BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING PACKET

September 14, 2026

7:00pm

Bates Boardroom

DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Our Vision:

Champion Learning –

Develop, Educate, and Inspire!

DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026 – 7:00 P.M.
BATES BOARDROOM
2704 BAKER RD. DEXTER MI 48130
734-424-4100

This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. The agenda reserves two periods for public participation and those wishing to receive a personal response from the board or superintendent must complete a public comment form available at the meeting entrance and on our website. Upon request to the Superintendent the District shall make reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities to be able to participate in this meeting.

MEETING AGENDA

A. CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call

B. MEETING MINUTES (8/24/2026)

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS
1. Substitute Teacher of the Year
2. Filter First

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (up to ~30 minutes; max 5 per person)

F. ADMINISTRATIVE & BOARD UPDATES
1. Superintendent
   a. Standard Response Protocol
2. Board President
3. Student Representatives

G. CONSENT ITEMS – none

H. ACTION ITEMS
1. Bid Package Number 8 - Dexter High School Center for the Performing Arts
2. Certify MASB Delegates
3. Fund Balance Designations

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS – none planned

J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION **(up to ~15 minutes; max 3 per person)**

K. BOARD COMMENTS

L. INFORMATION ITEMS
1. Nice Job Notes June-August 2026
2. Finance Committee Minutes 9/8/2026

M. CLOSED SESSION – *per MCL15.268(a)*
1. Superintendent Quarterly Evaluation

N. ADJOURNMENT

CALENDAR

September 17, 2026	Candidate Forum	Mill Creek Cafeteria 6:00pm
October 5, 2026	Board Meeting	Bates Boardroom 7:00pm
October 19, 2026	Board Meeting	Bates Boardroom 7:00pm

Public Participation: *Those interested in making a public comment will be asked to raise their hands so the time may be divided equally. Each speaker will be asked to announce his/her name and address and indicate if he/she represents any organization or agency. No person may speak more than once on the same subject during a single meeting. Full Public Participation Policy 2504*

DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOTES
AUGUST 24, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER
Roll Call

B. MEETING MINUTES
* An appropriate motion might be, "I move that the Board of Education approve the attached minutes from the August 24th, 2026 meeting as presented/amended."

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Board policy provides that the Superintendent of Schools shall prepare an agenda for all Board meetings as directed by the President of the Board of Education.

* An appropriate motion might be, "I move that the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented/amended."

D. SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS
1. Substitute Teacher of the Year
Tom McHugh of Edustaff [DCS substitute staff provider] will present the Edustaff Substitute of the Year award to Annabel Van Noord, long-time DCS substitute.

2. Filter First
Principal for Operations Bill Harris will share information about Filter First, Michigan's lead-free school drinking water program.

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (full guidelines at link)
Board Bylaw 2504 states that the BOE will have two opportunities for public participation at each meeting. The first opportunity will last approximately 30 minutes, with each person having up to 5 minutes to speak, depending on the total number of speakers. Those wishing to receive a personal response from the board or superintendent must complete a public comment form available at the meeting entrance and on our website.

F. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD UPDATES
1. Superintendent
   a. Standard Response Protocol (SRP)
      The Superintendent will share information about Dexter's implementation of the standardized crisis language the State has mandated that schools implement for this school year.
2. Board President
3. Student Representatives

G. CONSENT ITEMS – none planned

H. ACTION ITEMS
1. Series 1, Bid Package 8 – Dexter High School Center for the Performing Arts
The Facilities Committee is scheduled to meet at 6:30pm to review Granger's bid tabulation and recommendations for the DHS CPA bid package. This information will be

shared with the full board at this evening's meeting and will be added to the website packet.

* An appropriate motion might be, "I move that the Board of Education award the contracts for Series 1, Bid Package Number 8 DHS Center for the Performing Arts as shown in the attached recommendation letter dated September 14th, 2026, for a total cost not to exceed $_____, and assign them to Granger for management."

2. Certify MASB Delegates

The MASB Delegate Assembly will begin Thursday, October 15, at 7 p.m. at the Lansing Center. Delegates representing boards of education across the state will decide MASB's positions on a wide variety of issues affecting education. All delegates must be certified and submitted by Thursday, October 1. Based on student enrollment, DCS may certify up to three delegates and one alternate.

* An appropriate motion might be, "I move that _____ be certified to represent the Dexter Community School District's Board of Education at the 2026 MASB Delegate Assembly."

3. Fund Balance Designations

Your packet will include financial information including ending reserves, designations, assigned and unassigned fund balances for the year ending June 30, 2026. At the time that this packet was published, that information was still being compiled; it will be shared as soon as it is complete. At its September 8, 2026 meeting, the finance committee discussed options for undesignating $600,000 from the Committed-New Program Implementation Reserve, which currently sits well above the target level, and transferring it to the Unassigned Fund Balance to address the deficit from the 2026 fiscal year.

* An appropriate motion might be, "I move that the Board of Education approve the undesignation of $600,000 from the Committed–New Program Implementation Reserve and designate those funds as Unassigned Fund Balance to cover the 2025–26 year-end General Fund deficit."

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS – none planned

J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (full guidelines at link)

During the second opportunity for public participation, each person will have up to 3 minutes to speak, depending on the total number of speakers. No person may speak twice on the same subject more than once in each meeting. Those wishing to receive a personal response from the board or superintendent must complete a public comment form available at the meeting entrance and on our website.

K. BOARD COMMENTS

L. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Nice Job Notes June–August 2026

M. CLOSED SESSION *per MCL15.268(a)*

1. Superintendent Quarterly Evaluation

N. ADJOURNMENT

DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 24, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00pm

Roll Call

Members Present: Elise Bruderly, Michael Cipolla, Jennifer Kangas, David Pisano, Melanie Szawara; Student Representatives Lloyd Brand and Kadence Chan

Members Absent: Daniel Alabré, Amy Reiser

Administrative & Supervisory Staff: Ryan Bruder, Barb Leonard, Jennifer Mattison, Rick Munir, Melanie Nowak, Hope Vestergaard

Guests: Ella Rogalski, Heidi Patel, Jill Minnick, Greg Brand, Craig McCalla

B. MEETING MINUTES

Michael Cipolla made a motion that the Board of Education approve the minutes from August 10, 2026 as presented. Melanie Szawara seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (unanimous**).

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented. Michael Cipolla seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (unanimous**).

D. SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

1. StyroGenie

On May 18, 2026, the Board of Education approved the purchase of a StyroGenie, a machine designed to reduce waste by densifying the polystyrene foam cafeteria trays, to be used at DHS. Food and Nutrition Director Jennifer Mattison returned to answer some operational questions trustees had asked during the approval process. She also brought examples of the "briquettes" that are formed when the machine densifies the foam trays. During testing, the machine reduced 500 trays down to two flat briquettes that were approximately one inch thick and 16 x 20 inches square. The manufacturer's website indicates that the process reduces waste volume by 95%.

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. DHS Student Council President Ella Rogalski, noting that she represented many students, commented on the new cell phone [wireless communications device] rules.

F. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD UPDATES

1. Superintendent

Superintendent Ryan Bruder shared that staff are beginning to return after break; new teacher orientation is August 27th; opening day for all teachers is Monday, August 31. The updated Student Handbook has been posted; it was drafted by Thrun Law to align with the new board policies adopted in 2024 and 2025. The Wayfinder (back to school newsletter) is expected to be sent out with the annual

forms reminder on the 25th or 26th at the latest. Bond projects are going well, with the biggest construction impact happening at DHS. Field Hockey kicked off fall sports competitions at Al Ritt with their first game of the season vs. Grosse Pointe South. All high school students received their schedules August 18th; K-8 scheduled will be emailed August 27th. Bruder also shared that the road commission has promised the roundabout will be open before the start of school.

2. Board President

Board President Elise Bruderly had no updates.

3. Student Representatives

Lloyd Brand talked about student opinions on the new cellphone [wireless communications device] policy. About 144 students responded to a poll he sent out on the topic. Concerns included student mental health, athletics arrangements, and socialization time. He said that the student consensus was that the policy would be harmful for students.

Kadence Chan noted that fall sports are all starting up; Cross Country just enjoyed the Lamplighter nighttime event. She also noted that all high school students have received their schedules [which is much earlier than in previous years].

G. CONSENT ITEMS

Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Board of Education approve the consent items in bulk. Jennifer Kangas seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (unanimous).**

1. Personnel – New Hire

The Board of Education offered Ashley Robinson and Rachel Adams probationary teaching contracts for the 2026-2027 school year.

2. Personnel – Request for Leave

The Board of Education approved Michelle Sherman's request for an extended leave.

H. ACTION ITEMS

1. Series 1, Bid Package 8 – Technology – Wylie Addition, DHS Additions, and Field House

Michael Cipolla made a motion that the Board of Education award the contracts for Series 1, Bid Package Number 8 (Technology for the Wylie Addition, the DHS additions, and Field House) as shown in the attached recommendation letter dated August 20th, 2026, for a total cost not to exceed $825,610, and assign them

to Granger for management. Melanie Szawara seconded the motion. **Role Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous)**

2. MASB CBA 101 for Board Candidates
Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Dexter Board of Education approve paying the costs for board candidates to take MASB's CBA 101 course, if they desire to do so, prior to the November 3, 2026 election. Jennifer Kangas seconded the motion. **Role Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous).**

3. CFO Hire
Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Jill Minnick as Chief Financial Officer. Jennifer Kangas seconded the motion. **Role Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous).**

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. MASB Call for Delegates
MASB's 2026 Delegate Assembly will take place Thursday, October 15, at the Lansing Center, kicking off the Fall Leadership Conference. Based on student enrollment, DCS may certify up to three delegates and one alternate. All delegates must be certified and submitted by Thursday, October 1. Trustees discussed their plans to attend and willingness to act as delegates.

J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – none

K. BOARD COMMENTS

1. Student Representative Kadence Chan requested the opportunity to comment. She shared her personal opinions about the cellphone [wireless communications devices] policy which aligned with what Lloyd had previously shared.

L. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Cell Phone Rules

M. CLOSED SESSION – none

N. ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 7:52 pm, President Elise Bruderly adjourned the meeting.

MINUTES/hlv

_____
Michael Cipolla
Secretary, Board of Education

DEXTER DREADNAUGHTS

MASB - Call for Delegates

1 message

Thu, Jul 9, 2026 at 2:01 PM

MASB
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

MASB's 2026 Delegate Assembly will begin **Thursday, October 15, at 7 p.m.** at the Lansing Center. Delegates representing boards of education across the state will decide MASB's positions on a wide variety of issues affecting education.

Below is a link to use to certify the official voting delegates and alternates who will represent your board of education. All delegates and alternates must be school board members. **Only delegates and alternates who were nominated, approved, and certified by their board may offer motions and vote on issues.** However, all school board members may speak on the issues and participate in the debate. Your 2026-2027 MASB dues must be paid in order for a district to participate in the Delegate Assembly.

All delegates must be certified and submitted by Thursday, October 1. A notification message is also being sent to your board president and superintendent. Please ensure that this topic is added to your next board meeting agenda and then complete the form at the link below.

Certify Delegates and Alternates

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at bwooley@masb.org or 517.327.5915

Regards,
Brooke

—

Brooke Wooley | **Board Liaison**

Dexter Community Schools
Nice Job Notes – JUNE-AUG 2026

Joel Anderson
Jessica Baese
Ryan Baese
Narda Black
Sarah Breitner
Meghan Buckler
Kirsten Butler (12)
Danielle Cabanaw
Alison Campbell (3)
Amanda Carlock
Krickett Chamberlain
Andy Damman (2)
Matt Deloria (2)
Melanie Dever
Hank Dreffs
Nicole Durbin
Megan Ford
Building & Grounds
John Heuser
Abby Holland
Janelle Hone
Jennifer Johnson
Susan Karsch
Nariman Kasham
Brendan Kelly (2)
Maureen Kline (2)
Elizabeth Kovarik
Emily LaRocque
Fred Ligrow
Kristen Linn
Rebecca Mann
Maria Mast
Jennifer Mattison
Holly McDermott
Liz Melvin
Sharon Norris (5)
Haley Oles
Kelly Parachek (3)
Hollie Pastorino
Rich Schlanderer (5)
Kaitlin Schmoekel
Angela Scott
Joanne Shipley (2)
Amy Slothower
Nick Stanko
Hannah Stewart
Leah Tatara
Annabel Van Noord
Lisa Veenstra
Dara Wandyg
Thomas Watts
Gary Wesley
Steve Wincent (8)
Erica Wisnosky
Jody Zink
Julie Zulch

JUNE-AUG = 91
RUNNING TOTAL = 44,422

Dexter Community Schools
Finance Committee
September 8, 2026
Bates Board Room

Board Committee Members Present – Jennifer Kangas (Board, Chair), Elise Bruderly, Jessica Baese (DEA), John Heuser (DEA)

Staff Committee Members Present – Ryan Bruder, Mike Wagner

Meeting Convened at 8:45 am

1. Approval of Minutes - Elise Bruderly moved to approve the minutes, seconded by John Heuser. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Agenda - Elise Bruderly moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Jessica Baese. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Audience Participation - None

4. Discussion Items:
    a. Fund Balance Designations - Committee Members discussed options for undesignating $600,000 and transferring it to the Unassigned Fund Balance to address the deficit from the 26 FY. It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee that funds should be undesignated from the Committed-New Program Implementation Reserve, which currently sits well above the target level, and moved to the Unassigned Fund Balance.

5. Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 9:12 am