Board of Education Regular Meeting (Tuesday, April 14, 2026)
Generated by Kimberly Grilli on Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Members present
Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM

A. Opening Items

Procedural: 1. Call to Order at 6:33 pm

Procedural: 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Procedural: 3. Roll Call

- LATOYA DOWDELL-BURGER OFFICIAL STATEMENT FOR BOE MTG. 4-14-2026
  To the Board of Education and the Groveport Madison Community:
  Please accept this statement to be read into the official record during my absence this evening. Due to an unavoidable professional commitment, I am unable to attend in person, though my heart and my focus remain steadfastly with the work of this district.
  I want to state clearly that I requested a timely change to this meeting date to ensure full Board participation. While I was informed that a shift was not possible, my own subsequent outreach suggests there was, in fact, a greater willingness among my colleagues to adjust the schedule than was initially communicated. I have raised these concerns before and have made every effort to plan ahead to avoid these exact conflicts, as I take my responsibilities to this community with the utmost seriousness.
  I care deeply about my role, our students, and our staff. However, I must speak candidly: the current practice of scheduling back-to-back meetings is counterproductive. This pace leaves no breathing room for Board members to be truly thoughtful or for our dedicated staff to properly prepare and recharge. My dedication to this elected office has been proven over many years, regardless of my title, and my engagement with this district and the OSBA began long before I took my seat on this Board. My commitment is unwavering, but our processes must respect the time and mental bandwidth required to lead effectively.
  Regarding this evening's agenda, I am formally recommending that the Board of Education and Administration issue an official communication to our staff. It is imperative that we clarify that no final decisions have been made regarding budget cuts or staffing. As we navigate the complexities of the new state funding formulas and State Budget HB1, transparent communication is our most vital tool for maintaining trust and stability within our schools.
  Thank you all for all you do. It's GREAT TO BE A CRUISER!
  I respectfully request that the Treasurer include the full text of this statement in the meeting minutes for the official record.
  Respectfully,
  LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Board of Education Member
- Ms. Walsh - Thank you. For the purpose of ensuring the record is complete, I would like to provide some additional context. Earlier this year, the Board of Education formally approved its 2026 meeting schedule by vote, including the structure and timing of our meetings. That schedule was adopted with full Board participation, including support from Ms. Dowdell-Burger. On March 29, a request was made to reschedule this meeting, and I responded to the full Board the same day explaining that, given the timing, it would not be appropriate to change the date. Doing so would have required adjustments not only from Board members, but also from staff and members of the public who rely on the posted schedule. Following that communication, I did not receive any responses from Board members indicating support for a change. While we always strive for full participation, occasional conflicts do occur, and it has been consistent practice that the Board maintains its adopted schedule to ensure fairness, transparency, and proper public notice. I remain committed to those principles as we conduct the work of the district.
- Mr. Kershner - Some meetings have lasted too long, so we need two meetings. This person making this statement should have reflected on the fact that meetings have gone until 4 am before they criticized having two meetings per month.
- Ms. Herbert - We need to have 2 shorter meetings, not 2 long meetings. Our meetings have not been short. The intent was to reduce the time of meetings and that has not happened.

B. Agenda Approval

Action 2026-159: 1. Adoption of Meeting Agenda
- Kathy - Delete E and March 18th minutes (only)
- Ashley and Dionna - Delete G1 and H1

Move that the Board of Education approve the agenda.

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

C. Public Participation

Information: 1. Guidelines for Public Participation

- Toni Knapp - EDP - Work in EDP as site director. Founded over 30 yrs ago. It is self-sustaining. We manage the program. Currently we serve 89 students across 2 locations. It is vital for parents. I have letters from parents. I welcome visits to the EDP program during hours.

D. Presentations and Recognitions

Recognition: 1. Recognize Best of Show and Superintendent's Choice Art Award Winners and teachers from State of the Schools Art Show - Thank you to our teachers and GREAT artwork by our students.

Recognition: 2. Winter Sports Recognition

- Mr. Smathers - These students are dedicated to their sport and their team is bigger than themselves. They will all have lasting memories. Shout out to Choir and band.
- Boys Basketball - We are very young and still had a very good season this year. We can not wait until next year.
- Girls Basketball - Won the first ever State tourney game. They did an amazing job this year.
- Wrestling - Great students and great year. Doing a fantastic job in recruiting and now have a JV program and girls program. Arnesto made it to districts.
- Boys and Girls Bowling team - Very successful season. A lot of our athletes play two sports and could not make it. We had some great individual awards. Boys placed in sectionals, almost made it to District. Boys had three 3rd place finishes. Boys JV finished 2nd in a tournament.
- Cheerleaders - All they do is WIN!!! Krena Hubner- Thank you all for supporting us. Mr. Grube and Mr. Smathers - thank you so much. We have been invited to Las Vegas to compete for a title. We went to Orlando and won a title last year. This year has been very special. We have been doing community service and volunteer hours. They are positive and support each other. Represent GM with high standards and class. We wish them good luck in Vegas.

Recognition: 3. Momentum Award Recognition
Mr. Smathers - We received this award from ODE. Middle School Central earned this award as an individual building in the district. Mr. Grube deserves credit for his vision. I want to have Middle School Central principal and Vice Principal come up.
Mr. Casey Martin - Thank you. It is an amazing award and honor. I want to recognize our teachers and students. Our teachers work hard and deserve the accolades. Students are taking ownership of their work. Thank you to our families for their trust and support. Momentum does not happen by accident. It happens when people come together with a common purpose and an investment in one another.

Action 2026-160: 4. Move to take a 5 minute recess.

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

E. Board Committee Reports

F. Approval of Minutes

Action 2026-161, Minutes: 1. Approve the minutes for the February 24, 2026 Special Meeting, the March 3, 2026 Special Meeting, the March 3, 2026 Regular Meeting, March 10 Regular 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
f. All minutes may be approved by one motion unless a Board member requests removal of a specific date(s).

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

G. Board Items - New Business

Action: 1. Resolution for Budget Reductions

H. Board Items - Old Business

Discussion: 1. Discussion of Upcoming Work Session

I. Superintendent's Agenda

Action 2026-162: 1. Approve MOU with GMLEA

- Mr. Grube - We are struggling with some of these positions that are hard to find. This gives us some help with that. Same one as last year.

The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached MOU with GMLEA.

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

Action 2026-163: 2. Approve Certificated Personnel Items
The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Certificated Personnel Items:

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

Action 2026-164: 3. 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 Ashley Zimmer, second by Dionna Herbert.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Action 2026-165: 4. Approve Job Description of Director of Business Services
- Ms. Walsh - Higher qualifications have been added. It combines certain jobs. It does not include operational scope and certain items. Does the individual understand the new job duties?
- Mr. Grube - No, but I do not anticipate any problems.
- Ms. Walsh - Who does he evaluate?
- Mr. Grube - He evaluates all people that report directly to him.
- Ms. Walsh - Who is final authority to food service and transportation?
- Mr. Grube - I am ultimate authority. But, this person will handle all situations of everything underneath him/her.
- Ms. Walsh - Does this cover classified employees?
- Mr. Grube - Yes, he oversees hiring of classified employees. We added in that he oversees transportation and food service. We did remove assist with expulsion hearings.
- Ms. Walsh - Does he have to have an administrative license?
- Mr. Grube - We changed to a Director position years ago. We needed to get better candidates.

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 Dionna Herbert.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Kathleen Walsh, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert
No: John Kershner

Action 2026-166: 5. The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached job description for Director of Business Services. - Change admin license to preferred not required.

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

Action 2026-167: 6. The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached job description for Director of Business Services. Motion to reconsider the 2nd vote. We already have a 2nd motion.

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

J. Board Member Comments
- Mr. Kershner - Recommending an anonymous employee survey, asking for this to be a motion on the agenda for the next Board meeting. This survey would be authorized in direct connection with the Board's consideration of significant financial decisions, including potential reductions totalling millions of dollars.
- Ms. Zimmer - Please add President and Vice President. All agreed.
- Ms. Walsh - Discussing on work session -
- Ms. Zimmer - POINT OF ORDER to stop talk about this.
- Ms. Walsh - I talked to Mr. Grube and we are working on getting someone else.
- Ms. Zimmer left the meeting at 8:07 pm.
- Ms. Herbert - Very important to keep everyone in the loop. However, we are not operating collectively. We're not collaborating. I have been excluded from yet another agenda planning meeting. We can not pretend at the meetings that we are working together. Everyone sees it. My loyalty and responsibility is to our staff, parents, and children. Ms. Herbert left the meeting at 8:10 pm.
- Mr. Kershner - Great presentations today. Having two Board meetings works well. It is nice to leave here at a good time.

K. Adjournment

Action: 1. Adjourn at 8:10 PM Quorum is lost. We do not have a quorum to adjourn.

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by John Kershner. - No Vote