

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
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May 18, 2026

**MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE
KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Kalamazoo Public Schools will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49008. The meeting will be live streamed on Public Media Network on the Live TV Channel PMN 5: <https://publicmedianet.org/pmn-five/>.

The Board of Trustees, Superintendent, and senior staff will have an informational dinner meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Superintendent's office area and will also discuss any matters that may come before the Board.

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Carol McGlinn, Secretary
Board of Education

- ❖ Please contact the Superintendent's Office in advance of the meeting if auxiliary aids or services for individuals with disabilities are needed.
- ❖ Official minutes of Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education open meetings are available for inspection within eight working days of the meeting at the Superintendent's Office, 1220 Howard Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49008.

**POLICY
of the
BOARD OF EDUCATION
KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

1.2 Public Participation During a Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Policy

While balancing legitimate privacy interests of students and staff, the Board of Trustees welcomes community input at public meetings of the Board of Trustees.

Specifics

1. Persons requesting to address the board will be asked to complete a sign-in sheet by the end of the public comment period. The portion of that sign-in sheet requiring completion will include: name, school district in which the person resides, and connection to/interest in the Kalamazoo Public Schools. The optional portion will be held private and will include: mailing address, email address, phone number, topic about which they will be speaking and, if authorized and applicable, the organization they represent.
2. The presiding board officer will invite persons to come to the podium in the order in which the sign-in sheets were completed.
3. If after 30 minutes everyone who has completed a sign-in sheet has not had the opportunity to address the board, the public comment period will be tabled and resume before adjournment.
4. Speakers have three minutes each and must stop speaking promptly when signaled.
5. Speakers may not address confidential student or personnel matters, but may submit such concerns to the board in writing.
6. Speakers are encouraged to provide the board with a written copy of their comments and other appropriate supporting documentation, which will be copied and distributed as needed to appropriate staff/personnel.
7. The public is required to exercise common courtesy during the meeting and must follow rule of order. The presiding board officer may terminate public comments that are profane, vulgar, or defamatory, especially if these comments result in a disturbance or breach of peace. Personal attacks against an employee or board member that are totally unrelated to his or her duties are prohibited. If a person engages in disruptive conduct or is out of order, the board presiding officer will strike his or her gavel and warn the person to discontinue their behavior. Further disruptions will result in the person being asked to leave. Refusal to leave will result in being escorted out of the building. (MCL 380.1808)

Adopted: February 13, 2003

Revised: December 17, 2009

Revised: June 25, 2013

Adopted: December 19, 2019

Revised: November 21, 2024

Revised: March 19, 2026

This policy supersedes all other policies on this issue.

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Meeting
1220 Howard St. Kalamazoo, MI 49008
May 20, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.
A G E N D A

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Acceptance of Agenda**
- IV. Attendance**
- V. Board Recognitions**
- VI. Committee Reports/School Reports**
- VII. Correspondence**
- VIII. Consent Calendar Items**
 - A. Minutes**
May 7, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - B. Business and Financial Reports**
Purchase Recommendation 2026-49
 - C. Personnel Items**
Personnel Changes
- IX. Reports and Recommendations**
 - A. Superintendent's Report**
- X. Persons Requesting to Address the Board (3-minute individual limit)**
- XI. Other Business**
- XII. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent**
- XIII. Closed Session (if needed)**
- XIV. Next Regular Board of Education Meeting: Thursday, June 11, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.**

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Meeting
1220 Howard Street
May 7, 2026 - Regular Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

President TiAnna Harrison called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Acceptance of Agenda

President Harrison called for a motion to accept the agenda.

MOTION: Trustee Patti Sholler-Barber, supported by Vice President Jennie Hill, moved to accept the agenda.

Disposition: Voice vote; all in favor. The motion was carried unanimously by trustees present.

IV. Attendance

Board members present: TiAnna Harrison, Karla Murphy, Jennie Hill, Yvonne Payton, Takisha Johnson, and Patti Sholler-Barber. Board members absent: Carol McGlinn. Superintendent Dr. Darrin Slade was also present. Trustee Johnson left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

V. Board Recognitions

Woodward School Principal Frank Rocco recognized Leo Garcia-Salas, Samuel Yankoviak, Da'Mire McDonald, Maria Cordova, Noah Hubbard, Brooklyn Mann, and Camilla Batchelor.

Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program (KILP) Principal Kimberly Kirshman recognized Jacob Tumaini.

KPS Virtual Program Principal Kimberly Kirshman recognized Evelyn (Hao) Kostrzewa, Raymond Warner, SaRiah Lofton, Leilani Lowery de'Maldonado, Wyatt Loudon, and Mollie Bugg.

VI. Correspondence

Vice President Hill reported the correspondence for the period of April 22 - May 5, 2026.

- Email received on April 24 from First Day Shoe Fund sharing updates regarding the First Day Shoe Fund. Secretary McGlinn replied on April 24.
- Email received on April 24 from Susan O'Connor regarding district library staffing. Secretary McGlinn replied on April 24.
- Email received on April 24 from Christina Trevino inviting the board to the Prairie Ridge Showcase Talent Show. Secretary McGlinn replied on April 26.
- Email received on April 24 from June Mills regarding a transportation concern involving a student. Secretary McGlinn replied on April 29.

- Email received on April 25 from Shacara Burrell regarding concerns involving her son's school. Dr. Slade and Secretary McGlinn replied on April 27 and April 29.
- Email received on April 28 from Stephanie and Nuthanael Watkins regarding concerns about drinking fountains in their student's building. Dr. Slade and Secretary McGlinn replied on April 28 and April 29.
- Email received on April 29 from Refugee Education Center inviting the board to the Popsicles in the Park event. Secretary McGlinn replied on April 29.
- Email received on April 29 from Trey Hunt sharing research information regarding ADHD. Secretary McGlinn replied on April 29.
- Email received on April 29 from Felicia Hallman requesting a building transfer for their student. Secretary McGlinn replied on May 4.
- Email received on April 29 from Alex Demetralis requesting information regarding the current El Sol property. Secretary McGlinn replied on April 29.

VII. Consent Calendar

President Harrison presented the Consent Calendar items: VIII.A April 23, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes, VIII.B Purchase Recommendations 2026-45, 2026-46, 2026-47, and 2026-48, and VIII.C Personnel Changes.

Motion: Trustee Murphy, supported by Trustee Johnson, moved to accept the Consent Calendar.

Disposition: Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried unanimously by trustees present.

Discussion from the board:

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Expressed excitement regarding the 95 Phonics Core Program.
- Thanked all who worked on the district bond and community members who supported KPS.
- Thanked voters for supporting the special education millage.

Jennie Hill

- Shared appreciation that the district continues utilizing Reading Recovery supports.
- Thanked the community for supporting district bonds and initiatives.

TiAnna Harrison

- Thanked voters for supporting the special education millage.

VIII. Reports and Recommendations

A. Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Dr. Darrin Slade recognized all students who served on the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council during the school year. He also thanked President Harrison for attending every Knock and Talk event throughout the year, along with district teachers and principals.

Loy Norrix students Gertrude Hermann-Wilmarth and Michael Harrison presented on the Loy Norrix Health Center, including student utilization, outreach efforts, and advocacy work in Lansing supporting expanded school-based health center funding.

Discussion from the Board:

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Asked whether the students previously served on the Student Advisory Council.
- Acknowledged the Health Center's participation in district literacy nights.
- Praised the students' advocacy work in Lansing.

Jennie Hill

- Asked whether students may feel hesitant utilizing the Health Center.
- Students explained the Student Advisory Council works to ensure students feel supported and comfortable accessing services and recognized the medical professionals working within the center.

Karla Murphy

- Asked whether the number presented represented unique student visits.
- Students confirmed the numbers reflected unique students served and noted the center also serves students from neighboring districts.

TiAnna Harrison

- Asked whether students believed similar health centers should be implemented in additional schools.
- Students expressed support for expansion efforts and discussed recent advocacy for additional state funding.

Kalamazoo Virtual Program student Zyaire Fuller presented on the benefits of virtual learning and included a parent perspective from Dr. Sherry Fuller regarding student success within the program.

Discussion from the Board:

Yvonne Payton

- Thanked Zyaire Fuller and Dr. Sherry Fuller for providing both a student and parent perspective regarding the virtual learning environment.
- Shared appreciation for hearing directly about the positive impact the program has had on student growth and achievement.

Takisha Johnson

- Thanked the virtual program staff and teachers for the support they have provided students over the years.
- Praised the presentation and acknowledged the positive impact the program has had on Zyaire's academic focus and engagement.

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Congratulated the student and family on an excellent presentation.
- Shared that the presentation could serve as a strong public relations example for the Virtual Program.
- Commented on the student's enthusiasm and visible enjoyment of the program.

Jennie Hill

- Shared appreciation for seeing how the Virtual Program has helped students focus academically and thrive in an environment that best fits their learning style.
- Praised the flexibility and individualized support provided through the program.

TiAnna Harrison

- Thanked the presenters for sharing their experiences and perspectives regarding virtual learning.
- Acknowledged the value of offering multiple educational pathways for students throughout the district.

Kalamazoo Central students Brooklyn Gardner and Jonathan Edwards presented “K-Central Excellence: Footprints of Growth, Leadership, and Pride,” highlighting student achievement, diversity, leadership opportunities, athletics, and academic success.

Discussion from the Board:

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Congratulated both students on their presentation.
- Congratulated Jonathan Edwards regarding his future college plans.

Yvonne Payton

- Shared that student achievement contributes to stronger communities and environments.

Jennie Hill

- Praised the diversity within the school community and students’ ability to utilize it as a strength.

TiAnna Harrison

- Thanked both students for their outstanding presentation.

Phoenix students Dontray Hemphill and River Ford presented on Phoenix High School, focusing on diversity, multilingual learners, student support systems, and the family atmosphere within the program.

Discussion from the Board:

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Praised the repeated emphasis on the family atmosphere at Phoenix.

Jennie Hill

- Praised the students’ presentation and willingness to address community challenges directly.

Yvonne Payton

- Highlighted appreciation for opportunities allowing students to earn work credit while attending school.

TiAnna Harrison

- Praised the students’ presentation and the welcoming environment provided at Phoenix.

Masaille Rivera and Chandler Bolden presented on the Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program, including the program's history, flexibility, student supports, and academic opportunities.

Discussion from the Board:

Karla Murphy

- Shared that the students' presentation already influenced changes being made to district website information regarding the program.

Jennie Hill

- Acknowledged that all students learn differently and praised KILP as another successful educational option.

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Shared that the board envisioned supporting students with alternative learning needs when the program was created in 2016.
- Praised the students' emphasis on community within the program.

B. Resolution for Local District Vote on ISD General Fund Budget

President Harrison presented the Resolution for Local District Vote on ISD General Fund Budget.

MOTION: Trustee Murphy, supported by Trustee Sholler-Barber and Trustee Johnson, moved to approve the resolution.

Disposition: Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried unanimously by trustees present.

IX. Persons Requesting to Address the Board (3-minute individual limit)

Public comments/audience participation. No actions taken.

X. Other Business

None.

XI. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent

Yvonne Payton

- Commented on the planned improvements to the Hillside Middle School media center and acknowledged that the library/media center is named after former principal Dorothy Young.

Takisha Johnson

- Shared that the Kalamazoo Central track and field team will compete for the SMAC Championship.
- Wished district mothers a Happy Mother's Day.
- Shared Memorial Day wishes with the community.

Jennie Hill

- Thanked all students who participated in presentations and recognitions during the meeting.

- Shared that the city identified the Howard Street crosswalk project as a priority following recent media coverage.

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Praised all students who presented during the meeting.
- Thanked Dr. Slade for preparing students prior to presentations.
- Thanked voters who supported the special education millage.
- Thanked Recording Secretary Nicole DeGraaf for sharing district end-of-year programs and events.
- Shared Loy Norrix athletics updates:
 - Junior Jakari Lipsey has committed to the University of Michigan for Football. This also has now freed his schedule up to participate in the MHSAA State Track and Field Finals on May 30 at Rockford High School where has early qualified for the shot put and discuss which deepens the pool of athletes for the Knights who could do very well as a team in the state finals.
 - The Men's Volleyball team will battle for SMAC Conference Championship at the Conference Tournament on May 16 at Kalamazoo Central. The Knights defeated #6 Gull Lake and battled #4 St. Joe last night to set up a great finish to the conference season on the 16th.
 - Loy Norrix will be hosting MHSAA District Soccer, District Softball, District Baseball, Regional Baseball, and Regional Volleyball between May 20 and June 3. The new facilities supported by our community will be on display several times in the next 3 weeks.
- Congratulated athletes finishing their seasons strong.

TiAnna Harrison

- Thanked the community for the opportunity to participate in the MASB Spring Institute.
- Congratulated Lincoln International Studies School students accepted into the Friends of Poetry Contest.

XII. Closed Session

Dr. Slade requested the board meet in closed session to discuss his evaluation.

MOTION: President Harrison, supported by Trustee Sholler-Barber and Vice President Hill, moved to convene in closed session under MCL Section 15.268(a) to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named individual requests a closed hearing. An individual requesting a closed hearing may rescind the request at any time, in which case the matter at issue must be considered after the rescission only in open session.

Disposition: Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried unanimously by trustees present.

President Harrison called the meeting back to order at 9:13 p.m.

President Harrison reported that the superintendent received an overall rating of “3 – Effective,” which is the highest possible rating on the evaluation instrument.

Governance and Board Relations

- Policy Involvement – 3
- Goal Development – 3
- Information – 3
- Materials and Background – 3
- Board Questions – 3
- Professional Development – 3

Community Relations

- Communication with Community/Parents – 3
- Community/Parent Input – 3
- Media Relations – 3
- District Image – 3
- Approachability – 3

Staff Relations

- Staff Input – 3
- Staff Communications – 3
- Personnel Matters – 3
- Delegation of Duties – 3
- Recruitment – 3
- Labor Relations – 3
- Visibility in the District – 3

Business and Finance

- Budget Development and Management – 3
- Budget Reports – 3
- Financial Controls – 3
- Facility Management – 3
- Resource Allocation – 3

Instructional Leadership

- Performance Evaluation System – 3
- Building Level Leadership – 3
- Staff Development – 3
- School Improvement – 3
- Curriculum – 3
- Instruction – 3
- Student Voice – 3
- Support for Students – 3
- Professional Knowledge – 3

Student Growth and Assessment Data

- Student Learning Objective Metrics – 3
- Progress Toward District-Wide Goals – 3

Overall Evaluation Rating: 3 – Effective.

Comments from Trustees/Superintendent:

Karla Murphy

- Shared appreciation for working with Dr. Slade and noted his continued success and leadership.

Yvonne Payton

- Thanked Dr. Slade for providing superior instructional leadership and continued emphasis on student achievement.

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Praised Dr. Slade's transparency, leadership, experience, and support for multiple learning styles and opportunities for students.

Jennie Hill

- Shared appreciation for Dr. Slade's focus on student learning and achievement and his collaborative leadership style.

TiAnna Harrison

- Thanked Dr. Slade for consistently keeping the board informed, aligning district operations with board goals, remaining visible within the community, and strengthening community confidence in Kalamazoo Public Schools.

Dr. Slade

- Thanked the board for its continued support and recognized the district's strong senior leadership team, staff, and students.

XIII. Next Board of Education Meeting

The next Regular Board of Education meeting is Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: Trustee Murphy, supported by Trustee Sholler-Barber, moved to adjourn the meeting.

Disposition: Voice Vote; all in favor. Motion carried unanimously by trustees present.

President Harrison adjourned the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeGraaf, Recording Secretary,
on behalf of Carol McGlinn,
Secretary, Board of Education

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION DATA SHEET

Board Meeting Date: May 20, 2026

Request Number: 2026-49

Amount: \$39,242.70

Item: Asbestos Abatement at Phoenix High School

Cost Center: 2022 Bond

Cost Center Representative(s) Attending Board Meeting: Karen Jackson

Description of Need:

This purchase recommendation is for asbestos abatement at Phoenix High School

Vendor: Mid-Michigan Management
Lansing, MI

Number of Proposals Requested: 6 **Received:** 2

Low Bid Accepted: No

Low bid did not meet the required bid criteria.

Bid Amount: \$35,675.20

Contingency \$ 3,567.50

Total: \$39,242.70

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOL
Office of the Superintendent

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Darrin Slade, Superintendent

DATE: May 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Personnel Changes

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the board approve the following employment changes:

- I. Employment
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
 - Jennica K. Christianson**, Multilingual Community Engagement and Program Improvement Specialist, Multilingual Services and World Languages, 06/08/2026
 - Kennedy A. Robinson**, Payroll Clerk, Business and Finance Office, 05/18/2026
- II. Promotions/Key Transfers
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
- III. Leaves of Absence
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
- IV. Terminations
 - A.
 - Professional/Management
 - Andrew W. Chapman**, Grade 5 Teacher, Woodward School, Resignation, 06/30/2026
 - Dana J. Cook**, English Teacher, Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, Resignation, 06/30/2026
 - Kimberly A. O'Brien**, Academically Talented Teacher, Itinerant, Retirement, 06/30/2026
 - Eleanor J. Rudolph**, Kindergarten Teacher, Milwood Elementary School, Resignation, 06/30/2026
 - Beth L. Yek**, Special Education Teacher, Loy Norrix High School, Resignation, 06/30/2026
 - Classified
 - Kiara R. Forte**, Character Development Coach, Kalamazoo Central High School, Resignation, 04/28/2026
 - Terry L. Mathis**, Title I Tutor, Lincoln International Studies School, Retirement, 03/26/2026
 - Paulette A. Valles**, Food Service, Milwood Elementary School, Retirement, 06/05/2026
- V. Termination from Leave of Absence
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
- VI. Return from Leave of Absence
 - A. Professional/Management

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- B. Classified
- VII. Lay-offs
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified