Board of Education Regular Meeting (Tuesday, March 3, 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 6:41 PM

A. Opening Items

Procedural: 1. Pledge of Allegiance at 6:41 pm

Procedural: 2. Call to Order

Procedural: 3. Roll Call - All present

Action 2026-105: 4. Adoption of Meeting Agenda 121.22 G 1 - Add to Executive session to consider the appointment, employment, promotion, of a public employee or official. Kathy got it from Board legal counsel.
Move that the Board of Education approve the agenda.

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. Public Participation

Information: 1. Guidelines for Public Participation

- Michelle Gibson - Student and Parent Voice Committee - Judy and I have a combined speech - We are concerned about the committees. We both have the privilege to be a part of something where we felt like we had a voice. Where we could be a part of the solution to issues within our district. In the past we were a part of the meeting and set goals. We worked with Ms. Zimmer and Ms. Herbert and we are passionate about this. We are involved in PTO and are very active. We have developed friendships and it has brought parents together. Last year, Judy met with individuals from the state board and our amazing administration who is second to none with their dedication to our student success. We talked about curbing absenteeism, and we feel like we had a voice. Listening to our students was great. They learned how to depend on each other and work as a team. We should not put this on hold.
- Judy Beebe - I want to thank you for your commitment to our students. In attending and watching online, I am concerned about some issues. We have a new Board and I hoped we would not have a petty, divided Board. We have to put our students first. The work session was unproductive and nothing is getting accomplished. We have 3 open administrator positions and I am concerned. Why can we not retain them? Is it because they cannot handle working with the School Board? The Board needs to change and it needs to happen now. We need to have a successful School Board to have a successful school district. It is shameful what the School Board is showing our students. The School Board reflects the community. The division has to stop. Students are feeling it. We need to have unity. School administration was there for my family and supported us during a difficult time. They did everything in their power to protect and support us.
  I doubted them at first, but then took time to evaluate and trust the process. During the process, I did realize that the administration did have our back. Sometimes we need to pause and trust. This School Board is leading the division in our community. We need to focus on the positive and not negative. We have accomplished a lot and we need to take pride in it.

Action 2026-106: 2. Motion to extend the 3 minute public participation for both speakers to 6 minutes.

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

C. Approval of Minutes

Action 2026-107, Minutes: 1. Approve the minutes for the February 3, 2026 Special Meeting, the February 3, 2026 Regular Meeting and the February 10, 2026 Regular Meeting. John abstained because he could not here the audio.
The Treasurer recommends the Groveport Madison Local Board of Education approve the minutes for the following meetings:
a. February 3, 2026 Special Meeting
b. February 3, 2026 Regular Meeting
c. February 10, 2026 Regular Meeting
d. All minutes may be approved by one motion unless a Board member requests removal of a specific date(s).
Discussion: Kathleen Walsh stated that she unable to review recording of the meeting per her
ADA accommodation because she had not received the recording.

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

D. Executive Session

Action 2026-108: 1. Motion to Enter at 7:01 pm Reconvene at 8:04 pm.
It is recommended that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education enter executive session to consider matters required to be kept confidential by federal law, federal rules, or state statutes by division (G)(5) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code and 121.22 G 1 - Add to Executive session to consider the appointment, employment, promotion, of a public employee or official.

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

E. Reconvene from Executive Session

F. Action Items Resulting from Executive Session

G. Consent Agenda

Action 2026-109: 1. Approve Special Education Contracts
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached special education contracts.

2. Approve Agreement with the University of New England
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Agreement with the University of New England.

3. Approve the 2026-2027 Eastland-Fairfield Satellite Agreements for Marketing & Logistics Management
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the agreements for Marketing & Logistics Management.

4. Program of Studies - Second Read
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Program of Studies.

5. Approve Certificated Personnel Items
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Certificated Personnel Items.

6. Approve Non Certificated Personnel Items
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Non Certificated Personnel Items.

Discussion: Discussion:
Administration and Board members provided clarification on several items within the consent agenda, including:
1. Special Education Contracts: Clarified that the agreement initially supports a specific student but is structured to provide services for additional students as needed, including support for students attending specialized programs. The agreement also addresses staffing and substitute coverage needs.
2. University of New England Agreement: Clarified that this is a no-cost student placement/internship opportunity, primarily supporting district operations.
3. Eastland-Fairfield Satellite Agreements: Clarified that Eastland-Fairfield provides instructional staff and program resources, with 75% of program seats allocated to the District and 25% available to other districts within the career technical planning district.
4. Program of Studies: Noted that approval timing supports upcoming student planning activities, including eighth-grade visits and freshman orientation.
5. Personnel Items: Clarified that a listed non-renewal is procedural and based on contractual provisions within the negotiated agreement, not related to performance, and does not result in a loss of employment.

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

H. Pulled Items from Consent Agenda

I. Board Items - Old Business

Action 2026-110, Discussion: 1. Board Policy Review-Second Read

Discussion:
Board members discussed the purpose, structure, and implications of the proposed policy revisions, including their impact on governance practices and board operations.

The Groveport Madison Board of Education recommends approval of 2nd read of Board Policy BBA

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 2026-111: 2. The Groveport Madison Board of Education recommends approval of 2nd read of Board Policy BBAA

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 2026-112: 3. The Groveport Madison Board of Education recommends approval of 2nd read of Board Policy BBF

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 2026-113: 4. The Groveport Madison Board of Education recommends approval of 2nd read of Board Policy BBF-E

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 2026-114: 5. The Groveport Madison Board of Education recommends approval of 2nd read of Board Policy BBG

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

Action 2026-115, Discussion: 6. Standing Authorizations-Part 2
The Board recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Standing Authorizations.
Discussion:
Board members discussed the scope and appropriateness of the proposed standing authorizations in relation to current governance practices.

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

Action, Discussion: 7. 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.

Discussion:
Board members discussed the proposed committee structure, including clarification regarding the number and types of committees (including standing committees and previously approved parent and student voice committees).
Discussion also included:

- ☐ The need to establish Board goals prior to implementation of a committee structure
- ☐ The relationship between committees and long-term planning
- ☐ Ensuring alignment between committee work and Board priorities

The Board agreed that further planning was needed before implementation.

- Ashley - If these do pass, does this include Student and Parent Voice committees?
- Kathy- Yes, Student and Parent Voice committees are very popular.
- Mr. Collier - There are 8 committees. - Financial/Audit, Facilities and Operations, Policy and Governance, Student Achievement, One Parent Voice, and 3 Student Voice Committees (one at E.S., M.S., H.S.) Everyone agreed.

Action 2026-116: 8. The Board recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education to postpone until after work session the attached "Resolution Establishing Board Committees and Planning Framework."

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

The Board recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached "Resolution Establishing Board Committees and Planning Framework." - NO VOTE NEEDED was postponed

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.

Discussion: 9. Parent Voice Committee - Latoya and Ashley are the members. No goals yet, but Ashley and Latoya will develop goals and also hear from the parents. They want to have an impact. Go through the Board and parents and get goals written down.

Discussion: 10. Student Voice Committee Elem. - John/Dionna Middle - Dionna/John High School - Kathy/Latoya

Discussion:
Board members discussed the status of the Parent and Student Voice Committees, noting that these committees had been previously approved.
Discussion focused on:

- ☐ Development of committee goals
- ☐ Alignment of committee work with future Board goal-setting efforts
- ☐ The importance of incorporating stakeholder input into committee priorities

Board members agreed that committee goals would be developed following the Board's goal-setting process.

J. Treasurer's Agenda

Action 2026-117: 1. Student Wellness and Success Funding Plan
The Treasurer recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Student Wellness and Success Funding Plan.

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 2026-118: 2. 2026 CCIP Grant Allocations
The Treasurer recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the 2026 CCIP Grant Allocations.

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

K. Board Member Comments

Discussion: Student Recognition
Board members discussed approaches to recognizing student achievements.

- ☐ Some members expressed support for recognizing students at Board meetings to increase
- visibility and celebrate student success at the district level.
- ☐ Other members expressed a preference for recognizing students within their school
- buildings, noting that recognition in front of peers may be more meaningful and that
- Board meetings should remain focused on Board business.
- Board members discussed potential next steps, including:
- ☐ Seeking input from students through student voice committees
- ☐ Considering broader feedback mechanisms, such as student and parent surveys, to guide
- future decisions

Additional Discussion: Community Engagement
Board members discussed the importance of expanding opportunities for stakeholder input and engagement, including reaching a broader group of students and families beyond formal committees.

- Dionna - Kathy and I have been going back and forth on student recognitions at the Board meetings. I would like the Board to give input.
- Latoya - I would love to see students here to be recognized at Board meetings.
- John - I feel that it is best to get recognized at the building level and not here in front of Board members at night. Awards presentations do happen in the buildings already. Board meetings need to be for Board business. I think it would be better at the schools.
- Kathy agrees with John. It needs to be more meaningful. Do it in the buildings in front of their peers.
- Ashley - We should ask the students.
- John - Student voice committees - we need to involve other students and get disenfranchised students to speak. Maybe student surveys and parent surveys.
- Paul - Girl's basketball and Boy's basketball - shout out to them for very good seasons. So proud of the coaches and players.
- Latoya - Congratulations to E-sports. They won States!
- Ashley - I gave all the board members a policy revision to review before the board meeting in April, so all members have time to review, make suggestions and/or edits.

L. Adjournment

Action 2026-119: 1. Motion to Adjourn -

Adjourn at 9:09 pm.

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