

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
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October 6, 2026

**MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE
KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Kalamazoo Public Schools will be held on Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49008. The meeting will be live streamed on Public Media Network on the Live TV Channel PMN 5: <https://publicmedianet.org/pmn-five/>.

The Board of Trustees, Superintendent, and senior staff will have an informational dinner meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Superintendent's office area and will also discuss any matters that may come before the Board.

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Carol McGlinn, Secretary
Board of Education

- ❖ Please contact the Superintendent's Office in advance of the meeting if auxiliary aids or services for individuals with disabilities are needed.
- ❖ Official minutes of Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education open meetings are available for inspection within eight working days of the meeting at the Superintendent's Office, 1220 Howard Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49008.

**POLICY
of the
BOARD OF EDUCATION
KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

1.2 Public Participation During a Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Policy

While balancing legitimate privacy interests of students and staff, the Board of Trustees welcomes community input at public meetings of the Board of Trustees.

Specifics

1. Persons requesting to address the board will be asked to complete a sign-in sheet by the end of the public comment period. The portion of that sign-in sheet requiring completion will include: name, school district in which the person resides, and connection to/interest in the Kalamazoo Public Schools. The optional portion will be held private and will include: mailing address, email address, phone number, topic about which they will be speaking and, if authorized and applicable, the organization they represent.
2. The presiding board officer will invite persons to come to the podium in the order in which the sign-in sheets were completed.
3. If after 30 minutes everyone who has completed a sign-in sheet has not had the opportunity to address the board, the public comment period will be tabled and resume before adjournment.
4. Speakers have three minutes each and must stop speaking promptly when signaled.
5. Speakers may not address confidential student or personnel matters, but may submit such concerns to the board in writing.
6. Speakers are encouraged to provide the board with a written copy of their comments and other appropriate supporting documentation, which will be copied and distributed as needed to appropriate staff/personnel.
7. The public is required to exercise common courtesy during the meeting and must follow rule of order. The presiding board officer may terminate public comments that are profane, vulgar, or defamatory, especially if these comments result in a disturbance or breach of peace. Personal attacks against an employee or board member that are totally unrelated to his or her duties are prohibited. If a person engages in disruptive conduct or is out of order, the board presiding officer will strike his or her gavel and warn the person to discontinue their behavior. Further disruptions will result in the person being asked to leave. Refusal to leave will result in being escorted out of the building. (MCL 380.1808)

Adopted: February 13, 2003

Revised: December 17, 2009

Revised: June 25, 2013

Adopted: December 19, 2019

Revised: November 21, 2024

Revised: March 19, 2026

This policy supersedes all other policies on this issue.

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Meeting
1220 Howard St. Kalamazoo, MI 49008
October 8, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.
A G E N D A

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Acceptance of Agenda**
- IV. Attendance**
- V. Board Recognitions**
- VI. Correspondence**
- VII. Consent Calendar Items**
 - A. Minutes**
 - September 10, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - October 5, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes
 - B. Personnel Items**
 - Personnel Changes
- VIII. Reports and Recommendations**
 - A. Superintendent's Report**
 - B. Approval of the 2026-2027 contractual agreement with the Kalamazoo Support Professionals bargaining unit**
- IX. Persons Requesting to Address the Board (3-minute individual limit)**
- X. Other Business**
- XI. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent**
- XII. Closed Session**
- XIII. Next Regular Board of Education Meeting: Thursday, October 22, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.**

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Meeting
1220 Howard Street
September 10, 2026 - Regular Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

President TiAnna Harrison called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Acceptance of Agenda

President Harrison called for a motion to accept the agenda.

MOTION: Trustee Patti Sholler-Barber, supported by Vice President Jennie Hill and Treasurer Karla Murphy, moved to accept the agenda.

Disposition: Voice vote; all in favor. The motion was carried unanimously by trustees present.

IV. Attendance

Board members present: TiAnna Harrison, Jennie Hill, Takisha Johnson, Karla Murphy, Yvonne Payton, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Carol McGlinn. Superintendent Dr. Darrin Slade was also present.

V. Correspondence

Secretary McGlinn reported the correspondence received from August 19 through September 8, 2026.

- Email received on August 25, 2026 from Nate and Christie Grubaugh regarding middle school orientation. Secretary McGlinn replied on August 27, 2026.
- Email received on August 28, 2026 from Toby Ward regarding a Title IX complaint. Secretary McGlinn replied on September 9, 2026.
- Email received on August 30, 2026 from Donisha Scott regarding questions about a student returning to school. Dr. Darrin Slade and Secretary McGlinn replied on August 30 and August 31, 2026.
- Email received on September 2, 2026 from Reyonna Hicks regarding a campus safety interaction and district administrative review. Dr. Darrin Slade and Secretary McGlinn replied on September 2 and September 9, 2026.
- Email received on September 8, 2026 from Johnny Horvath regarding a student exclusion. Secretary McGlinn replied on September 9, 2026.
- Email received on September 8, 2026 from Maria and Jeremiah Newhouse regarding the high school transfer policy. Secretary McGlinn replied on September 9, 2026.

VI. Consent Calendar

President Harrison presented the Consent Calendar items: VI.A. August 20, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes; VI.B. Purchase Recommendations 2027-13, 2027-14, 2027-15, 2027-16, and 2027-17; Consumers Energy Easement for Northglade Montessori Magnet School; approval of the 403(b) Retirement Plan restatement; and VI.C. Personnel Changes.

Motion: Trustee Johnson, supported by Treasurer Murphy and Trustee Sholler-Barber, moved to accept the Consent Calendar.

Disposition: Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried unanimously by trustees present.

Discussion from the board:

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Noted that several purchase recommendations were funded through bonds previously approved by the community.
- Specifically recognized the condenser coils for Washington Writers Academy as a necessary purchase and noted that without bond funding, these expenses would have to come from the General Fund.
- Thanked the community for supporting the district bonds.
- Asked for clarification regarding the 403(b) Retirement Plan restatement and why employees would participate in a 403(b) plan. Chief Financial Officer Laura Kayser explained that employees may defer income on a tax-deferred basis and invest funds for retirement.

Carol McGlinn

- Noted that a portion of the Chenery Auditorium purchases would be KPS-funded, while a larger portion was supported through community donations.
- Asked for an update on the Chenery Auditorium project. Chief of Marketing and Communications Susan Coney noted that the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation provided a significant donation toward replacement of LED lighting in Chenery Auditorium and surrounding areas. Auditorium Manager Neil Jansen provided an update on the lighting upgrades, including new LED lighting, dimming capabilities, color-changing capabilities, and replacement of older equipment. He noted that existing auditorium equipment dated to the 1980s and that the updated equipment would meet current student safety standards.
- Asked whether the Consumers Energy easement was typical and whether other district buildings have similar easements. Laura Kayser explained that several district buildings have easements and that the Northglade easement is an expansion of an existing easement to allow Consumers Energy to perform necessary work on electric lines.
- Thanked the community for supporting the bond.

Yvonne Payton

- Thanked Dr. Angela Thomas and staff for purchasing the Goblin's Math Intervention Program.
- Asked how the virtual program works. Dr. Thomas explained that Goblin's Math is a computer-adaptive intervention program for middle school through high school, including AP Calculus. Students complete a placement assessment, after which the

program provides individualized support. The program is computer-based rather than led by a live instructor and provides feedback and problem-solving support.

Karla Murphy

- Asked about the dates referenced in the 403(b) Retirement Plan restatement, noting that the plan changes referenced 2022 while the restatement was being considered in 2026. Laura Kayser explained that the restatement related to the second cycle of the IRS cumulative list of changes and that districts have a period to adopt the changes, with a deadline at the end of the year.

VII. Reports and Recommendations

A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Darrin Slade thanked students, families, teachers, support staff, bus drivers, principals, and district staff for a successful opening to the school year.

Dr. Slade reported on 2025-26 M-STEP reading data released by the State of Michigan. He emphasized the district's commitment to transparency and sharing raw state data with the Board and community. Dr. Slade reported that every tested elementary grade improved in reading. Of the district's 17 elementary schools, 15 improved in reading, compared with 7 of 17 schools in 2022-23. Third-grade reading proficiency was reported at 34.9 percent. Dr. Slade noted the district's strategic plan goal of meeting or exceeding the state average by 2030.

Schools recognized for improving reading proficiency by five percent or more included Arcadia Elementary, Greenwood Elementary, King-Westwood Elementary, Milwood Elementary, Northglade Montessori Magnet School, Parkwood-UpJohn Elementary, Spring Valley Center, and Woodward Elementary.

Dr. Slade discussed the district's continued focus on the science of reading, Saturday School, mandatory summer school, high-quality instruction, and student outcomes. He also encouraged participation in district feedback and information sessions and emphasized the importance of receiving accurate information through the appropriate problem-solving chain of command.

VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board (3-minute individual limit)

Public comments/audience participation. No actions taken.

IX. Other Business

A. Professional Development Request for TiAnna Harrison

X. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent

Jennie Hill

- Welcomed students, families, and staff back to school.
- Expressed appreciation for the students returning and for parent support.

- Shared that she attended numerous back-to-school celebrations and served as a greeter at several schools.
- Attended events at Milwood Elementary, Winchell Elementary, Northglade Elementary, Edison Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, Indian Prairie Elementary, Arcadia Elementary, Parkwood-Upjohn, and Phoenix.
- Shared positive observations about students being excited to see their teachers and friends.

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Shared that the back-to-school events were wonderful and expressed appreciation for the staff and community partners involved.
- Attended several back-to-school events and secondary open houses.
- Welcomed students at Loy Norrix High School.
- Recognized the First Day Shoe Fund.
- Encouraged the community to support students' extracurricular activities, including athletics and performing arts.
- Encouraged families to use the KPS mobile app.

Takisha Johnson

- Welcomed students at Kalamazoo Central High School.
- Shared appreciation for the opportunity to greet students.
- Encouraged the community to remain respectful and to seek accurate information when assistance is needed.
- Encouraged individuals to ask questions, investigate information, and seek the truth from appropriate sources.

Yvonne Payton

- Shared information about approximately 120 early middle college students beginning their programs at Kalamazoo Valley Community College while working toward high school diplomas and associate degrees or certificates.
- Highlighted summer internships, mentorships, and other learning experiences available to students.
- Shared information regarding Education for the Arts opportunities.
- Encouraged community members to volunteer for My Career Quest Southwest 2026, scheduled for October 21 and 22 for eighth-grade students.

Karla Murphy

- Shared that she was glad the first day of school went well.
- Expressed excitement about improvements in district literacy rates.
- Shared concerns regarding the defunding of the Imagination Library.
- Shared positive comments regarding the KPS mobile app.

Carol McGlinn

- Emphasized the importance of literacy throughout the district.
- Expressed excitement regarding improvements in literacy.
- Welcomed students back to school.
- Shared that she greeted students at Maple Street Magnet School and Winchell Elementary on the first day of school.

TiAnna Harrison

- Reminded families that the elementary school open house would be held on September 17.
- Shared that she accompanied Dr. Slade during visits to 23 of the district's 26 schools during the first week of school.
- Expressed excitement about the district's improving data.
- Thanked Dr. Angela Thomas for her hard work and investment in students.
- Shared that she looked forward to the school year.

Dr. Darrin Slade

- Thanked the community for a successful first week of school.
- Encouraged community members to participate in district feedback and information sessions.
- Emphasized the importance of following the problem-solving chain of command.
- Shared that district consistency provides opportunities for community members to provide feedback.
- Emphasized the importance of safety at athletic events.

XI. Closed Session
Not needed.

XII. Next Board of Education Meeting

The next Regular Board of Education meeting is Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: Trustee Takisha Johnson, supported by Trustee Patti Sholler-Barber, moved to adjourn the meeting.

Disposition: Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried unanimously by trustees present.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeGraaf, Recording Secretary,
on behalf of Carol McGlinn,
Secretary, Board of Education

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Meeting
1220 Howard Street
October 5, 2026 - Special Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

President TiAnna Harrison called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Acceptance of Agenda

President Harrison called for a motion to accept the agenda.

MOTION: Trustee Patti Sholler-Barber, supported by Vice President Jennie Hill, moved to accept the agenda.

Disposition: Voice vote; all in favor. The motion was carried unanimously by trustees present.

IV. Attendance

Board members present: TiAnna Harrison, Jennie Hill, Takisha Johnson, Yvonne Payton, Patti Sholler-Barber, Carol McGlinn, and Karla Murphy (arrived at 5:35 p.m.). Superintendent Dr. Darrin Slade was also present.

V. Reports and Recommendations

A. Resolution Regarding 2025-2026 Section 31aa Grant Money

President Harrison read the resolution regarding the 2025–2026 Section 31aa grant money.

MOTION: Trustee Payton, supported by Secretary McGlinn, moved to approve the resolution regarding the 2025-2026 Section 31aa grant money.

Disposition: Voice vote; all in favor by trustees present.

B. Resolution Regarding 2026-2027 Section 31aa Grant Money and Privilege Waiver

President Harrison read the resolution regarding the 2026-2027 Section 31aa Grant Money and Privilege Waiver.

MOTION: Trustee Sholler-Barber, supported by Vice President Hill, moved to approve the resolution regarding the 2026-2027 Section 31aa grant money and Privilege Waiver.

Disposition: Voice vote; all in favor by trustees present.

VI. Persons Requesting to Address the Board (3-minute individual limit)

None.

VII. Other Business

None.

VIII. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent

None.

IX. Closed Session

Not needed.

X. Next Board of Education Meeting

The next Regular Board of Education meeting is Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: Trustee Payton, supported by Secretary McGlinn, moved to adjourn the meeting.

Disposition: Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried unanimously by trustees present.

The meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeGraaf, Recording Secretary,
on behalf of Carol McGlinn,
Secretary, Board of Education

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOL
Office of the Superintendent

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Darrin Slade, Superintendent

DATE: October 08, 2026

SUBJECT: Personnel Changes

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the board approve the following employment changes:

- I. Employment
 - A. Professional/Management

Adriana R. Karanec-Lewis, Grade 1 Teacher, Northeastern Elementary School, 10/05/2026
 - B. Classified

Dana C. Cramer, Lead School Secretary, Phoenix High School, 09/21/2026
Amaya K. Cruz, Special Education ASD Self-Contained Paraprofessional, Northeastern Elementary School, 10/05/2026
Angely N. Delgado-Ibarra, Multilingual Paraprofessional, Loy Norrix High School, 09/08/2026
Derek L. Minnema, Student Behavior Interventionist, Linden Grove Middle School, 10/19/2026
Tanasha L. Reynolds, Special Education Resource Room Paraprofessional, Washington Writers' Academy, 10/05/2026
Blake A. Siewertsen, Special Education 1:1 Self-Contained Paraprofessional, Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, 10/05/2026
Amanda J. Todd, Assistant School Secretary - Guidance, Hillside Middle School, 10/05/2026
- II. Promotions/Key Transfers
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified

Gracie M. Coston, transfer from Assistant School Secretary - Guidance to School Library Assistant, Hillside Middle School, 10/05/2026
Monica Torres, transfer from Special Education ASD Self-Contained Paraprofessional, Northeastern Elementary School, to Special Education Resource Room Paraprofessional, Lincoln International Studies School, 10/05/2026
- III. Leaves of Absence
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
- IV. Terminations
 - A. Professional/Management

Erin T. Felix, Grade 2 Teacher, Edison Academy, Resignation, 09/29/2026

- B. Classified
 - Pledo R. Dyson**, Campus Safety Officer, Kalamazoo Central High School, Retirement, 09/30/2026
 - Enas Malhan**, Multilingual Paraprofessional, Prairie Ridge Elementary School (.6 FTE) and Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts (.4 FTE), Resignation, 10/02/2026
 - Bethany M. Ogden**, Assistant School Secretary - Attendance and Behavior Office, Linden Grove Middle School, Resignation, 09/25/2026
 - Emily E. Rose**, Special Education Resource Room Paraprofessional, Loy Norrix High School, Resignation, 09/25/2026
 - Catherine L. West**, Home School Support Specialist (0.5 FTE), Arcadia Elementary School, Resignation, 09/18/2026
- V. Termination from Leave of Absence
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
- VI. Return from Leave of Absence
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
- VII. Lay-offs
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Darrin Slade, Superintendent

DATE: October 8, 2026

SUBJECT: Approval of the 2026-2027 contractual agreement with the Kalamazoo Support Professionals bargaining unit

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve a 2026-2027 contractual agreement with the Kalamazoo Support Professionals bargaining unit.

RATIONALE: This bargaining unit includes bus drivers, campus safety officers, office professionals, paraprofessionals, and Montessori teaching assistants. These employee groups provide essential services that are critical to meeting the needs of district students. They perform key functions, including transporting students safely to and from school, maintaining a secure and supportive environment, operating efficient and effective offices, and supporting the delivery of high-quality educational experiences.

The bargaining unit has ratified this agreement. It is within the financial parameters approved by the Board in the 2026-2027 preliminary budget.