Board of Education Regular Meeting (Tuesday, March 10, 2026)
Generated by Kimberly Grilli on Wednesday, March 11, 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. Pledge of Allegiance at 6:37 pm

Procedural: 2. Call to Order

Procedural: 3. Roll Call - All present

B. Agenda Approval

Action 2026-120: 1. Adoption of Meeting Agenda
Move that the Board of Education approve the agenda.

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 2026-121: 2. Motion to move section B to section I (was J) and add one more executive language to executive session - to consider the investigation of charges or complaints against a district employee or official pursuant to ORC 121.22 G 1.

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by John Kershner.
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- NONE

D. Presentations and Recognitions

Presentation: 1. Ohio Model United Nations Presentation
- Paul - Congrats to Mr. Mertz and Model UN team. Competed against 162 other schools from around the State.
- Mr. Mertz - Our students are great. We had 5 teams this year and we decided on 5 countries. Kosovo, Ghana, Cambodia (4th), Western Sahara, Botswana (TOP 30). We studied everything about these countries from GDP to crops to policy. So proud of these kids. Also won the essay contest.
- Students spoke about how Model UN gave them a voice and thanked the teachers, Board, and administration. Our coach was awesome and is a great advisor. This strengthens our voice and confidence and prepares us for college. It helped with our leadership and communication skills and we are so thankful for all of you.
- Students expressed that participation improved leadership, communication, and college readiness.

Recognition: 2. Swim Team Recognition
- Coaches Ms. Owens and Ms. Weber - Swim team has done a great job this season. They broke 4 school records this year - Boys relay, boys 100 butterfly, boys 200 free relay, and boys 400 free relay.

Recognition: 3. E-Sports Team Recognition
- Coach Wilson - WON STATES for FORTNITE!!!! Fairly new program, only 5 yrs old. Great team and students. Students put the time and effort in. 160 total teams statewide. Our team has won all 3 drops (drop into a MAP (island) and we dominated. Just invited to NATIONAL tourney to represent Ohio!!!! Thanks to TECH dept, admin, and Board.

Discussion: 4. Annual Monthly Recognitions - Put resolutions on next month's mtg.

- Board discussed modifying how recognitions are handled to improve meeting efficiency
- Consensus to bring forward a resolution at a future meeting for consideration

E. Board Committee Reports

Discussion: 1. Facilities Committee Report

☐ First committee meeting held February 23
☐ Updates provided on roof repairs, radon testing, and asbestos compliance
☐ Administration clarified radon testing requirements (recommended during occupied periods between October–March per state/health guidance)
☐ Board discussed interpretation and communication of radon results and potential policy implications

☐ EBCR policy referred to policy committee for review
☐ Request made to include meeting minutes and additional detail (attendance, timing) with future reports

- Mr. Kershner - Had first committee on Feb 23. Received updates on roof repair. Reviewed radon test results. A couple of schools had issues. Asbestos is in compliance. Noted Board policy states radon testing was done and a couple schools had issues. Asbestos testing was done and we are in compliance. Next meeting will be 4th Monday of each month early. Do not have exact time yet and maybe we will change locations if needed. Winter radon is the worst and summer is the lesser amount of radon in buildings. Rolling average should be used.
- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - Who was there and what time? Radon testing will be done when? Periodic tests?
- Ms. Walsh - EBCR policy sent to policy committee.
- Mr. Grube - Ohio dept of Health and testing companies say testing needs done when building is full and between Oct to March.
- Ashley - Please attach meeting minutes to the report, so we all have them.

F. Consent Agenda

Action 2026-122 (Consent): 1. Approve Special Education Contracts
Resolution: The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached special education contracts.

2. Approve Payment-In-Lieu Transportation Reimbursement
Resolution: 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.

3. Approve Field Trip for GMHS Health Science
Resolution: The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the GMHS Health Science Field Trip.

4. Approve Field Trip for GMHS Track Team
Resolution: The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the GMHS Boys and Girls Track Team field trip.

Board members asked clarifying questions regarding transportation logistics, field trip funding, and student placement considerations prior to approval

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

G. Pulled Items from Consent Agenda

H. Board Items - New Business

I. Executive Session

Action 2026-123: 1. Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session at 7:37 pm Reconvene at 10:30 pm
It is recommended that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education enter executive session to confer with the Board's attorney concerning disputes involving the public body that are subject to pending and imminent court action pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(3) and to consider the investigation of charges or complaints against a district employee or official pursuant to ORC 121.22 G 1. 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 John Kershner, 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

Board reconvened in open session at 10:30 PM

K. Superintendent's Agenda

Action 2026-124: 1. Approve Certificated Personnel Items
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached special education contracts.

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 2026-125: 2. Approve Non Certificated Personnel Items
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached special education contracts.

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 2026-126, Discussion: 3. Discuss Special Meeting date and time - 7:30 am on Weds March 18th. Executive Session and Certified HR. Mr. Kershner left.

☐ Board discussed need for a special meeting to address personnel matters
☐ Considerations included scheduling conflicts and importance of full Board participation
☐ Special meeting scheduled for March 18 at 7:30 AM

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

Discussion: 4. First Read of OSBA Policies/Policy Review

- Ashley - With religious policy - I do not like the Board collaborating as part of the policy.
- Narcan doses - Ashley says two sounds good and that is what other schools are doing.
- $65 per day is reasonable.
- Ashley - On the expense reimbursements, you can not do luxury stays or circle routes to gain points per frequent flyer miles.

L. Treasurer's Agenda

Action, Procedural: 1. Treasurer's Reports

Action 2026-127: 2. Resolutions to file complaint against the valuation of real property for tax year: 2025
The Treasurer recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached resolutions to file complaints against the valuation of real property for tax year 2025.

Motion by Ashley Zimmer, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert
Not Present at Vote: John Kershner

Action 2026-128: 3. Approve Donation
The Treasurer recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached donation from SafeCor Health.

Motion by Ashley Zimmer, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert
Not Present at Vote: John Kershner

M. Board Member Comments

- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - Thank you for the kids coming in and it was great to see them. Congrats to all the students. State of the Schools will be coming up but I will be out of town. OSBA legal scholarship is ready and I will send to Mr. Grube and see if we can have a HS student apply.
- Ms. Walsh - Expressed appreciation for student presentations and community engagement activities

N. Adjournment

Action 2026-129: 1. Motion to Adjourn
Adjourn at 11:10 pm

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert
Not Present at Vote: John Kershner