

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Office of the Superintendent  
1220 Howard Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
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October 20, 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 22, 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 22, 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**
    - October 8, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
    - October 19, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes
  - B. Personnel Items**
    - Personnel Changes
- VIII. Reports and Recommendations**
  - A. Superintendent's Report**
  - B. Administrative Appointment - Assistant Principal of King-Westwood Elementary School**
- IX. Persons Requesting to Address the Board (3-minute individual limit)**
- X. Other Business**
- XI. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent**
- XII. Closed Session (if needed)**
- XIII. Next Regular Board of Education Meeting: Thursday, November 5, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.**

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Board of Education Meeting  
1220 Howard Street  
**October 8, 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 Trustee Takisha Johnson, 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, Karla Murphy, Jennie Hill, Yvonne Payton, Takisha Johnson, and Patti Sholler-Barber. Board members absent: Carol McGlinn. Superintendent Dr. Darrin Slade was also present.

**V. Board Recognitions**

Northeastern Elementary School Principal Sylvia Washington recognized Tarquay Pratt, Xavier Green, Bailee Bell, Jude Watkins, and Tobias Behymer.

Milwood Magnet School Cross Country Coach Dawn Kahler recognized Serenity Bronson, Alorna Goode, Petra Mesch-Carinci, Ellarose Pettit, Corabelle Rothney, Elspeth Ryan, Lana Sheeran, Arabesque Walsh, Abigail Westervelt, Hannah Westervelt, Drew Austin, Connor Cameron, Aidan Carter, Crane Conkling, Miles Dedloff-Rooy, Sawyer Dedloff-Rooy, Nino Del Barrio, Hunter Harrington, Kaelem Helms, Henry Jones, Lachlan Kleinbergs, Benjamin Lovely, Abel Mervak, Maxwell Newman, Archer Rambow, Joseph Richards, Oliver Richardson, Wilton Sheehan, Nathan Travis, Ian van der Westhuizen, Philip van der Westhuizen, Alex Wissner, Maxwell Wissner, and Henry Yeckley.

**VI. Correspondence**

Vice President Hill reported the correspondence for the period of September 9 - October 6, 2026.

- Email received on September 17, 2026 from Dr. A. Michelle Wright and Dr. Matthew M. Ross regarding concerns in their student's classroom. Dr. Slade and Secretary McGlinn replied on September 18 and October 5, 2026.
- Email received on September 20, 2026 from Kaiden Duncan requesting staggered Board meetings for second-shift parents. Secretary McGlinn replied on October 5, 2026.

- Email received on September 23, 2026 from Alex Demetralis following up on El Sol Committee formation. Dr. Slade and Secretary McGlinn replied on September 24 and October 5, 2026.
- Email received on September 30, 2026 from Shona Espinoza regarding the ESP Bill of Rights. Secretary McGlinn replied on October 5, 2026.
- Email received on October 5, 2026 from Katie Houston requesting an interview with President Harrison. President Harrison and Dr. Slade replied on October 5, 2026.
- Emails received on September 17 and October 5, 2026 from Susan O'Connor following up on library staffing in the district. Dr. Slade and Secretary McGlinn replied on September 23 and October 5, 2026.

## **VII. Consent Calendar**

President Harrison presented the Consent Calendar items: September 10, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes; October 5, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes; and personnel changes.

**MOTION:** Trustee Johnson, supported by Trustee Sholler-Barber, moved to accept the Consent Calendar.

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

## **VIII. Reports and Recommendations**

### **A. Superintendent's Update**

Dr. Slade recognized Principal Appreciation Month and thanked the district's principals for their dedication and hard work. He also thanked Director of Facilities Karen Jackson and Chief Financial Officer Laura Kayser for their work on planning for the 2027 bond, noting the importance of community support for bonds and the work underway to replace the air conditioning at Northglade Montessori Magnet School. He recognized the successful homecoming events at Kalamazoo Central and Loy Norrix High Schools, thanking staff, campus safety personnel, students, and others involved in organizing the events.

Dr. Slade reported that district attendance improved for the third consecutive year and that the district continued to outpace the state in attendance improvement. The state chronic absenteeism rate decreased 0.7 percentage points to 27.2 percent, while the district rate decreased to 37.9 percent. The district rate declined from 50.2 percent in 2023 to 37.9 percent in 2026. He thanked teachers, support staff, students, families, and community partners for their work to improve attendance.

Dr. Slade reviewed the district's strategic plan goal of reaching or exceeding the state average in attendance by the 2030 school year. The district will continue to encourage attendance through positive incentives, awards, assemblies, certificates, and field trips, while also enforcing its attendance policy through phone calls, letters, emails, parent conferences, and home visits. He described plans to meet in person with families of students with 10 or more unexcused absences, with exceptions for extreme medical

emergencies or other serious circumstances. Certified letters and investigations may be used when needed. He also emphasized that the district will address repeated tardiness and early dismissals because they interrupt student learning.

Dr. Slade provided an update on the El Sol Planning Committee and discussed Count Day, October 7, 2026, explaining that student counts help determine state funding. Preliminary enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year was 12,076, compared with a projection of 12,235. He also discussed plans for district-sponsored Saturday detention for grades 6–12, anticipated to begin in November, with the specific hours still being considered. Principals and administrators will determine when detention is assigned. He noted that the district would continue attendance-related home visits and announced an Attendance/Discipline Informational Session for parents, guardians, and students on October 29 at 6:00 p.m. in the Loy Norrix High School auditorium.

**B. Approval of the 2026-2027 Contractual Agreement with the Kalamazoo Support Professionals Bargaining Unit**

Chief Financial Officer Laura Kayser presented the proposed 2026-2027 contractual agreement with the Kalamazoo Support Professionals bargaining unit.

**MOTION:** Trustee Sholler-Barber moved to approve the agreement, supported by Treasurer Murphy and Trustee Johnson.

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

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

Public comments/audience participation. No actions taken.

**X. Other Business**

None.

**XI. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent**

**Patti Sholler-Barber**

- Congratulated former Western Michigan University President Dunn on a \$65,000 donation to the university, noting that many Kalamazoo Promise students attend Western Michigan University.
- Shared that Community Homeworks held an event and described its support for families through home repairs and essential household services. She also attended the Loy Norrix Hall of Fame induction, the El Concilio Gala, and a Big Brothers Big Sisters event, recognizing these organizations as community partners.
- Reported that Communities In Schools (CIS) held its first meeting as a retreat, where goals for the year were established.
- Provided an athletic update for Kalamazoo Central High School, noting that the swimming and diving team remained undefeated in conference meets and that more than 70 percent of the athletes had GPAs of 3.0 or higher.

**Yvonne Payton**

- Shared information about the Kalamazoo Promise's planned expansion to historically Black colleges and universities beginning in 2027 and asked whether the district would again purchase the Common App tool that allows students to apply to more than 50 such colleges.

**Karla Murphy**

- Participated in several First Day Shoe Fund events.
- Attended a work conference in Grand Rapids and shared ideas related to security and artificial intelligence that could benefit KPS.
- Attended the National School Boards Association conference in Chicago, including sessions on school-district artificial intelligence policy and an example of how a large school district implemented AI over several years.

**Jennie Hill**

- Attended a Loy Norrix football game, the El Concilio and NAACP galas, the Pretty Lake former campers event, and a Big Brothers Big Sisters event.

**TiAnna Harrison**

- Recognized the Northeastern students who were honored and commended students for avoiding a summer learning loss.
- Celebrated the high school homecomings and noted the upcoming Loy Norrix versus Kalamazoo Central football game on October 23.
- Encouraged community members to attend the October 29 attendance and discipline informational session at Loy Norrix, thanked teachers, support staff, students, and community partners for a strong start to the school year, and expressed appreciation for professional development opportunities at the CUBE Conference and MASB annual conference.
- Recognized the Clarkston School District for allowing her to advocate recently.
- Thanked participants in the Parent Advisory Council (PAC), Teacher Advisory Council (TAC), and Student Advisory Council (SAC).

**Dr. Slade**

- Recognized the district's principals and thanked the Kalamazoo Promise and its donors for supporting students and district activities.
- Emphasized the importance of helping students not only attend college but also complete college, noting that college-completion data had remained flat for approximately 20 years. He commended teachers, support staff, and principals for their work.
- Shared that the district was closer than ever to the state average in relation to its strategic plan goals, while emphasizing that the district must continue to set high expectations. He also stated that he intended to increase his participation in attendance "knock and talk" visits.

**XII. Closed Session**

President Harrison called for a motion to enter closed session pursuant to Section 8(c) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(1)(c), for a strategy and negotiation session connected with the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements with the District's bargaining representative, as requested by a negotiating party.

**MOTION:** President Harrison moved to enter closed session, supported by Treasurer Murphy.

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

The Board entered closed session at 8:04 p.m. President Harrison stated the Board may or may not return to the floor.

**XIII. Next Board of Education Meeting**

The next Regular Board of Education meeting is Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. The Board did not return to the floor from closed session. President Harrison adjourned the meeting at 9:21 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 19, 2026 – Board Advance Minutes**

President TiAnna Harrison called the special meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on October 19, 2026, at the West Main Professional Development Center, 1627 W. Main St., Kalamazoo, MI 49006. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a Board workshop to review Kindergarten through Second Grade reading priorities, discuss school security, and receive updates on district negotiations. The Board also received an overview of PEEP from Coordinator for Early Childhood Education Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson-Spaner, information on the district's hiring process from Director of Human Resources Mr. Steve Leland, and discussed district priorities, LETRS training, and processes for onboarding new board members.

Board members present: TiAnna Harrison, Carol McGlinn, Jennie Hill, Karla Murphy, Yvonne Payton, and Patti Sholler-Barber. Virtually present: Takisha Johnson. Superintendent Dr. Darrin Slade, Dr. Micole Dyson, Elizabeth Jackson-Spaner, Steve Leland, Nicole DeGraaf, and Susan Coney were also present.

President TiAnna Harrison adjourned the meeting at 8:10 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 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Personnel Changes

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

- I. Employment
  - A. Professional/Management  
**Dawn A. Smith**, Grade 4 Teacher, Washington Writers' Academy, 10/12/2026
  - B. Classified
- II. Promotions/Key Transfers
  - A. Professional/Management
  - B. Classified  
**Maria G. Flores**, transfer from Assistant School Secretary - Child Accounting (0.7 FTE), El Sol Elementary School, to Assistant School Secretary - Student Services Office, Linden Grove Middle School, 10/19/2026
- III. Leaves of Absence
  - A. Professional/Management
  - B. Classified
- IV. Terminations
  - A. Professional/Management
  - B. Classified  
**Rahel K. Afewerky**, Multilingual Paraprofessional, Linden Grove Middle School, Resignation, 10/06/2026  
**Amaya K. Cruz**, Special Education ASD Self-Contained Paraprofessional, Northeastern Elementary School, Resignation, 10/07/2026  
**Rebecca B. Nevala**, School Library Assistant (0.5 FTE), Lincoln International Studies School, Resignation, 10/23/2026  
**Karli D. Johansen**, Special Education ASD Self-Contained Paraprofessional, Indian Prairie Elementary School, Resignation, 10/16/2026  
**Cameron T. McCulloch**, Special Education ASD Self-Contained Paraprofessional, Milwood Elementary School, Resignation, 10/21/2026  
**Timothy S. Smith**, Stockroom Foreman, Facilities Management, Retirement, 12/31/2026  
**Ronda M. Thompson**, Custodian, Facilities Management, Retirement, 01/15/2027
- 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