Board of Education Regular Meeting (Tuesday, April 7, 2026)
Generated by Kimberly Grilli on Wednesday, April 8, 2026

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

Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM

A. Opening Items

Procedural: 1. Call to Order

Procedural: 2. Roll Call - All present

Procedural: 3. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Executive Session

Action 2026-137: 1. Recommendation to Adjourn to Executive Session at 6:34 pm. Reconvene at 8:37 pm
It is recommended that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education enter executive session for 1 hour to consider the investigation of charges or complaints against a district employee or official pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(1) and 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).

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. Reconvene from Executive Session

D. Agenda Approval

Action 2026-138: 1. Adoption of Meeting Agenda
Move that the Board of Education approve the agenda. Deleting Item G4, M, N and O of the agenda.

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

E. Public Participation

Information: 1. Guidelines for Public Participation
- Jane Decker - I have 40 years of experience in Groveport. I want talk about closing LCC because rumors are going around. Has the decision been made already? This is a bad decision. We need to improve scores at an early age. LCC teaches skills that the students need at this age. This will impact families greatly and these students will suffer. What is the cost of the out of district placement? LCC is a quality program and we need to keep it.

F. Recognitions

Action 2026-139, Discussion: 1. Approve Annual Monthly Recognitions
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Resolution Recognizing Annual Days, Weeks, and Months of Observation as listed on the attached.

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

G. Board Items - New Business

Action 2026-140, Discussion: 1. Educational Trust Golf Outing
The Board supports the Educational Trust fundraising event, the golf outing, on June 12, 2026, and approves expenditures related to that event.
- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - Each year before the golf outing, the treasurer provides information showing what's coming in and what's going out and then we've earmarked dollars throughout the year for different things to help our students.
- Mr. Collier - The first year was lunch debt, last year was athletics and student services. This year, the board will need to decide how to use the funds. We'll begin promoting this soon.
- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - We get donations in advance and use that to pay for the expenses.
- Mr. Collier - The first year we brought in $18,750. We spent roughly $6,000 on expenses and then we donated over $12,400 to lunch debt. Then last year we brought in $22,286 from the golf outing and were able to give $10,000 to the drama club for a trip to New York City. There is about $16,000 left over. The expenses are about $5500 to $6000 each year for the golf course and food.
- Mr. Kershner - How was the foundation set up?

- Mr. Collier - In June 2023, Kegler did a presentation. It was set up as a Board Trust, managed by the Board.
- Mr. Kershner - Was Kegler paid out of these funds or out of the district?
- Mr. Collier - I wasn't here at the time. They weren't paid out of this fund. It wasn't even set up at the time. For this year, I expect the expenses to be about the same, between $5000-$6000. And we've made between $18,000-$22,000 the past couple of years.
- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - Thank you to the team that makes this happen and ensures a good fundraiser for our students.
- Ms. Walsh - Is there a committee?
- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - The Board is the committee.

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 2026-141: 2. Policy Review - Second Read
The Board recommends approval of Board Policy.

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

Discussion: 3. Policy Review - First Read

- Ms. Walsh - I like the work that was done on this, but we have a Board Policy committee and it needs to go through the Board Policy committee. This needs work and needs to go through the committee. I want to get input from the community, stakeholders, and administrator.
- Ms. Zimmer - I agree, but the policies that you, Kathy, brought forward did not go through the committee either. This policy lets us bring in more money to the district. Are you not able to recommend revisions, currently? I'm asking you to give input for what you would like to see changed.
- Ms. Walsh - I believe we should send it to the policy committee and invite some of the preschool teachers.
- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - Ms. Walsh, you did not answer Ms. Zimmer's question.
- Ms. Walsh - I could not rewrite the policy or make changes to it without input from staff and family and people who are affected by the policy.

Action 2026-142: 4. ICGC-R - Send to the Board Policy Committee

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

- Mr. Kershner - This Board wants to develop a policy committee but is trying to make Round Robin decisions. This is how we have done policy in the past and I think this is a bad idea to do 2 on 2's.

Action 2026-143: 5. For the Board to collectively gain input and make updates and reach out to community and come back for a 2nd read at the next meeting.
Motion by Latoya Dowdell-Burger, second by Ashley Zimmer
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes -LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert
No - John Kershner and Kathleen Walsh

Action 2026-144: 6. Motion that prior to Second read of policy that the Board be provided with supporting information and rationale for changes and any stakeholder input.

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

Discussion: 7. District Financial Outlook and Reduction Considerations

H. Superintendent's Agenda

Action 2026-145: 1. Approve Administrative Personnel Items
The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Administrative Personnel Items:

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

Action 2026-146: 2. Approve Certificated Personnel Items
The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Certificated Personnel Items:

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 2026-147:3. The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Certificated Personnel Items: To remove the 5 positions that are over step 10. We need to do a MOU with GMLEA like we did this year for these positions.

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

Action 2026-148: 4. Approve Non Certificated Personnel Items
The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Non Certificated Personnel Items:

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 2026-149: 5. Approve Job Description of Director of Business Services - WITHDRAW MOTION TO UPDATE JOB DESCRIPTION

- Ms. Walsh - Looking at prior job description and they have been reduced without Transportation and Lunchroom? Where do those responsibilities go?

The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached job description for Director of Business Services.

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

Action: 6. Approve Engagement Letter of Legal Counsel Kegler, Brown, Hill + Ritter

The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve authorizing the Superintendent, the Treasurer, and/or school officials as authorized by the Superintendent, to seek legal advice on matters affecting the day-to-day operations and labor negotiations of the school district from Kegler, Brown, Hill + Ritter.

1. Removal of all government relations and lobbying services;
2. Revision of the agreement to clearly define billing categories, including "remaining legal work";
3. Requirement for detailed, itemized billing describing services performed;
4. Reimbursable expenses limited to reasonable and necessary costs, with travel expenses requiring prior approval by the Treasurer or Board President;
5. Clarification of communication protocols to ensure coordination of legal services and that material advice to the Board is shared with the full Board.

- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - Will we be doing this for every Law firm?
- Ms. Zimmer also wants to know.
- Mr. Grube - Not my request.
- Ms. Walsh - Kegler asked for this to be added to Board agenda.
- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - How did we get here, was Kegler asked to do this?
- Ms. Walsh - Kegler invoices. I have questions about clear definitions from Kegler and we need better billing on scope of the bills.
- Ms. Zimmer - We already approve them at organizational mtg.
- Ms. Walsh - I would like to finish. I think we focus on essential services. I would support moving forward to remove lobbying expenses and provide clear billing and communication on bills and make sure all Board members are communicated with. We need revised agreement. We approved them as a vendor in Jan. But maybe we can modify the terms of the agreement. We need this from all law firms.

I move that the Board approve the engagement with Kegler Brown contingent upon a revised agreement incorporating the following modifications:

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by John Kershner
Final Resolution: No Vote

Action 2026-150: 7.
Motion to postpone so we can talk to Kegler about this and why it was added to agenda. It will be the first meeting after we talk and get a response from Kegler.
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve authorizing the Superintendent, the Treasurer, and/or school officials as authorized by the Superintendent, to seek legal advice on matters affecting the day-to-day operations and labor negotiations of the school district from Kegler, Brown, Hill + Ritter.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Ashley Zimmer.

Final Resolution: Motion Fails
Not Present at Vote: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Action 2026-151: 8. The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve authorizing the Superintendent, the Treasurer, and/or school officials as authorized by the Superintendent, to seek legal advice on matters affecting the day-to-day operations and labor negotiations of the school district from Kegler, Brown, Hill + Ritter. Postpone to next board mtg after we have talked to Kegler and get a response on what this was added to the agenda.

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

Original Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Postponed to next board mtg after we get a response

Action 2026-152: 9. Approve the Purchase of New Chromebooks for the 2026-2027 School Year
- Mr. Saum - There are 3 different quotes that the Board can pick from. One we have warranty, one does not and the other has a different warranty repair package.
- Ms. Dowdell-Burger - Which would you prefer?
- Mr. Saum - the quote that ends in 66 - $260,850

The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the purchase of new chromebooks for the 2026-2027 School Year. Go with quote that ends in "66"

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 2026-153: 10. Approve Grievance Settlement with GMLEA
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached Grievance Settlement with GMLEA.

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

I. Treasurer's Agenda

Discussion, Procedural: 1. Treasurer's Reports

Action 2026-154: 2. Master Services Agreement with META
The Treasurer recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Master Services Agreement with META

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: 3. Fiscal Year 2025 Audit

Action 2026-155: 4. Approve Resolution Accepting Amounts and Rates
The Treasurer Recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education Approve the Resolution Accepting Amounts and Rates As Determined By The Franklin County Budget Commission for tax year 2026 (collected year 2027).

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

J. Consent Agenda

Action 2026-156(Consent): 1. Approve Special Education Contract
- Ms. Walsh - How many students do we have there?
- Ms. Bernowski - Just one. We can have students go back and forth. This is one of our more restricted environments. Just 1 student but we try to get them back to the district.
- Ms. Walsh - Is this outsourcing?
- Ms. Bernowski - No, this is our student that we have to send here, but not autism, behavioral. Average outplacement is $110,000 per student. I have used them in all districts I have been in.
- Ms. Walsh - Do we have any worry about filling these seats?
- Ms. Bernowski - No. I could fill all seats now. Mandie explains difference between Tier 1, 2 and 3. We should not be servicing any of these kids in our district. We do have some Tier 1 but they do not have the skills. We could look at 4500, but I have not yet.

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached Phoenix Central ED Seat Agreement.

2. Approve GMHS Football Trip
Resolution: The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the GMHS Football Trip to Cincinnati

3. 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.

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

K. Pulled Items from Consent Agenda

L. Approval of Minutes

Action, Minutes: 1. Approve the minutes for the February 24, 2026 Special Meeting, the March 3, 2026 Special Meeting, the March 3, 2026 Regular Meeting, and the March 18, 2026 Special Meeting
The Treasurer recommends the Groveport Madison Local Board of Education approve the minutes for the following meetings:
a. February 24, 2026 Special Meeting (Work Session)
b. March 3, 2026 Special Meeting
c. March 3, 2026 Regular Meeting
d. March 10, 2026 Regular Meeting
e. March 18, 2026 Special Meeting
f. All minutes may be approved by one motion unless a Board member requests removal of a specific date(s).

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: No Vote

Action 2026-157: 2. The Treasurer recommends the Groveport Madison Local Board of Education approve the minutes for the following meetings: Motion to postpone until April 14th since we got these changes only today.
a. February 24, 2026 Special Meeting (Work Session)
b. March 3, 2026 Special Meeting
c. March 3, 2026 Regular Meeting
d. March 10, 2026 Regular Meeting
e. March 18, 2026 Special Meeting
f. All minutes may be approved by one motion unless a Board member requests removal of a specific date(s).

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

M. Executive Session

Action: 1. Recommendation to Adjourn to Executive Session

N. Reconvene from Executive Session

O. Public Discussion or Action Following Executive Session

Discussion: 1. Public Discussion or Action Following Executive Session if Applicable

P. Board Member Comments

Q. Adjournment

Action 2026-158: 1. Motion to Adjourn
Adjourn at 10:10 pm

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