve Job Descriptions
The Board recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached job descriptions.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert
No: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner

Action 2026-68: 3. Approval of Payment to Speech Law Invoice
- Ms. Herbert - When did you receive the invoice?
- Ms. Walsh - 11-01-25 is date of invoice.
- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - It was added to the Organizational Meeting, why was that? And this law firm was added to our Organizational Meeting, was this invoice the reason?
- Mr. Kershner - No, I asked them to be added. They served in defense of an individual Board member and they would be a great law firm to give us 1st amendment rights.

Board recommends approval of payment of Speech Law invoice (attached) for legal services related to the verified complaint filed in the name of The Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education against 2 Board members, which was verified by then Board President Seth Bower, and direct the Treasurer to process payment accordingly.

Motion by John Kershner, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer
No: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Dionna Herbert

Action, Discussion: 4. Board Policies BBA, BBAA, BBF, BBF-E, BBG - 2nd read and after OSBA and legal review BBAA - Ms. Walsh wanted to change BBA. Mr. Kershner noted that motions were taking out of order.
The Board recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached Board Policies. - NO VOTE

Action 2026-69**:** Motion by John Kershner, second by Ashley Zimmer.
The Board recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached Board Policies.

- Mr. Kershner - I move to amend Policy BBAA-Board Member Authority and Duties-to revise the "Board Member Right to Information and Records' section as follows:
  - Requests for information shall be directed to the Superintendent or Treasurer.
  - Responses shall be provided promptly to the requesting Board member.
  - Final responses and produced materials shall be made available to all Board members through a shared Board repository or Board packet, rather than by 'reply all' email.
  - Board members shall not deliberate Board business through group email.

    - A determination that a request is administratively unreasonable shall not permit refusal to provide existing public records or information to which a Board member is legally entitled, but may allow discussion of reasonable method and timing.
        - This amendment is intended solely to reduce Open Meetings Act risk and does not otherwise limit Board member access to information

- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - I think it would be good to get insight from OSBA.
- Mr. Kershner - I agree we should hear from OSBA, but accept this and then change it if needed.
- Ms. Herbert - It seems there is a conflict of interest with Speech law and Ms. Walsh. We have to take that into account.

Motion by John Kershner, second by Kathleen Walsh.
Final Resolution: Motion Fails
Yes: Kathleen Walsh
No: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert
Abstain: John Kershner

Action 2026-70 The Board recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education postpone the attached Board Policies.

- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - Move to Postpone item 4 to Feb 10th because we did not have these items 48 hours prior to the meeting.
- Mr. Kershner - States this motion should have been voted on 1st. Ms. Dowdell-Burger agrees.
- Ms. Zimmer - I was only person that had comments after getting feedback. Please, people, do your job and so we can have an efficient meeting.
- Ms. Walsh - We need OSBA to get back to us. I think we should move forward with these new policies.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert
No: Kathleen Walsh

Action 2026-71, Discussion: 5. Board Policy BD-R-First Read and after OSBA and Legal review

Ms. Zimmer moves to postpone until OSBA gets back to us.

Motion by John Kershner, second by Ashley Zimmer
Final Resolution:Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Action, Discussion: 6. Standing Authorizations part 2 - 2nd read and after OSBA and Legal review

- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - Please send me the two law firms that looked at the Standing Authorizations and their comments.
- Ms. Zimmer - Asked if OSBA looked at it?
- Mr. Grube said they are discussing it.
- Ms. Walsh - Stated Speech law said these were legally sound.
- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - I can not find that in here.
- Ms. Walsh - It says there were no red flags.
- Mr. Kershner - Asked Treasurer - Where do these come from?
- Mr. Collier responds that in my 22 years they have never been changed unless a law changed. But, I do not know for certain. But, they usually do not change.
- Ms. Zimmer - I had questions about how to interpret these authorizations. We need to be consistent. I emailed them and they were forwarded to you and nothing from any of you. Needs to be rewritten so it is clear.
- Ms. Walsh - I will rewrite. Please put these motions in writing.

The Board recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Standing Authorizations part 2.

NO VOTE NEEDED because it was postponed.
Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by John Kershner.
Final Resolution: Motion Fails
Not Present at Vote: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

The Board recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Standing Authorizations. - Mr. Kershner - To postpone the motion until we can review on Feb 10th or until such time the Board has time to reconsider. - John withdrew this motion.
Motion by John Kershner, second by Dionna Herbert.

The Board recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Standing Authorizations. Ms. Herbert - We need to have work session to go over these as a group until we have a facilitator.
Was not put in writing. NO VOTE NEEDED
Motion by Dionna Herbert, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.

Action 2026-72: 7. The Board recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Standing Authorizations. Ashley amends until the Board has a work session we postpone and the Board is prepared for the session on Feb 10th.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Action 2026-73: 9. Move to take a 5 minute recess - 8:06 pm

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Action 2026-74, Discussion: 10. Motion to discontinue and dissolve all existing standing Board Committees

- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - I think it is a disservice to get rid of Student Advisory.
- Ms. Walsh - That is not a Standing Board Committee.
- Ms. Dowdell Burger - Are we getting rid of Student Advisory? In the event if we get rid Student Advisory Committee, I have a letter from a student.
- Ms. Walsh - Makes a point of order and says we can not read the letter.
- Mr. Kershner - Can we get clarification?
- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - I am just asking about this students that are asking questions.
- Ms. Walsh - POINT OF ORDER
- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - I was answering John's questions.
- Ms. Walsh - We only have 2 standing committee's, Facilities and Policy committee. Student and Parent advisory are advisory committees, not BOARD committees. POLICY COMMITTEE - John and Ashley Facilities committee - John and Kathy

The Board recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the motion to discontinue and dissolve all existing standing Board committees, effective immediately, in order to reset the committee structure and proceed with adoption of the new committee framework

Motion by John Kershner, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Fails
Yes: John Kershner
No: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, Dionna Herbert
Abstain: Ashley Zimmer

Action 2026-75: 11. Establish Board Standing Committees
Motion: Recommend that the Board of Education postpone until Feb 10th or we get a work session

Motion by John Kershner, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert
No: LaToya Dowdell-Burger

Action 2026-76: 12. Approve Committee Initial Scopes and Planning Framework
Motion: Recommend that the Board of Education to postpone until Feb 10th or get a work session.

Motion by John Kershner, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert
No: LaToya Dowdell-Burger

G. Board Items - New Business

Action 2026-77: 1. Four Year Forecast
The Treasurer recommends that the Groveport Board of Education approves the Four Year Forecast.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Discussion: 2. Board Governance Procedures

- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - Are we asking for another position? Need Mr. Saum and Mr. Collier to get ready for some questions about insurance and policies.
- Ms. Walsh - PART TIME person only - Clerk of Courts. Maybe Latoya and Dionna can put together a job description for this position.
- Mr. Kershner - OSBA does not realize the POWER of the Board. We have different resources the Board can create for themselves. I think this person could save the District money with legal fees.
- Ms. Herbert - I agree with John that we should talk about this in a work session. But, budget cuts are coming.

Action 2026-78: 3. Approve Contract with Solution Tree

- Mr. Grube - We would have 450 seats and have 100 available seats left to invite outside schools to come and offset some cost.
- Mr. Collier- Spoke about how he does not like spending money, this is a great deal to get 450 of our teachers/admin at a discount rate since the PLC will be in our building and we are not sending our teachers out of state to these same conferences.

- Theresa Foster - Speaking as GMLEA Chair of Professional Development. The last time staff participated in an out of state conference was with Dr Mackley (long time ago). We are very excited about PLC work and what we have done. Solution Tree does a lot of the work for the PLC. We went to Arizona for a summit and it was great. I loved all of those sessions. With those 22 people that went, we are building teacher leaders. Then we sent Special Ed teachers to Iowa and that was great. General education and special education teachers can work together. The intervention specialists came back and were excited and involved with the learning community. Math group went to California and that was great. We are developing leaders in the district. Mike created the PLC coalition. Jamie tasked our PD committee to bring to us and Solution Tree to us. They are great and MTSS is weak. We are in the process of making it better. Solution Tree will come in August, will do MTSS training and bring in professionals to help us. We have done a lot of organizing and planning for this and GMLEA is excited for this and hopefully approve this.
- Ms. Zimmer - Will this get some positive light on TV?
- Theresa - I HOPE SO!!! We have a great community and great students, it would be nice to be recognized for that.

The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the contract with Solution Tree.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Action 2026-79: 4. Non-Certificated Personnel items Kathy - It is prorated. YES
The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Non Certificated Personnel Item for Ms. Roose.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Action 2026-80: 5. Approve Special Education Contract
The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Special Education contract with JT Empower.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

H. Executive Session

Action 2026-81: 1. Motion to Enter at 9:07 pm John left at 10:25 pm. Reconvene at 10:50 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 pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(1) and to confer with the Board’s attorney concerning disputes involving the public body that are subject to pending and imminent court action, if applicable, pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(3). The Board further acknowledges that no formal action or volte will be taken in executive session and that any subsequent Board action will occur in open session.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

I. Reconvene in Open Session

J. Action Items Resulting from Executive Session

K. Treasurer's Reports

L. Superintendent's Report

Presentation: 1. District Operations Update
- Mr. Grube - Quick update - We have a significant leak at MSN. We are out of 4 to 8 rooms so have to get that fixed quickly. We will run it by insurance and check the warranty. The roof has not been done in awhile. Wirt Rd construction - We have fencing and it is in the way. The city will move our fence over for us and get our approval to keep the process moving. Java with Jamie Friday at Grumpy's at 9 am. Black history month showcase at the high school this Friday.

M. Board member comments

1. Board member announcements or brief comments:
- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - Black History program - Excited about this program and students are excited as well! There will be music and vendors. Will we be rescheduling the Model UN presentation? It would be good to have other student groups present at our Board meetings. Golf outing - Flyer to the Board by next week so we can get donations.

Action 2026-82: 2. Motion that the Board of Education authorize the establishment of the Student Voice Committee at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels for the purpose of providing student input and feedback to the district, administration and, as appropriate, to the Board of Education.

Motion by Ashley Zimmer, second by Dionna Herbert
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert
No: Kathleen Walsh

Action 2026-83: 3. Motion that the Board of Education authorize the establishment of the Parent Voice Committee for the purpose to provide feedback, suggested solutions, and input to the Board of Education and administration. - Board President appoints Ms. Zimmer and Ms. Dowdell-Burger to the committee.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger second by Dionna Herbert
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert
No: Kathleen Walsh

N. Adjournment

Action 2026-84: 1. Motion to Adjourn
At 11:23 pm

Motion by Ashley Zimmer, second by Dionna Herbert.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert, Kathleen Walsh