BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING PACKET

October 5, 2026

7:00pm

Bates Boardroom

DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Our Vision:

Champion Learning –

Develop, Educate, and Inspire!

DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 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 (9/14/2026)

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS
1. McHugh MHSCA Induction
2. DEEC presentation
3. 2026 MSTEP Data Presentation

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

F. ADMINISTRATIVE & BOARD UPDATES
1. Superintendent
2. Board President
3. Student Representatives

G. CONSENT ITEMS
1. August Budget Report
2. Personnel – New Hire

H. ACTION ITEMS
1. Rescind Policy 5507.1
2. Policies – First and Final Approval
3. MiLAF Board Resolution

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS
1. MASB Delegate Assembly Resolutions

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

K. BOARD COMMENTS

L. INFORMATION ITEMS
1. Facilities Minutes
2. Policy Minutes

M. CLOSED SESSION – none planned

N. ADJOURNMENT

CALENDAR

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
OCTOBER 5, 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 September 14th, 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. Michael McHugh MHSCA Induction
   The Michigan High School Coaches Association (MHSCA) has selected DHS Swim Coach Michael McHugh for induction into the Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony took place September 27, 2026.
2. DEEC Presentation
3. M-STEP Data Presentation

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
2. Board President
3. Student Representatives

G. CONSENT ITEMS

Consent items are typically approved in bulk.

* An appropriate motion might be, "*I move that the Board of Education approve the consent items in bulk.*"

1. Personnel – New Hire
   This evening's packet includes a resume and recommendation for hire for John McKaig.
2. August Budget Report – this was pending at publication but is expected to be ready.

H. ACTION ITEMS

1. Rescind Policy 5507.1

On March 23, 2026, the Board approved policy 5207 Anti-Bullying after two public hearings. This replaced the former policy 5507.1, but due to an oversight, policy 5507.1 was not rescinded at that time.

* An appropriate motion might be, "I move that the Board of Education rescind policy 5507.1, effective March 23, 2026."

2. Policy Updates

On September 18, the policy committee reviewed Thrun policy updates that were released at the end of June. A large portion of the updates were strictly clerical and can be approved in bulk. The policy numbers, names, and edits are listed in the attached memo.

* An appropriate motion might be, "I move that the Board of Education approve the policies listed in the attached memorandum for first and final approval."

3. Michigan Liquid Asset Fund Plus (MiLAF)

The Michigan Liquid Asset Fund Plus (MILAF+ or the Trust) is a cash management program created in 1987 by the Michigan Association of School Boards. The Trust was established for the purpose of allowing Michigan public agencies to pool their investment funds to seek the highest possible investment yield, while maintaining liquidity and preserving capital. Recently hired CFO Jill Minnick is currently serving as MiLAF Board chairperson. MiLAF bylaws require board members to have approval from their district school board to serve.

* An appropriate motion might be, "I move that the Board of Education authorize Jill Minnick to continue serving as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Michigan Liquid Asset Fund Plus."

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. MASB Delegate Resolutions

The 2026 MASB Delegate Assembly will take place October 15th, 2026, in Lansing. The Board previously certified Dexter's three delegates with one alternate at the September 14, 2026 meeting. The Delegate Assembly handbook was distributed to trustees in September.

The MASB Assembly Committee has decided to separate general resolutions and advocacy resolutions. The Assembly Handbook includes a large list of general resolutions for deletion because they will be moved to a new document, "MASB Beliefs and Best Practices." Those are not being amended. Board President Elise Bruderly has asked trustees to review the five amended and four new advocacy resolutions, which will be the focus of discussion at the delegate assembly, and to review continuing resolutions

(passed in previous years and agreed upon by the DCS Board at the time they were passed), which will be voted on as a consent item.

The purpose of this discussion is to provide voting guidance for Dexter's delegates.

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. Facility Committee Minutes 8/19/2026; 9/14/2026
2. Policy Committee Minutes 9/18/2026

M. **CLOSED SESSION** – none planned

N. **ADJOURNMENT**

DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00pm

Roll Call

Members Present: Elise Bruderly, Michael Cipolla, Jennifer Kangas, Amy Reiser, Melanie Szawara; Student Representatives Lloyd Brand and Kadence Chan
Members Absent: Daniel Alabré, David Pisano
Administrative & Supervisory Staff: Ryan Bruder, Bill Harris, Barb Leonard, Melanie Nowak, Hope Vestergaard
Guests: Tom McHugh, Tammy Reich, Annabel Van Noord, Jonathan Van Noord, Heidi Patel, Greg Brand, Craig McCalla

B. MEETING MINUTES

Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Board of Education approve the minutes from August 24, 2026 as presented. Michael Cipolla seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (unanimous**).

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

D. SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

1. Substitute of the Year

Tom McHugh of Edustaff, which provides DCS substitutes, presented Annabel Van Noord with the Edustaff Michigan Substitute of the Year award.

2. Filter First

Principal for Operations Bill Harris shared information about Michigan's Filter First Initiative (the 2023 Clean Drinking Water Access Act), which provides funding for K-12 schools to place filters at drinking water sources to keep kids safe. Dexter has installed filters at all drinking water sources (fountains and water bottle fillers). We've labeled all fountains and bottle filling stations as drinkable water and labeled bathroom taps and other sources as handwashing only. The funding does not currently cover the cost of installing filters on kitchen water sources. The District is gathering information about possible costs to do that work; kitchen water sources are more complicated because they may involve associated plumbing work.

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

F. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD UPDATES

1. Superintendent

Superintendent Ryan Bruder shared information about the Standard Response Protocol (SRP), which is MDE–mandated common language to be used in safety/emergency scenarios. The District will continue to conduct safety drills and will add/use the mandated language anywhere it isn't already in use.

Recommended safety actions haven't changed; the terms to describe them have been made universal.

Bruder also shared that the first week of school has been great, especially considering the lead-up with storms and power outages the previous week; seventh grade camp started [Sept. 14]; new scoreboards are going up at the soccer and baseball fields at Dexter High School; the implementation of new cell phone rules seems to be going smoothly and one staff member commented how nice it is to see DHS students talking to each other at lunch; it's important for families to complete the Education and Nutrition Benefits Application, even if they don't think they will qualify, because it is tied to district-level student resources in addition to meals, fee scholarships and more.

2. Board President

Board President Elise Bruderly, responding to a 7th grader's disappointment that without their phone at camp, they would lose their Duolingo streak, shared that parents can put a streak freeze on the accounts; she also noted that this is the smoothest start to the school year that she has seen as a board member and praised everyone's efforts.

3. Student Representatives

Kadence Chan said that freshman orientation went well and included some new elements to help students with things like study strategies; she noted that the cell phone policy seems to be going well with a few confiscations the first week. She said student responses have been mixed, but there are positive comments including increased focus, the opportunity to get started on homework when there are breaks instead of scrolling on their phones, and the fact that phones seem to have less pull when students are outside of school. She also shared athletic events for the week.

Lloyd Brand Shared that football has a 2-1 record; the Drama Club has started auditions for their fall production [Peter and the Starcatcher]; the theme for Homecoming is Board Games; the phone policy seems to be going as well as it can, with issues such as sheet music on iPads being worked through; the Senior parking spots are almost done; student parking seems to be going well in spite of construction; Wednesday [Sept. 16] will be clubs day at DHS.

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).**

The Board of Education accepted John Sperendi's resignation.

H. ACTION ITEMS

1. Series 1, Bid Package 8 – Dexter High School Center for the Performing Arts
   Michael Cipolla made a motion 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 $431,969, and assign them to Granger for management. Melanie Szawara seconded the motion. **Role Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous).**

2. Certify MASB Candidates
   Melanie Szawara made a motion that Elise Bruderly and David Pisano be certified to represent the Dexter Community School District's Board of Education at the 2026 MASB Delegate Assembly. Jennifer Kangas seconded the motion. It was noted that Daniel Alabre' may be interested in attending the conference, and since the District is allowed three delegates and one alternate, there would be no harm in certifying him, as well. Melanie Szawara amended her motion to certify Elise Bruderly, David Pisano, and Daniel Alabré as MASB Assembly delegates. Michael Cipolla seconded the amended motion. **Role Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous).**

3. Fund Balance Designations
   Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Board of Education approve the 2025-2026 Fund Balance Designations for the General Fund as included in the attached recommendation from the Finance Committee. Jennifer Kangas seconded the motion. **Role Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous).**

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS – none

J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – none

K. BOARD COMMENTS

1. WASB Representative Michael Cipolla reminded the Board that there is a Legislative Breakfast scheduled for September 28th.

L. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Finance Committee Minutes 9/8/2026

M. CLOSED SESSION

At approximately 7:45pm, Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Board of Education move into closed session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter, [as requested by the employee] per MCL15.268(a), following a five-minute break. Michael Cipolla seconded the motion. **Role Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous).**

At approximately 7:58 pm, the Board returned to open session.

Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to sign the attached separation agreement dated September 14, 2026. Michael Cipolla seconded the motion. **Role Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous).**

Jennifer Kangas made a motion that the Board of Education certify Amy Reiser as an MASB Assembly delegate alternate. Michael Cipolla seconded the motion. **Role Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous).**

At approximately 8:01pm, Melanie Szawara made a motion that the Board of Education move into closed session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's Quarterly Evaluation. Jennifer Kangas seconded the motion. **Role Call Vote. Motion Carried (unanimous).**

At approximately 8:45pm, the Board returned to open session.

N. ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 8:46pm, President Elise Bruderly adjourned the meeting.

MINUTES/hlv

_____
Michael Cipolla
Secretary, Board of Education

MILL CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL
Brett Pedersen, Principal | Katie Heikkila, Assistant Principal
7305 Dexter Ann Arbor Road, Dexter, Michigan 48130
(734) 424-4150 fax (734) 424-4159
pedersenb@dexterschools.org | heikkilak@dexterschools.org

To: Dexter Board of Education
From: Brett Pedersen and Katie Heikkila
Subject: Mill Creek Teacher Recommendation
Date: September 24, 2026

As a result of our most recent interview process we would like to recommend John McKaig for our Social Studies position. John exhibited a team oriented attitude and dedication to supporting students in their learning throughout the interview process. It was evident he enjoys working with kids and has a passion for supporting students.

John has a background that we believe will bring a lot to our students, staff, and community. We are pleased to recommend him for our position.

Interview committee: Steve Wincent, Laura Saulles, Lauren Straub, Kasey Straub, Cheryl Darnton, Debbie Gallaher, Katie Heikkila, Brett Pedersen

John McKaig

[redacted]

Relevant Experience

Premier Substitute
Mill Creek Middle School
2017-2025

- Provided classroom coverage for teachers throughout the building
- Worked with academic teams to help provide extra support to students
- Available to help cover testing accommodations, lunch room support, paraprofessionals, etc.
- Served as long term substitute multiple times in order to cover teacher absences
- Performed other duties as assigned by school administration

Long Term Substitute (English)
Mill Creek Middle School
2024

- Took over 8th grade English classroom for last 13 weeks of the school year
- Worked with academic team to support all students
- Created lessons in which students had an opportunity to write and present poems, create a podcast, and write an analysis essay
- Provided feedback to students and maintained records of grades and attendance

Long Term Substitute (PE)
Mill Creek Middle School
2020-2021

- Assigned as 7th grade PE teacher for entire 20-21 school year
- Created lesson plans and engaging activities for virtual school at the start of the year as well as students transitioning to in-person learning
- Was a mentee to a group of 7th grade students while school was virtual
- Communicated with parents, students, and staff as needed
- Participated in any school duties, meeting, or professional development relevant to the assignment
- Collaborated with 8th grade PE teacher and followed established curriculum and routines

Basketball Coach
Mill Creek Middle School
2021-Present

- Taught fundamental basketball skills, rules, and strategies to prepare students for high school
- Formulated a practice plan in order to efficiently use time
- Supervise student-athletes before and during games
- Promoted respectful and constructive communication with officials and opposing players
- Communicated regularly with parents, student-athletes, and school administration
- Ensure students meet eligibility and health requirements to participate

Education

Albion College
Albion, MI
Graduation: May 1998
Degree: BA Economics and Management

Concordia University
Ann Arbor, MI
Graduation: May 2006
Degree: Social Studies Certification

Certification

History (CC)
Social Studies (RX)

References

Available upon request

MEMORANDUM

DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Re: Thrun Policy Updates

Thrun Law publishes policy updates twice a year and as needed for urgent changes. On September 18, the policy committee reviewed the Thrun updates that were released at the end of June. A large portion of the updates were strictly clerical and can be approved in bulk. Several other policies had minor updates. Those will be presented for first reading at the October 19, 2026 meeting.

The policy committee is recommending that the Board approve the clerical updates in bulk for first and final reading at the October 5, 2026 meeting. Those policies are:

- 3115 Non-Discrimination Anti-Harassment and Non-Retaliation – corrected legal authority
- 3115A Definitions for 3115 Series – corrected legal authority
- 3115B Designation of Coordinators – corrected legal authority
- 3115C Supportive Measures – corrected legal authority
- 3115D Informal Resolution – corrected legal authority
- 3115E Grievance Procedure and Remedies – corrected legal authority
- 3407 Asbestos Management – corrected legal authority
- 4101 Non-Discrimination – Replaced LEXIS number in legal authority with reporter citation for Mothering Justice case.
- 4113 Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) – Replaced LEXIS number in legal authority with reporter citation for Mothering Justice case.
- 4209 Abortion Referrals and Assistance – corrected legal authority

It was also noted that 5517.01 (NEOLA bullying policy) was not rescinded when the Board adopted Thrun replacement policy 5207. This will be a separate motion.

Facility Committee Minutes
September 14, 2026
6:30 - 7:00PM
Bates Board Room

In attendance: Ryan Bruder (Superintendent),Bill Harris (Principal for Operations); Elise Bruderly and Mike Cipolla (BOE), Greg Brand and Craig McCalla (Granger Construction), Dick Lundy and Jerry Brand (community committee members).

START TIME: 6:31pm

1. Approval of Agenda: **Motion:** Jerry Brand **2nd:** Dick Lundy
   Vote: Unanimous Approval
2. Approval of Minutes (back) **Motion:** Jerry Brand **2nd:** Dick Lundy
   Vote: Unanimous Approval
3. Public Participation - none
4. Action:
   A. **Bid Package #8, for technology for the Theater System**
   Discussion: Greg Brand (Granger): separated from the previous bid pack (4 other categories); will make the CPA fully current: digital theater, sound, videos, monitor/sounds in lobby, capacity for streaming, etc. Under DD estimate.Recommendation of Bid Approval to DCS Board for Series 1 Technology - Motion: I recommend moving Series 1, Bid Package #8, for technology for the Theater System and Equipment to the full Board to award the contract for a total cost not to exceed $431,969.
   Motion: Jerry Brand 2nd: Dick Lundy
   Vote: **Unanimous Approval**
6. Review Upcoming Meeting Date/Time:
   A. Next meeting - October 6th @ 10:00am
   B. Next Meeting - October 13th @ 10:00am
7. Adjourn - 6:43pm

Facility Committee Minutes
August 19th, 2026
10:00 am - 11:00 am
Bates Board Room

In attendance: Ryan Bruder (Superintendent), Bill Harris (Principal for Operations); Elise Bruderly, Mike Cipolla, Dan Alabre (BOE); Greg Brand, Craig McCalla, Jeff Tuley, Collin Wells (Granger Construction); Dick Lundy, Jerry Brand (community committee members); David Larson, Mary Cay Lancaster, Matthew Feldbush, Sarah Watson, Brad Pitt (TMP)

TIME: 10:04

1. Approval of Agenda: **Motion:** Elise Bruderly **2nd:** Dan Alabre
   Vote: Unanimous-approved
2. Approval of Minutes (back) **Motion:** Elise Bruderly **2nd:** Dan Alabre
   Vote: Unanimous-approved

3. Public Participation - None

4. Discussion:
   A. Dexter Middle School Progress Update
      - TMP Presentation- 3D Renderings of the new middle school, both inside and outside of the building
      - Philosophy, security, and opportunity discussions
   B. Bond Budget Overview
      - Granger reviewed current series 1 projects and series 2 projects to come
      - Working within Board-approved budget
   C. Change order 26, B.P.4, Bulletin 3
      - Add 5lbs to building structure to account for solar load requirements
      - Pricing for bumping ship date back to account for permit delays.
      - $340,028.00
5. Action:
   A. Recommendation of Bid Approval to DCS Board for Series 1 Technology - Motion: **I recommend moving Series 1, Bid Package #8, for technology for the Field House, Wylie Addition, and DHS additions to the full Board to award contracts for Low Voltage Cabling, Audio Visual Systems, Access Controls, and Video Security for a total cost not to exceed amount of $825,610. Pending post-bid addendum pricing from contractors, I recommend moving Series 1, Bid Package #8, for the Theater System and Equipment to the full Board to award the contract for a total cost not to exceed $410,000.**
   Motion: Daniel Alabre 2nd: Mike Cipolla
   Vote: Unanimous - Approved

6. Review Upcoming Meeting Date/Time:
   C. Next meeting(s) - October 6th @ 10:00am

7. Adjourn - 11:55am

B. Recommendation of Bid Approval to DCS Board for New Scoreboards and sound systems at the DHS Varsity Baseball, Varsity Softball, and Varsity Soccer Pitch. - Motion: **I recommend moving the purchase and installation of New Scoreboards and sound systems at the DHS Varsity Baseball, Varsity Softball, and Varsity Soccer Pitch to the full Board to award contracts to Daktronics and AJ Signs & Installation for a total cost, with 15% contingency, not to exceed amount of $154,212 from the 2025 bond funds, to be managed by the Owner's Representative and Dexter Community School's Staff.**

Motion: Mike Cipolla **2nd:** Jerry Brand

Vote: Unanimous-Approved

6. Review Upcoming Meeting Date/Time:
    1. Next meeting(s)
        a. August 19th 10am - 12pm

    B. Committee Report at Next Board Meeting
7. Adjourn - 12:40pm

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2026 8:30am
Bates Boardroom

Call to Order: 8:28am
Present: Melanie Szawara (chair), David Pisano, Amy Reiser; Ryan Bruder, Barb Leonard, Hope Vestergaard

1. Approval of Minutes 6/19/2026: Motion: Pisano; Second: Szawara **Motion Carried**.
2. Approval of Agenda Motion: Pisano; Second: Szawara **Motion Carried**.
3. Public Participation – none
4. Discussion
    a. Advertising and Sponsorships were on the agenda for discussion. Melanie suggested the policy have a full board discussion to identify concerns and suggestions before the committee proceeds with policy review & recommendations. DCS is gathering information regarding DCS advertising and sponsorships as well as other local districts' practices that will help inform the board discussion. This topic is tabled pending additional info.
    b. Thrun Updates – the committee reviewed the June 2026 policy updates from Thrun. The following policies include clerical updates only (typos or corrected legal references): 3115-3115E; 3115H; 3407; 4101; 4113; 4209. These will be presented for first and final reading, to be approved in bulk, at the 10/5/2026 Board meeting.
    c. Thrun Updates – The following updated Thrun policies will be edited per committee discussion and recommended to the full board for first reading at the 10/5/2026 meeting: 2406; 3102; 3108; 3301A; 3410; 4104; 4201; 4210; 4508; 4602; 5507; 5714
        i. The following policy updates will not be recommended to the Board: 2202 (addressed in DCS finance policies 6000 section); 2501(not needed, restates law); 4216 (no meaningful changes since DCS adopted updates to 5209); 5209 (no meaningful changes since recent adoption); 5710 (update not needed); 5710A (optional and not needed);
5. Future Business
    a. Board Compensation 2306
    b. MASB Conference attendance 2305 (re: frequency)
    c. Advertising/Sponsorships, AFTER BOARD DISCUSSION
6. Next Meeting – TBD Mondays and Fridays seem to be good days.
7. **Adjournment** 9:55am