

THE GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
Grosse Pointe, Michigan
May 18, 2026

**AGENDA NUMBER & TITLE: 5.6. **Approval to hire Executive Director
of Student Services****

Recommendation: Erica Shovein

Erica ‘Rici’ Shovein brings nearly 20 years of experience supporting individuals with disabilities, including more than five years in district-level administration. She currently serves as Director of Special Services for Southgate Community Schools and brings to us a strong combination of technical expertise, operational leadership, relationships building, and a deeply held commitment to inclusive education. As both an experienced special education leader and a Grosse Pointe parent, she demonstrated a clear understanding of our district, county resources, and the importance of building trust with students, families, staff, administrators, and the Board of Education.

Throughout the interview process, Ms. Shovein presented as a calm, confident, and highly competent leader with a clear vision for excellence in special education. She spoke directly about ensuring every student receives the support they need by strengthening least restrictive environment opportunities, expanding professional learning for general and special education staff, and using data, rubrics, and fair processes to guide decisions. Her experience includes aligning resources to create new programming, supporting compliance, engaging proactively with families, and developing practical alternatives that support students while strengthening school systems. Committee members noted her authenticity, strong preparation, depth and breadth of special education knowledge, and ability to begin contributing immediately.

Reference checks affirmed the committee’s assessment. Ms. Shovein was described as organized, knowledgeable, proactive, relationship-centered, student-focused, and responsive to staff and families. Her current colleagues emphasized her ability to listen, solve complex problems, communicate clearly, and advocate for students while supporting staff with structure and professionalism. The committee believes Ms. Shovein has the vision, experience, and community commitment necessary to lead GPPSS special education services with excellence, transparency, and care.