Board of Education Regular Meeting (Tuesday, August 4, 2026)
Generated by Kimberly Grilli on Tuesday, August 11, 2026

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

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

A. Opening Items

Procedural: 1. Call to Order - All present

Procedural: 2. Roll Call

Procedural: 3. Pledge of Allegiance

Action 2026-280: 4. Adoption of Meeting Agenda - Remove G5 from this agenda - Cristia Lesher Asso.
Move that the Board of Education approve the agenda after all the changes.

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

Action 2026-281: 5. Move that the Board of Education approve the agenda. Postpone F1 to next Regular Bd Mtg.

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

Action 2026-282: 6. Move that the Board of Education approve the agenda. To postpone G9 and G10 until we get MOU with GMLEA finalized.

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 2026-283: 7. Move that the Board of Education approve the agenda. To postpone F4 to next regular meeting so concerns can be addressed of Board Policy committee and to assign a new chair and to clarify proposed action of committee person or committee chair. Ashley stepped down as chair.

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

B. Public Participation

Information: 1. Guidelines for Public Participation - None

C. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Action 2026-284: 1. Approve the Minutes of the March 18, 2026, Regular meeting, April 7, 2026 Regular Meeting, April 14, 2026 Regular Meeting, April 27, 2026 Special Meeting-1, April 27, 2026 Special Meeting-2, May 5, 2026 Regular Meeting, May 12, 2026 Regular Meeting, June 2, 2026 Regular Meeting, the June 16, 2026 Regular Meeting and the June 30, 2026 Special Meeting, July 14, 2026 Regular Meeting, and July 22, Special Meeting
The Treasurer recommends the Groveport Madison Local Board of Education approve the minutes for the following meetings:
a. March 18, 2026 Special Meeting
b. April 7, 2026 Regular Meeting
c. April 14, 2026 Regular Meeting
d. April 27, 2026 Special Meeting (1)
e. April 27, 2026 Special Meeting (2)
f. May 5, 2026 Regular Meeting
g. May 12, 2026 Regular Meeting
h. June 2, 2026 Regular Meeting
i. June 16, 2026 Special Meeting
j. June 30, 2026 Special Meeting
k. July 14, 2026 Regular Meeting
l. July 22, 2026 Special Meeting
m. 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 LaToya Dowdell-Burger.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert

No: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner

D. Consent Agenda

Action 2026-285: 1. Approve Certificated Personnel Items
Resolution: The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Certificated Personnel Items:

2. Approve Classified Personnel Items
Resolution: The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Classified Personnel Items:

3. Approve ESC Statement of Work and District Service Plan 2026-2027
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached Statement of Work and District Service Plan 2026-2027 with Educational Service Center of Central Ohio.

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

E. Pulled Items from Consent Agenda

Action: 1. Pulled Items if Needed

F. Board Items-New Business

Action: 1. Resolution for Board Legal Liaison and Procedures for Communications with Legal Counsel - Postpone

Action 2026-286: 2. Review Policy DJH - Second Read
The Board recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached Board Policy.

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

Discussion, Action 2026-287: 3. Discussion of Second Board of Education Meeting in September - Ashley asked that we cancel Sept 8th because she is having surgery Sept 2.

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

Action: 4. Appoint new member to Board Policy Committee - Postponed

Discussion: 5. Student Representative for School Board

The board discussed creating a student representative position on the Board of Education after a Model UN student expressed interest. The student representative would have a voice in board discussions and provide a student perspective but would not vote or participate in executive sessions. Members also discussed involving student council and the district's Student Voice Committee. Board members generally supported the idea, noting that it could give students valuable experience with governance, advocacy, and decision-making. They referenced neighboring districts that already have student representatives and discussed potentially using an application process and guidance from OSBA to establish the position. Some members raised concerns about the length, professionalism, and tone of current board meetings, saying the board should model respectful behavior before bringing a student into that environment. No final action was taken, but members expressed interest in continuing the discussion and determining next steps for establishing student representation.

Discussion: 6. Discussion on Board policy KBCA-R - Dionna - Questions regarding two Board members who spoke to the media. Is that policy or who authorized those two Board members to speak? I do not want to step on your Freedom of Speech. Kathy - I did speak with the news, not on school property. LaToya - I just did not want it to look like the Board President speaks for the whole Board. Please let the Admin or rest of the Board members know if you speak to the media so we can be aware.

The board discussed Board Policy KBCA-R, specifically the role of the board president as the official spokesperson. The discussion arose after a board member participated in a news interview concerning the district's school resource officer matter. Questions were raised about whether the board president may speak independently or whether the spokesperson role is limited to communicating positions or decisions formally established by the board. The board president explained that she participated in the interview as an individual and specifically told the reporter she was not speaking on behalf of the board. Other members noted that because news organizations may still identify an individual by their official board title, the public could interpret those comments as representing the district or full board. Members suggested notifying fellow board members when participating in such interviews and following up with media outlets when necessary to clarify that comments represent an individual viewpoint. The discussion focused primarily on obtaining clarity about how the policy should operate and establishing expectations for board members moving forward. Members acknowledged board members' individual freedom to speak while emphasizing the importance of clearly distinguishing personal opinions from official board positions. No formal action or policy change was taken during this discussion.

G. Superintendent's Agenda

Action 2026-288: 1. Approve MOU with GMLEA - John abstained because he could not make out what was said.
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached MOU with GMLEA.

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

Action 2026-289: 2. Approve MOU with GMLEA
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached MOU with GMLEA.

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

Action 2026-290: 3. Approve MOU with GMLEA
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached MOU with GMLEA.

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 2026-291: 4. Approve the Quote from REM
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the quote from REM for exterior bus cameras, no district funds are being used.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Dionna Herbert.

The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education postpone the quote from REM for exterior bus cameras, no district funds are being used until we obtain competitive bidding.

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: 5. Approve Quote from Cristia Lesher Associates - Removed

Action 2026-292: 6. Approve the Grantee Approval of the Governor's Deed
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached Grantee Approval of the Governor's Deed.

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

Discussion, Action 2026-293: 7. Policy Review-OSBA Recommended Changes to ICGC
Motion to forgo 1st read and approve now.

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

Action 2026-294: 8. Approve Special Education Contracts - Kathleen - With Bonner Academy do we still pay if our student leaves? Mandie - No, they would assume the seat back.
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached Special Education contracts:

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

Action: 9. Approve Soliant Contracts - Postponed

Action: 10. Approve Amergis Contracts - Postponed

Action 2026-295: 11. Approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar
The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar.

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: 12. Approve 2026-2027 Student Handbook
The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools approve the attached 2026-2027 Student Handbook. - NO VOTE

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

Action 2026-296: 13. The Superintendent recommends the Groveport Madison Schools approve the attached 2026-2027 Student Handbook and to hold a work session by Oct. 31, 2026 to discuss changes and amendments and also have a Parent and Voice Committee prior to the Oct. 31, 2026 to have feedback from them.

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

H. Treasurer's Agenda

Action 2026-297, Discussion: 1. Four Year Forecast
The Treasurer recommends the Board of Education approve the Four Year Forecast.

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 2026-298: 2. Approve Donation
The Treasurer recommends the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the attached donation from Chartwells/Compass Group.

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

I. Executive Session

Action 2026-299, Discussion: 1. Motion to Enter at 8:46 pm
It is recommended that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education enter executive session to consider the investigation of charges or complaints against a district employee or official pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(1).

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

J. Reconvene from Executive Session

Discussion: 1. Reconvene at 10:12 pm

K. Board member comments

Discussion: 1. Board member announcements or brief comments

Ashley - I did talk with OSBA and they are willing to come out for training. Just have to let them know our availability.

L. Adjournment

Action 2026-300: 1. Motion to Adjourn
Adjourn at 10:13 pm.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Ashley Zimmer.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Ashley Zimmer, Dionna Herbert
Not Present at Vote: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner