

THE GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
Grosse Pointe, Michigan
August 17, 2026

AGENDA NUMBER & TITLE: 5.3. **Approval to hire Supervisor of Special Education**

Recommendation: Melanie Danley

Melanie Danley brings an extensive background spanning nearly two decades of dedicated service across special education and general education classrooms, systems leadership, and district-level committee work. Currently serving as a K–5 Resource Program Teacher at Defer Elementary, Ms. Danley offers a powerful blend of deep instructional expertise, strong compliance and diagnostic skills, multi-district leadership experience, and an exceptional ability to partner with staff and families. She holds a Master’s degree in Special Education, a Learning Disabilities endorsement, and is currently completing her Master’s in K–12 Administration through Eastern Michigan University. Throughout her tenure in Grosse Pointe Public Schools and previously in Lakeview Public Schools—where she was named Teacher of the Year—Ms. Danley has proven herself to be a trusted mentor, system strategist, and advocate for inclusive educational practices.

During the interview process, Ms. Danley distinguished herself as an approachable, highly articulate, and visionary leader with a remarkably calm demeanor under pressure. The hiring committee noted her balanced perspective bridging general and special education, her deep knowledge of MTSS frameworks, and her ability to view special education not as a "finish line," but as a continuous continuum of student growth. Interviewers highlighted her succinct clarity, strong command of data-driven decision-making, and sophisticated understanding of specialized interventions—including her expertise with mathematics frameworks (AVMR/Integrow) and structured literacy. Committee members particularly valued her collaborative philosophy, such as her commitment to bringing paraprofessionals to the table, as well as her proven ability to navigate difficult conversations and de-escalate contentious meetings with empathy and poise.

Reference checks and community feedback enthusiastically validated the hiring committee’s evaluation. Principals, colleagues, and parents consistently praised Ms. Danley’s authentic connections, clear communication, and exceptional talent for building trust. District leaders noted her active role on the Elementary Math Committee and her track record of mentoring new special education staff and supporting classroom teachers. Parent letters strongly highlighted her profound impact on families, noting that her warmth, responsiveness, and dedication to the "whole child" keep families deeply connected to the district.

The hiring committee is fully confident that Ms. Danley possesses the experience, vision, and collaborative leadership necessary to excel as Special Education Supervisor, leading GPPSS student services with integrity, clarity, and unwavering care.