Board of Education Special Meeting (Wednesday, July 22, 2026)
Generated by Kimberly Grilli on Monday, July 27, 2026

Members present
LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

A. Call to Order

Procedural: 1. Call to Order at 6 pm

Procedural: 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Procedural: 3. Roll Call - Ms. Walsh and Mr. Kershner are absent. Please add statements from Kathy and John to minutes.

July 22, 2026 Statement of Board Member Kershner As previously stated, I maintain that tonight's meeting fails to meet proper notification requirements. Our explicit board agreement, I require signed, written notice delivered by mail for all special meetings. This has been the practice for at least two years. No discussion has changed that delivery section. Had this board meeting been plan in corporation with the board president as policy requires I firmly believe I would have received timely written notice. Since due to improper notice, I will not be in attendance, I want my position regarding the SRO program clearly on the record. Beginning on July 9th, I made critical requests for evaluation data and information regarding our SRO program. To date, I have not received this information in a timely manner for review. Furthermore, no explanation has been provided as to how we are currently operating under our existing contract with the City of Groveport. Proceeding without these facts forces the board to make decisions in haste. Had we been provided the necessary information to make an informed decision, we could evaluate better available options and achieve far superior outcomes for our district. I am working out of town today, and having not received proper legal notification via mail, I anticipated this meeting would be canceled and rescheduled as has been done in the past, when board member were not properly noticed and per our legal practices following expensive litigation and the requirements of the Ohio Revised Code. Sincerely, Board Member John Kershner

July 22, 2026 Special Board of Education Meeting Statement of President Kathleen Walsh Please attach this statement and the attached SRO presentation to the meeting minutes Board Members, I will not be attending tonight's special meeting for two reasons. First, the meeting was scheduled on a date outside the availability I previously provided. I only work two evenings each week, and I identified the evenings I was available. One of those dates also worked for the other Board members, yet it was not selected. Second, after reviewing the special meeting notice, the USPS mailing information provided by Mr. Kershner, and the requirements of Board policy and the Ohio Revised Code, I firmly believe the notice for tonight's special meeting was not provided in the manner required by law and Board policy. I understand that Board counsel reached a different legal conclusion. However, I do not believe that conclusion is based on an accurate understanding of the District's longstanding practice for providing special meeting notices to Mr. Kershner and me. For multiple years, written notice and Board packets have routinely been provided by mail or hand delivery in addition to any electronic communication due to internet and email problems. Based on my knowledge of those established practices and the information available to me, I have reached a different conclusion regarding my own responsibilities. I took an oath to uphold the Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. I cannot, in good conscience, preside over or participate in a meeting that I believe was not properly noticed. My obligation is to uphold Ohio law and the Board's policies, not to set them aside when compliance is in question. It is my understanding that the primary reason for tonight's meeting was to address concerns regarding SRO coverage for the upcoming school year. Based on my review of the current MOUs and my confirmation with the Treasurer that no written notices of non-renewal have been issued, the District remains under contract with both the City of Groveport and Madison Township through June 2027 under the automatic renewal provisions. Because of that, I do not believe there is an emergency requiring the Board to proceed tonight rather than properly noticing and rescheduling the meeting. To ensure my analysis is available to the Board, I have prepared a presentation-style document regarding the SRO agenda item. I have requested that the Treasurer attach it to the meeting agenda and distribute it to all Board members for their consideration. I remain committed to conducting the Board's business in a manner that is transparent, lawful, and consistent with the oath I took and the policies this Board has adopted. Kathleen Walsh, Board President

B. Public Participation

Information: 1. Guidelines for Public Participation
Pete G. - CP of FOP - Police officer - When we enter into an agreement with the schools it is a partnership. The SRO program is very important. At a time when community relationships are strained, we need the communication between the police and students. Our police live in this community and build trust in a time of peace and that is important during times of crisis. SRO's build trust with the kids. Your SRO's are fantastic. Going with a private contractor, a bigger force, is not what you should do. Stay with the local.
Jane D. - Taking down of walls at Sedalia. The walls have been up for years. Custodians have already done their cleaning and reset the rooms. What is the plan now? Two of the 8 classrooms are next to MOD entrance and it will be loud and disrupt other classrooms. Without walls it will be disruptive to other classrooms. Also, SRO's are needed. These police need to come from Groveport and Madison Twp. These SRO's have connections with our kids presently.
Judy Beebe - Thank to the Board for commitment to the staff. A house divided will not stand. A kingdom divided will fall. Board members can not use the phrase "the other side". We should be united with one voice. When a Board member abstains from a vote they should explain why. Too many public record requests are taking time away from focusing on kids. I hope the SRO's will be there the first day. Mr. Grube said we need Urgent Necessity about radon, need to get this situation resolved.

Action 2026-272: 2. Move to extend time for Ms. Beebe

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

C. Agenda Approval

Action 2026-273: 1. Adoption of Meeting Agenda
Move that the Board of Education approve the agenda.

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

D. Superintendent's Agenda

Action 2026-274: 1. Approve SRO MOUs with Groveport Madison Police Department and Madison Township Police Department
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached SRO MOUs with Groveport Madison Police Department and Madison Township Police Department.

The Board approved new **three-year Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)** with the Groveport Madison Police Department and Madison Township Police Department after Superintendent Jamie Grube explained that the administration had evaluated other law enforcement agencies and private security options but determined that continuing the existing local partnerships remained the best recommendation. The discussion also clarified that the previous contracts had automatically renewed because the required notice of non-renewal had not been issued, prompting the district to replace those agreements with new contracts and establish a process to better track future contract renewal deadlines.
Board members discussed ways to strengthen oversight and communication with the SRO program while recognizing that the officers remain employees of their respective police departments. Grube explained that the district can provide formal feedback to the officers' supervisors and proposed creating a more structured process for collecting administrator feedback. The Board also discussed expanding de-escalation training for SROs and school administrators and continuing to build partnerships with neighboring law enforcement agencies to further enhance school safety.
Throughout the discussion, board members emphasized the value of maintaining local SROs because they know the community, build relationships with students and families, and provide important communication about issues affecting the district. Members acknowledged that previous discussions about the contracts had caused concern among parents and apologized for any unnecessary anxiety, reaffirming that the district remains committed to student safety, positive relationships between students and law enforcement, and continued collaboration through a broader district safety planning process. The Board then voted to approve the MOUs with both local law enforcement agencies.

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

Discussion: 2. Review Bureau of Workers' Compensation Complaint Regarding Radon
Tom - Complaint from a community member about violation of safety standards. Bobby has done a great job with the radon situation. We need to give the OHIO BWC a response within 30 days and those 30 days end on Aug 1.
Jamie - It was stated by a Board member that "a little bit of radon is regenerating". I do not believe that. We will provide factual info to the Ohio BWC. We cannot do the radon now this summer. The department of health says radon is TOO high. We follow the Ohio Dept of Health guidelines in most of our operations. We test in the winter months because that is when the radon experts do it. It is a timely process. We tried to do urgent necessity and get it done over the summer and we also have some asbestos to do. Now we will get it out to bid. Really only one local company does this scope of work. We may need to use out of town vendors to help with bidding and then doing the work.

The Board reviewed a **Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) complaint** alleging elevated radon levels in several district buildings. District administrators explained that they are required to submit a formal response to BWC within 30 days and are working with legal counsel to provide documentation of the district's testing, remediation efforts, and planned next steps.
Superintendent Jamie Grube emphasized that the district's decision to pursue mitigation was based on **Ohio Department of Health recommendations**, even though none of the tested areas exceeded the higher OSHA threshold that would require immediate closure.
The discussion focused on the district's efforts to address the issue and the challenges involved in completing the work. Administrators explained that radon testing can only be performed during certain times of the year, follow-up testing is required before remediation decisions are made, and the mitigation process is complicated by asbestos abatement requirements and a limited number of qualified commercial contractors. Although the district had hoped to complete the work over the summer, the timeline made that impractical, and the current plan is to develop project specifications, seek competitive bids, and complete the remaining mitigation work as quickly as feasible.
Board members expressed significant concern about the health and safety of students and staff, emphasizing that completing the remediation should be a top priority regardless of cost. They discussed consulting with public health officials, developing a process for monitoring any health concerns while mitigation is pending, exploring potential state funding opportunities, and encouraging community involvement to help move the project forward. Administrators committed to keeping the Board informed as the BWC review progresses and as additional remediation plans are developed.

Action 2026-275: 3. Approve New Salary Schedule for Systems Administrator
The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Approve New Salary Schedule for Systems Administrator:

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

Action 2026-276: 4. Approve Administrative Personnel Items
The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Administrative Personnel Items:

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

Action 2026-277: 5. Approve Certificated Personnel Items
The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Certificated Personnel Items:

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

Action 2026-278: 6. Approve Non Certificated Personnel Items
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached classified personnel items:

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

E. Adjournment

Action 2026-279: 1. Motion to Adjourn
Motion to Adjourn - at 7:14 pm

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