

# **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING PACKET**

**April 13, 2026**

**7:00pm**

**Bates Boardroom**



*Our Vision:*

*Champion Learning –*

*Develop, Educate, and Inspire!*

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*This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. The agenda reserves two periods for public participation and those wishing to receive a personal response from the board or superintendent must complete a public comment form available at the meeting entrance and on our website. Upon request to the Superintendent the District shall make reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities to be able to participate in this meeting.*

## MEETING AGENDA

- A. CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call
- B. MEETING MINUTES (3/23/2026)
- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- D. SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS – none planned
- E. [PUBLIC PARTICIPATION](#) (up to ~30 minutes; max 5 per person)
- F. ADMINISTRATIVE & BOARD UPDATES
  - 1. Superintendent
    - a. Cell Phone Survey
  - 2. Board President
  - 3. Student Representatives
- G. CONSENT ITEMS – none planned
- H. ACTION ITEMS
  - 1. DHS Principal Hire
  - 2. Condo Association Dissolution
  - 3. Temporary Appt. of Board President
  - 4. Series 1, Bid Package 3
  - 5. Series 1, Bid Package 4
- I. DISCUSSION ITEMS
  - 1. 31aa Funding
- J. [PUBLIC PARTICIPATION](#) (up to ~15 minutes; max 3 per person)
- K. BOARD COMMENTS
- L. INFORMATION ITEMS
  - 1. AI Community Conversation flyer
  - 2. Facility Minutes (4/8/2026)
- M. CLOSED SESSION – none planned
- N. ADJOURNMENT

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## [CALENDAR](#)

April 21, 2026 Community Conversation – AI in Education  
April 27, 2026 Board Meeting 7:00pm Bates Boardroom

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**Public Participation:** Those interested in making a public comment will be asked to raise their hands so the time may be divided equally. Each speaker will be asked to announce his/her name and address and indicate if he/she represents any organization or agency. No person may speak more than once on the same subject during a single meeting. Full Public Participation [Policy 2504](#)

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOTES**  
**APRIL 13, 2026**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

1. Roll Call

**B. MEETING MINUTES**

- \* An appropriate motion might be, "I move that the Board of Education approve the attached minutes from March 23, 2026 as presented/amended."

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Board policy provides that the Superintendent of Schools shall prepare an agenda for all Board meetings as directed by the President of the Board of Education.

- \* An appropriate motion might be, "I move that the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented/amended."

**D. SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS – none planned**

**E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (full guidelines at link)**

*Board Bylaw 2504 states that the BOE will have two opportunities for public participation at each meeting. The first opportunity will last approximately 30 minutes, with each person having up to 5 minutes to speak, depending on the total number of speakers. Those wishing to receive a personal response from the board or superintendent must complete a public comment form available at the meeting entrance and on our website.*

**F. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD UPDATES**

1. Superintendent
  - a. Cell Phone Survey
2. Board President
3. Student Representatives

**G. CONSENT ITEMS – none planned**

Consent items are typically approved in bulk.

**H. ACTION ITEMS**

1. DHS Principal Hire

This evening's packet includes a resume and recommendation letter to hire Theresa Stager as DHS Principal.

- \* An appropriate motion might be, "I move that the Board of Education offer Theresa Stager a probationary administrator contract, starting July 1, 2026, on Level G of the DAA agreement."

2. Condo Association Dissolution

This evening's packet includes an executive summary regarding the dissolution of the Dexter Town Center Condo Association.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOTES

APRIL 13, 2026

\* An appropriate motion might be, "I move that the Board of Education approve the attached Resolution approving the dissolution of the Dexter Town Center Condominium Association."

3. Temporary Appointment of Board President

The Board of Education would like to appoint Michael Cipolla as President for the single purpose of signing his student's 2026 diploma.

\* An appropriate motion might be, "I move that the Board of Education appoint Michael Cipolla as President for the single purpose of signing the diploma for his graduating student."

4. Approve Series 1 Bid Package 3 – Wylie Elementary School

This evening's packet includes a recommendation letter and bid tabulation for Bid Package #3 Category 03-05-01—Wylie Elementary Classroom Addition Structural Steel. Other items for this package were approved on March 23, 2026. This item was reviewed by the Facilities Committee on April 8, 2026 and has been recommended to the full board.

\* An appropriate motion might be: "I move that the Board of Education award the contract for Series 1, Bid Package 3, Category 05-01 Structural Steel to Steel Center Supply and assign it to Granger for management, for a total cost not to exceed \$299,999.00."

5. Approve Series 1 Bid Package 4 – Field House

This evening's packet includes a recommendation letter and bid tabulation for Series 1, Bid Package #4, for the New Fieldhouse. This item was reviewed by the Facilities Committee on April 8, 2026 and has been recommended to the full board.

\* An appropriate motion might be, "I move that the Board of Education award contracts for Cast-in-Place Concrete, Masonry, General Trades, Aluminum & Glazing, Drywall & Acoustical, Resilient Flooring, Tile Flooring, Paint & Wall Covering, Conveying Equipment, Fire Suppression, Plumbing & Piping, Mechanical, Electrical, and Artificial Turf to the designated bidders for the amounts listed in the attached recommendation letter dated April 8, 2026, for a total cost not to exceed amount of \$9,811,559."

### I. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 31aa Funding

This evening's packet will include a memo from Superintendent Ryan Bruder regarding 31aa grant funds, new stipulations associated with receiving the funds, issues with opting out, and the current status for DCS. This topic was previously discussed at the 12-3-2025 meeting and is presented for discussion only this evening. The memo was not ready at the time this packet was published. It will be posted as soon as it is ready.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOTES**  
**APRIL 13, 2026**

- J.**     **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** (full guidelines at link)  
*During the second opportunity for public participation, each person will have up to 3 minutes to speak, depending on the total number of speakers. No person may speak twice on the same subject more than once in each meeting. Those wishing to receive a personal response from the board or superintendent must complete a public comment form available at the meeting entrance and on our website.*
- K.**     **BOARD COMMENTS**
- L.**     **INFORMATION ITEMS**
1.     AI Community Conversation Flyer
  2.     Facility Minutes (4/8/2026)
- M.**     **CLOSED SESSION – none planned**
- N.**     **ADJOURNMENT**

**DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 23, 2026**

**A. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00pm**

Roll Call

**Members Present:** Daniel Alabré, Elise Bruderly, Michael Cipolla, David Pisano, Amy Reiser, Melanie Szawara; Student Representative Lloyd Brand

**Members Absent:** Jennifer Kangas; Student Representative Claire Beneteau

**Administrative & Supervisory Staff:** Ryan Bruder, Christie Bueche, Bill Harris, Barb Leonard, Melanie Nowak, Hope Vestergaard

**DEA:** Jessica Baese

**Guests:** Bill Bernard, Craig McCalla, Greg Brand, Shari Piracha, Lois Maharg, Susan Filipiak

**B. MEETING MINUTES**

Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented. Daniel Alabré seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (unanimous).**

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented. Michael Cipolla seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (unanimous).**

**D. PUBLIC HEARING.**

President Elise Bruderly opened the hearing regarding Policy 5207 *Anti-Bullying*. There was no public comment.

**E. SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS**

1. Career Fair Update

Career Development Facilitator Kaitlyn Nelson and Chief Academic Officer Melanie Nowak shared information about, and reflected on, DHS's second Career Fair, which took place on March 2, 2026. The slideshow has been posted online with the March 23, 2023 board packet.

**F. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – none**

**G. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD UPDATES**

1. Superintendent

Superintendent Ryan Bruder shared that the cell phone forum was a big success, with approximately 40 people in attendance including teachers, administrators, parents and guardians, and one student. He reminded trustees to respond to the Commencement invitation email. He also noted that testing season starts April 7th; DCS has some great DHS Principal candidates; in the one week since fall registration opened, the district has had ~132 new student registrations with the majority being young 5 and kindergartners; the DHS fall schedule is 90% complete.

**DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 23, 2026**

2. Board President – none

3. Student Representatives

Lloyd Brand shared a variety of updates, including: 4 DHS students attended the Adidas Track Nationals the weekend of March 20th; NHS had a very successful blood drive; DHS students are participating in the principal hiring process; Forensics is in full swing with their season and doing well; the Senior Auction raised ~\$2500 for the Sprout Love charity [which supports families of cancer patients]; NHS inductions happen April 15; everyone is looking forward to spring break.

**H. CONSENT ITEMS**

Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Board of Education approve the consent items in bulk. Daniel Alabré seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (unanimous).**

- The Board of Education approved Elizabeth Melvin’s request for leave of absence during the 2026-2027 school year.
- The Board of Education received the February 2026 budget report.

**I. ACTION ITEMS**

1. Policies – Second Reading

Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Board of Education approve policies 5301, 6231.01 and 5207 for second reading and final approval. Daniel Alabré seconded the motion. **Role Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous).**

2. Principal Hire

Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Board of Education offer William Harris a probationary administrator contract starting March 16, 2026 on Level G of the DAA agreement. Michael Cipolla seconded the motion. **Role Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous).**

3. Condo Association Directors

Amy Reiser made a motion that the Board of Education nominate Elise Bruderly, Melanie Nowak, and Ryan Bruder as Directors of the Corporation and approve the attached resolution titled Action By Written Consent to Elect Directors and Officers for Dexter Town Center Condominium Association. Melanie Szawara seconded the motion. **Role Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous).**

4. Approve Bid Package

Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Board of Education award the contracts for Series 1, Bid Package Number 3: Demolition, Cast-in-Place Concrete, Masonry, General Trades, Roofing, Aluminum & Glazing, Drywall & Acoustical, Resilient Flooring, Hard Tile, Painting, Plumbing & Piping, Mechanical Controls, Electrical, Earthwork, and Site Concrete as shown in the attached recommendation letter dated March 18, 2026 and assigned to Granger

**DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 23, 2026**

for management for a total cost not to exceed \$4,640,346.00. Amy Reiser seconded the motion. **Role Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous).**

**J. DISCUSSION ITEMS – none**

**K. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – none**

**L. BOARD COMMENTS**

1. Melanie Szawara noted that the Bond Information website has been very helpful for community members.
2. Amy Reiser shared that the first track meet of the season would be March 24.
3. Elise Bruderly noted that Amy Reiser, herself, and Ryan Bruder attended the AI PD Session at the WISD.
4. Michael Cipolla wished everyone a great spring break.

**M. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Student Reps Info Sheet
2. Nice Job Notes
3. SEAB Minutes (3/4/2026)

**N. CLOSED SESSION – none**

**O. ADJOURNMENT**

At approximately 7:55pm, President Elise Bruderly adjourned the meeting.

MINUTES/hlv

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Daniel Alabré  
Secretary, Board of Education



To: Dexter Community Schools Board of Education  
From: Ryan Bruder, Superintendent  
Date: April 13, 2026  
Re: Recommendation to Hire Dr. Theresa Stanger

The District has been engaged in a comprehensive search process for the next Principal of Dexter High School. This process included initial meet-and-greet sessions with qualified candidates, followed by second-round interviews involving key stakeholder groups: staff, students, parents and guardians, and administrators.

The final two candidates participated in a concluding interview with a committee consisting of DEA leadership, building administrators, and district administrators, including the Executive Director of Human Resources and the Superintendent.

After careful consideration of stakeholder feedback, interview performance, reference checks, and professional experience, Dr. Theresa Stager was selected as the top candidate for the position.

Dr. Stager brings to Dexter a deep understanding of Washtenaw County schools and a strong track record of leadership within the SEC. Her experience advancing Career and Technical Education, Early Middle College programming, and student-centered pathways will help expand opportunities for all learners. The hiring committee is confident that her vision, commitment to excellence, strong staff relationships, and dedication to student success make her the ideal choice to lead Dexter High School into its next chapter.

I am recommending that the Board of Education offer Theresa Stager a probationary administrator contract, starting July 1, 2026, on Level G of the DAA agreement.

# Theresa C. Stager

| principalstager.com | @TheresaStager

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## HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

*Instructional Systems Leader | Builder of Collaborative, Competency-Focused School Cultures*

Experienced secondary principal leading a comprehensive 9–12 high school serving approximately 1,500 students and nearly 100 certified staff. Proven ability to strengthen instructional coherence, design collaborative leadership structures, align resources strategically, and lead schools through complex change with steadiness and integrity.

*Leadership anchored in shared governance, data-informed decision-making, equity-centered practice, and a long-term vision for student mastery and belonging.*

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## EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

### High School Principal

Saline Area Schools | January 2022–Present (4 years)

Lead instructional and operational strategy for a comprehensive high school within a high-performing district.

#### Instructional Leadership & Systems Design

- Redesigned Professional Learning Community structures into Community of Practice–based teams focused on shared analysis of student evidence and collective instructional responsibility.
- Strengthened Tier 1 instructional clarity through curriculum alignment, assessment balance, and proficiency-focused conversations.
- Lead building implementation aligned to district MICIP goals and continuous improvement frameworks.
- Engage in classroom walkthroughs and instructional coaching conversations grounded in research-based practice.

#### Strategic Resource Allocation & Operations

- Direct development of master schedule serving 1,500 students, balancing Advanced Placement, Career & Technical Education, fine arts, and core programming while protecting equitable access and common planning structures.
- Manage building-level budget priorities aligned to instructional strategy.
- Lead mid-year staffing adjustments while maintaining instructional continuity and staff morale.
- Establish clear operating procedures that protect instructional time and reduce operational friction.

#### Distributed Leadership & Governance

- Built layered leadership structures including Teacher Leaders and Principal Advisory Council.
- Engage staff in meaningful decision-making related to professional learning, grading practices, curriculum design, and policy refinement.
- Foster a culture of shared accountability and collective efficacy.
- Continuously collecting and implementing feedback from staff and community members.

#### Equity & Community

- Serve on SHS Equity Team; facilitate Bridge to Civility sessions and co-facilitate Saline Community Conversations to ensure school practices reflect and serve the full community.
- Completed WISD Justice Leaders Training and WISD Responsive Teaching Institute; engaged in sustained professional learning with Dr. Gholdy Muhammad and the Grading for Equity framework.
- Lead grading and assessment policy conversations centered on equitable outcomes for all students.

#### Innovation & Future-Ready Learning

- Lead thoughtful integration of technology and AI tools to enhance feedback cycles, instructional design efficiency, and community communication systems.
- Facilitate conversations around competency-based learning and mastery-aligned assessment practices.
- Explore innovative scheduling and advisory structures to support personalization and student belonging.

## High School Assistant Principal – Curriculum & Instruction

Saline Area Schools | 2016–2022

Oversaw instructional systems, professional learning, and student programming in a large secondary setting.

- Led district MICIP implementation at the secondary level.
- Directed Google Classroom and instructional technology integration across the building.
- Coordinated performance-based assessment implementation in partnership with Battelle for Kids.
- Designed and implemented micro-credential professional development structures, empowering teachers to drive their own growth.
- Supported implementation of building-wide SEL block (Hornet Time) and BYOD+ initiative.
- Oversaw 84 student clubs and organizations, strengthening student engagement and belonging.

## PreK–8 Principal

St. Mary Rockwood | 2013–2016

Led comprehensive campus transformation focused on innovation and instructional modernization.

- Implemented 1:1 device initiative campus-wide (PreK–8).
- Established Professional Learning Communities and collaborative leadership teams.
- Developed project-based learning and Genius Hour programming.
- Designed master schedule structures supporting common planning and interdisciplinary collaboration.

## EARLIER LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

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### Implementation Project Manager / Director of Implementation *HireGenics, Inc.* | 2011–2013

Led complex organizational change initiatives and cross-functional implementation teams in a fast-paced private sector environment—building the systems-thinking and change management skills that inform my approach to school leadership today.

### K–12 Music Educator *Anchor Bay Schools* | 2003–2011

Developed curriculum, built programming from the ground up, and expanded student participation across K–12. Completed elementary and secondary principalship internship; served as NCA/MI-SAAS Building Co-Chair.

## EDUCATION

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### Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), Leadership & Innovation (May 2026)

*Arizona State University*

### Master of Public Administration (Assessment & Evaluation)

*University of Michigan–Dearborn*

### Bachelor of Music Education

*Wayne State University*

## CERTIFICATION

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Michigan School Administrator Certificate (K–12)

Michigan Professional Teaching Certificate

## PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP

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### Published Author & Nationally Recognized Voice in Educational Leadership

- Co-author, *Breaking Out of Isolation: Becoming a Connected School Leader* (Corwin Press, 2015) — a nationally adopted resource on building professional networks and leading with transparency.
- Featured in *Connected Leadership: It's Just a Click Away* (Corwin, 2014); *Future Focused Leaders* (Corwin, 2017); *The Principled Principal* (Dave Burgess Consulting, 2018).

### Speaking, Podcasting & Community

- Host, #PrincipalPLN Podcast and MASSP Podcast; featured guest on Principally Speaking, House of EdTech, Transformative Principal, and others.
- Keynote Speaker: Mercy TechTalk, DENSI, WiredTC; presenter at multiple state and national conferences.
- Coordinator & Mentor, #SAVMP (School Administrator Virtual Mentorship Program); University of Michigan Administrative Mentor.

- Guest blogger, NAESP and 'Brilliant or Insane'; NAESP National Panel of New Principals (2013–2015).

### **Professional Organizations**

MASSP | ASCD | MACUL | EdLeader21 | NAESP | MEMSPA | NCEA

*Founding Steering Committee Member & Former Director, MACUL SIGADMIN | Discovery Education Principal Advisory Council | DEN Star*

Dexter Community Schools  
Board of Education  
Executive Summary and Recommendation

**Date:** April 13, 2026

**Purpose:** Authorize the dissolution of the Dexter Town Center Condominium Association Board

**Explanation:**

As previously discussed and funded through state and federal appropriations, Dexter Community Schools (DCS) has acquired the Dexter Wellness Center and is proceeding with the development of the Dexter Senior Center. At the time of acquisition, the properties were part of a complex condominium association structure. While this arrangement was appropriate when multiple entities were involved, it is no longer necessary given that Dexter Community Schools is now the sole property owner and occupant. The remaining tenants have since created a separate Condominium Association to provide oversight and guidance for their entities.

Based on legal guidance, maintaining a condominium association with oversight and supervisory authority is unnecessary when there is only a single tenant and owner, DCS.

On March 23, the Board of Education appointed three representatives to the Dexter Town Center Condo Association as a procedural and legal requirement to facilitate the formal dissolution process. On March 27, 2026, the Dexter Town Center Condominium Association Board voted to approve the dissolution of the Association, as described in the Plan of Dissolution and Distribution of Assets, and recommend that Dexter Community Schools, as the sole member of the condominium association, approve of the dissolution at their next regular meeting.

These actions represent one of the final steps in a series of coordinated efforts that began with the initial acquisition of the property and will ultimately conclude with the full integration of the site into Dexter Community Schools' ownership structure. Dissolving the Condo Association supports the timely completion of the project, reduces administrative complexity, and aligns the property's governance with its current use and ownership.

**Recommendation:**

I recommend that the Board of Education approve the attached resolution approving dissolution of the Dexter Town Center Condominium Association.

Ryan Bruder  
Superintendent

ACTION BY WRITTEN CONSENT  
OF THE SOLE MEMBER  
APPROVING THE DISSOLUTION OF  
DEXTER TOWN CENTER CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION

“WHEREAS, Dexter Community Schools is the sole Member of Dexter Town Center Condominium Association (the “Corporation”) and has all voting power in the Corporation, and

“WHEREAS, the Member wishes to dissolve the Corporation,”

“NOW, THEREFORE, the undersigned Member, acting pursuant to Section 407(3) of the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act, MCL 450.2407(3), does hereby consent as follows:”

“RESOLVED, that the Member has reviewed an Action by Unanimous Written Consent whereby the Corporation’s Board of Directors has approved resolutions that the Corporation be dissolved and which recommends that the Member approve of the dissolution of the Corporation as described in the Corporation’s Plan of Dissolution and Distribution of Assets (the “Plan”).”

“RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Member has reviewed the Corporation’s Plan and has been provided with any information it wishes to review regarding the Corporation, including financial statements and records for the Corporation, and it has also had all its questions about the dissolution answered to its satisfaction.”

“RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Member approves of the dissolution of the Corporation, as described in the Plan, including the distribution of the Corporation’s assets as described in the Plan and in the resolutions approved by the Board.”

“RESOLVED FURTHER, that, the Member ratifies the resolutions approved by the Board of Directors concerning the dissolution of the Corporation and approves of the officers and/or Executive Committee carrying out those duties and actions necessary to complete the dissolution of the Corporation.”

“RESOLVED FURTHER, that this Action by Written Consent has been approved as required by the procedures, rules and laws applicable to Dexter Community Schools, as the sole member.”

\_\_\_\_\_, 2026

DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
Sole Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
By:  
Its:

April 8, 2026

Mr. Ryan Bruder  
Superintendent of Schools  
Dexter Community Schools  
2704 Baker Road  
Dexter, MI 48130

Re: Dexter Community Schools 2025 Bond Project  
Contract Recommendations for Wylie Addition  
Series 1 Bid Package #3 – Bid Category 03-05-01 Structural Steel

Dear Mr. Bruder:

We previously recommended the award of subcontracts for the Series 1 Bid Package #3 (Wylie Classroom Addition) in March. This recommendation is for the award of a contract for the structural steel scope of work that was not included in the previous recommendation. A tabulation of the bids received for this bid category is included in this recommendation.

We received three bids and we interviewed the two low bidders. Bid Tabulation detailed below.

Casadei Structural Steel did not submit a complete bid proposal with the following base bid scope excluded: steel angles/lintels, and handrails/guardrails. Steel Center Supply, the lowest responsive bidder, did submit a complete bid proposal. We are recommending Steel Center Supply as lowest responsive bidder and the best value to Dexter Community Schools. Pending final review of financial and other qualification criteria, Granger recommends that DCS award the contract indicated below and assign them to Granger for management.



HEADQUARTERS  
6267 Aurelius Rd  
Lansing, MI 48911-4230

517.393.1670 P  
517.393.1382 F

WEST MICHIGAN  
940 Monroe Ave NW, Ste 142  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

616.454.2900 P  
616.454.9700 F

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN  
39475 13 Mile Rd, Ste 204  
Novi, MI 48377

248.724.2950 P  
248.489.5753 F

Bid Category	Bidder	Base Bid	Recommended Contract
03-05-01 Structural Steel	Steel Center Supply	\$299,000	\$299,000
<b>Total Recommendation</b>			<b>\$299,000.00</b>

Bid Tabulation:

Bidder	Casadei Structural Steel	Steel Center Supply	Duke & Duke Service
<b>BASE BID</b>	\$228,888	\$299,000	\$327,500

All work will be contracted and performed per the contract documents developed by TMP and Granger.

The above recommendation has been reviewed with TMP and they concur.

We request that the Board of Education consider and take action on the contract recommendation above at the meeting scheduled for April 13, 2026.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,  
GRANGER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY



Gregory Brand, PE  
Senior Project Manager

cc: B. Harris, DCS  
D. Larsen, TMP  
C. McCalla, GCC

C. Bueche, DCS  
C. Wells, GCC  
J. Brand, DCS

M.C. Lancaster, TMP  
J. Tuley, GCC

April 8, 2026

Mr. Ryan Bruder  
Superintendent of Schools  
Dexter Community Schools  
2704 Baker Road  
Dexter, MI 48130

Re: Dexter Community Schools 2025 Bond Project  
Contract Recommendations for Series 1 Bid Package #4 Field House

Dear Mr. Bruder:

Bids for the Series 1, Bid Package #4 (Field House), were received on behalf of Dexter Community Schools (DCS) on March 26, 2026. A tabulation of the bids received is attached for your reference.

This recommendation includes a significant portion of the scope for the Field House. The remaining balance of scope/recommendations will be presented at a later date, due to delayed issuance of the civil design bidding documents.

We have reviewed proposals, interviewed the low bidders, and are recommending the lowest responsive bidder as the best value to Dexter Community Schools.

Pending final review of financial and other qualification criteria, Granger recommends that DCS award the contracts indicated below and assign them to Granger for management.

The following qualifications are associated with this recommendation:

1. The following bid categories are included in this recommendation:
  - 04-03-01 – Cast-in-Place (Building Concrete)
  - 04-04-01 – Masonry
  - 04-06-01 – General Trades
  - 04-08-01 – Glass & Glazing
  - 04-09-01 – Drywall & Acoustical Ceilings
  - 04-09-02 – Resilient Flooring
  - 04-09-03 – Hard Tile
  - 04-09-04 – Painting
  - 04-14-01 – Conveying Equipment
  - 04-21-01 – Fire Suppression
  - 04-22-01 – Plumbing & Piping
  - 04-23-01 – Mechanical & Controls
  - 04-26-01 – Electrical
  - 04-32-04 – Artificial Turf
2. The following mandatory alternates are associated with this Bid Package:
  - Alternate #1: Add Mezzanine Batting Cages (Post Bid Addendum #1)
  - Alternate #2: Add Turf shock pad: \$52,118.00 (Not Recommended for inclusion)
3. The following voluntary alternates are included in this recommendation:
  - Bid Category 04-06-01 General Trades: Delete power operated operable partition between Team Rooms: Deduct \$22,500.00
  - Bid Category 04-08-01 Aluminum, Glass & Glazing: Delete special coating to Kalwall framing system in lieu of standard coating: Deduct \$297,000.00
  - Bid Category 04-22-01 Plumbing & Piping: Include gas piping: Add \$43,500.00
4. The following bid categories are not included in this recommendation and will be recommended at a later date:
  - Bid Category 04-11-01: Equipment
  - Bid Category 04-28-01: Electrical Security and Safety



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248.489.5753 F

- Bid Category 04-31-01: Earthwork
  - Bid Category 04-32-01: Site Concrete
  - Bid Category 04-32-02: Asphalt
  - Bid Category 04-32-03: Landscaping
5. Bid Category 04-05-01 Structural Steel & PEMB was previously recommended and approved by the Facilities Committee and the Board of Education. The post bid addendum will include added scope for the Structural Steel and PEMB contractor (Fedak). This added scope will be quoted by Fedak and included in their subcontract.

**Recommendation Summary:**

<b>Bid Category</b>	<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Base Bid</b>	<b>Recommended Contract</b>
04-03-01 Cast-in-Place Concrete	J.J. Barney	\$1,270,500	\$1,270,500
04-04-01 Masonry	Davenport Masonry	\$1,352,500	\$1,352,500
06-06-01 General Trades	Spence Brothers	\$680,900	\$658,400
04-08-01 Aluminum Glass & Glazing	Environmental Glass	\$1,234,000	\$937,000
04-09-01 Drywall & Acoustical	Ann Arbor Ceiling & Partition	\$162,250	\$162,250
04-09-02 Resilient Flooring	DF Floor Covering	\$698,297	\$698,297
04-09-03 Tile Flooring	Lansing Tile	\$47,570	\$47,570
04-09-04 Painting	KV Painting	\$217,350	\$217,350
04-14-01 Conveying Equipment	Schindler Elevator	\$146,000	\$146,000
04-21-01 Fire Suppression	Professional Sprinkler	\$273,180	\$273,180
04-22-01 Plumbing & Piping	Shoner P & M	\$399,248	\$442,748
04-23-01 Mechanical	Monroe P & H	\$1,394,000	\$1,394,000
04-26-01 Electrical	O'Donnell Electric	\$1,968,540	\$1,968,540
04-31-01 Artificial Turf	Astroturf GL	\$243,224	\$243,224
	Totals	\$10,087,559	\$9,811,559
<b>Total Recommendation</b>			<b>\$9,811,559.00</b>
<b>Total Estimate for Recommended Scope</b>			<b>\$12,447,705.00</b>
<b>Variance (under)</b>			<b>\$2,636,146.00</b>

Total value of previously recommended bid categories (04-05-01): \$3,916,005

Estimate total of bid categories not recommended yet: \$8,691,039

All work will be contracted and performed per the contract documents developed by TMP and Granger.

The above recommendation has been reviewed with TMP and they concur.



We request that the Board of Education consider and take action on the contract recommendation above at the meeting scheduled for April 13, 2026.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,  
GRANGER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY



Gregory Brand, PE  
Senior Project Manager

att: Bid Tabulation  
Series 1 Design and Construction Schedule

cc:	B. Harris, DCS	C. Bueche, DCS	M.C. Lancaster, TMP
	D. Larsen, TMP	C. Wells, GCC	J. Tuley, GCC
	C. McCalla, GCC	J. Brand, DCS	



# Dexter Community Schools Board of Education

## Executive Summary

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**4/8/2026**

**Subject: Michigan Department of Education Categorical Grant – Section 31aa**

The Michigan Department of Education’s Section 31aa categorical grant provides per-pupil funding to support student mental health and school safety initiatives. Eligible recipients include local school districts, intermediate school districts, nonpublic schools, and the Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind.

### **Purpose and Allowable Uses**

Section 31aa funding is intended to enhance student safety and well-being through a range of allowable expenditures, including:

- Hiring and contracting for mental health professionals and support staff
- Supporting school resource officers (SROs) and safety dogs
- Implementing safety and security measures
- Conducting comprehensive investigations related to student safety

### **Dexter Community Schools Participation History**

Dexter Community Schools has historically participated in and benefited from Section 31aa funding to support student mental health and safety efforts.

### **2025–2026 Grant Cycle Context**

During the 2025–2026 grant cycle, revised statutory language within Section 31aa created significant concern for Dexter and many districts across Michigan. The revisions included that as a condition of receiving Section 31aa funding, the District must waive privileges, including the attorney-client privilege, and be subject to an investigation in the event of a “mass casualty event” within the District. As legal challenges to this language emerged, the State directed districts to “opt in” to the grant while awaiting court decisions. Districts had to meet a deadline of December 4, 2025, to opt-in in order to receive 31aa funds.

Following a challenge in the courts, districts were given until December 30, 2025, to rescind their opt-in status if they chose not to participate under the funding conditions. In Mid-December, court rulings upheld the conditions, leading Dexter to plan to rescind its opt-in.

Within the communicated deadline, Dexter Community Schools took the appropriate action in the Grant Management System (GEMS), going as far as taking a screenshot to

# Dexter Community Schools Board of Education

## Executive Summary

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document the completion of the rescission of the opt-in form. Unfortunately, due to a technical error in GEMS, Dexter did not successfully rescind its participation and therefore remained opted in, ultimately receiving grant funds.

### **Funding Impact**

Initial projections in Fall 2025 estimated Dexter's allocation at approximately \$360,000.

However, due to a large number of districts across Michigan opting out of the grant, the final redistribution significantly increased Dexter's allocation.

### **Final 2025–2026 Allocation:**

- \$ 1,234,445.27

### **Historical Allocations for Context:**

- 2025–2026: \$1,234,445.27
- 2024–2025: \$375,649
- 2023–2024: \$788,513.92
- 2022–2023: \$393,743.69

### **Legal Considerations**

Following the missed rescission, Dexter Community Schools contacted legal counsel to formally communicate the district's intent to rescind participation, including documentation demonstrating that an attempt to rescind was made prior to the deadline. At this time, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has indicated that it is not accepting the rescission and considers Dexter to be a participating district.

The district has further been advised that it is subject to the statutory requirements outlined in Section 31aa, regardless of whether the funds are expended. These include:

- The law requires schools to comply with investigations after a "mass casualty event," but doesn't clearly define what qualifies as one, creating confusion and inconsistency.
- Because of the vague language, schools could be exposed to increased legal risk depending on how events are interpreted.

# Dexter Community Schools Board of Education

## Executive Summary

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- Accepting 31aa funding may require schools to give up attorney-client privilege protections, which could negatively impact staff, administrators, and board members.
- The requirement to submit to state-led investigations and oversight may reduce a district's ability to make independent decisions about how to handle incidents and manage internal matters.

As a result, the Board of Education will need to consider whether to accept the funds and comply with the associated statutory language or to continue pursuing legal action in response to the situation.

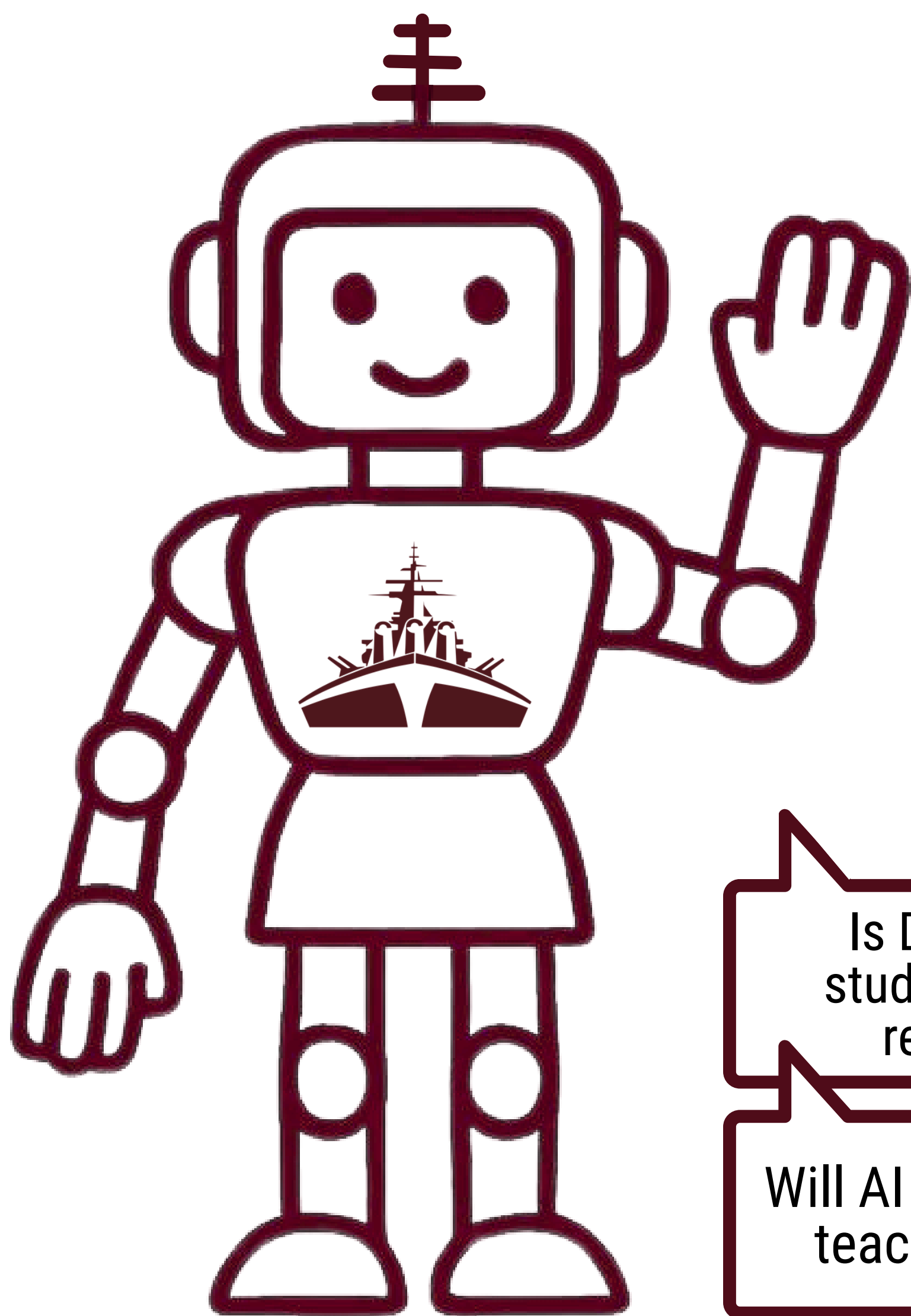
If the Board of Education determines not to accept the Section 31aa funds, legal counsel has advised the District to place the funds into an escrow account or as a stated liability within its budgets and promptly return the funds at the conclusion of the grant period. Legal counsel can provide correspondence to MDE stating that by taking these actions, the District intends to preserve its legal privileges and not be subject to Section 31aa's funding conditions.

### **Summary**

While Dexter initially intended to withdraw from the 2025–2026 Section 31aa grant due to concerns over revised language, the district remained opted in due to a technical issue and received a substantially increased allocation. Trustees discussed options for the district to consider depending on the court's determination. The Board does not typically weigh in on grant applications, but this one is under discussion because of the unique requirements for accepting the funds.

# COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: AI IN EDUCATION

TUESDAY, APRIL 21. 6:30PM-7:30PM  
DEXTER HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER



What are the risks  
of AI for kids?

Is my child's data safe  
when using AI tools?

How is AI being used in my  
child's classroom?

Is DCS teaching  
students to use AI  
responsibly?

Will AI replace  
teachers?

**JOIN US!**

DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Facility Committee Minutes  
April 8th, 2026  
10:00am  
**Bates Board Room**

In attendance: Ryan Bruder (Superintendent), Bill Harris (Principal for Operations); Elise Bruderly, Mike Cipolla, Daniel Alabre (BOE Committee Members); Craig McCalla and Jeff Tuley (Granger Construction); Dick Lundy and Jerry Brand (Community Committee Members).

**TIME:** 10:01am

1. Approval of Agenda:**Motion:** Mike Cipolla **2nd:** Elise Bruderly **Approved:** Yes
2. Approval of Minutes (back) **Motion:** Daniel Alabre **2nd:** Mike Cipolla **Approved:** Yes
3. Public Participation - NA
4. Discussion:
  - A. Field House Rendering Update
    - Board members asked questions about the rendering
    - Protocols for using the facility
5. Action:
  - A. Recommendation of Bid Approval to DCS Board for Series 1 Wylie Project - bid category 05-01. **Motion: I recommend moving Series 1, Bid Package #3, for the Wylie Classroom Addition Bid Category 05-01 to the full Board to award the contract to Steel Center Supply for a total cost not to exceed amount of \$299,000. Motion:** Daniel Alabre **2nd:** Mike Cipolla **Approved:** Yes
  - B. Recommendation of Bid Approval to DCS Board for Series 1 New Fieldhouse. **Motion: I recommend moving Series 1, Bid Package #4, for the New Fieldhouse to the full Board to award contracts for Cast-in-Place Concrete, Masonry, General Trades, Aluminum & Glazing, Drywall & Acoustical, Resilient Flooring, Tile Flooring, Paint & Wall Covering, Conveying Equipment, Fire Suppression, Plumbing & Piping, Mechanical, Electrical, and Artificial Turf for a total cost not to exceed amount of \$9,811,559. Motion:** Daniel Alabre **2nd:** Mike Cipolla **Approved:** Yes
6. Review Upcoming Meeting Date/Time:
  1. Next meeting(s)
    - a. April 22nd, 10am - 12pm
    - b. April 28th, 10am - 12pm
    - c. May 12th, 10am - 12pm
7. Committee Report at Next Board Meeting
8. Adjourn - 10:59am