Board of Education Regular Meeting (Tuesday, February 10, 2026)
Generated by Kimberly Grilli on Thursday, February 12, 2026

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

Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM

A. Opening Items

Procedural: 1. Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 pm

Procedural: 2. Call to Order

Procedural: 3. Roll Call - All present

Action 2026-85: 4. Adoption of Meeting Agenda
Move that the Board of Education approve the agenda with notes that D1, D2, D3 be moved to work session on Feb 24th. D4 was also going to be moved but then was kept and moved to NEW D1 Student Voice Committee and D2 Parent VOICE committee.

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

B. Treasurer Pro-Tem

Action 2026-86: 1. Treasurer Pro-Tem
It is recommended to accept __Ashley Zimmer___ as Treasurer Pro-Tem for this Board meeting.

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.
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
- Jane Deckard - This is my opinion regarding the hiring of a board clerk – Is ashamed the Board of education would consider hiring a board clerk. It is not a necessity with the forecasts that have been presented - $24k could be better spent on the students, hiring tutors for the multiplication tables often brought up, money could be used for para-professionals, money may be used for leaky roofs that we know is an issue and will continue to be an issue, money could be used for snow blowers for each school, and money could be used for field trips. With the proposed forecasts we should not be spending money. If it comes to a vote your vote will tell me if you are here for our students or other motives.

D. Board Items-Unfinished business

Action, Discussion: 1. Board Policy Review-Second Read MOVED TO WORK SESSION ON FEB 24TH

Discussion: 2. Board Policy Review-First Read MOVED TO WORK SESSION ON FEB 24TH

Action, Discussion: 3. Standing Authorizations-Part 2 MOVED TO WORK SESSION ON FEB 24TH

Discussion: 4. Student Voice Committee Appointments by President Kathleen Walsh
- Kathleen Walsh - I am not prepared to appoint any one to those committees.
- LaToya Dowdell-Burger suggests moving forward with the established group, we have begun working with students and parents. Students have been asking to re-establish the committee.
- Kathleen Walsh asks when the last meeting was held, which was 7/21/25. I do not believe we have done any work this school year – I want to confirm we are doing things appropriately, hoping to get guidance during the work session, hearing everyone's voice is very important.
- John Kershner - Can you clarify the work being completed?
- LaToya Dowdell-Burger - We have worked in the last year, not school year. We stopped the committee due to concerns. We changed the name by Ashley and myself. The student committee is open to all students and all students are grandfathered in if they switch buildings, striving to make impact in the building and positivity. Of course, if a student were failing we would work with building principal. Some of the outcomes are Hispanic Month, discipline concerns and suggestions, profanity concerns and suggestions, concerns with locker room.
- Kathleen Walsh - The student voice is important but we need to make sure we are doing it appropriately and protecting the students.
- Dionna Herbert - This was voted on by board majority and now not being addressed.
- John Kershner – Example, we have a board committee with members assigned by the board but the names are redacted, we are now calling a board committee and opens up liabilities. Haven't discussed how it will work. We have policy committees we wanted to form, the only committees that were appointed were standing committees. It is not an advisory committee any longer. It is now a line straight to the board and we have not done that before and need to address these

concerns. I think we can wait until the work meeting to establish goals. I don't think it is fair to characterize this as a delay.
- Dionna Herbert – The reason I say it is a delay, is we voted and the majority of the board voted for and delaying it because you don't agree is not right.
- Kathleen Walsh – The committee does not follow our policy and scope.
- LaToya Dowdell-Burger – Please bring the policy committee to the work session. Original committee concept came from OSBA, previously identified with updates to the Board on numerous occasions, we allowed our students and parents to have a voice. I have chaired on 3 myself and the student advisory has been established for 2-3 years.
- Kathleen Walsh – The data you just provided does not reflect on meeting minutes, probably because they are not set correctly.
- LaToya Dowdell-Burger – I will get the reports to our treasurer pro tem to reflect on the meeting minutes and to show the chair did update the board.
- Ashley Zimmer – John, you stated a superintendent committee or something along those lines. We cannot establish the superintendent committee, can only be established by Mr. Grube.
- John Kershner – Kathy brought up concerns.
- Ashley Zimmer – I am not asking about concerns. I want to know how we will resolved it.
- John Kershner – I want to dig into it to make sure we hit all areas, include ORC and policy. I think it would be helpful to work through it. Work through the conflicts with my example of names being redacted, this could be an Open Meetings Violation.

E. Consent Agenda

Action 2026-87: 1. 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 Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Action 2026-88: 2. Approve Special Education Contracts
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached special education contracts.

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 2026-89: 3. Approve Contract with G&J Pepsi-Cola Bottlers, Inc.
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Board of Education approve the attached contract with G&J Pepsi-Cola Bottlers, Inc.

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

F. Pulled Items from Consent Agenda

G. Board Items - New Business

Discussion: 1. To Set Work Session Date
- Kathleen Walsh set a work session date, prefers 2 work sessions.
- Jamie Grube – resolving possible conflict with Mr. Fuji, prefers not to comment.
- Kathleen Walsh prefers 2 work sessions, first for committees and policies, second for goal planning and team building as suggested by Mr. Grube. First would be with Megan (board attorney) for guidance and second would be with Mr. Fuji (portrait of a cruiser.)
- Latoya Dowdell-Burger – Making 3 meetings, the original plan was for 2 meetings with the second only being old business. I would prefer not a weekend.
- Kathleen Walsh – that is the intent but items were added at the request of Mr. Grube.
- Ashley Zimmer – Mr. Grube also suggested we do smaller work sessions with a possible evening time slot during the week, if people are open to it. All available and agreed to work session 2/24/26 at 6:30pm.

Action 2026-90: 2. Middle School North Roof Repair-Urgent Necessity
- John Kershner – Electric incident with active water, roof is in working condition, rust and corrosion, juncture box was shut off for more than a week. Replacement has not been completed. Fire responded to incident, initiating the turn off, why did we not have an electrician out?
- Jamie Grube: I was under the impression the leak needed to be repaired before the electrical work could be addressed.

- John Kershner – Electrical box has leaked repeatedly, current condition has classrooms with a lamp. Did the Fire Team require the electricity being turned off or until repair?
- Jamie Grube: I do not know.
- John Kershner – Lighting has changed over the years, you could have borrowed power from another breaker. Pulling from other classrooms would have been effective.
- Jamie Grube: This item is about a roof. We can have an electrician come out. We did not want the kids in the dark, I do not think it is ok. I thought process was to fix roof first, ideally fixed in 2-3 weeks. I brought a solution to fix the roof, the roof is out of warranty and the warranty expired in 2016.
- John Kershner – Not to derail the maintenance, who is not licensed, we are not covered, we need to pull permits. We could have gone about this in a better way.
- Jamie Grube: I can contact an electrician tomorrow to get someone out.
- Latoya Dowdell-Burger – What does it mean pulling permits?
- Jamie Grube – We turned off the circuit breaker, plan is to have an electrician out to repair after the roof is fixed.
- John Kershner – We left water running onto the box, without diverting water. Needs replaced due to corrosion and ongoing leaks.
- Latoya Dowdell-Burger – I am sorry, I am curious if the permits will prolong the process?
- Jamie Grube – No, we should still be able to move forward.
- John Kershner – Water will run in any possible way, water intrusion with a number of leaks. New roof, significant amount of money. If we had time to do the bid and have completed by end of summer, it would be more effective.
- Jamie Grube – I don't think we have time, roof should last 2-3 years. Get the leak fix and bide us time. Roofer did mention we may not need to replace the entire roof.
- Kathleen Walsh – I think this is outside the authority when including areas not urgent as no active leak, concerns with the auditors opinion. Lighting is the biggest issue, areas by the partitions are dark. Biggest issue is the dark classrooms. We need to address repairing areas without active leaks.
- Jamie Grube – There are active leaks, who said there wasn't?
- Kathleen Walsh – I don't recall who in the building said it. We need an architect and contractor to come in and do the work.
- John Kershner – Declaring urgent necessity with an active leak is fine, but not when there is not an active leak. Could have black top company lay tar, which would not cut open any non-leaking areas, because we shouldn't cut a tar structure in the winter.
- Kathleen Walsh – Drainage on the roof, which goes to the drain holes, to the valley with low points will ice up with the weather.
- Latoya Dowdell-Burger – Why is not an urgent necessity?
- John Kershner – The drawing shows 7 repairs, repairing every valley, when all the valleys do not have leaks. The active leak could be done within the superintendents authority.
- Latoya Dowdell-Burger – I assumed there were leaks everywhere?
- Ashley Zimmer – Sorry to interrupt you Latoya, can we not just take a recess to allow Jamie to call the contractor to get the answers?
- Discussion Continued: Jamie Grube – Each area has an active leak. They torch in the winter all the time, did say we will have bigger issues if we don't address it. Bigger map where you can see the pink x's representing the active leaks.
- Latoya Dowdell-Burger – the maps we have are accurate, just difficult to see.
- John Kershner – Warranty is enforceable for 6 years.
- Latoya Dowdell-Burger – Will the warranty be included with the contract?
- Jamie Grube – There is a warranty, I am unsure what all it covers as they specifically stated it should last 2-3 years.
- John Kershner – Second Board Statement, Madison Middle School North – Roof Repair Resolution. I want to be clear about my intent tonight. My comments are not about delay, blame or second-guessing staff. They are about doing the right thing for students, taxpayers, and the long-term interests of this district. The immediate impact to students was the loss of safe, normal classroom lighting. That condition could have been addressed directly through standard electrical remediation, allowing classrooms to return to normal use while roof repair options were evaluated. I also want to address the idea that seeking competitive input necessarily creates long delays. For a repair to an existing roof system, having two or three qualified roofing contractors inspect known leak locations and provide estimates is a routine process that can be completed in days, not months, and does not require architectural design. Emergency authority exists to stabilize immediate hazards. When it is used to authorize non-permanent work without basic competitive validation, it exposes the district to audit findings, procurement challenges, and future risk. That is not a theoretical concern – it affects how our decisions are reviewed long after tonight. Doing the right thing here does not mean slowing down. It means restoring classrooms promptly, confirming scope and pricing through limited competitive input, and authorizing work in a manner that is transparent, defensible, and worthy of the trust of our students, families, and taxpayers place in this Board.
- Ashley Zimmer – Where did this come from?
- John Kershner – Auditor and ORC.
- Ashley Zimmer – There is no definition in the ORC, it is a Board's discretion to determine the extent of urgency, where the active leaks are, how many active leaks, and interference with the kids.
- Kathleen Walsh – I would want to add electricity to the resolution.
- Latoya Dowdell-Burger – What do we need to do to fix it?
- Jamie Grube – I thought roof first, will have electrical hopefully out tomorrow, which can possibly be covered by property insurance.
- Kathleen Walsh – Areas need to be addressed by Jamie.
- Latoya Dowdell-Burger – Item 2 specifically addresses those.
- Kathleen Walsh – You don't need a roof to repair electrical.
- Latoya Dowdell-Burger – Don't we need to fix the water before we repair electricity?
- John Kershner – Fire Dept. did not want us to shut off electricity, we should have diverted the water and/or replaced the electrical box.
- Latoya Dowdell-Burger – Where are we with a replacement for Mr. Hausman.
- Jamie Grube – We are reviewing applications and will bring some in, considered doing an interim but would be costly.

- Latoya Dowdell-Burger – Mr. Kershner, could you provide reference points for your statement?
- John Kershner – OSBA says a lot of districts do electrical work, but that can create serious liability. We do not need a permit if it is an emergency situation, you can complete work then get the permit after. I don't think the City of Groveport would have any concerns.
- Latoya Dowdell-Burger – point of clarification, are we voting as is with no changes?
- John Kershner – Amend the resolution to include long list of items.
- Ashley Zimmer – Are you writing the motion out?
- John Kershner – that would require time, modifying existing to include language to specific leaks and get estimates from other roofing companies.
- Latoya Dowdell-Burger – I am asking which section it will be added to if it was the rationale or board of education, for clarity before we vote.
- John Kershner – Then I would motion to table this to after executive session to allow time to write the motion.
- Ashley Zimmer – Adding comment that separating it will add additional costs because of time and labor.
- John Kershner – I don't think we are risking anything. We already have a price.
- Ashley Zimmer – If you said do urgent leaks at this time then the other leaks later, will require duplicate labor costs.
- John Kershner – I see that point as the urgent necessity.
- Kathleen Walsh – You are saying it would be more to get multiple bids.
- Ashley Zimmer – It is a potential additional cost based on the additional time, additional labor.
- John Kershner – Motion could be made multiple different ways.
- Kathleen Walsh – He has a motion on the floor to amend the original motion. John, can you write that down?
- John Kershner – I would need more time to rewrite that – I am being asked where it needs added – if you want it clearer than I stated, I would add a clause to the rational. I would need a moment to write that up.
- Ashley Zimmer – I thought we were required to write out our motions. Discussion:
- John Kershner – I move the board direct the superintendent to prepare and solicit bids for the roof repairs using the information provided in the current estimate, and any repair work done should fall within the statutory limit authorized of under $75,000. The motion on the table would need clear revision and I don't think it has clear necessity, so it would take more than 5 minutes to write it, so I am doing the motion I read.
- Kathleen Walsh – We need to do the motion on the table.
- John Kershner – Motion to postpone until estimates can be received from other roofing companies (10 days) No second – motion fails Kathleen Walsh – Original motion by Latoya Dowdell-Burger, Second by Ashley Zimmer Final Resolution: Motion Carries Yes: Latoya Dowdell-Burger, Ashley Zimmer, and Dionna Herbert No: Kathleen Walsh and John Kershner

The Board recommends approve the attached Resolution for Middle School North Roof Repair.

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 2026-91: 3. The Board recommends approve a recess so the Supt can get answers from contractor. 7:38 pm to 7:50 pm

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 2026-92: 4. The Board recommends to table until after executive session.

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

Action 2026-93: 5. The Board recommends approve a 5 minute recess so John can write down his amendment. - left at 8:34 pm and got back at 8:41 pm

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 2026-94: 6. The Board recommends to amend the resolution to add electrical work to number 4 and add number 6 as written, Approval is limited to emergency work necessary to stop active water intrusions and remediate associated electrical safety hazards to restore safe instructional conditions. No permanent or non-emergency work is authorized under this action. John motion to amend Kathy's motion to change line one to a singular electrical issue. Change line 2 to remove the roof must be repaired, and completely remove 3.

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

Action 2026-95: 7. The Board recommends to go back to Kathy's motion to amend. Motion to amend resolution to add electrical contractor to number 4 and add number 6 as written, Approval is limited to emergency work necessary to stop active water

intrusions and remediate associated electrical safety hazards to restore safe instructional conditions. No permanent or non-emergency work is authorized under this action.

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

H. Treasurer's Agenda

Action 2026-96, Procedural: 1. Treasurer's Reports
We all wish the Treasurer and his family prayers during this difficult time.

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

I. Executive Session

Action 2026-97: 1. Motion to Enter at 9:06 pm and reconvened at 12:34 am
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), preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment, pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(4). 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 LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

J. Reconvene from Executive Session

K. Action Items Resulting from Executive Session

L. Board Member Comments

M. Adjournment

Action 2026-98: 1. Motion to Adjourn at 12:34 am
Adjourn at 12:34 am

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