Board of Education Special Meeting (Work Session) (Tuesday, February 24, 2026)
Generated by Kimberly Grilli on Wednesday, March 4, 2026

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

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

A. Opening Items

Procedural: 1. Call to Order

Procedural: 2. Roll Call

Procedural: 3. Pledge of Allegiance

Action 2026-99: 4. Treasurer Pro-Tem
Ms. Walsh is Treasurer Pro-tem

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

Action 2026-100: 5. 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: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

B. Presentation

1. Presentation by Megan from Weston Hurd

At the beginning of the meeting, the Board President read a prepared statement outlining the purpose of the work session and providing context regarding prior policy discussions. The statement will be attached to the meeting minutes as part of the official record.

Legal counsel from Weston Hurd provided guidance regarding governance policies under discussion.

Discussion included the Board Member Code of Ethics and related governance provisions. Members noted that the policies under discussion had previously been reviewed during multiple Board meetings and had also been reviewed by multiple attorneys who provided written correspondence to the Board.

It was also noted that the proposed revisions had been brought forward by a Board member in accordance with Board policy allowing members to propose policy revisions for Board consideration.

Discussion referenced recent litigation involving Board members and whether certain policy language could help clarify governance responsibilities and reduce legal risk in the future. Some members expressed that the revisions could help clarify the Board’s oversight responsibilities and the ability of Board members to request information necessary to perform their duties.

Other members stated that they were not involved in earlier policy discussions prior to taking office and expressed interest in further collaboration in reviewing policy revisions.

Legal counsel advised that certain issues raised during discussion, including matters related to public records procedures, public participation rules, and employee-related concerns, may be more appropriately addressed in the specific policies governing those areas rather than solely within the ethics policy.

A motion was made and seconded to recess the meeting.

Mrs. Walsh first, Ms. Herbert second
All ayes
The motion carried and the Board recessed at 6:45
The meeting reconvened following the recess at 7:06

C. Board Work Session Discussion Items

Discussion: 1. Board Policy Review

The Board discussed governance policies, including the Board Member Code of Ethics and related governance provisions.

Discussion included the distinction between the Board's governance responsibilities and the administration's role in managing the day-to-day operations of the District. Members discussed language addressing the expectation that Board members refrain from directing daily administrative activities while maintaining the Board's authority to conduct oversight, inquiry, and information requests necessary to fulfill governance responsibilities.

Some members expressed support for language clarifying the Board's oversight authority and the ability of individual Board members to request information related to their official duties.

Other members questioned whether additional language was necessary if these responsibilities and rights are already established under Ohio law and existing Board policies.

Discussion also referenced free speech considerations and prior legal advice regarding potential constitutional concerns related to restrictions on public criticism of employees.

Discussion: 2. Board Policy Review

The Board continued discussion regarding the development of the proposed policy language.

Some members noted that portions of the revisions had been developed before newly elected members took office and expressed a desire for additional collaboration when considering policy changes.

Other members noted that the policies had already been reviewed during multiple Board meetings and had received review by legal counsel, and that the work session was intended to provide an additional opportunity for discussion and input from all members.

Members also discussed the role of the Policy Committee and the potential involvement of the Ohio School Boards Association in reviewing the District's policy manual and providing guidance on policy updates.

A motion was made and seconded to recess the meeting.

Mr. Kershner first, Mrs. Walsh second
All ayes
The motion carried and the Board recessed at 8:12
The meeting reconvened following the recess at 8:22

Discussion: 3. Standing Authorizations-Part 2

The Board discussed the proposed Standing Authorizations – Part 2 document.

Members noted that the purpose of the document was to clarify administrative authority and financial controls, including provisions related to contracts, expenditures, and ensuring that actions requiring Board approval are properly authorized.

Some members expressed support for the clarification of procedures related to contracting and financial oversight.

Other members raised questions about whether certain provisions were necessary given existing statutory requirements and whether some language could be interpreted too broadly or may require further clarification.

Members discussed the need for clear language so that expectations for administration and the Board are well understood.

Discussion: 4. Approve Resolution entitled "Resolution Establishing Board Committees and Planning Framework," as presented and discussed this date, including approval of the Finance & Audit committee, Facilities & Operations Committee, Policy & Governance Committee, and Student Achievement & Instruction Committee, along with their initial scopes.

The Board discussed a proposed resolution to establish a committee structure and planning framework for Board governance.

The proposed structure included advisory committees for Finance & Audit, Facilities & Operations, Policy & Governance, and Student Achievement & Instruction. The committees would operate in an advisory capacity and would provide information and recommendations to the full Board while all decision-making authority would remain with the Board.

Members discussed the potential benefits of committees in allowing more detailed review of topics and supporting Board planning efforts.

Other members discussed ensuring clarity regarding committee roles and maintaining transparency and compliance with public meeting requirements.

Discussion: 5. Parent Voice Committee

The Board discussed implementation of the Parent Voice Committee and Student Voice Committees, which had been approved at a prior meeting.

Discussion also addressed the remaining appointments to the Student Voice Committees. The Board President explained that appointments were not finalized at the prior meeting because committees were formed late in the meeting and one board member had to leave before appointments were completed. The Board President stated that the remaining appointments would be made at the next regular board meeting.

During discussion of committee appointments, the Board Vice President stated that minorities had not been appointed to committees. The Board President responded that the statement was incorrect and clarified that a minority board member had been appointed to committees. The Board President further noted that the meeting minutes from the previous meeting reflected that Ashley Zimmer and LaToya Dowdell-Burger had already been appointed to the Parent Voice Committee.

Members also discussed governance considerations related to the committees. It was noted that if the committees operate as formal Board committees under policy, Open Meetings Act requirements may apply. Some members suggested that the student voice groups may function more effectively as Superintendent-led committees rather than formal Board committees.

Discussion: 6. Student Voice Committee

The Board continued discussion regarding the Student Voice Committees and the process for completing appointments.

The Board President reiterated that additional appointments would be made at the next regular Board meeting so that all members would have the opportunity to participate in the selection of committee members.

Members also discussed potential structural considerations for student voice groups and whether they should operate as Board committees or Superintendent-led advisory groups in order to avoid potential Open Meetings Act requirements.

D. Adjournment

Action 2026-101: 1. Motion to Adjourn
Adjourn at 10:54 pm

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