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, September 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49008.

Jennie Hill, 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.
AGENDA
Amended 9-12-19

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Attendance

IV. Announcements and Recognitions

V. Committee Reports/School Reports

VI. Correspondence

VII. Consent Calendar Items
   A. Minutes
      August 29, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
      August 29, 2019 Closed Session Minutes
   B. Business and Financial Reports
   C. Personnel Items
      Personnel Changes
   D. Other

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

IX. Reports and Recommendations
   A. Approval of Employee Association Agreement
   B. Resolution for Interactions with Law Enforcement Agencies

X. Other Business

XI. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent

XII. Closed Session (if needed)

XIII. Next Regular Board of Education Meeting: Thursday, September 26, 2019
Call to Order
President Sholler-Barber called the August 29, 2019 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Jennie Hill, Tandy Moore, and Patti Sholler-Barber. Absent: Jermaine Jackson and Jason Morris. Interim Superintendent Gary Start was also present.

Announcements and Recognitions
Mr. Start introduced Mr. Douglas Duncan, Prairie Ridge and Indian Prairie Elementary Schools’ art teacher, Region 7 Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Duncan stated that he had taught in KPS for 18 years and was honored to win the region 7 teacher of the year award. He noted that all three of his children had graduated from KPS with the Kalamazoo Promise.

School Reports/Committee Reports
Superintendent Search Committee
President Sholler-Barber stated that the superintendent search firm contract from Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) had been reviewed by KPS legal counsel, signed, and returned to MASB. She noted that there would be a tentative calendar of the search process at the September 12 board meeting.

Correspondence
Secretary Hill reviewed the correspondence received for the period of July 26 through August 29, 2019. (File #4.)

Consent Calendar
President Sholler-Barber presented the Consent Calendar items: VII.A.1. August 15, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes; VII.A.2. August 15, 2019 Closed Meeting Minutes; VII.B. Purchase Recommendations 2020-07, 2020-08, 2020-09, and 2020-10; and VII.C. Personnel Changes.

Interim Superintendent Gary Start reviewed the purchase recommendations:
- 2020-07 in the amount of $38,314.20 from the Teaching and Learning Services budget for the purchase of System 44 language arts intervention for students for whom English is a second language;
- 2020-08 in the amount of $60,613.00 from the 2018 bond for the purchase of underground utilities for the district kitchen on the Ravine Road site;
- 2020-09 in the amount of $41,091.00 from other systemwide costs for the purchase of one 2020 GMC Sierra pickup truck to replace one maintenance truck; and
• 2020-10 in the amount of $581,485.00 from the 2013 bond for the purchase of additional soil work at the Ravine Road site.

**MOTION:** Implied to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

**Disposition:** Voice vote: motion carried, 5-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

**VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board**

President Sholler-Barber shared the public participation guidelines:

- According to Board Policy 1.2, speakers should each begin their comments by stating their name, address, and connection to/interest in the Kalamazoo Public Schools and, if applicable, the organization that they represent.
- Speakers should be courteous and professional. The chairperson of this meeting may terminate public comments that are profane, vulgar, or defamatory. Speakers should refrain from identifying individuals when offering criticism.
- Speakers have three minutes each and must stop speaking promptly when signaled.
- Speakers may not address confidential student or personnel matters, but may submit such concerns to the board in writing.
- Speakers are reminded that the board will not respond to public comments, but that the administration may or may not follow up with speakers at some point regarding speaker comments.

*Tim Russ, Grand Rapids,* introduced himself as the Michigan Education Association (MEA) UniServ Director. He stated that he was in support of KPS food service staff who were asking KPS to pay all food service employees a minimum of $10 per hour.

*Chris Wahmhoff, 1407 Bryant Street, Kalamazoo,* introduced himself as a Kalamazoo community member. He expressed his concerns regarding Kalamazoo neighborhood violence and KPS’s response to the situation.

*Tricia Dinda, 3511 Lincolnshire Boulevard, Kalamazoo,* introduced herself as a KPS parent whose daughter attends Kalamazoo Central High School. She stated that consistency of food service staff was very important at the schools and hoped that KPS would provide additional funds to increase their wages.

*Mary Aldecoa,* introduced herself as a retired teacher and now works with MEA as an organizer. She stated that she was shocked to learn that many food service employees make $9.44 per hour. Ms. Aldecoa noted that KPS food service staff take care of our children and deserve a better hourly wage. She asked that the board consider the request for more funds to support the pay increase.

*Amanda Miller, Mattawan,* introduced herself as the president of Kalamazoo Education Association (KEA). She stated that she was in support of food service staff earning a living wage. Ms. Miller shared that the new scratch cooking facility was going to require more work of the staff and that they should be paid accordingly. She asked that the board to consider the food service request for increased wages.
IX. Reports and Recommendations
   A. Graduation Statistics
      Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Services Cindy Green and Director of Secondary Education Johnny Edwards presented the following report on KPS graduation statistics.
      • KPS had 454 graduates in the class of 2005;
      • KPS had 715 graduates in the class of 2019, the highest in the Promise era:
        • 322 graduates from Kalamazoo Central High School in 2019, the highest in the Promise era;
        • 297 graduates from Loy Norrix High School in 2019, the highest in the Promise era;
        • 82 graduates from Phoenix High School in 2019; and
        • 14 graduates from Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program (KILP) in 2019.

      Mr. Edwards stated that KPS had had a 57 percent increase in graduates from 2005 to 2019, and a 25 percent increase in enrollment from 2005 to 2019. He noted that KPS may not get credit for the first 25 percent increase due to enrollment; however, KPS definitely got credit for the other 32 percent, which showed that KPS was improving and its increases were not simply a function of its enrollment growth since the announcement of the Promise. Mr. Edwards shared that these improvements were a combination of many factors including curriculum documents, best practices with instruction, parent/guardian supports, and collaborative efforts within the community. He noted that KPS had had a rising number of graduates for six years in a row.

      Mr. Edwards shared that KPS tracked graduates in different ways. He noted that one way they track graduates was by a three-year rolling average shown in the chart below. Mr. Edwards explained that these statistics were important as they show KPS graduation trend lines for any given year.

      **KPS Rolling 3-Year Graduation Rates**
      **(4-Year Cohort)**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grad Rate</td>
<td>63.7%</td>
<td>65.4%</td>
<td>66.2%</td>
<td>67.7%</td>
<td>68.3%</td>
<td>69.6%</td>
<td>71.0%</td>
<td>72.4%</td>
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      Increased 7 years in a row.

      Mr. Edwards explained that some students may need an additional year to complete their high school requirements. KPS also tracks the three-year rolling average for the five-year cohort shown in the chart below.

      **KPS Rolling 3-Year Graduation Rates**
      **(5-Year Cohort)**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grad Rate</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
<td>70.5%</td>
<td>71.9%</td>
<td>73.5%</td>
<td>73.6%</td>
<td>74.7%</td>
<td>76.0%</td>
<td>78.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

      Increased 7 years in a row.
Ms. Edwards shared that in 2018 the KPS four-year graduation rate was 75.2%, a 12 percentage point increase since 2010, when President Obama came to Kalamazoo Central’s High School graduation. He noted that the Michigan Department of Education would release the 2019 high school graduation rates this winter.

Mr. Edwards thanked all KPS students, teachers, administrators, support staff, parents, community members, and community agencies that have helped make graduation possible for all KPS students.

Trustee Harrison stated that she was excited about the increase in graduates. She thanked both Cindy Green and Johnny Edwards for their presentation.

Trustee Hill stated that her children had experienced a team effort in their KPS education. She noted the importance of food service employees, bus drivers, and additional programs that help students grow in many different areas outside of academics.

President Sholler-Barber agreed with Trustee Hill. She noted that these statistics were achieved with help from community partners, mentoring programs, food service workers, paraprofessionals, caring parents, and teaching staff.

Mr. Start thanked Ms. Green and Mr. Edwards for their presentation. He stated that KPS had roughly 2,000 full-and part-time staff members who were very important in providing the environment for KPS students to graduate.

B. Youth Mobility Fund Initiative

Ms. Green stated that Metro was starting the Youth Mobility Program which provides free bus rides for all KPS high school students. She noted that this was a part of the City of Kalamazoo Foundation for Excellence Shared Prosperity to encourage youth to be engaged in the community and schools without barriers. Ms. Green shared that all rides would be free and available any time the Metro system is in service.

Ms. Green stated that access to ride the bus is printed on every high school student’s ID card. She noted that one side had the student ID and the other side had information about riding the bus as well as the OneCard access to the Kalamazoo Public Library. Ms. Green explained that this would be a great opportunity for KPS students to get to school on time, stay after school for extracurricular activities, and access the community. She noted that this opportunity for free bus rides was exclusive to KPS high school students only.

Ms. Green thanked the collaborative effort from the City of Kalamazoo Shared Prosperity, Metro, and the Kalamazoo Public Library. She also thanked Metro Planning and Development Manager Kathy Schultz, Foundation for Excellence Coordinator/Resource Specialist Steve Brown, Kalamazoo Public Library Director Ryan Wieber, Director of Secondary Education Johnny Edwards, Kalamazoo Central High School Principal Valerie Boggan, Loy Norrix High School Principal Chris Aguinaga, Phoenix High School Principal Mark Hill, and Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program (KILP) Principal David Gamble for all of their efforts to help make this program a success.

Trustee Harrison stated that this past summer some Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) employees were able to use their metro passes to get to and from work. She thanked everyone who had helped with this program.
President Sholler-Barber stated that this was an important opportunity for KPS students. She noted that the Metro would open many doors for students attending after-school sporting events, school plays, academic and social activities, and getting to and from work. President Sholler-Barber explained that there was no limitation on hours and that students could use this pass any time the buses were running. She thanked all of the people that had worked on this program.

C. **Summer Outreach**

Special Education Director Rikki Saunders and Student Services Director Nkenge Bergan presented the following report on summer community engagement events and activities.

Ms. Bergan stated that on KPS had been very busy over the summer. She noted that on June 27 KPS had participated in the Miranda Park Party at Bronson Park. Ms. Bergan explained that Student Services, Teaching and Learning Services, Communications, and Lift Up Through Literacy were all involved in this traveling community event to get families engaged in summer fun.

Ms. Bergan stated that the Family Health Center’s 10th annual Back to School Bash was held on August 9. She noted that Student Services, Teaching and Learning Services, PEEP, and Communications had hosted a table registering students for school and sharing information about KPS. Ms. Bergan shared that there had been an emphasis on children getting immunized and completing their well-child visit in preparation for the upcoming school year.

Ms. Bergan shared that Collaborative Kalamazoo’s second annual Beyond the Backpack Event was held on August 17. She noted that Student Services, Teaching and Learning Services, PEEP, and Communications had attended this event. Ms. Bergan explained that this event was developed by representatives from KPS, The Black Arts and Cultural Center, Communities in Schools-Kalamazoo (CIS), Bible Baptist Church, The Kalamazoo Promise, and Charlie’s Place to activate community togetherness by coordinating basic support services to K-12 students and their families from diverse organizations to a central location. She noted that this event had been held in Bronson Park and that there had been free haircuts, free books, and Heimstra Optical had provided vision screenings and made glasses for students onsite.

Ms. Saunders stated that this year KPS had an increase in the number of elementary students attending summer school. She noted that the increase of student participation was a reflection of teachers and staff encouraging more students to attend summer school as a part of the Read by Grade Three Law. Ms. Saunders shared that there were two classrooms for incoming kindergarten students, special education supports, and special classrooms for students with English as a second language. She explained that literacy was critical to student success.

Ms. Saunders explained that the elementary summer school had been held at Milwood Elementary School and Northeastern Elementary School, with over 770 students participating. She stated that the five-week program had exciting instructional activities, field trips, and reading. Ms. Saunders shared that both schools saw strong, steady attendance in the program.

Ms. Saunders stated that the secondary summer school had been held at Kalamazoo Central High School, where elementary school students rising to sixth grade and middle school students rising to ninth grade had received intensive supports in reading, mathematics, and preparation for middle and high school through WEB and Link Crew. She noted that students made
connections to students that they would meet again at school in the fall. Ms. Saunders shared that high school students took courses for credit retrieval.

Ms. Saunders stated that the summer libraries had provided students the opportunity to check out books in five KPS school libraries. She noted that the libraries had included Arcadia Elementary School, Edison Environmental Science Academy, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Westwood Elementary School, Parkwood Upjohn Elementary School, and Washington Writers’ Academy.

Ms. Saunders explained that students in rising third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grades had received seven books throughout the summer. She noted that there were postcards in each book for students to return a message to their teacher.

Ms. Saunders stated that there were many efforts from KPS teachers and staff to provide literacy initiatives throughout the summer and that KPS encourages families to continue reading with their children all year long.

Trustee Harrison thanked the Student Services Department for creating events that were focused on family engagement and community togetherness. She noted that at the Beyond the Backpack event she had been amazed that Heimstra Optical was able to make glasses onsite for KPS students. Trustee Harrison stated that she had spent some time at Northeastern Elementary summer school as a guest reader and had really enjoyed spending time with the children. She thanked Student Services for its continuous work all year.

President Sholler-Barber stated she had seen staff from Student Services at many more events this summer. She noted how helpful it was to have families feel welcome and included. President Sholler-Barber shared that reading and literacy were a team effort and that it sent the message that we care about you. She thanked teachers and Student Services for all they do during the summer.

Mr. Start thanked Ms. Bergan and Ms. Saunders for their excellent report. He also thanked all other KPS staff who work hard to provide KPS children with excellent opportunities in the summer.

X. Other Business
None.

XI. Comments by trustees
Trustee Moore thanked those people who had come to the meeting and expressed their concerns. She noted that she would like more information from the Kalamazoo Promise on how KPS students were doing in college.

Trustee Moore stated that it was not too late for those in need of school supplies. She noted that there was a Young Kings And Queens Back-To-School Jam starting at noon on Saturday, September 1 at LaCrone Park.

Trustee Moore stated that she was surprised that food service employees do not earn $10 per hour. She noted that she was looking forward to getting more information on this to see what KPS could do. Trustee Moore explained that these employees are engaged with our students during lunch and that the students love the connection with these employees.
Trustee Moore shared that she also was troubled by what was going on in our neighborhoods. She noted that the districts response to violence and tragedy could be addressed in how we have conversations about violence with our students. Trustee Moore stated that the things that go on in the streets can be impacted by what is going on in our schools. She shared that KPS needs to continue looking at ways to implement restorative justice to give people tools outside of school to resolve conflict.

Trustee Harrison stated that she was in support of the board’s decision to hire MASB as the superintendent search firm. She noted that she had recently attended the MASB Summer Institute to further educate herself as a school board trustee. Trustee Harrison shared that she was excited that school was starting and wished everyone a safe holiday weekend.

Trustee Hill stated that she would like a report on what supports KPS has in place for students in the event of a tragedy. She noted that she had also attended the MASB Summer Institute. Trustee Hill reminded everyone to register, educate yourself, and get out and vote.

President Sholler-Barber stated that the reason we don’t have a budget is because Governor Whitmer is struggling to convince both the Senate and House of Representatives on the need to invest more money in education. She noted that when you vote you need to think of your students and vote for those candidates who value education.

President Sholler-Barber stated that she had attended a recent event put on by Read and Write Kalamazoo (RAWK). She noted that RAWK worked with community volunteers and helps children identify and deal with trauma. She thanked Executive Director Nicki Poer and her organization for this great event.

President Sholler-Barber congratulated Community in Schools new Executive Director James Devers. She encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming school open houses. President Sholler-Barber noted that this was a great opportunity to interact with teachers and students. She also reminded the community to support student athletes.

President Sholler-Barber shared that she was sad about the tragedies in Mr. Wahmhoff’s neighborhood. She noted that many KPS personnel go to the aid of these families by helping with food, costs for funerals, transportation, counselors, and grief teams. President Sholler-Barber thanked him for speaking to the board.

**Comments by the Interim Superintendent**

Mr. Start thanked the food service workers and stated that it was an excellent program. He noted that food service employees were very important in how we meet the needs of KPS kids. Mr. Start stated that Governor Whitmer released the best budget he had seen in a long time. He noted that he was very disappointed in how the legislature had responded. Mr. Start explained that this was why KPS did not have a budget at this time. He stated that Governor Whitmer’s budget dealt with critical needs including schools and roads. Mr. Start shared that the legislature may deal with the roads, but that there was no indication that they were going to address the schools. He encouraged the community to contact your representative or senator to ask them to develop a budget that meets our needs.

Mr. Start stated that Phoenix High School had moved to 3333 South Westnedge due to building construction. He noted that Phoenix would re-open beginning of school 2020. Mr. Start thanked all of the people who would be working hard over Labor Day weekend to see that KPS buildings were ready for students on September 3.
Mr. Start stated that there had been many back to school professional trainings for teachers, bus drivers, campus safety officers, special education paraprofs, support staff, food service, behavioral positions, and activity helpers. He noted that these trainings were critical to how we go through the entire school year. He thanked all of the designers, presenters, and participants who had made this happen.

XII. **Closed Session**
President Sholler-Barber called for a closed session meeting. As board president, I move that the board convene in closed session to consider a collective bargaining agreement and to review a written legal opinion of counsel Clark Hill PLC, which written legal opinion is exempt from disclosure as privileged and confidential documents pursuant to attorney client privilege.

**MOTION**: Moved by President Sholler-Barber, supported by Trustee Hill and Trustee Harrison, to move into a closed session meeting at 8:20.

President Sholler-Barber stated that the board may or may not return to the floor.

**Disposition**: Roll call vote: motion carried, 5-yes, 0-no

XIII. President Sholler-Barber announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date:
Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betse Klepper, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill, Secretary
Board of Education
TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: Gary L. Start, Interim Superintendent
DATE: September 12, 2019
SUBJECT: Personnel Changes

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

I. Employment
A. Professional/Management
   Deborah L. Evans, Math Teacher, Hillside Middle School, 8/29/2019
   Suzanna Friedmann, Third Grade Teacher, Northeastern Elementary School, 8/29/2019

B. Classified
   Tyree R. Burton, Self-Contained Paraprofessional, Hillside Middle School, 9/3/2019
   Theophile HaKizimana, Bilingual Paraprofessional (0.5 FTE), Itinerant Program, 9/3/2019
   Cassandra A. Macey, Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Paraprofessional, Spring Valley Center for Exploration, 8/29/2019
   Patricia A. Robinson, Special Education Paraprofessional, Spring Valley Center for Exploration, 8/29/2019
   Katelyn M. Root, Elementary Restoration Re-entry Coach, Student Services, 9/4/2019
   Randie E. Slager, Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Paraprofessional, Lincoln International Studies School, 8/29/2019
   Myra J. Watson, Assistant School Secretary, Prairie Ridge Elementary School, 8/30/2019
   Lenise R. Vaughan Williams, Character Development Paraprofessional, Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, 8/29/2019
   Jenoeva G. Williams, Assistant School Secretary, Hillside Middle School, 8/27/2019
   Jason S. Yarber, Special Education Paraprofessional, Loy Norrix High School, 8/29/2019

II. Promotions/Key Transfers
A. Professional/Management

B. Classified

III. Leaves of Absence
A. Professional/Management

B. Classified
IV. Terminations
   A. Professional/Management
      Tara A. Reinhardt, First Grade Teacher, Northeastern Elementary School, 9/6/2019, Resigned
   B. Classified
      Ralph L. Ackley, Jr., Paraprofessional, Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, 8/29/2019, Resigned
      Carolyn J. Phillips, Stage Technician, Chenery Auditorium, 9/20/2019, Resigned
      Leroy Robinson, Campus Safety Officer, Kalamazoo Central High School, 9/3/2019, Retiring
      Sarah A. Tidd, PEEP Paraprofessional, Spring Valley Center for Exploration, 8/26/2019, Resigned

V. Termination from Leave of Absence
   A. Professional/Management
   B. Classified

VI. Return from Leave of Absence
   A. Professional/Management
   B. Classified
TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Gary L. Start Interim Superintendent

DATE: September 12, 2019

SUBJECT: Approval of Employee Association Contractual Agreement

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve a one-year (2019-2020) contractual agreement between Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) and the following employee association:

- Campus Safety Officers

RATIONALE: The members of this employee group provide very important services to our students, families, and school personnel.

This agreement has been ratified by the membership and is within the budget parameters of the Board of Trustees.
KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION

Interactions with Law Enforcement Agencies

A meeting of the Board of Education of the Kalamazoo Public Schools was held at the Administration Offices on the _____ day of ______________, 2019, at 7:00 PM.

The meeting was called to order by ________________________________.

Present: Members ________________________________________________

Absent: Members ________________________________________________

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member ___________ and supported by Member ________________.

WHEREAS, as a public school district, Kalamazoo Public Schools is legally required to enroll all students eligible for enrollment under the Michigan Revised School Code regardless of the student’s national origin or citizenship status;

WHEREAS, school districts have an obligation under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), 20 U.S.C. §1232g, and under Michigan law, MCL 380.1136, to protect as confidential education records and personally identifying information including but not limited to birth certificates, place of birth, national origin, contact information, medical and financial information;

WHEREAS, Kalamazoo Public Schools is committed to provide a quality education for all of its students, which includes a safe and stable learning environment, means of transportation to and from school sites, the preservation of classroom hours for educational instruction, and the requirement of school attendance;

WHEREAS, the Board believes that it is important to establish protocols for District Administration and staff to address court orders, search warrants, subpoenas, visits and/or inquiries from federal, state or local law enforcement agencies that may be seeking access to or information from the District’s students.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Interim Superintendent shall review District policies and implement Administrative Guidelines to establish protocols for District administration and staff to address court orders, search warrants, subpoenas, visits and/or inquiries by federal, state or local law enforcement agencies that may involve students and their families.
AYES: ________________________________

NAYS: ________________________________

MOTION DECLARED ADOPTED / REJECTED.

Date: ________________, 2019

Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned, duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of the Kalamazoo Public Schools, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by said Board of Education at a regular meeting held on ________________, 2019, the original of which is part of the Board’s minutes.

The undersigned further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public pursuant to the provisions of the “Open Meetings Act” (Act 267, PA 1976, as amended).

Date: ________________, 2019

Secretary, Board of Education