I. Call to Order
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the July 17, 2014 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Absent: Jennie Hill. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

IV. Announcements and Recognitions
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized the Prairie Ridge Elementary School Crazy Cougars team for its 2014 Global Reading Challenge championship: rising fifth grade students Allen Drewyor, Cameron Johnson, and Ben Vanderberg. Also recognized, although unable to attend, were Kendal Vandam, Aidan Walker, and Keng Wee.

Mr. Lee introduced Prairie Ridge Elementary School Principal Karen Spencer, Reading Challenge Coach Krista Runyan, and Reading Challenge Facilitator Amy Kendall. The students’ parents, family, and friends present were also recognized.

V. School Reports/Committee Reports
Committee Reports
None.

School Reports
None.

VI. Correspondence
Vice President McGlinn reviewed the correspondence received for the period of June 27 through July 17, 2014. (File #1)

VII. Consent Calendar

Purchase recommendation 2015-01 was in the amount of $50,531.73 for PEEP classroom furniture, equipment, and supplies for new classrooms at Edison Environmental Science Academy, Lincoln International Studies School, Indian Prairie Elementary School, and Northeastern Elementary School.

MOTION: Implied to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.
Board Discussion: None.

Audience Comments: None.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, 6-y, 0-n, 0-a.

VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board
None.

IX. Reports and Recommendations
A. Administrative Appointment – Coordinator of Title I and School Improvement
   Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Sheila Dorsey read the recommendation to
   appoint Ms. Dorothy Raycraft as Coordinator of Title I and School Improvement.

   MOTION: Moved by Trustee Dr. Warfield, supported by Trustee Greschak, to appoint Ms.
   Dorothy Raycraft as Coordinator of Title I and School Improvement.

   Board discussion: None.
   Audience comments: None.

   Disposition: Roll call vote: motion carried, 6-y, 0-n, 0-a.

B. Administrative Appointment – Assistant Principal for Loy Norrix High School
   Assistant Superintendent Sheila Dorsey read the recommendation to appoint Mr. Christopher
   Aguinaga as assistant principal of Loy Norrix High School.

   MOTION: Moved by Trustee McGlinn, supported by Trustee Herschleb, to appoint Mr.
   Christopher Aguinaga as assistant principal of Loy Norrix High School.

   Board discussion: None.
   Audience comments: None.

   Disposition: Roll call vote: motion carried, 6-y, 0-n, 0-a.

C. Approval of Employee Association Agreements
   Dr. Rice read the recommendation for the Board to approve one-year (2014-2015) contractual
   agreements with the following employee associations:
   - Food Service Employees
   - Kalamazoo Support Professionals

   Dr. Rice noted that the members of these employee groups provide important services to our
   students, families, and school personnel and that the agreements have been ratified by each
   membership and are within the parameters of the Board of Trustees.

   MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Herschleb, supported by Trustee Dr. Warfield, to approve
   the employee association agreements as presented.

   Board Discussion: None.
Audience Comments: None.

Disposition: Roll call vote: motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

D. Kalamazoo: A Growing Urban Literacy Community
Superintendent Dr. Rice and Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Services Barbara Witzak presented the literacy report. Items highlighted in the presentation included the following:

- Appreciation was given to the anonymous donors of the Kalamazoo Promise for helping to springboard KPS efforts to improve our children’s education and opportunities.
- The college-going culture components were developed as a community, with the most important components being high expectations for students and staff and literacy.
- The new kindergarten through fifth grade English Language Arts series, *Pearson Reading Street*, provides high-quality resources and materials, a large selection of both fiction and non-fiction, and continuing professional development for teachers. The series also helps teachers diagnose reading problems and possible interventions for students.
- Early Childhood (PEEP) enrollment has increased by 44%, from 324 slots in 2009-2010 to 468 slots in 2013-2014.
- Early Childhood (PEEP) sites have grown from 13 classrooms at 11 schools, with two schools offering full-day sessions in 2013-2014, to 16 classrooms at 10 schools in 2014-2015. The five highest poverty schools will offer full-day PEEP sessions to our highest-need students.
- Head Start is offered at five elementary schools and is supported by state funds, which are overseen by KRESA.
- Full-day kindergarten enrollment has increased from 176 students in 2007-2008, to 862 students in 2008-2009, to 959 students in 2013-2014.
- The research-based summer literacy program, funded by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, has grown from a pilot program in 2008 to a distribution of 24,000 books throughout the summer of 2014 to all fourth, fifth and sixth grade students.
- Pre-kindergarten through grade 12 summer reading lists are distributed to parents each year.
- Elementary summer school offers reading, writing, and math courses, plus additional activities such as First Day Shoe Fund, Bagels and Books, and a visit to the zoo. There are approximately 800 students enrolled in elementary summer school.
- Middle school and high school summer school offers the opportunity to make up credits or to take advanced courses such as Spanish and advanced middle school math and language arts. There are approximately 500 middle school and high school students enrolled in summer school.
- In 2009, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation awarded KPS a $150,000 literacy planning grant for the study of seven literacy areas.
- Students in kindergarten through third grade have 90-minute reading blocks and 30-minute writing blocks, and students in grades four and five have 90-minute reading blocks and 45-minute writing blocks.
- KPS will continue to offer professional development in writing. Elementary teachers are trained in the Lucy Calkins writing program, and secondary teachers continue to receive professional development in the John Collins program.
- Middle school schedule changes permitted all children to have 120 hours more time annually in core courses. They permitted children behind in reading or math to have a second course daily in the subject and to have 204 hours more a year in the area in need of improvement.
• In strategic mathematics, 35% of the students exited with a year or more of growth in a school year, and another 34% achieved 1+ years of growth without exiting the program.

• In strategic reading, 37% of the students exited with a year or more of growth in a school year, and another 42% achieved 1+ years of growth without exiting the program.

• The partnership with Kalamazoo Public Library (KPL) continues to be a success. All KPS first grade students visit the library and receive a library card. In addition to the 1,000 library cards issued to all first grade students, KPL has issued an additional 1,709 library cards to new patrons.

• First Saturday of the Month at KPL is every first Saturday of the month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

• The partnership with KPL has resulted in a 68% increase in the number of children participating in the summer reading program from 2012 to 2013, and a 36% increase in the number of children’s books checked out from the library in the last three years.

• There is a pilot whole-school partnership between Northglade Montessori Magnet School and the Alma Powell KPL branch at the Douglass Community Association.

• Lift Up Through Literacy programs funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in a grant to the Kalamazoo Community Foundation in 2011 are offered at 12 community sites. A total of 1,152 parents have participated in these programs since 2012.

• KPS appreciates its 200+ community partnerships.

• Reading levels have risen from 2008-2009 to 2013-2014 at all grade levels, and have risen faster than the state results at virtually all grade levels. In addition, reading levels in KPS have risen faster than the state at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

• Dr. Rice praised the work of KPS teachers, administrators, and support staff, as well as KPS community members and organizations, and noted that this work had been integral to improvements in literacy and other student outcomes. He also noted the contributions of Assistant Superintendent Barbara Witzak, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Cindy Green, Assistant Superintendent Sheila Dorsey, and Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start, with special recognition given to Assistant Superintendent Witzak for the terrific job she had done to lead the literacy initiatives.

• Walter Dean Myers, National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature in 2012-2014, children’s book author, and friend of children was remembered. He is also known for his quote, “Reading is not optional,” if one wants to be successful in the 21st century.

Board discussion:
Carol McGlinn stated that she was proud of the work that KPS is doing and thanked the many community partners for their assistance and support. She noted that it takes a lot to change the culture, and while we still have much to do, we are heading in the right direction.

Ms. McGlinn commented that she can imagine the excitement of students when they receive their books in the mail throughout the summer. She encouraged parents and friends to continue to engage students in reading and to talk about what has been read. Ms. McGlinn explained that some children may still have difficulty and encouraged parents to ask questions and to seek extra help if they see their child or children struggling.

Ms. McGlinn noted that early childhood literacy is very important because it also helps children improve and expand their vocabulary. She noted that having children involved in a quality early childhood program helps children academically and prepares them for kindergarten.
Ms. McGlinn concluded by thanking KPS teachers and staff for the work they do every day on behalf of our students.

Dr. Martha Warfield thanked Dr. Rice for his vision and leadership to create an urban literacy community and the community partners who embrace and actively support the drumbeat of literacy. She noted that not all of our children can afford books and thanked the community and the school district for its generosity in making books available to all of our students. Dr. Warfield noted that the difference literacy makes to students is not just in test scores, but in how they handle themselves, express themselves, and feel about themselves, which translates into a change in behavior and becoming more interested in school.

Dr. Warfield cautioned everyone to remain patient as the process of becoming an urban literacy community will take some years to become a reality; however, we are heading in the right direction and she encouraged everyone to become actively involved and support the drumbeat of literacy.

President Patti Sholler-Barber thanked her fellow Board members and Dr. Rice and his staff for taking ownership of the literacy initiative. She noted that we must continue that steadfast, sustained, and repetitive message to empower people to support the drumbeat of literacy.

Ms. Sholler-Barber reiterated the importance of reading and discussing what you have read and noted that these important skills are being taught in the new reading series. She complimented the summer reading program for including 75% non-fiction books because that will help students learn about the world around them. Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that the books sent home to students throughout the summer have been chosen by the students.

Ms. Sholler-Barber explained that continued community partnerships, an increase in early childhood programs, and full-day kindergarten are essential components to become an urban literacy community. She noted that KPS provides staff support through professional development, which is another important part of the literacy component.

Ms. Sholler-Barber thanked the parents for their involvement with children and literacy. She explained that reading is a vital part of having healthy and successful children.

Audience Comments: None.

X. Other Business
None.

XI. Comments by Trustees
Carol McGlinn thanked community members for their support of KPS bonds and noted that many improvement projects were being done as a result of those bonds. She expressed her delight that new windows were being installed at Parkwood Upjohn Elementary School, which are large and in keeping with the architecture of the building.

Ken Greschak complimented all the students who had completed AP courses. He noted that, even if they did not pass the AP test, they should be proud of themselves for their endeavor. Mr. Greschak thanked the teachers for their wonderful work.
Dr. Martha Warfield noted that tremendous changes are coming to Phoenix High School and expressed her hope that students who have the opportunity to attend classes there will take advantage of this option.

Patti Sholler-Barber stated that First Day Shoe Fund distribution would take place June 28 at Prairie Ridge Elementary School, and June 30 and 31 at Northeastern Elementary School. She stated that donations of new children’s size 13 to adult size 5 athletic shoes can be dropped off at the KPS Administration Building.

Ms. Sholler-Barber reminded parents to review checklists and reading lists, and encouraged students to complete activities and continue to read throughout the summer.

Ms. Sholler-Barber asked for an update on the summer Lift Up Through Literacy programs. Assistant Superintendent Witzak explained that there are two summer sessions left; however, there are events scheduled in parks and neighborhoods throughout the summer. She announced that the next event would be July 28 at 6:30 p.m. at Upjohn Park.

Comments by the Superintendent
Superintendent Rice pointed out that KPS Michigan Merit Exam (MME) results were up this year in all five categories: reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. He noted that KPS results were up in percentages greater than the state in four categories and tied with the state increase in one. Dr. Rice referenced a chart compiled by Julie Mack of MLive that tracked the change in MME passage rates over the last three years:

- Science – state up 2%; KPS up 4%
- Writing – state up 4%; KPS up 9%
- Social Studies – state up 3%; KPS up 12%
- Reading – state up 6%; KPS up 14%

Dr. Rice also noted that the district’s national ACT scores had increased in all subject areas as well.

Dr. Rice stated that the MME test results were cause for optimism and excitement and attributed the increased results to a number of factors, which included KPS reforms in elementary, middle school, and high school; efforts of students, staff, teachers and community members to support and drive higher student achievement; and the Kalamazoo Promise as a springboard for continued student success after high school graduation.

Dr. Rice noted that the Washington Writers’ Academy looks better and better every single day, and that he looked forward to its opening in January.

XII. Closed Session
President Sholler-Barber did not call for a closed session, and adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

President Sholler-Barber announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, July 31, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education
Call to Order
Vice President Carol McGlinn called the July 31, 2014 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:05 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, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Absent: Patti Sholler-Barber. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

Announcements and Recognitions
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized 2013-2014 Turn-Around Students from two elementary schools:
- Northglade Montessori Magnet School – rising 4th grade student Sha’mya Duff; rising 5th grade student Owen Stubbs; and rising 6th grade students Evelyn Henley, Rahnyi Kelley, Justice Smith, and Trayshawna Thomas.

Also recognized from Northglade Montessori Magnet School, although unable to attend, were rising 4th grade student Tyree Warren, rising 5th grade student Amos Mechtenberg-Berrigan, and rising 6th grade students Courtney McCants and Isabelle Stroud.

Mr. Lee introduced Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts Principal Tamara Jamierson and Northglade Montessori Magnet School Principal Dale Mogaji. The students’ parents, family, and friends present were also recognized.

Superintendent Dr. Rice introduced Ms. Robin Greymountain, who was appointed principal of Parkwood Upjohn Elementary School by the Board at its May 15, 2014 meeting.

School Reports/Committee Reports
Committee Reports
None.

School Reports
None.

Correspondence
Secretary Jennie Hill reviewed the correspondence received for the period of July 18 through July 31, 2014. (File #2)

Consent Calendar
Vice President Carol McGlinn presented the Consent Calendar items: VII.A. July 17, 2014 Regular Meeting minutes; VII.B. Purchase Recommendation 2015-02; and VII.C. Personnel Changes.

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

Board Discussion: None.

Audience Comments: None.

**Disposition:** Voice vote: motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

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

_Pastor Ervin Armstrong, 288 Mandalay Drive, Kalamazoo_, introduced himself as the director of the New Genesis Education Center. He expressed his appreciation to Superintendent Dr. Rice for his recent visit at the New Genesis Education Center summer camp. Pastor Armstrong stated that Dr. Rice engaged several groups of students in conversation at different grade levels. He concluded his remarks by presenting Dr. Rice with a copy of the students’ published poetry book.

**IX. Reports and Recommendations**

**Approval of Employee Association Agreement**

Deputy Superintendent Gary Start read the recommendation for the Board to approve a one-year (2014-2015) contractual agreement with the UAW Local 2150 Administrators (Units I and II).

Deputy Start expressed his appreciation to Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Sheila Dorsey, KPS legal counsel Marshall Grate, UAW Association President Mark Hill, and the UAW Association membership for working together on this agreement.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Trustee Herschleb, supported by Trustee Dr. Warfield, to approve the one-year contractual agreement with the UAW Local 2150 Administrators (Units I and II).

Board Discussion:
Vice President McGlinn thanked the negotiating teams for working out this agreement. She noted that it is a difficult process and takes a team effort from both KPS administration and the employee association.

Audience Comments: None.

**Disposition:** Roll call vote: motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

**X. Other Business**

None.

**XI. Comments by Trustees**

_Dr. Martha Warfield_ reported that there was a lot of school activity taking place in preparation for the fall. She noted that tours of WMU had been taken by Jeter’s Leaders, a number of Kalamazoo Promise students were taking summer classes, and many students were already planning for
mentoring and working with KPS students. Dr. Warfield noted that it is exciting to see the work being done by students for students as they prepare for the new school year.

Ken Greschak suggested that everyone find a comfortable place outside where they can sit and read.

TiAnna Harrison reminded parents and students that it is not too early to start to prepare for school.

Craig Herschleb noted that columns of bricks have been delivered, which will anchor the decorative fence to be built along Portage Road at Washington Writers’ Academy.

Jennie Hill had no comments.

Carol McGlinn noted that today was the last day of KPS summer school and congratulated all the students for completing summer school. She thanked administrators, teachers, and staff for their work to provide our children a successful and productive summer school.

Ms. McGlinn stated that the First Day Shoe Fund had been very active and there were a lot of excited students proudly wearing new shoes.

Ms. McGlinn reminded everyone to continue to read with their children. She noted that August 2 would be a First Saturday at the Kalamazoo Public Library and encouraged everyone to attend and enjoy the many fun things to do there.

Comments by the Superintendent
Superintendent Dr. Rice noted that 1300 students had been enrolled in summer school, which had been successful. He explained that summer school was a spring board to reinforce other literacy efforts, such as the books being sent home throughout the summer to rising fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students and the encouragement of students to go to the library on a regular basis. Dr. Rice noted that summer school makes it possible to have multiple positive impacts on children.

Dr. Rice thanked Pastor Armstrong and Mr. Aaron Williams for their leadership and work with our children at the Christian Life Center and New Genesis Education Center.

Dr. Rice stated that he had attended the Re2pect Your Community event sponsored by Jeter’s Leaders at Chenery Auditorium on July 30. He noted that the presentation by The Three Doctors, Sampson Davis, M.D., Rameek Hunt, M.D., and George Jenkins, D.M.D., was excellent. He explained that The Three Doctors had spoken to children about the opportunities kids have if they put their minds to their dreams and goals. Dr. Rice recommended that everyone read *The Pact*, which was written by The Three Doctors, because their story could be our children’s stories, and that all children have it within them to be successful.

Dr. Rice stated that KPS still had some slots available for pre-kindergarten classes. He explained that for the 2014-2015 school year, full-day pre-kindergarten would be offered at Edison Environmental Science Academy, Lincoln International Studies School, Northeastern Elementary School, Spring Valley Center for Exploration, and The Woodward School for Technology and Research, and that half-day sessions would be offered at Arcadia Elementary School, Greenwood Elementary School, Indian Prairie Elementary School, Parkwood Upjohn Elementary School, and Winchell Elementary School. Dr. Rice noted that slots were filling quickly and encouraged parents to call the KPS PEEP office at 337-0095 to register their children in the pre-kindergarten program.
Dr. Rice stated that there were still openings in full-day kindergarten through grade 12 and encouraged parents to call the KPS Student Services Department at 337-0161 to enroll their children because slots were filling up quickly.

Dr. Rice explained that the First Day Shoe Fund is a curious name because it is about shoes and about the first day of school; however, the shoes are distributed several weeks prior to the start of school. He noted that the greatest opportunity for distribution is during summer school and that the children are delighted to get the new shoes. Dr. Rice expressed his appreciation to all the people actively involved in distributing over 2,500 pairs of shoes to young people in our district.

Dr. Rice thanked The YMCA of Greater Kalamazoo President and CEO Steve Springsdorf and Lincoln Youth Center Program Director Jennifer Shea for the programs that the YMCA provides at Lincoln International Studies School for children entering kindergarten through middle school.

Dr. Rice echoed Dr. Warfield’s observation that there were a lot of children engaged in educational activities this summer, and that summer school is an important part of the summer for many. He expressed his appreciation to Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Services Barbara Witzak, administrators, teachers, secretaries, paraprofessionals, and classroom aides for their hard work on behalf of our students. Dr. Rice noted that there were many other community programs taking place throughout the summer such as Kids in Tune, Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo summer programs, and the 24,000 books being mailed to rising fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students.

Dr. Rice encouraged families to visit the Kalamazoo Public Library (KPL) throughout the summer. He stated that KPL was the best local library system he had ever seen. Dr. Rice explained that he had recently met with KPL Director Ann Rohrbaugh and KPL Youth Services Director Susan Warner to talk about expanding the partnership between KPL and KPS. He noted that this partnership has already resulted in a 36% increase in the number of juvenile books checked out from KPL during the 2013-2014 school year compared to three years ago.

XII. Closed Session
Vice President Carol McGlinn did not call for a closed session, and adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Vice President Carol McGlinn announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, August 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education
I. Call to Order
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the August 14, 2014 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

IV. Announcements and Recognitions
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized students from Kalamazoo Central High School:

2013-2014 Division 1 state track finalists:
- 2014 graduates Lyndonn Austell (unable to attend) and Tra’von Phillips; and
- Seniors Isaiah Carter and Kenneth Jones.

Mr. Lee noted that Tra’von Phillips and Kenneth Jones had also won gold medals in the 400-meter relay at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics.

Mr. Lee then introduced the students who participated in the 2014 Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) national competition:
- Sophomore Khalil Adams, who completed leadership training and would be the president of the Kalamazoo Central High School FCCLA for the 2014-2015 school year;
- Sophomores Patrick Fulton (unable to attend) and Benjamin Van Zoest, who won silver in the environmental ambassador junior category event;
- Junior Tiffany Chiang, who completed leadership training and now represents Kalamazoo Central High School as vice president of competitive events on the Michigan FCCLA executive council;
- Junior Lynn Tomlinson (unable to attend), who won gold in the leadership senior category, and represents Kalamazoo Central High School as the president of the executive council of the Michigan FCCLA; and
- Senior Preston McClain, who won silver in the sports nutrition senior category.

Also in attendance and introduced by Mr. Lee were Kalamazoo Central High School Principal Valerie Boggan, Athletic Director Van Dickerson, and FCCLA staff advisor Lisa Boulding. The students’ parents, family, and friends in the audience were also recognized.

Superintendent Dr. Rice introduced the following new KPS administrators:
- Ms. Dodie Raycraft, Coordinator of Title I and School Improvement, appointed by the Board at its July 17, 2014 meeting;
- Mr. Chris Aguinaga, Assistant Principal at Loy Norrix High School, appointed by the Board at its July 17, 2014 meeting; and
V. School Reports/Committee Reports  
Committee Reports  
President Sholler-Barber explained that the Board was in the process of forming committees for the 2014-2015 school year.

School Reports  
None.

VI. Correspondence  
Secretary Jennie Hill reviewed the correspondence received for the period of July 31 through August 14, 2014. (File #3.)

VII. Consent Calendar  
President Sholler-Barber presented the Consent Calendar items: VII.A. July 31, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes; VII.B. Purchase Recommendations 2015-03, 2015-04, and 2015-05; and VII.C. Personnel Changes.

Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start reviewed the purchase recommendations:
- 2015-03 in the amount of $33,298.15 for playground wood chip soft surfacing at Arcadia Elementary School, Milwood Elementary School, Northglade Montessori Magnet School, Prairie Ridge Elementary School, Spring Valley Center for Exploration, and Winchell Elementary School from the 2013 bond;
- 2015-04 in the amount of $353,594.61 for furniture for Washington Writers’ Academy from the 2010 bond; and
- 2015-05 in the amount of $27,990.00 for 30 HP EliteDesk 800 PCs with Microsoft Office to replace computers in Room 535 at Kalamazoo Central High School from the 2010 bond.

MOTION: Implied to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board  
Anitra White, 5240 Cranberry Court, Kalamazoo, introduced herself as the mother of five children. She explained that her daughter, Mylesha Crim, was a member of the FCCLA at Kalamazoo Central High School. Ms. White thanked the Board for allowing the FCCLA program at KPS. She noted that her daughter’s character and leadership skills had improved due to her participation in FCCLA. She thanked Ms. Boulding for her dedication to the students.

Heather Adams, 539 East Dutton Street, Kalamazoo, introduced herself as the parent of five children that attend KPS. She stated that her son, Khalil Adams, was a sophomore involved with FCCLA. Ms. Adams thanked Dr. Rice and the Board for their support and for providing funds for the students to attend the FCCLA national leadership conference in San Antonio, Texas. She explained that her son attended multiple workshops at the conference. Ms. Adams stated that as a result of his participation in FCCLA, Khalil had become involved in many community events and was a role model to his peers and younger siblings. She concluded by thanking Ms. Boulding for her work with the students and noted that it was wonderful to work with her.
Amy McClain, 3524 Thornhill Avenue, Kalamazoo, introduced herself as the parent of FCCLA first vice president, Preston McClain. She noted that Preston joined FCCLA two years ago and that she was proud to see his development in communication and leadership skills. Ms. McClain stated that FCCLA builds leaders in our community and that the partnership with the community is phenomenal. She explained that Ms. Boulding provided a wonderful program and that she was proud of Ms. Boulding, the FCCLA program, her son, and all of the FCCLA members.

Khalil Adams, 539 East Dutton Street, Kalamazoo, thanked his parents and Ms. Boulding for allowing him to become involved with FCCLA. He also thanked the Board and KPS administration for their support. Mr. Adams noted that joining FCCLA was the best decision he had made because it offered him opportunities and experiences that he would not have had otherwise. He stated that he had participated in many community service projects and had the opportunity to represent Kalamazoo Central High School at both the state and national level. Mr. Adams explained that FCCLA had helped to improve his self-confidence, his desire to stay involved in the community, and to continue to pursue academic excellence.

Benjamin Van Zoest, 131 Prairie Avenue, Kalamazoo, thanked the Board for its support of FCCLA and for allowing the students to attend the FCCLA national conference in San Antonio, Texas. He explained that he and a group of other students had studied the effects of gasoline use on air pollution, from which they created flyers with ten easy tips to teach others how to protect against air pollution, and that they had also created a website on the subject. Mr. Van Zoest thanked the Board for allowing the FCCLA to support the global community through the website the students created.

IX. Reports and Recommendations

Millage Resolution
Deputy Superintendent Gary Start read the recommendation for the Board to approve the resolution authorizing collection of 18 non-homestead mills and 6.95 debt retirement mills in the winter levy. He noted that the debt retirement millage rate had been incorporated into the 2014-2015 budget, and that it was the same rate as in 2013-2014.

MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Greschak, supported by Trustee Herschleb, to adopt the millage resolution.

Board Discussion: None.

Audience comments: None.

Disposition: Roll call vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

X. Other Business
None.

XI. Comments by Trustees
Ken Greschak noted that excitement was building for the new school year, which would begin soon. He stated that he thought it would be a fabulous school year.

Carol McGlinn expressed her appreciation for Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Services Barbara Witzak and her many years of dedication to KPS.
Ms. McGlinn stated that it was wonderful to hear the students talk about FCCLA. She asked Communications Director Alex Lee to see if the website Benjamin Van Zoest had mentioned could be linked to the KPS website. She noted that it was good to see kids participating in such a positive program. Ms. McGlinn explained that there was a lot going on in the community, with kids and adults not making good choices; however, it was heartwarming to see kids act in a positive way that would help them develop and become productive adults.

*Jennie Hill* stated that she was bursting with pride because she knew two of the students who had been recognized that evening from when they were very young. She expressed her appreciation for parents, grandparents, and extended family who keep their children active and involved at a young age, because the activity can help them to grow into responsible adults.

Ms. Hill stated that she had attended the Mothers of Hope picnic and that it was a lot of fun. She noted that the theme of the event was about parents focusing on children and family, how to keep their children safe, and how to keep their children learning so they become independent, productive adults.

Ms. Hill thanked Assistant Superintendent Barbara Witzak for helping and serving KPS. She stated that she had learned a lot about curriculum and how children learn through working with Ms. Witzak. Ms. Hill noted that KPS is blessed to have Ms. Witzak and that she was glad that Ms. Witzak would continue to work with KPS.

*Craig Herschleb* thanked Assistant Superintendent Witzak for her years with KPS. He noted that he first met Ms. Witzak when his son was in kindergarten and she was the principal of Washington Writers’ Academy. Mr. Herschleb advised that Ms. Witzak’s passion for students and education influenced him to become involved at the school level and to run for the Board of Education. He noted that she was a special part of his life in KPS and would be missed.

Mr. Herschleb noted that the ground around the new Washington Writers’ Academy was being smoothed out, and that it was looking more like a real building instead of a construction site every day.

*TiAnna Harrison* stated that she had also attended the Mothers of Hope picnic and spent time at the KPS booth recruiting for the Lift Up Through Literacy programs. She explained that she had spoken with parents about the value of the program and the importance of encouraging students to realize the value of education.

Ms. Harrison stated that it was inspiring to see and hear the high school student leaders being cultivated in our community and those students’ ability to inspire their peers to become involved in the community. She encouraged parents to value education for themselves and their children.

*President Patti Sholler-Barber* expressed her appreciation for the Loy Norrix High School band, whose practice sessions she was able to hear and enjoy in her backyard.

Ms. Sholler-Barber thanked the Kalamazoo Promise donors for their incredible foresight, generosity, and compassion in putting the Promise together. She noted that if everyone does his or her part, the Promise would not only benefit our students, but would also benefit the entire community.

Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that the First Day Shoe Fund fitting of shoes event was a lot of fun. She explained that many children received shoes last year and were just as excited to receive a new
pair this year. Ms. Sholler-Barber expressed her appreciation to Harry’s Foundation out of Plainwell, which had rallied around First Day Shoe Fund. She stated that the CEO of Harry’s Foundation brought in a $1,000 donation. Ms. Sholler-Barber explained that KPS is blessed to have many partners working on behalf of our students.

Ms. Sholler-Barber thanked Julie Mack for her honesty and fairness in her reporting, and the way she covers controversial and delicate issues. She stated that she considers Ms. Mack one of the best education reporters in the state of Michigan.

Ms. Sholler-Barber stated that she was recently in South Haven, Michigan and that the person with whom she was speaking remarked that they had heard about the Lift Up Through Literacy programs in South Haven. Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that this says a lot for the legitimacy of the work being done through the Lift Up Through Literacy Programs that word-of-mouth had spread the information to other communities.

Ms. Sholler-Barber concluded her remarks by wishing everyone a great first day of school.

**Comments by the Superintendent**

Superintendent Dr. Rice stated that many Lift Up Through Literacy (LUTL) sessions were held during the summer and that full fall sessions would begin in the next several weeks. He encouraged parents to sign up for the programs at the LUTL office. Dr. Rice explained that KPS wants everyone to benefit from these important parent education and family literacy programs. He noted that LUTL had served close to 1200 parents and grandparents in the last 2-1/2 years, and that KPS would like to continue to serve more families. Dr. Rice referred to Trustee Hill’s comments about the importance of engaging with your children and explained that LUTL can help adults learn how to help their children succeed.

Dr. Rice stated that there were still part-day and full-day pre-kindergarten slots available and encouraged parents to call 337-0095 to get their children signed up. He stated that there were full-day pre-kindergarten slots available at Lincoln International Studies School, Edison Environmental Science Academy, Spring Valley Center for Exploration, Northeastern Elementary School, and The Woodward School for Technology and Research, five of our highest poverty sites, all with 90%+ free/reduced-price lunch eligibility.

Dr. Rice continued that there were also slots available in K-12 at some schools and in some grades. He encouraged parents to please not wait until September 15 to enroll their children in school. Dr. Rice explained that students need to be enrolled now so that they got off to the best start in their education. He stated that it does not help children to start school late in the third week. Dr. Rice reminded everyone that they need to start readjusting themselves to a school schedule, and that part of that is knowing what school you will attend, what grade you are in, and whether you ride a bus, drive yourself, or walk to school. He asked parents to please call 337-0161 to get their children enrolled now.

Dr. Rice stated that there were more capital projects going on throughout the KPS district this summer than any summer in the last 35 years. He noted that the new Washington Writers’ Academy is a jewel and the signature project for this summer. Dr. Rice explained that The Woodward School for Technology and Research, built in 1924, was having work done to make it a more beautiful environment; Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts was undergoing a large capital project that would continue through the school year; and Kalamazoo Central High School, the largest and only high school in the conference that did not have a second gymnasium, would have its second gym completed this winter. He noted that there were also a number of smaller
projects across the district, which included playgrounds, roofs, boilers, and chillers. He explained that, apart from the two newly constructed schools, the average age of KPS school buildings was three-quarters of a century, and expressed his appreciation to voters for approving funds to provide for the care of these buildings for our children.

Dr. Rice noted that staff professional development had begun and that the start of school was almost here. He stated that he was excited about the start of another school year. Dr. Rice continued that August 25 would be a back-to-school meeting for KPS staff at Miller Auditorium, and that school would begin the day after Labor Day. Dr. Rice noted that it had been an enjoyable summer; however, getting schools ready required an enormous number of people cleaning and painting; trimming and weeding; ordering, cataloging, and distributing supplies; working on curriculum and professional development; and hiring and placing staff. He concluded that, like New York City, school districts never sleep.

Dr. Rice stated that Barbara Witzak was leaving KPS as Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Services. He noted that no one could outwork or care more about KPS children than Ms. Witzak. He advised that in the last four years student achievement had risen, graduation rates had risen, several new programs were started, double-blocking in middle school had begun, Read 180 had extended down from ninth grade to fourth grade, full-day kindergarten was implemented, and full-day pre-kindergarten was implemented at five schools. Dr. Rice advised that Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo could not have found a finer recipient than Ms. Witzak for the Diether Haenicke Award, which was bestowed upon her last spring. He expressed his pleasure that Ms. Witzak would continue to help improve KPS student achievement through instructional coaching. Dr. Rice concluded by expressing his appreciation of Ms. Witzak as an educator and partner on behalf of children.

**Additional Comments by Trustees:**
President Patti Sholler-Barber stated that many people love the new windows installed at Parkwood Upjohn Elementary School and had commented on how beautiful they were.

Ms. Sholler-Barber wished good luck to all the fall sports teams.

Ms. Sholler-Barber stated that she was amazed at what Assistant Superintendent Witzak could accomplish living on chocolate chip cookies alone. She stated that Ms. Witzak is a wonder woman. Ms. Sholler-Barber stated that it was with great gratitude that KPS said goodbye to Ms. Witzak in her role as Assistant Superintendent and welcomed her in the new role she would have with KPS.

**XII. Closed Session**
President Sholler-Barber did not ask for a motion to move into closed session and adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

President Sholler-Barber announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education
I. Call to Order
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the August 28, 2014 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

IV. Announcements and Recognitions
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized students who had participated in the 2014 NAACP ACT-SO national competition:
- Loy Norrix High School senior Imara Bowers, who competed in the vocal contemporary division;
- 2014 Loy Norrix High School graduate Sariah Metcalfe, who competed in the poetry division (unable to attend); and
- Phoenix High School senior Ray Reason IV, who competed in the short story division (unable to attend).

Also in attendance and introduced by Mr. Lee was Loy Norrix High School Principal Rodney Prewitt. The students’ parents, family, and friends in the audience were also recognized.

Superintendent Dr. Rice introduced new KPS administrator Scott Hunsinger, who was appointed the Interim Coordinator of Bilingual Education, English as a Second Language, and World Languages at the July 31, 2014 regular board meeting.

V. School Reports/Committee Reports
Committee Reports
President Sholler-Barber explained that the Board was in the process of forming committees for the 2014-2015 school year.

School Reports
None.

VI. Correspondence
Secretary Jennie Hill reviewed the correspondence received for the period of August 15 through August 28, 2014. (File #4)

VII. Consent Calendar
President Sholler-Barber presented the Consent Calendar items: VII.A. August 14, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes; VII.B. Purchase Recommendations 2015-06, 2015-07, and 2015-08; and VII.C. Personnel Changes.
Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start reviewed the purchase recommendations:

- 2015-06 in the amount of $24,564.72 for an additional 300-device license for Cisco network switch management software for the district server from the 2010 bond;
- 2015-07 in the amount of $224,891.26 for audio and video enhancement systems for The Woodward School for Technology and Research from the 2013 bond; and
- 2015-08 in the amount of $109,475.00 for district online assessments from Teaching and Learning Services budget.

MOTION: Implied to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board

Millie Lambert, 3922 Croyden Avenue, Kalamazoo, stated that she was the outgoing president of the Kalamazoo Education Association (KEA), and introduced Amanda Miller as the new president of KEA. Ms. Lambert thanked the KPS Board and administration for putting up with her for over 40 years, with 20 of those as KEA president. She expressed her appreciation for the kindness, understanding and willingness to listen and share ideas, and for talking with association members rather than at them. Ms. Lambert stated that she looked forward to Amanda Miller’s service as KEA president.

Amanda Miller, 34969 CR 652, Mattawan, stated that she looked forward to advocating for public education and thanked Ms. Lambert for her years of advocating for public education. Ms. Miller noted that Ms. Lambert would be dearly missed.

Ms. Lambert asked the Board for clarification about whether or not the art coordinator position had been filled or changed. She noted that this used to be a lead teacher position; however, she had heard that it would now be a UAW and KEA position, and that the art coordinator would be evaluating KEA members.

IX. Reports and Recommendations

Approval of Employee Association Agreement

Deputy Superintendent Gary Start read the recommendation for the Board to approve a one-year (2014-2015) contractual agreement with the Kalamazoo Education Association (KEA).

Deputy Superintendent Start expressed his appreciation to Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Sheila Dorsey, KEA outgoing President Millie Lambert, KEA incoming president Amanda Miller, and the KEA membership for working together on this agreement.

MOTION: It was moved by Trustee McGlinn, supported by Trustee Dr. Warfield, to approve the one-year contractual agreement with the Kalamazoo Education Association.

Board Discussion:
President Sholler-Barber thanked the negotiating teams for working out this agreement. She noted that it is a difficult process and takes a team effort from both KPS administration and the employee association.
Audience Comments:

Millie Lambert, 3922 Croyden, Kalamazoo, spoke as the outgoing president of the KEA and stated that this was a horrible environment in which to bargain, which was regrettably out of the district’s control due to the state legislature making the process extremely difficult. She noted that KEA members wanted and deserved more, and that the KPS administration felt the same way; however, the problem was that the state legislature does not believe that urban districts deserve more financial support. Ms. Lambert stated that she was grateful to the KEA membership for understanding that this was all we could do right now.

Disposition: Roll call vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

X. Other Business
None.

XI. Comments by Trustees
Carol McGlinn thanked Millie Lambert for her many years of service and commitment to the district.

Ms. McGlinn noted that school would start the following week so it was time for staff, students, and families to get fired up and excited. She explained that a lot of work was done throughout the summer to get the buildings ready for the school year. Ms. McGlinn concluded that she was sure it would be a great school year.

Ken Greschak encouraged parents to get involved in their children’s schools. He explained that teachers need to hear from parents, and children need to see that their parents are involved in their schools. Mr. Greschak stated that schools are about community and that parents involved with their children’s school will get much more in return for their time and effort than can be imagined.

Dr. Martha Warfield extended Mr. Greschak’s invitation to grandparents to also get involved in the schools. She echoed Ms. McGlinn’s words of appreciation for Millie Lambert and thanked Ms. Lambert for her many years of service to KPS. Dr. Warfield noted that public schools in Michigan are beginning another school year under a lot of financial stress; however, she was excited about what is happening in KPS. She noted that she attended the KPS staff gathering at Miller Auditorium and felt the enthusiasm from staff and teachers. Dr. Warfield stated that students would find excited and inspired educators awaiting them on the first day of school.

TiAnna Harrison wished everyone an exciting school year and encouraged parents to get involved and to have the expectation that students would exceed the expectations we have for them. She reminded parents to support the teachers, keep in contact with them throughout the school year, and understand that what teachers are doing is an extension of what parents are supposed to do for their children. Ms. Harrison also reminded parents to support their children in academics and in extracurricular activities such as the arts, clubs, and sports to make it a successful year for all students.

Craig Herschleb stated that it had been an interesting week at the construction site of Washington Writers’ Academy because he had the opportunity to watch dirt from the excavation being shoveled into a machine, which separated the good from the bad so that the good dirt could be reused on the site. He noted that the building looks amazing when it is lit up at night.

Jennie Hill thanked Millie Lambert for her years of service and stated that she looks forward to working with Amanda Miller. She welcomed back students, teachers, and staff.
President Patti Sholler-Barber thanked the Kalamazoo Central High School and Loy Norrix High School drum corps for a resounding start to the KPS staff meeting at Miller Auditorium. She stated that it was a wonderful welcome back to staff.

Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that many improvements have been made to school buildings throughout the summer and thanked the community for supporting the bonds that provided the funds for those upgrades.

Ms. Sholler-Barber stated that she had the opportunity to attend a meeting with staff from Washington Writers’ Academy and The Woodward School for Technology and Research and was impressed with the collaboration and enthusiasm that was shared.

Ms. Sholler-Barber concurred with her fellow Board members that multiple generations of families were welcome to become involved in their students’ schools.

Ms. Sholler-Barber explained that many in KPS owe Millie Lambert a debt of gratitude for her years of service. She noted that Ms. Lambert has a passion for children and public education that had gained her much respect throughout the community. Ms. Sholler-Barber welcomed Amanda Miller as the new president of the Kalamazoo Education Association.

Ms. Sholler-Barber reminded parents to prepare students for going back to school by including discussions on appropriate behavior, good manners, courtesy, and politeness. She asked parents and students to remember that everyone at school is there for the same purpose, which is for students to be successful.

Comments by the Superintendent
Superintendent Dr. Rice congratulated Millie Lambert on her 20 years as president of the Kalamazoo Education Association (KEA). He explained that it was a pleasure to work with her because she was a consummate professional, and that the experience of working with her was invaluable. Dr. Rice welcomed Amanda Miller as the new KEA president. He noted that there was a lot to the position, and that he looked forward to developing a good working relationship with her.

Dr. Rice reminded parents that there were still some pre-kindergarten slots available and encouraged them to call 337-0095 to get their children registered. He also stated that there were still spaces available in grades kindergarten through 12 and asked parents to call 337-0161 to enroll their children in those grades.

Dr. Rice complimented the KPS Facilities Management staff for the wonderful job it had done on the many capital projects this summer. He noted that the projects at Parkwood Upjohn Elementary School and The Woodward School for Technology and Research were terrific and the buildings were ready for the start of school. He thanked the teachers and staff at Woodward School for their forbearance due to the challenging time frame. Dr. Rice noted that projects at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, Kalamazoo Central High School, and Washington Writers’ Academy (WWA) would continue into the school year, with the move to the new WWA building to take place in early January.

Dr. Rice noted that the staff meeting at Miller Auditorium was enriched by the talented students of the drum corps under the leadership of band directors Dan Stout and Rivets Drummer. He stated that both groups did an outstanding job.
Dr. Rice announced that Washington Writers’ Academy and The Woodward School for Technology and Research had received two school improvement grants for approximately $1.3 million a year, each renewable for up to three years, to provide resources to help KPS do much of what is needed at these two schools, which have very high concentrations of poverty.

Dr. Rice noted that September 2 and the start of school was coming up fast. He urged parents and students to get ready for it now by resetting their hours to a school schedule so that Tuesday morning would be a good day of school. Dr. Rice noted that 2014-2015 would be a great school year.

Dr. Rice expressed his appreciation of the work done by carpenters, plumbers, electricians, custodians, bus drivers working as custodians and painters, and everyone who worked throughout the summer to get the schools ready. He noted that there are no summers off, with teachers and staff participating in professional development and curriculum development throughout the summer. He noted that the district is very active 12 months a year. Dr. Rice thanked all of those who worked so hard to prepare for the new school year.

XII. Closed Session
President Sholler-Barber did not ask for a motion to move into closed session and adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

President Sholler-Barber announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education
I. Call to Order
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the September 18, 2014 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, and Patti Sholler-Barber. Absent: Dr. Martha Warfield. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

IV. Announcements and Recognitions
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized Loy Norrix High School junior, Grace Labadie, for her honorable mention for the 2013-2014 Division One All-State Girls Soccer Team. Mr. Lee also noted that Ms. Labadie has a 4.067 grade point average.

Also in attendance and introduced by Mr. Lee were Loy Norrix High School Principal Rodney Prewitt and Athletic Director Andrew Laboe. The students’ parents, family, and friends in the audience were also recognized.

V. School Reports/Committee Reports

Committee Reports
President Sholler-Barber announced the membership of each committee as follows:

- Operations: Patti Sholler-Barber, Craig Herschleb, and Carol McGlinn;
- Curriculum: Carol McGlinn, Dr. Martha Warfield, and Patti Sholler-Barber;
- Evaluation/Accountability: Jennie Hill, Dr. Martha Warfield, and TiAnna Harrison;
- Policy: Craig Herschleb, Ken Greschak, and Jennie Hill;
- Legislative Liaison: Carol McGlinn;
- Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo: Carol McGlinn and Dr. Martha Warfield, with TiAnna Harrison as an alternate;
- Teaching and Learning Council: Patti Sholler-Barber; and
- Wellness – Ken Greschak.

Wellness Committee – Ken Greschak, representative, reported that the committee met on September 17 to plan events to be held throughout the school year. He encouraged everyone to get flu shots.

Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo (CISK) – Carol McGlinn, representative, stated that the CISK board would meet on September 19.

School Reports
None.
VI. Correspondence
Secretary Jennie Hill reviewed the correspondence received for the period of August 29 through September 18, 2014. (File #5)

VII. Consent Calendar
President Sholler-Barber presented the Consent Calendar items: VII.A. August 28, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes; VII.B. Purchase Recommendations 2015-09 and 2015-10; VII.C. Personnel Changes; and VII.D. Approval of Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) Grant Application Submission for Arts in Education Residency (AIER) Program.

Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start reviewed the purchase recommendations:
- 2015-09 in the amount of $58,800 for expansion of CompassLearning Odyssey supplemental resources for Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts and Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology from school improvement grants; and
- 2015-10 in the amount of $44,820 for iPads with Apple Care for Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts and Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology from school improvement grants.

MOTION: Implied to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board
None.

IX. Reports and Recommendations
Parent Recommendations to the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency Parent Advisory Committee
Superintendent Dr. Rice reviewed the recommendation to appoint Ms. Tracy Dawson, Mrs. Christine Dyk, Mrs. Carmina Jones, and Mrs. Laura Shackleford as KPS parent representatives on the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency Parent Advisory Committee. He explained that this advisory council works with KRESA on behalf of students with special needs.

MOTION: Moved by Trustee McGlinn, and supported by Trustee Hill, to approve the Parent Recommendations to Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency Parent Advisory Committee.

Board discussion:
President Patti Sholler-Barber noted that this is a vital volunteer group that advocates for children with special needs. She stated that she was pleased, humbled, and honored that these parents had stepped forward to serve on this important committee.

Audience comments:
None.

Disposition: Roll call vote: motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

X. Other Business
None.
XI. Comments by Trustees

Ken Greschak stated that he had attended the open house at Loy Norrix High School, which offered parents the opportunity to meet teachers and learn about the goals and objectives for their children’s classes. He thanked the administrators and teachers for this wonderful and informative event.

Carol McGlinn had no comments.

TiAnna Harrison stated that she was eager and excited about the start of the 2014-2015 school year. She noted that Lift Up Through Literacy would be starting its fall sessions and encouraged all parents to take advantage of this worthwhile opportunity.

Craig Herschleb stated that he had the opportunity to attend open houses at both Maple Street Magnet Center for the Arts and Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology, and that both of them had been excellent.

Mr. Herschleb noted that construction at Washington Writers’ Academy continues, with installation of outside street lights, sidewalk, and landscaping taking place.

Jennie Hill stated that she had attended the Loy Norrix High School versus Kalamazoo Central High School football game, and that both teams played well. She noted that the audience was in tune and supported their teams. Ms. Hill concluded that it had been a fun, wholesome, Friday high school football night in Kalamazoo.

Patti Sholler-Barber stated that she had also attended the Loy Norrix versus Kalamazoo Central crosstown rivalry football game. She noted that the cheerleaders were at the top of their game, the drum line was strong, and the action on the field was excellent. Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that it was a proud moment for Kalamazoo, with many staff, students, parents, and community members in attendance.

Ms. Sholler-Barber reminded parents and students to read, read, read, and to keep that enthusiasm going throughout the school year. She asked families to maintain a regular school schedule, with plenty of time for homework and reading. Ms. Sholler-Barber also reminded students to arrive on time and prepared each school day.

Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that she had attended several school open houses and was very pleased with the atmosphere at all the buildings. She commented that she found the energy throughout the district from elementary schools to high schools very positive and uplifting.

Ms. Sholler-Barber reminded the community that there would be a big election this fall and that candidates were actively seeking votes. She asked everyone to please watch carefully that the candidates for whom they vote were those that advocate for public education and the needs of all children. Ms. Sholler-Barber explained that electing those who would ensure that stable and adequate funding from the state was provided for public education would be the best and most important public advocacy we could do for our children.

Comments by the Superintendent
Superintendent Dr. Rice noted that it was a great beginning to the 2014-2015 school year, with staff and children smiling and engaged.
Dr. Rice extended condolences to the family and friends of Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts Football Coach Darryl Bradford. He explained that arrangements for visitation and the funeral would be on September 19 and 20. Dr. Rice noted that Coach Bradford left behind a wonderful legacy because of the profound impact he had on children and that he would be greatly missed.

Dr. Rice explained that each year he almost hopes for a tie game between Kalamazoo Central High School and Loy Norrix High School because he feels like a father watching his children play on opposing teams. He noted that it was an exciting football game and that it was good to see the Board members in attendance.

Dr. Rice stated that the Lift Up Through Literacy fall session would begin this month. He encouraged families to take advantage of the parent education and family literacy programs offered.

Dr. Rice reminded parents to call 337-0095 to enroll their children in one of the few slots still available in pre-kindergarten. He noted that the full-day sessions were filled; however, there were still some slots available in the half-day sessions.

Dr. Rice reminded parents of students in kindergarten through grade 12 to call 337-0161 to enroll their children in those grades.

Dr. Rice explained that more than 13,000 young people were being educated this school year in Kalamazoo Public Schools in pre-kindergarten through adult education classes. He stated that more children were being educated by KPS now than there were a quarter of a century ago. Dr. Rice reminded parents that there were still slots available for those who would like their children to graduate from high school and use the Promise scholarship to further their education.

XII. Closed Session
President Sholler-Barber did not ask for a motion to move into closed session and adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

President Sholler-Barber announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, October 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education
Call to Order
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the October 2, 2014 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:06 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, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

Announcements and Recognitions
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized Kalamazoo Central High School seniors:
- Zjade Carter for participation in the 2013-2014 National DECA Conference; and
- Samson Haile for participation in the 2013-2014 State DECA Conference. Samson was unable to attend due to an athletic contest; however, his mother was in attendance and given Samson’s certificate.

Also in attendance and introduced by Mr. Lee was Kalamazoo Central High School Principal Valerie Boggan. The students’ parents, family, and friends in the audience were also recognized.

School Reports/Committee Reports
Committee Reports
President Patti Sholler-Barber explained that committees had been formed and were scheduled to meet as follows:
- October 14 – Evaluation and Accountability Committee
- October 16 – Curriculum Committee
- October 16 – Wellness Committee
- October 28 – Operations Committee
- October 28 – Policy Committee
- November 20 – Teaching and Learning Council

Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo (CISK) – Carol McGlinn, representative, stated that the CISK board met on September 19, and discussed ways to inform the community about what CISK does, which included work on updating its website. She concluded that the CISK board would meet again on October 17.

Legislative Liaison – Carol McGlinn, representative, had no report.

School Reports
None.
VI. **Correspondence**  
Secretary Jennie Hill reviewed the correspondence received for the period of September 19, 2014 through October 2, 2014. (File #6)

VII. **Consent Calendar**  
President Sholler-Barber presented the Consent Calendar items: VII.A. September 18, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes; VII.B. Purchase Recommendations 2015-11 and 2015-12; and VII.C. Personnel Changes.

Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start reviewed the purchase recommendations:

- 2015-11 in the amount of $29,451.40 for network data cabling for wireless infrastructure at Lincoln International Studies School, Parkwood Upjohn Elementary School, Northglade Montessori Magnet School, and Northeastern Elementary School from the 2010 bond; and
- 2015-12 in the amount of $57,903.71 for network technology equipment for Washington Writers’ Academy from the 2013 bond.

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

Board comments:
President Patti Sholler-Barber thanked the voters for approving the bonds, and noted that these technology purchases were made possible because of the community support of KPS bonds.

**Disposition:** Voice vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

VIII. **Persons Requesting to Address the Board**  
Kris Mbah, 2242 Cork Street, Kalamazoo, introduced himself as a candidate for the Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education. He expressed his concerns about childhood poverty and parent engagement in Kalamazoo Public Schools. Mr. Mbah also expressed what he considers a lack of democracy because the KPS Board does not respond to public comments at Board meetings. He concluded by asking the Board to pursue strategies for poverty reduction and parent engagement and involvement within the school system, because both are indicators of educational achievement and success.

Yolonda Lavender, 311 North Kendall Avenue, Kalamazoo, stated that her question for the KPS Board members was: What is KPS doing to decrease the achievement gaps between students of color and students not of color?

Kevin Lavender, Jr. 3502 West Main, Apt. 1, Kalamazoo, stated that his question for the Board was: What is KPS doing to address poverty as an indicator for educational achievement?

IX. **Reports and Recommendations**  
**Capital Improvement Projects Report**  
Deputy Superintendent Gary Start stated that each summer KPS completes capital improvement projects. He noted that KPS is fortunate to have a generous and supportive community that approved bond projects in 2006, 2010, and 2013. He thanked all of the people that successfully completed the bond projects and the staff affected throughout the improvement process at the various buildings. Deputy Superintendent Start introduced Director of Facilities Management Al Tyler.
Mr. Tyler reported that the 2014 capital bond projects included 55 projects at nine sites, with all projects on schedule and the projects in total $138,620 under budget. He noted that the 14 energy-related projects resulted in $336,099 in Consumer Energy Company rebates, for a total of approximately $675,000 in rebates over the past five years. Mr. Tyler also noted that the estimated savings in recurring energy costs was $336,600 annually.

Mr. Tyler explained that the projects included replacement of windows, exterior doors, stairs, ceilings, flooring, lighting, public address systems, boilers and heating systems, and ventilation and air conditioning systems; renovation of food serving lines; installation of elevators and technology infrastructure; various site improvements; and playground renovations.

Mr. Tyler stated that work would continue at four sites: the new Washington Writers’ Academy, scheduled to open in January 2015; the new auxiliary gymnasium at Kalamazoo Central High School, also scheduled to open in January 2015; reconstruction of the gymnasium, lobby, and locker rooms at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, scheduled for completion in the spring of 2015; and various projects that would continue at Loy Norrix High School throughout the school year. He noted that there was also a full schedule of projects planned for next summer.

Mr. Tyler expressed his appreciation to architect TowerPinkster, contractor CSM Group, the hundreds of excellent tradespeople who worked on these projects, Executive Assistant for Facilities Management Karen Jackson, KPS Facilities Management staff, Technology Services, Business and Finance personnel, custodians, summer paint crew, food service employees, and transportation employees. He also thanked the Kalamazoo community for its continued support and recognition of the positive impact that quality facilities have on the education of our children. Mr. Tyler concluded by thanking Superintendent Dr. Rice and the Board of Education Trustees.

A slide show highlighting the completed projects was presented.

Board Comments:
Dr. Martha Warfield asked if all schools now had generators. Mr. Tyler explained that generators would be installed as electrical service was updated at individual buildings.

Ken Greschak commended Mr. Tyler for his management of the many types of projects completed and for making sure both the large and the small details were addressed correctly. He also thanked the community for its generosity and support of bonds because those bonds made these projects possible. Mr. Greschak noted that the maintenance of school buildings affects the ability for children to learn and for staff to teach. He stated that KPS has some of the finest buildings and grounds in the area, and possibly the best in the state.

Carol McGlinn asked if the ongoing projects at Washington Writers’ Academy (WWA) and Kalamazoo Central High School (KCHS) were on schedule. Mr. Tyler responded that both were on schedule, with the move into the new WWA building on track to happen during winter break, and the auxiliary gym at KCHS set for a January opening.

Ms. McGlinn noted that the Board concentrates its time on academics and the ways to help children succeed. She stated that Board trustees are not micromanagers and that they appreciate that KPS has such a strong and reliable complement of experts to handle the many and diverse bond projects. Ms. McGlinn commended previous KPS boards that supported maintaining buildings and keeping them up-to-date, even during financially difficult times. She noted that KPS has some amazing historical buildings; however, Washington Writers’ Academy was not in good shape, so new construction was a better option than remodeling the old building.
Ms. McGlinn thanked the community for its continued support and noted that kids have a feeling of pride and feel better about their education when they are learning in buildings that are safe, secure, and up-to-date.

Jennie Hill stated that installing generators was excellent for the safety of our children because lights and security would remain on in case of power failure. She asked if the generator would kick on immediately. Mr. Tyler responded that it would take 5-7 seconds for the building to cut over to generator power.

Ms. Hill asked about the windows and blinds installed at Parkwood Upjohn Elementary School. Mr. Tyler stated that they were triple-glazed glass with an integral blind.

Ms. Hill continued that the cafeteria at Loy Norrix High School was stunning and looked like a college cafeteria. She also complimented the good stewardship that allowed the projects to be environmentally friendly and to come in under budget.

Craig Herschleb thanked Mr. Tyler and Ms. Karen Jackson for their constant hands-on management at the Washington Writers’ Academy construction site. He stated that he appreciated the time they took to make sure each and every project was done correctly. Mr. Herschleb concluded that the pictures of WWA in the slide presentation were already outdated as the adjacent property had now been cleared and smoothed over.

TiAnna Harrison stated that she works near The Woodward School for Technology and Research and enjoyed watching the transformation that preserved the history of the building. She noted that the award for historical preservation from the Ladies Library Association was well deserved. Ms. Harrison explained that the improvements to the building and the newly built Washington Writers’ Academy would be sources of pride in their respective neighborhoods.

President Patti Sholler-Barber noted that Mr. Tyler and his group did an incredible job. She explained that our students look at school as a safe and secure place that they can be proud to attend and where they can be successful. Ms. Sholler-Barber thanked everyone who worked on these projects, architects TowerPinkster, and contractor CSM Group.

Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that the capital projects represent a community effort and a community’s pride. She noted that school playgrounds become neighborhood playgrounds. Ms. Sholler-Barber complimented many of the projects, which included the beautiful cafeteria at Loy Norrix High School; the former woodshop that is now a computer lab at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts; the new windows at Parkwood Upjohn Elementary School; and the office at The Woodward School for Technology and Research. The last two projects, on older buildings, maintained the integrity of these historic buildings.

Superintendent Dr. Rice thanked voters for supporting the bonds and noted that it was because of the citizens’ generosity that KPS has been able to maintain and improve its building and grounds. He also thanked the Board for putting the bonds on the ballot. Dr. Rice expressed his appreciation to Director of Facilities Management Al Tyler and Executive Assistant for Facilities Management Karen Jackson for their outstanding work, architects TowerPinkster for its design, contractor CSM Group for the beautiful workmanship, and Deputy Superintendent Gary Start and his staff, and the staff in the affected buildings that worked through the challenges of construction with a lot of patience and grace. He noted that students and staff were very appreciative of the completed work.
Dr. Rice explained that, under Michigan law, bond money must be spent on certain types of expenditures such as buildings, roofs, boilers, chillers, lighting, busses, and technology. He continued that school districts are not permitted to fund staff with bond monies. Dr. Rice noted that the new Washington Writers’ Academy replaced a 1919 building. He explained that the district had to look at whether or not the original structure was worth the expense of repairing or replacing, and that the new building would be a shot in the arm for that neighborhood. Dr. Rice continued that The Woodward School for Technology and Research is a 1922 building that was built stronger and had had more maintenance, so it had made sense to renovate it. He stated that the same was true for Parkwood Upjohn Elementary School that was built in the early 1930s. He noted that the improvements at both of those buildings would make them better for further generations of young people.

Audience Comments:
Mr. Kris Mbah asked from the audience if he could make comments about the presentation. President Patti-Sholler explained to him that audience comments are given on matters that require a vote by the Board, not on presentations that require no vote. Mr. Mbah asked why, and Ms. Sholler-Barber offered to speak with him after the meeting had adjourned to further discuss the matter.

X. Other Business
None.

XI. Comments by Trustees
Dr. Martha Warfield announced that Western Michigan University (WMU) had received a grant to look at how it manages higher education for KPS Promise students. She explained that WMU and the KPS community are looking at students who now have the opportunity to go to college, but also have numerous other issues that can get in the way of their being able to achieve a college degree. Dr. Warfield noted that Kalamazoo is a college town that wants to do something about those issues so that students may achieve their full promise. She explained that teaching and learning have to be reflective of the students in the community. Dr. Warfield stated that the grant offers WMU a remarkable and wonderful opportunity for higher education to look at itself and to change what it does to help students be more successful. She concluded that WMU was only one out of 25 colleges to be awarded this $3.2 million four-year grant.

Ken Greschak stated that he was happy to report that the Loy Norrix High School (LNHS) Parent Advisory Council (PAC) met for the first time this school year and had almost 30 parents in attendance. He noted that it was a very diverse representation of socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds. He explained that one of the core values of the LNHS PAC was to provide opportunities for meaningful parent involvement in the school. Mr. Greschak noted that KPS does a good job of involving parents; however, there is always room for improvement.

Carol McGlinn spoke about the drumbeat around literacy and the many ways that KPS has worked to create a college-going culture, which included increasing quality preschool slots, implementing the reading recovery program, double-blocking in middle schools, and the Lift Up Through Literacy programs. She explained that despite those efforts, some kids still struggle with learning how to read. Ms. McGlinn announced that October is Dyslexia Awareness month and that SLD Read would present workshops, discussion, and a movie about working with children with disabilities at 6:30 p.m. on October 6 and October 8 at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. She encouraged all that were interested in attending to go to www.sldread.org to sign up.
Jennie Hill thanked the Kalamazoo Promise donors for all that they have done. She also thanked the many KPS community partners, and noted that KPS is not a separate entity; it is a part of the community. She explained that the many community partners provide and enhance opportunities for children and thanked those partnerships for continuing to support our children.

Craig Herschleb had no comments.

TiAnna Harrison stated that as a single parent she understands the challenges of staying active and involved with her children and their schools. She explained that she has three students in two different schools, which keeps her family busy with many activities. Ms. Harrison noted that she was excited that Lift Up Through Literacy fall sessions had begun, because the programs offer an opportunity to spend time with her children that is private and quiet. She stated that her middle school daughters enjoy the sessions, and that it was an inexpensive way to spend quality time with your children. Ms. Harrison encouraged parents to take advantage of Lift Up Through Literacy and to enjoy the First Saturday at Kalamazoo Public Library on October 4 because they offer wonderful opportunities for family fun.

It was announced that those who are interested in the Lift Up Through Literacy programs could find more information at www.kalamazoopublicschools.com or could call 337-0833.

Patti Sholler-Barber extended congratulations to Western Michigan University (WMU) for the $3.2 million dollar grant and noted that the grant could not go to a better institution because WMU staff have figured out the needs of its Promise student population. She stated that the grant would help to provide a great bridge between high school and upper education.

Ms. Sholler-Barber encouraged parents to get involved with their students’ schools through Parent Teacher Organizations. She explained that this was a great way to find out about activities and Lift Up Through Literacy programs, to commiserate and share joys with fellow parents, and to get involved at your child’s school.

Ms. Sholler-Barber reminded parents and students that KPS schools are safe, and that it is important that children attend school each and every day. She explained that consistent attendance is essential in order to achieve the Kalamazoo Promise.

Ms. Sholler-Barber reminded everyone that the November election was coming up and that public schools in Michigan are in need of support from the state. She noted that there is a great debate in the media about whether or not school funding had been increased or cut. Ms. Sholler-Barber explained that there had been cuts to what was provided to the classrooms and the children. She asked voters to be aware of the candidates and what support they would provide to public education.

Comments by the Superintendent
Superintendent Dr. Rice stated that Lift Up Through Literacy (LUTL) sessions had begun for the fall session. He explained that these are grant-funded programs in parent education and family literacy. Dr. Rice continued that 1200 parents and grandparents had participated in the LUTL programs, which are held at 12 sites throughout the community. He stated that it is noteworthy that community centers and churches from across the community want to become involved in the literacy of our children, and that many of our church and community members were on board to help KPS improve what it does for young people. Dr. Rice explained that KPS and the Kalamazoo community were working towards becoming the first fully literate urban community in the country, which was a tremendous challenge. He expressed his appreciation that more and more
people have taken heed of the exhortation by Frederick Douglass that, “Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.” Dr. Rice noted that a number of our community members were working hard to make that happen for our children.

Dr. Rice noted that we are in the “silly season,” the election season. He explained that people were arguing over the question of whether or not more money had gone to public education and that this turned on the issue of whether you were talking about dollars to the MPSER retirement system or not. Dr. Rice stated that if you count the dollars going directly to the retirement system, the answer is yes, funding has increased; however, if you don’t count those dollars, the answer is no, funding has decreased.

Dr. Rice explained that the correct question we should ask was whether children across the state were better off in the last four years. He continued that the proof that children were not better off was that districts across the state have cut budgets repeatedly and substantially. Dr. Rice stated that it was impossible to come to any conclusion other than that kids were worse off because the state has chipped away at the funding for the education of our young people over a period of time, and that public school districts have had to make cuts to balance their budgets.

Dr. Rice repeated the question, “Are children better off for the state’s budget of the last four years?” He explained that public schools have gotten less funding directly from the state for young people for education in classrooms. Dr. Rice stated that it would be nice to see some energy in our citizenry throughout the state for beating back those very onerous and harmful cuts. He explained that the current funding from the state for public education, whether it has increased or decreased, is not sufficient. Dr. Rice explained that those states that are most serious about public education fund schools better than does the state of Michigan. He continued that the state of Michigan is responsible for more than three-quarters of the funding for public education post-Proposal A in 1994. Dr. Rice concluded that the state of Michigan needs to do a better job of funding public education and that we must replace those at the state level who are not prepared to do better for our kids.

XII. Closed Session
President Sholler-Barber did not ask for a motion to move into closed session and adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

President Sholler-Barber announced the next special Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., and the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, October 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education
Summer 2014 Bond Work Update

President Sholler-Barber, Superintendent Rice, members of the Board of Education, we are pleased to have the opportunity this evening to update you on the progress of work associated with the 2010 and 2013 Bonds.

This past summer, 55 projects at 9 sites have been completed. Some of these projects included window, exterior door, stair, ceiling, flooring, lighting, public address, boiler, and heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system replacement; food serving line renovations; elevator and technology infrastructure installations; various site improvements; and playground renovations. The budgeted total for these projects was $7,377,589. All projects were completed on schedule and were in total $138,620 under budget. In addition, work continues at four sites. Construction of the new Washington Writers’ Academy is scheduled to open in January 2015. Construction of the new auxiliary gym at Kalamazoo Central High School is also scheduled to open in January 2015. Projects will continue at Loy Norrix High School throughout the school year, second shift, as well as a full schedule of projects in the upcoming summer of 2015. Finally, at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts the reconstruction of the gymnasium, lobby, and lockerooms continues with a scheduled completion of spring 2015 and additional projects scheduled for the summer of 2015.

The focus continues to be on energy-efficient design and products, as well as the reduction of our energy consumption. This year, 14 energy-related projects, combined with the ongoing work at the four sites mentioned, will result in Consumers Energy rebates of $336,099, bringing the total rebates over the past five years to approximately $675,000. More importantly, over the last five years, these efforts are estimated to produce savings of approximately $336,600 annually in recurring energy costs.
Design has been completed for next summer’s projects, and the bidding phase has begun. In addition to the work already scheduled at Loy Norrix High School and Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts next summer, projects will take place at ten additional sites.

The extended school year, due to this past winter, and the resulting compressed construction schedule made this a very challenging summer, one we would not like to repeat anytime soon. Success was only possible through the efforts of everyone involved. I would like to thank our partners at Tower Pinkster and CSM Group. Thanks to the hundreds of talented trades people that worked 12-16 hour days, seven days a week to ensure we were ready to open on time. Thank you to the school- based administrators, teachers, and staff for your cooperation and understanding. Special thanks to the maintenance, custodial, technology, food service, summer paint, transportation, and business and finance staffs. You are amazing summer after summer. I have run out of words to describe the efforts and contributions of Karen Jackson throughout this process. Without her, it simply wouldn’t happen. Thank you to Dr. Rice and members of the Board for your continued trust and support. The biggest thank you of all goes to the taxpayers of this community for their continual support for the students of the Kalamazoo Public Schools, and for understanding the positive impact that quality facilities can have on children.
2014 Capital Bond Projects
Fifty-five projects at
nine sites
KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
1220 Howard Street
October 16, 2014 – Special Meeting

I. Call to Order
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the October 16, 2014 special Board of Education meeting to
order at 7:02 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol
McGlinn, and Patti Sholler-Barber. Absent: Dr. Martha Warfield. Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice
was also present.

IV. Reports on state financial matters
A. Presentation by Doug Drake – Wrong Turns on the Path to Prosperity
Superintendent Dr. Rice introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Douglas Drake. He highlighted Mr.
Drake’s professional background, and welcomed him to the meeting.

Mr. Drake noted the following:
- This was an updated study of one he had completed 10 years ago.
- Michigan has been reforming its state tax laws for decades, with a few tax increases, but
mostly tax cuts, which are often referred to as reforms.
- Michigan is not a high tax state. Michigan has mostly been an average tax state; however,
it has been below average for over a decade, which started with Proposal A in 1994.
- Education and local government and public services in general do not have to be defensive
about the bad financial position in which they are due to the lack of stable and adequate
funding from the state.
- The state legislature has stopped valuing investment in public services, education, and
transportation.
- Recurring themes in Michigan tax reform are large corporations versus small business,
business versus individuals, and Michigan versus other states.
- One advantage for taxing business is that a lot of that tax liability gets exported to other
states, particularly when people buy cars.
- When we buy oil, we’re paying some of the taxes in North and South Dakota, Texas,
Oklahoma, and the other energy-rich states.
- Michigan is not an energy exporter; however, it is always compared to other states.
- Michigan has been operating on the theme, which is accepted by both Democrats and
Republicans in Lansing, that lower taxes will bring more prosperity. Lower taxes do not
bring prosperity.
- Michigan has dozens of targeted business tax incentives. Public Act 198 of 1974 is always
part of an economic development package and is still heavily used.
- Michigan is in the middle of a policy and equity debate: Was it equitable for Governor
Snyder to provide businesses with additional tax cuts and partially pay for those cuts by
reversing pension exemptions on income tax and the homestead property tax credit? That
decision by the governor was definitely business versus the lower and middle class.
• When Proposal A was enacted in 1994, the hope was that the state had addressed the relative equity of school finance.
• It will be several years before the state of Michigan fully recovers from the combination of the 2008 Great Recession, the collapse of the automotive and other industries, and the national decline in property values.
• Michigan has neither maintained K-12 and higher education investment, nor has it maintained water and sewer systems, its electric grid, and its roads.
• Forty years of aggressive tax cuts have not given Michigan prosperity.
• Several charts were presented, and Mr. Drake continued:
  • The 1978 Headlee Amendment was not a good idea. Michigan has averaged $6.5 billion under the constitutional limit for each of the last five budget years, and 15% under for each year since 2002. This is an indication that taxes are not too high in Michigan.
  • This study looked at Michigan’s major changes in taxes from 1994 through 2012. In that time, there were more reductions in taxes than there were increases. This is another indication that taxes are not too high in Michigan.
  • In a comparison of Michigan and United States personal income, Michigan remained average until the state began cutting more taxes.
  • The 1970s were Michigan’s most prosperous decade, with the 1940s being the next most prosperous.
  • In the 1930s, Michigan was at its least prosperous, with the 1990s being the next least prosperous.
  • Aggressive tax-cutting has not made Michigan more prosperous.
  • Michigan’s economy is still strongly tied to the automotive industry.
  • The Big Three, General Motors, Chrysler, and Ford, have lost the majority of the total U.S. vehicle sales, and will probably not get that back.
  • Decades of tax cuts in Michigan have brought the state to below average in a comparison of Michigan and U.S. average tax burden as a percent of income. This may be the wrong target.
  • A per capita Michigan and U.S. average tax burden comparison shows the same issue: Michigan has dropped below average.
• Michigan was supposed to get more prosperous due to tax cuts; however, it has not worked out that way.
• Michigan has had the lowest increase in tax burden of all U.S. states from 1977 to 2011.
• Michigan business taxes are ranked at 14th overall in 2014 and second best in the Great Lakes by the tax foundation. Ernst & Young\textsuperscript{1}Council of State Taxation includes benefits and ranks Michigan as the third overall best, with Connecticut and Maryland as the top two.
• Comparisons to other states are almost always apples to oranges due to differences that include population size, geography, agriculture, mining (including oil), and manufacturing. You cannot move, for example, oil manufacturing to the State of Michigan to improve the economy.
• Another major difference between states is that those who have large federal government facilities do well economically. This is also true for Virginia and Maryland due to the increase in federal government.
• Business leaders in Michigan have started trying to benchmark Michigan against other states by using two categories: traditional (Great Lakes States), and new economy (Texas, Virginia, and some others).
• Michigan should pay more attention to new economy states New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, California, and Illinois because those are the states that will drive the future of the United States.
• Proposal A is broken and the entire school finance system needs to be redone.
• School finance systems are generational and seem to last about 20 years.
• Michigan cannot cut taxes to achieve prosperity.
• Mr. Drake’s report suggested that in the Great Lakes region, Michigan should look at Minnesota. Minnesota has higher taxes, from which it gets a higher level of public services, and is the most prosperous of the Great Lakes states.
• Michigan needs to develop a culture that thinks about and invests in the future, not a culture that thinks about how cheap it can be.

Question and Answer Session:

How do you make the point that success is so significantly related to taxes?

It is not just taxes, it is the whole culture that comes from having a goal of investment in building a stronger future. If we have not invested properly, we must hope our kids have good jobs or we will not have a good retirement. If we want to have a retirement where we drive around the country, we need good roads; if we want to have water, sewer, and a strong electrical grid, we have to invest in those systems. A lot of the state’s water systems are 90-100-plus years old and will not last much longer. We have built a great public health system and we should worry more about getting water and sewer systems up-to-date than some issues of lesser likelihood. The lack of adequate water and sewer systems is a bigger threat to a wider number of people.

What would a new school finance system look like?

We need a non-partisan school finance study commission that looks at how the other states finance education and see if the best from each state can be implemented in Michigan. Legislators would have to work across party lines to determine what the best solution is. Part of the difficulty is with term limits because no one is there long enough to fully comprehend the issues in-depth, and house members are looking to run for senate seats when they have reached the house term limit. We need to get people talking about a school finance study commission, and work through the talking stage to the practical stage. We need legislators who represent the people in their districts, not their political party.

In the large corporations versus small business, did the large corporations become too powerful?

Yes, that’s a part of it, and in some ways we got more desperate. After the enactment of Public Act 198 of 1974, a lot of states were getting into the thought process of “we have to buy companies” by offering tax incentives. Members of the state legislature were starting to feel that Michigan should have a horse in that race as well. If it had stopped there, it might have been managed. If you review a list of all of the state house and senate packages, you would realize that if you are in business and are not getting some kind of tax incentive, you’re crazy, because the money is there to be taken. One of the worst tax incentives is the film credits. The Batman versus Superman movie is being shot in East Lansing and, while people love the idea of bringing Hollywood to Michigan, the reality is that almost all of the locals that the movie production hires are temporary for a couple of days, and then the movie stars go back to Hollywood. There is no lasting value to the film tax incentive for Michigan.
Why do you think that Michigan has such a lack of concern for the infrastructure, public schools and institutions, and public health?

I think some of it is because of national economic problems that have affected the state, and part of it is because people are under so much pressure economically these days, with the lack of jobs, trying to put their kids through college, and things of that nature. I think we have gotten caught up, both politically and societally, in today and tomorrow and not so much in next year or ten years from now.

So the myth prevails that massive tax cuts bring prosperity. Do you think the state is clinging to that type of thinking?

I think it is a popular political rhetoric that permeates Lansing and the legislature.

Who had control over the decline in the Big Three automakers’ share of total U.S. vehicle sales?

There is at least some blame on the unions; however, management negotiated those contracts so it was not one-sided. The unions did not design those cars that were less than good quality in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, and the union did not hide the GM recalls we are seeing today. There is a lot of blame to go around.

In your report you state that there are only two states that offer businesses a better tax deal than the state of Michigan offers. Why aren’t we attracting more businesses? It defies the political rhetoric that businesses aren’t coming to Michigan because of high taxes.

We are paying for the legacy of the perception that this is a hard state in which to do business because of the unions. I don’t think that was ever true except in the very early days. Unions understand that they need their companies to thrive in order for them to thrive. Someone has to be a better psychologist or politician to figure out how we get out of this endless loop.

Comments by Superintendent:
Superintendent Dr. Rice concurred that an independent, bipartisan commission on reformation of the school finance system is an excellent idea because there is no doubt that a new school finance system is needed, and that Proposal A is on its last legs. He noted that the goals of Proposal A in 1994 were terrific, and for a while the state was pursuing them well; however, it would be difficult to make a case that Proposal A has been working well for the last decade.

Dr. Rice stated that how schools are financed in the other 49 states, the District of Columbia, and perhaps internationally should be reviewed, taking the best of the best to implement in Michigan. He advised that school finances should be needs-based and should take into account how much particular children cost to educate. Dr. Rice noted that the Michigan legislature currently indicates the cost of educating all children at a relatively minimum cost, without taking into substantial consideration that special needs children, English language learners, and poor children cost more to educate. He continued that high concentrations of poor children require even more funding.

Dr. Rice stated that funding for public education from the state of Michigan not only needs to be adequate; it also needs to be stable. He explained that the state should have started to work on this years ago, and that part of his concern is that a child cannot repeat first grade repeatedly until adults address the proper funding of public education. It is dismaying that we, as adults, cannot do better for the young people of our state.

Mr. Drake responded by cautioning that public schools need to keep two additional things in mind: demographics are running against public education and there is continued pressure from
the legislature for more charter schools. He explained that charter schools traditionally concentrate on kindergarten through sixth grade, or kindergarten through eighth grade, because they are much less expensive to operate than high schools. Mr. Drake stated that there should have been a limit on charter schools that gave them so many years to prove themselves or they were finished.

President Patti Sholler-Barber thanked Mr. Drake for his excellent presentation. She stated that she hoped his presentation helps to increase the awareness, not just locally but throughout the state.

V. Closed Session
President Sholler-Barber did not call for a closed session, and adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

President Sholler-Barber announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, October 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill, Secretary
Board of Education
Douglas C. Drake
A widely respected public finance and public policy expert, Doug has had a long career in public finance and public education in Michigan.

Work History:
Doug has been involved in many major tax reform and education policy initiatives. His key policy role in helping to develop and then implementing Proposal A, Michigan’s school finance reform, is a chief highlight of his 40-year career in Michigan public service. Other key achievements include drafting the original statute for Michigan’s Budget Stabilization Fund, and numerous tax policy reforms. He is currently semi-retired and doing limited consulting work.


  Doug’s clients included several regional Michigan Works! agencies; the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators; the Michigan State Housing Development Authority; the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth; the Michigan Department of Corrections; the Michigan Department of Human Services; the Michigan Department of Community Health; the Michigan Municipal League; the Michigan Association of United Ways; the Michigan Environmental Council; the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality; MESSA; and other governmental and nonprofit clients in Kansas, Ohio, and Oregon.

- **1998 to January 2005**, Associate Director of the State Policy Center for Wayne State University. Doug coordinated university outreach efforts in public policy with state government, particularly the legislature. He wrote and edited public policy issue papers and arranged multiple seminars and workshops for legislators and legislative staff on various key policy issues, including Health Care Policy 101.

  Also during this period, he taught graduate classes in public finance for Western Michigan University and Wayne State University, and participated in training sessions in the Michigan Political Leadership Program at MSU, the MSU New Legislator Orientations, and similar programs for education and community groups around the state.

- **While at Wayne State**, Doug was the project developer, coordinating editor of, and a major contributor to the landmark study *Michigan at the Millennium: a Benchmark and Analysis of Its Fiscal and Economic Structure*.

  See a brief review of this important publication at the National Tax Journal:
  http://ntj.tax.org/wwtax/ntjrec.nsf/175d710dffc186a385256a31007cb40f96b272c3a6a9a2cd8525701e006146d0?OpenDocument
• **Prior to 1998**, Doug worked for nearly 30 years in Michigan’s state government holding numerous positions including:

  o Director of the Office of Education and Infrastructure at the Michigan Department of Management and Budget (MDMB), playing a leading role in the development, implementation, and administration of the new school finance system created by Proposal A. As Director he had overall responsibility for approximately two thirds of the total state budget.

  o Director of the MDMO Office of Revenue and Tax Analysis, responsible for economic forecasting and revenue estimating for the state as well as the administration of the state revenue-sharing program for general-purpose local governments.

  o Director of the House Taxation Committee Staff and member, Assistant Director and then Co-Director of the House’s Democratic Research Staff, personally working on bonding, budget, economic development, and education and tax issues before the Michigan Legislature while overseeing staff work on all issues before the Legislature from the mid 1970s to the mid 1980s. In this period, he had key roles in Michigan’s Single Business Tax legislation and in drafting Michigan’s Budget Stabilization Fund, which was honored by the Council of State Governments “Innovations in State Government” program.

**Community Involvement**

Doug is currently a trustee of the Delta Township Public Library, and has served on various boards and organizations including the Michigan Health Council, the Michigan State Employees Retirement System Board (member and chair), the National Tax Association, the American Education Finance Association, and the American Society of Public Administration (past president, Michigan Capital Area Chapter). He recently served as a member of two separate Local Fiscal Emergency Review Teams for the State Department of Treasury (City of Pontiac and Village of Three Oaks). As an independent consultant working with the Michigan School Business Officials he has also conducted numerous school business office evaluations.

He has been a member of the Chief Okemos Council Boy Scout Board, having served as Advancement Chair for the Council, and Treasurer, Advancement Chair and Mackinac Island Honor Guard Staffer for Troop 111, as well as Advancement Chair for Cub Scout Pack 121. He coached AYSO Soccer for several years in Delta Township.

**Personal Facts**

• Born and raised in Ionia, MI; has lived in Delta Township, Eaton County since 1979

• Earned both his Bachelor of Arts (History) and his Master of Arts (Political and Economic History) from Michigan State University

• Wife of 45 years, Judi Drake, is a retired teacher

• Two sons (Benjamin and Matthew), one granddaughter and one grandson.

Hobbies include genealogy and wine-making.
Wrong Turns...

...on the Path to Prosperity
Douglas C. Drake
October 2014

First, A Quiz...

- Are Michigan taxes:
  - A. At or near historic highs? Y_ N_
  - B. Compared to other states, are Michigan total state and local taxes:
    - Among the Highest 10%? Y_ N_
    - Among the Lowest 10%? Y_ N_
    - Above average? Y_ N_
    - Below average? Y_ N_

Why Is This Presentation and the study Important? - 1

- Michigan has been "reforming" its tax structure for decades—some increases, more "reforms" and cuts—personal and business
- Michigan is NOT a high tax state
- Michigan has mostly been an average state, sometimes a little above, now below average & has been over a decade

Recurring Themes of Michigan Tax "Reform"

- "Big" vs "Small" Business
  - Large Corporations vs Others
- Business vs Individuals
- Michigan vs Other States
- Lower taxes will bring prosperity?

Why Important 2

- Over this whole period, dozens if not hundreds of targeted business tax incentives- on top of big changes
- Individual breaks as well... exemption of large portion of private pension income to match public pension exemption—Repealed under Snyder "reforms"

Proposal A 1994

- Hope was to address relative equity of school finance & it did improve things
- Provisions for assessment freeze and cap on parcel by parcel assessment increases
- Tax cuts and limits on growth for both business and individuals
The Perfect Storm

- 1. 2008 Great Recession a "gift" from Wall Street that still keeps giving.
- 2. Autos, & lots of others, collapsed
- 3. Property values fell nationwide as well as in Michigan
- 4. We are "recovering" but it will be years before we are "recovered" and fully back

Tax Cuts & Investment

- 40 years since PA 198 of 1974, and...
- 39 yrs since Milliken SBT "reform"
- 20 yrs since Prop A
- We're still dominated by a shrunken auto industry
- We've not maintained K-12 and Higher Ed investment
- We've not maintained water & sewer systems, electric grid, and roads

Forty Years of Aggressive Tax Cuts

- Haven't given us prosperity
- The more we've cut taxes, the less prosperous we've become as a state
- Taxes lower now, probably lower than at most times in modern Michigan history for businesses and many individuals
- Let's look back now at some of those changes and benchmarks of burden

Michigan’s Constitutional Revenue Limit 1978 “Headlee” Amendment

Comparing Michigan & US Personal Income
Remember The Good Old Days?

Michigan & US Avg Tax Burden As % Of Income

Changing Taxes Over Time

- On a Per Capita Basis
  - From 1977 to 2011, Michigan had THE lowest increase in burden of all states. (Full report Table 3A)

- On a Percentage of Personal Income Basis
  - From 1977 to 2011, Michigan had the 42d smallest increase in burden, DECLINING by 8.1% from 1977 even though our incomes collapsed more than many in the Great Recession with its impact on autos. (Full report Table 3B)

What About Business Taxes?

- Despite popular belief, our business taxes are far from the highest, and by one measure that accounts for benefits to business we’re among the best deals in the country.
  - TAX FOUNDATION
    - 14th overall 2014, 2d best in Great Lakes,
  - ERNST & YOUNG/COST- includes benefits
    - Only 2 states a better deal (CT & MD)
Comparisons to other States-1

- Be Careful! This is almost always apples and oranges!
- Walmarts and McDonald’s everywhere don’t mean economies and political cultures are the same
- Big differences come from:
  - Population size & geography
  - Agriculture
  - Mining (including oil)
  - Manufacturing—lots of different stuff gets made, with differing economic cycles (e.g., refining is manufacturing in the data)

Comparisons to other States-2

- Size of federal government presence in some: MD, TX (bases and NASA) and VA—and Gov contractors, esp in MD & VA
- Overall size of economy—small states are different than big states
- Mich is still the primary home of autos

Comparisons to other States-3

- Political cultures are also different
- Local governments vs state government
- Degree of local control of schools and state share of financing
- See pages 26-31 of the full report and especially Tables 6 & 7 for more on some of these differences

What About Michigan’s Future? 1

- Proposal A and the entire school finance system is broken. Time for a re-do!
- I’ve often said that school finance systems are “generational” in the sense that they only seem to work for about 20 years or so
- Then they need major tweaking to address demographics, economic changes, and the relative roles of state and local control

What About Michigan’s Future-2

- We’re on the wrong path if we want to get to a more prosperous future.
- We need a long term commitment to INVESTMENT—not disinvestment
- We should look at states like Minnesota, which is one of the highest tax state in the region, and the most prosperous……..

- See many excellent articles on Minnesota and other related materials at: www.michigantfuture.org
- Also recent 10 part series on Michigan taxes the Center for Michigan’s Bridge Magazine: www.cfmbridge.org
I. Call to Order  
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the October 23, 2014 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance  
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance  
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

IV. Announcements and Recognitions  
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized the following Loy Norrix High School students:
- Turn-around students: Juniors Malyk Thomas and Tre’ Thompson;
- National Achievement Scholarship Outstanding Participant: Junior Quincy Paige; and
- National Merit Scholarship Commended Student – Senior Anna DeRango.

Also in attendance and introduced by Mr. Lee were Loy Norrix High School Principal Rodney Prewitt, Dean of Students Atiba McKissack, Football Coach Sean Bergan, and Assistant Football Coach Davarius Hill. The students’ parents, family, and friends in the audience were also recognized.

V. School Reports/Committee Reports  
Committee Reports
- Evaluation/Accountability Committee – Jennie Hill, chairperson, stated that the committee met on October 14 and received an update on fourth and fifth grade math and science programs, and the second year of the K-5 English Language Arts curriculum. She concluded that the committee would meet again on November 11.

- Wellness Committee – Ken Greschak, representative, stated that the committee met on October 16 and received an update on the many wellness activities in the district, which included recent clinics at which 200 employees received flu shots. He announced that the month of November would focus on diabetes awareness. Mr. Greshack continued that the month of December would include the “Maintain, Don’t Gain,” program. He concluded that the committee would meet again on November 20.

- Curriculum Committee – Carol McGlinn, chairperson, stated that the committee met on October 16 and received a presentation on the Early Middle College Program. She explained that the program provides an opportunity for students to obtain an associate’s degree or certificate of achievement, and is overseen by Education through Employment. Ms. McGlinn stated that each area of the Early Middle College Program has three components: college success strategies; success seminars, where students meet and talk with their peers about how to be successful; and a mentoring program, with each student paired with a mentor. She noted that the committee would
continue to provide additional information about this program for the Board’s consideration. Ms. McGlinn concluded that the committee would meet again on November 5.

Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo (CISK) – Carol McGlinn, representative, announced that CISK had been presented with a $292,000 donation from AT&T that would be used to provide in-class math tutors for students at Loy Norrix High School and Kalamazoo Central High School. She explained that the tutors would be students from Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College. Ms. McGlinn concluded that the CISK board would meet again on November 21.

Legislative Liaison – Carol McGlinn, representative, had no report.

President Patti Sholler-Barber announced the meeting dates for the remaining committees:
- Operations Committee would meet on October 28, 2014;
- Policy Committee would meet on October 28, 2014; and
- Teaching and Learning Council would meet on November 20, 2014.

School Reports
None.

VI. Correspondence
Secretary Jennie Hill reviewed the correspondence received for the period of October 3, 2014 through October 23, 2014. (File #7)

VII. Consent Calendar

Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start reviewed the purchase recommendations:
- 2015-13 in the amount of $85,744.00 for four 2015 Dodge Grand Caravans for use by Kalamazoo Central High School and Loy Norrix High School from the equipment replacement budget;
- 2015-14 in the amount of $74,850.00 for 150 Chromebook laptops that would be for student use in classrooms at Washington Writers’ Academy from the 2013 bond;
- 2015-15 in the amount of $105,546.00 for 98 HP EliteDesk 800 PC’s with Microsoft Office 2013 and HP W2371d monitors for use in the computer labs at Hillside Middle School, Linden Grove Middle School, and Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts from the 2010 bond;
- 2015-16 in the amount of $82,532.00 for four 2015 GMC Savana 2500 standard length cargo vans for use by the Facilities Management Department from the equipment replacement budget; and
- 2015-17 in the amount of $133,599.12 for 120 HP Elite Desk 800 PCs with HP W2371d monitors and Microsoft Office 2013 and 4 HP Probook 650 G1 laptops with Microsoft Office 2013 for staff use in classrooms and offices, and for student use in the computer lab and library of the new Washington Writers’ Academy from the 2010 bond.

MOTION: Implied to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.
Board comments:
President Sholler-Barber expressed the Board’s appreciation to the community for passing the KPS bond requests.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board
Hether Frayer, 127 North Berkley, Kalamazoo, and Amy Dunfee, 906 Pioneer Street, Kalamazoo, introduced themselves as co-chairs of the Healthy Foods in Schools Committee for Kalamazoo County. They asked the Board to encourage community involvement in the process of selecting a food service provider for KPS when the contract comes up for bid this year.

IX. Reports and Recommendations
Annual State of the Schools Report
Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice presented his report entitled Kalamazoo Public Schools: Progress Toward and Plans for Our Children’s Promise, and noted the following:

Progress in Student Achievement:
• From 2008-2009 to 2013-2014, MEAP/MME reading and mathematics achievement rose in all seven grades tested: elementary, middle, and high school.
• MME high school results were the highest in the district’s history, with the new cut scores, in reading, writing, science, and social studies.
• KPS students are 50% poorer than the state as a whole; however, our high school students produced higher test results in social studies than the state, and were only 3% below the state level in reading.
• Comparing 2008-2010 to 2011-2013, KPS graduation rates are up, and dropout rates have decreased.
• In August 2013, KPS announced progress in all 12 long-term (2009-2015) subgoals, and the accomplishment of six of the 12 six-year subgoals in only four years. At the same time, the Board approved new long-term goals, subgoals, and targets, and KPS has made progress in all of the 13 subgoal areas since 2008.
• MEAP/MME reading results from 2008-2009 to 2013-2014 have risen from 42% of students at or above proficiency to 57% in grade 4; from 36% to 57% in grade 8; and from 52% to 56% in grade 11.
• MEAP/MME writing results from 2008-2009 to 2013-2014 have risen from 25% of students at or above proficiency to 41% in grade 4; from 34% to 35% in grade 7; and from 36% to 45% in grade 11.
• MEAP/MME math results from 2008-2009 to 2013-2014 have risen from 23% of students at or above proficiency to 30% in grade 4; from 18% to 20% in grade 8; and from 21% to 23% in grade 11.
• The percentage of students taking algebra in 8th grade has risen from 27% in 2008-2009 to 34% in 2013-2014.
• The number of students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) courses has increased 146% in seven years, from 308 in 2007-2008 to 757 in 2014-2015.
• The number of AP courses taken has increased by 209% from 2007-2008 to 2014-2015. This includes a seven-year increase of 317% participation in AP courses by economically disadvantaged students from 63 in 2007-2008 to 263 in 2014-2015; 264% increase in participation by African-American students from 53 in 2007-2008 to 193 in 2014-2015; and 875% increase in participation by Latino students from 8 in 2007-2008 to 78 in 2014-2015.
In the last six years, the number of tests earning a three or better has increased by 166% from 143 in 2007-2008 to 380 in 2013-2014.

KPS four-year graduation rates from 2009 to 2013 have increased from 63.7% to 65.2%, compared to the state’s four-year graduation rates during the same period, which increased from 75.2% to 77.0%.

KPS five-year graduation rates from 2009-2013 have increased from 69.7% to 75.0%, compared to the state’s five-year graduation rates during the same period, which increased from 79.1% to 79.8%. KPS has reduced the gap between its percentage of increase and the state’s percentage of increase.

In 2013-2014, 72% of KPS students were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch compared with 48% for the state as a whole.

MEAP/MME reading proficiency increased by 12% for grades 3-5 from 42% in 2008-2009 to 54% in 2013-2014 compared to 9% for the state from 59% in 2008-2009 to 68% in 2013-2014; 13% for grades 6-8 from 40% in 2008-2009 to 53% in 2013-2014 compared to 12% for the state from 56% in 2008-2009 to 68% in 2013-2014; and 14% for grade 11 from 42% in 2008-2009 to 56% in 2013-2014 compared to 10% for the state from 49% in 2008-2009 to 59% in 2013-2014.

MEAP/MME writing proficiency increased by 16% for grade 4 from 25% in 2008-2009 to 41% in 2013-2014 compared to 7% for the state from 44% in 2008-2009 to 51% in 2013-2014; 1% for grade 7 from 34% in 2010-2011 to 35% in 2013-2014 compared to 5% for the state from 48% in 2010-2011 to 53% in 2013-2014; and 9% for grade 11 from 36% in 2008-2009 to 45% in 2013-2014 compared to 8% for the state from 43% in 2008-2009 to 51% in 2013-2014.

MEAP/MME math proficiency increased by 5% in grades 3-5 from 24% in 2008-2009 to 29% in 2013-2014 compared to 5% for the state from 39% in 2008-2009 to 44% in 2013-2014.

MEAP/MME math proficiency increased by 4% in grades 6-8 from 22% in 2008-2009 to 26% in 2013-2014 compared to 2% for the state from 36% in 2008-2009 to 38% in 2013-2014; and by 2% in grade 11 from 21% in 2008-2009 to 23% in 2013-2014 compared to 3% in the state from 26% in 2008-2009 to 29% in 2013-2014.

**Enrollment and Other Growth:**

- For one-third of a century, KPS lost K-12 enrollment annually.
- Since the Promise began in November 2005, KPS has gained approximately 2,300 K-12 students, a 23% increase, which was the largest enrollment increase in the state during this period.
- During this period, KPS has grown from 10,223 K-12 students, 24th most in the state, to 12,565 students, 13th most in the state. This enrollment figure does not include pre-kindergarten and adult education students. With these other students, KPS has more than 13,000 students.
- From 1973 to 2005, KPS closed 12 schools and built none.
- In 2008, Prairie Ridge Elementary School was built; in 2009, Linden Grove Middle School was constructed.
- The 94-year-old Washington Writers’ Academy is being replaced with a new building at its current site, which will open in January 2015.
- Shuttered schools have been re-opened. In 2008, El Sol Elementary School opened in the former Vine School. The Middle School Alternative Learning Program, which opened in 2008 in leased space, was moved to a renovated Oakwood Elementary School for 2013-2014.
- Additions have been added to Hillside Middle School and Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology.
These projects and many more were supported by the vision of the KPS Board of Education and the generosity of our voters, who approved bonds in 2006, 2010, and 2013. These same voters have approved three enhancement millage renewals in 2008, 2011, and 2014, and a non-homestead millage renewal in 2012. KPS has 337,762 more square feet and three more schools, and has repurposed an additional 66,630 square feet since the announcement of the Kalamazoo Promise. Capital projects were done at 10 KPS school buildings in the summer of 2014. Gryphon Place is active at seven secondary schools and five elementary schools, and provides programs in peer mediation, conflict resolution, restorative justice, conflict circles, crisis response, and the Gatekeeper suicide prevention program. Whole school reform programs, including Capturing Kids’ Hearts, Rachel’s Challenge, Link Crew, WEB, and Responsible Thinking Process, have been piloted and implemented throughout the district. Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo provides mentoring, tutoring, after-school programs, academic support, socio-emotional learning, and physical and mental health care to KPS students at 20 schools.

**College-Going Culture Components:**
The eight college-going culture components were listed, and Dr. Rice explained that this report would highlight three of these components: #4 Literacy: early language development, reading, and writing; #3 Meaningful and engaging homework; and #6 Education that is relevant to, reflective of, and inclusive of students.

**Literacy: Early Language Development, Reading and Writing:**
- Literacy is a foundation for and one of the eight components of a college-going culture. Our goal is to become the first fully literate urban community in the country.
- A new K-5 English Language Arts series was adopted in April 2013. The series, Pearson Reading Street, contains a large selection of leveled readers, both fiction and nonfiction.
- This new reading program will help our students meet Common Core expectations due to the large number of nonfiction selections, as well as diagnostic and prescriptive tools.
- The Early Childhood (PEEP) Program has seen a 78% increase from 324 slots in 2009-2010 to 576 slots in 2014-2015. These are referred to as “slots” because each slot represents a half-day session. If a student enrolls in a full day pre-kindergarten program, he or she uses two of those slots.
- KPS offers full-day PEEP programs at five of its six poorest schools, each of which has a student population that is 90% or more free or reduced-price lunch eligible student body.
- In 2015-2016, Washington Writers’ Academy, the sixth of these high-poverty elementary schools, will offer a full-day PEEP program.
- With capital projects, KPS has increased square footage, which has enabled Head Start to return to four KPS elementary schools in 2014-2015.
- Enrollment in full-day kindergarten has increased from 176 students in 2007-2008 to 882 students in 2014-2015. The total has fallen slightly from the 2013-2014 school year due to the legal change in birth date eligibility for kindergarten set by the Michigan Legislature, from December 1 to November 1 last year, and from November 1 to October 1 this year.
- A research-based summer literacy program was funded by a $40,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The program was piloted in 2008 based on Professor James Kim’s research, and the pilot was expanded in 2009.
- In 2010, the summer literacy program was expanded to include distribution of approximately 24,000 books throughout the summer to all rising fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students.
The distribution of these books benefited from the partnership with Goodwill Industries of Southwest Michigan, which handles the shipping of the books.

Summer reading lists for pre-kindergarten through grade 12 are distributed to parents at the end of each school year.

Approximately 800 elementary students and 500 secondary students attended the 2014 summer school.

In 2009, KPS was awarded a $150,000 literacy planning grant from W.K. Kellogg Foundation through the Kalamazoo Community Foundation for the study of seven literacy areas: parent education for the parents of newborns, parent education for the parents of 3-4 year olds, pre-kindergarten, summer literacy, family literacy, literacy for struggling readers, and literacy in after-school programs.

Kindergarten through grade three reading blocks have existed for a long time in the district. K-3 writing blocks date to 2008 and have helped us improve writing in the district.

Writing professional development includes Lucy Calkins for grades kindergarten through five, and John Collins for grades six through 12.

Kudos were given to KPS teachers who have worked hard on the writing professional development and writing with students.

A new middle school schedule was implemented in 2010, the first new schedule since 1988, which has provided 120 hours more for the average student in core courses, and 204 hours more for the area in which a student is in need of improvement (either reading or math).

In middle school strategic mathematics, 35% of the students exited the program, in most cases with a year or more of growth in a school year. Another 34% achieved 1+ years of growth without exiting the program.

In middle school strategic reading (Read 180), 37% of the students exited the program, in most cases with a year or more of growth in a school year. Another 42% of the students achieved 1+ years of growth without exiting the program.

The KPS partnership with the Kalamazoo Public Library (KPL) includes all first grade students making three trips to the library in a school year, where they receive library cards, check out and return books, and learn about library summer programs.

The KPS/KPL partnership has resulted in a 68% increase in the number of children participating in the summer reading program between the summer of 2012 and the summer of 2014; and a 36% increase in the number of children’s books checked out from 2010-2011 to 2013-2014.

The First Saturday of the Month at KPL is an outstanding event each month.

Lift Up Through Literacy programs are held at 12 community sites, funded by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The site administrators recognize that these are important programs to offer to their constituency, and are actively helping our children and families to be successful.

Numbers served through Lift Up Through Literacy through the summer of 2014: 203 parents of newborns; 299 parents of preschoolers; and 650 parents of school-age children.

“Reading is not optional” is a quote from Walter Dean Myers. Mr. Myers explained that reading is mandatory to be successful.

**Meaningful and Engaging Homework:**

The KPS district homework standard is 10 minutes a night for students in grades kindergarten and grade 1, with ten minutes more per night per grade, which means children in second grade should have 20 minutes of homework per night, up to 120 minutes per night for students in twelfth grade.
• The homework must be regularly assigned. Teachers need to make clear to students that the homework has value.
• Research indicates that working class and poor children are likely to receive 6,000 fewer hours of enrichment outside of school before they reach middle school than are their middle class peers.
• It is imperative that learning must continue outside the hours and schedule of the school year.

*Education that is Relevant to, Reflective of, and Inclusive of Students:*

• Examples were given of how to make classroom subject matter relevant to students.
• What we teach our children is relevant to their lives; however, the relevance is not always obvious to them. It is our job to make it clear why children need to learn what we are teaching.

*Challenges in 2014-2015 and Beyond:*

• Increase children’s achievement, particularly at our highest poverty schools.
• Address socioeconomic and ethnic achievement gaps to increase child achievement.
• Extension of learning beyond the typical school day and year.
• Strengthen lobbying for stable and adequate state funding of public education.
• The federal government has not maintained its responsibility for financing public education throughout the nation. In KPS, the amount of poverty has increased; however, Title I funding from the federal government has decreased.
• Continue whole-school climate reform work.
• Accelerate progress in math and science.
• Continue progress in literacy.
• Continue funding for Lift Up Through Literacy.
• Increase rigor around common core, new state tests, and online testing.

Dr. Rice expressed appreciation to the more than 200 KPS community partners, with a special thank you to the donors of the Kalamazoo Promise. He also thanked KPS staff for their work with and on behalf of students, and the Board of Education for its support of children.

*In Summary:*

In spite of declining resources from the state to schools, and the resulting budget cuts, KPS has rising enrollment, MEAP and MME results, Advanced Placement participation, and numbers of students graduating.

*Board Comments:*

*Dr. Martha Warfield* thanked Dr. Rice and KPS staff for the report. She noted that the percentages and changes were all in a positive direction, which is what any school district would like to see; however, for one like ours, it was phenomenal. Dr. Warfield explained that the amount of community involvement and the movement towards becoming a literacy community were outstanding, and she expressed her appreciation to everyone working towards that goal.

Dr. Warfield noted that effective change is never episodic and incidental; it is always planned and deliberate. She thanked Superintendent Dr. Rice for the planned and deliberate path he has set to make good things happen in the community. She concluded by thanking everyone who works for and with KPS.

*Ken Greschak* echoed Dr. Warfield’s comments that it was apparent that KPS is making progress; however, he noted that it is important for the community to know that KPS understands that we
still have work to do. Mr. Greschak expressed his appreciation for the underlying strategy that is mapping a course for KPS, and stated that it gave him a sense of the complexity involved to educate children. He concluded by commending Dr. Rice and the entire KPS staff for their continued efforts on behalf of our children.

Carol McGlinn stated that there was still work to be done; however, the interim goal is to catch up with the state, and she is looking forward to when KPS can say it is ahead of the state. She noted that having long-term goals is very important.

Ms. McGlinn expressed her concern that, with the state coming out with new student testing, it may be difficult to do a comparison next year. She concluded by expressing her appreciation for the work that is being done in KPS and explained that we must continue on the course to effect change.

Jennie Hill thanked Dr. Rice for his report. She noted that KPS has a lot of community partners, which can provide opportunities for our students to explore different careers and find out what secondary education is needed to attain their goals. Ms. Hill stated that it was inspiring to see the growth that KPS has made, and also overwhelming to realize what it takes to raise and educate a child. She explained that children come to school and learn more than curriculum because KPS provides them with life information, choices of core models, career options, and much more to teach them how to be lifelong learners and successful adults.

Craig Herschleb had no comments.

TiAnna Harrison stated that one of the best parts of working on a team is that when you are in sync and feel the same way, there is not a lot left to say. She stated that she was excited to see that KPS was progressing and willing to find creative ways to overcome obstacles. Ms. Harrison expressed her appreciation that, as a community, we have a collective desire to do what is best for students. She concluded that developing a culture of change in a community is not easy and it is not perfect; however it is worth it, and she was excited to be a part of it.

Patti Sholler-Barber noted that the energy and enthusiasm shown by Dr. Rice throughout his report is an indication of his passion for educating children. She stated that KPS is moving at a strong, deliberate, and energized pace to increase student achievement. Ms. Sholler-Barber continued that this is an important, elaborate, and expensive assembly line to properly educate our children so that they can be successful adults. She explained that the work on the Board goals is impressive, particularly during such a challenging time due to the lack of stable and adequate funding from the state of Michigan. Ms. Sholler-Barber stated that she was impressed with the seven-year increase in Advanced Placement participation. She explained that this is an indication that our students are preparing for college. Ms. Sholler-Barber advised that the summer literacy program brings the printed word into homes, and that the program has been powerful for families.

Ms. Sholler-Barber thanked the KPS staff for its continued and dedicated work on behalf of children, and noted that the report was a tribute to the work that they were doing. She noted that engaging students in learning and making clear to them why they need to learn what we are teaching are essential.

Ms. Sholler-Barber concluded by thanking Dr. Rice for his presentation and stated that the summation was a celebration for the kind of work that was being done in KPS.
Carol McGlinn stated that it was important to note that kids are realizing the importance of graduating from high school, whether it takes them four years or five years, so that they can take advantage of the Kalamazoo Promise.

Dr. Rice acknowledged and thanked Amanda Miller, the new Kalamazoo Education Association president, who was in the audience. He noted that she represents 800 teachers, counselors, and social workers.

Dr. Rice pointed out that the Michigan Merit Curriculum is a harder curriculum than just a few years ago, so students are doing better at a higher level of effort. He continued that dropout rates are down and graduation rates are up, and that there is a lot to be said for the movement towards literacy in Kalamazoo. Dr. Rice also acknowledged that KPS still has work to do.

Dr. Rice concluded that there is positive energy throughout the district, despite the continued budget cuts and lack of stable and adequate funding from the state and federal governments for public education.

X. Other Business
None.

XI. Comments by Trustees
Dr. Warfield announced that Western Michigan University was getting ready for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. events in January. She noted that a lot of preparation goes into this event each year.

Ken Greschak encouraged all voters to get out and vote on November 4. He stated that this was an opportunity to exercise their civic duty, and that you can’t complain if you don’t vote.

Carol McGlinn explained that the upcoming election was an important event, and reminded voters to complete the entire ballot because the school board election was at the bottom of the ballot.

Ms. McGlinn announced that October is Learning Disabilities Month. She stated that KPS is doing great things about literacy by providing books to children and having parents read with their children. Ms. McGlinn reminded everyone that there are children who struggle to read, or who need different ways to learn how to read. She encouraged parents to contact their school if they see their child struggling with reading. Ms. McGlinn explained that it is easier to help a child learn to read when they are young, before it becomes a self-esteem issue for an older child.

TiAnna Harrison stated that she was excited about the annual school report because KPS has clear goals that can be used to make what we promised our children a reality.

Craig Herschleb congratulated the Kalamazoo Central High School football team for its win on October 17.

Mr. Herschleb reported that the new Washington Writers’ Academy building has new sidewalks, and fencing is being installed. He said that it was hard to believe that, in just a few months, the building would be filled with students.

Jennie Hill stated that she had worked with the League of Women Voters on its voter education program, which included mock elections at the three high schools on October 14. She thanked the
Kalamazoo County Clerk’s office for providing real ballots, voting machines, and equipment so the students could experience the voting process.

_Patti Sholler-Barber_ thanked the donors of the Kalamazoo Promise and the 200+ KPS community partners. She noted that what we do could not be done without them.

**Comments by the Superintendent**
Dr. Rice had no comments.

**XII. Closed Session**
President Sholler-Barber did not ask for a motion to move into closed session and adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

President Sholler-Barber announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary  
on behalf of Jennie Hill,  
Secretary, Board of Education
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the special meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. in the Superintendent’s Conference Room at the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a communications workshop.

Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice was also present.

**Early/Middle College Programs for 2015-2016**
Seven possible offerings were reviewed and discussed.

**Feasibility Study**
Bond money set aside for improvements on the Community Education Center building, which houses KAMSC on the fourth floor, was discussed. Possibilities for an endowment campaign were also discussed.

**Legislative Lobbying/Business/Community**
Discussion focused on ways to inform all community members of the demographics, goals, successes, challenges, and future plans of the district with regard to the education of all of its students.

President Patti Sholler-Barber adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennie Hill, Secretary
KPS Board of Education
I. Call to Order
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the November 13, 2014 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

IV. Announcements and Recognitions
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized turn-around students from Linden Grove Middle School: seventh grade student Lester Moore, Jr.; and eighth grade students Jaquavion Bean (unable to attend), Da’tavion Phillips, Eric Thomas, Jr., and Asim Williamson; and Kalamazoo Central High School freshman Lenell Ewell (unable to attend).

Mr. Lee then recognized turn-around students from the Middle School Alternative Learning Program: eighth grade students Martazia Parker-Cannon and Ryan Vallier. He explained that Martazia and Ryan had been successful at the Middle School Alternative Learning Program and would be returning to Hillside Middle School.

Also in attendance and introduced by Mr. Lee were Linden Grove Middle School Principal Craig McCane, Middle School Alternative Learning Program Principal Tamica Frison, and Hillside Middle School Principal Scott Millin and Assistant Principal Dana Heyl. The students’ parents, family, and friends in the audience were also recognized.

V. School Reports/Committee Reports
Committee Reports
Evaluation/Accountability Committee – Jennie Hill, chairperson, stated that the committee met on November 11 and learned about the utilization of the Northwest Evaluation Association/Measures of Academic Progress (NWEA/MAP) tests. She explained that the tests are aligned with state requirements and common core standards, and provide teachers assessment data for each student. Ms. Hill noted that the tests are now used in grades kindergarten through eight, and would be expanded to high school in 2015-2016.

Ms. Hill stated that the committee also received an update on state testing, which the state had moved to the spring, and was informed of the plans in place for the new testing window. She concluded that the committee would meet again on December 9.

Policy Committee – Craig Herschleb, chairperson, stated that the committee met on October 28 and reviewed Policy 4.3-Graduation Requirements, which would have a first reading at this meeting. He concluded that the committee would meet again on December 8.
Curriculum Committee – Carol McGlinn, chairperson, stated that the committee met on November 5 and received a presentation by Director of Secondary Education Johnny Edwards. The presentation highlighted high school curriculum changes and the use of data so teachers can identify each student’s strengths and weaknesses to help children focus and improve their reading skills. Ms. McGlinn concluded that the committee would meet again on December 3.

Operations Committee – Patti Sholler-Barber, chairperson, stated that the committee met on October 28 and received a detailed presentation from Plante & Moran on the KPS financial audit. She concluded that the committee would meet again on December 8.

Legislative Liaison – Carol McGlinn, representative, congratulated the re-elected and newly elected Board trustees, Patti Sholler-Barber, Dr. Martha Warfield, Ken Greschak, and TiAnna Harrison. She noted that there were a number of new legislators elected and that KPS administrators would be meeting with those newly elected legislators to discuss the educational priorities of the district.

President Patti Sholler-Barber announced the meeting dates for the remaining committees:
- Wellness Committee would meet on November 20, 2014;
- Teaching and Learning Council would meet on November 20, 2014; and
- Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo would meet on November 21, 2014.

School Reports
None.

VI. Correspondence
Secretary Jennie Hill reviewed the correspondence received for the period of October 24, 2014 through November 13, 2014. (File #8)

Ms. Hill reminded everyone that communication to the Board can be done via U.S. mail, e-mail, fax, or hand-delivery.

VII. Consent Calendar

Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start reviewed the purchase recommendations:
- 2015-18 in the amount of $76,629 for remodeling of the Community Education Center, which included replacement of concrete drive and air dryer; installation of barrier-free access; and the connection of technology closets and building security to the generator from the 2010 bond;
- 2015-19 in the amount of $311,692 for remodeling of Greenwood Elementary School to include replacement of asphalt paving and the concrete around catch basins; improvement of separation of bus and visitor parking areas; remodeling of bathrooms; replacement of gymnasium floor, site lighting, and public address system; and installation of technology infrastructure for classroom audio-visual systems from the 2010 and 2013 bonds;
- 2015-20 in the amount of $301,186 for remodeling of Northeastern Elementary School, which included replacement of asphalt parking lots and circle drives; installation of bike

...
rack, barrier-free access at exterior stoops, technology infrastructure for classroom audio-visual systems, and concrete pads around catch basins; and replacement of clock system and fire alarm system from the 2010 and 2013 bonds;

- 2015-21 in the amount of $1,681,686 for remodeling of Lincoln International Studies School, which included installation of digital marquee and infrastructure for classroom audio-visual systems; replacement of windows; and replacement of lighting in corridors and in both gyms from the 2013 bond;
- 2015-22 in the amount of $74,850 for 150 Chromebook laptops for student use in classrooms at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Westwood Elementary School from the 2010 bond; and
- 2015-23 in the amount of $74,850 for 150 Chromebook laptops for student use in classrooms at The Woodward School for Technology and Research from the 2010 bond.

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

**Board comments:**
President Sholler-Barber expressed the Board’s appreciation to the community for passing the KPS bond requests.

**Disposition:** Voice vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

**VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board** – None.

President Patti Sholler-Barber reviewed Board Policy 1.2 on public comment:

- Speakers should 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 encouraged to provide the Board with a written copy of their comments.
- Speakers are reminded that the Board will not respond to public comments but that the administration may or may not follow up with the speakers at some point regarding speaker comments.

**IX. Reports and Recommendations**

**A. Preamble and Supplement to Policy 4.3 – Graduation Requirements – First Reading**

Superintendent Dr. Rice stated that proposed policy changes are introduced, discussed, and modified accordingly, and then brought back for a second reading and vote.

Policy Committee Chair Craig Herschleb explained that Director of Secondary Education Johnny Edwards had highlighted changes and updates in the curriculum to meet current state standards, and that KPS was moving away from NovaNet for online courses.
Policy 4.3, with Preamble and Supplement, reads as follows:

**Preamble**

The KPS Board aims to make sure that all students will pass the new state graduation requirements, use the Kalamazoo Promise, and succeed in postsecondary institutions, careers, and life. KPS should challenge all students to exceed the new graduation requirements.

Flexibility is a key principle that should guide KPS in helping students meet these new graduation requirements. There should be flexibility in how, when, and where students will meet graduation requirements. Some students may meet graduation requirements in three years, whereas other students may require five years.

KPS should allow students to get high school credit in middle school, and encourage high school students to be challenged by dual enrollment, online courses, and advanced KPS courses. Students will be allowed to test out of courses and take more difficult courses. Students will meet the new state requirement for online learning in many ways. KPS will make it easy for students to take online courses through the Michigan Virtual High School.

If students cannot pass courses in the regular high school, they should have options to meet the requirements at different times and places, and in different formats. Options might include: alternative school; after school or Saturday programs; summer school; classes at community institutions; or online courses. Although we want all students to get a diploma, we will also work with KVCC, KPS Adult Education, and community institutions to help students who do not get a diploma to get the credentials they need to succeed in life.

We expect other institutions to help ensure that KPS students will have maximum flexibility in meeting graduation requirements. We urge KRESA to explore ways to allow students to meet core requirements in math, science, and other areas through EFE and EFA courses.

KPS should challenge all students to benefit from the Kalamazoo Promise. Hence, we expect all students to take the Michigan Merit exam, which includes the ACT. KPS will work with students, parents, and community groups from middle school on in preparing students for success on the ACT/Merit exam. This includes specific test prep programs.

The state graduation requirements do not address the area of writing. All KPS graduates should have received sufficient writing instruction, and have produced sufficient writing samples, and revisions in response to teacher comments, to be a proficient writer. Therefore, the Board directs the Superintendent, through the curriculum process, to ensure that each course have explicit minimum standards for student production of writing samples, and for student revision of writing in response to teacher comments. Although these minimum standards will differ across different types of courses, they will extend across the curriculum, and will be uniform across different sections of the same course.

**Policy**

The district shall meet federal and state standards and consider the Kalamazoo community’s values in setting and reviewing graduation requirements.

**Specifics**

1. District graduation requirements should be flexible enough to allow well planned adjustments to meet each student’s needs and interests.
2. The Board-Superintendent team will establish and approve district graduation requirements.
3. The Board-Superintendent team will establish and approve district Certificate of Completion requirements.

**Supplement:**
A minimum of 26 credits are required for graduation from Kalamazoo Central High School and Loy Norrix High School.

A minimum of 19 credits are required for graduation from Phoenix High School.

**GUIDANCE FOR CREDIT COURSES**
A course selection plan for meeting graduation requirements over a three-to-five year period is required for all students.
With the approval of the Dean of Students (Principal for Phoenix High School students):

- Students may take additional credits toward graduation that may be earned from other institutions (e.g. community college, college, university, or Michigan Virtual High School).
- Students may make up credits through summer school, virtual online learning, or other means.
- Students may audit a course for no credit and have it on their transcript.

All deviations from specific course requirements must meet state-mandated graduation requirements or fall within the limited flexibility allowed under those state mandates, and have the approval of parents/guardians and the Dean of Students (Principal for Phoenix High School students).

Students transferring into the Kalamazoo Public Schools during the 10th, 11th or 12th grades are required to take no fewer than 6 credits each year they attend KPS.

It is the responsibility of the Dean of Students (Principal for Phoenix High School students) to certify that a student has met the requirements for graduation.

**REQUIRED NUMBER OF CREDITS – Kalamazoo Central High School and Loy Norrix High School**

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<th>2015</th>
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REQUIRED NUMBER OF CREDITS – Phoenix High School

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<tr>
<td>World Language</td>
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Requirements for Certificate of Completion for Students with an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP)

The following criteria must be met for a student in Kalamazoo Public Schools to walk with his or her peers at graduation to receive a Certificate of Completion:

1. The student must have or must have had an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) and must have been working toward goals and objectives in accordance with his or her current IEP.
2. The student must have attended school in a consistent manner as determined by district administration.
3. The student must have used an extended curriculum and alternate assessment(s) as indicated in his or her current IEP.
4. The student must require life-long services.

Students who continue services beyond 18 years of age may elect to receive the Certificate of Completion as long as their age is within the state-mandated limits and they are attending school and working toward their IEP goals and objectives. The Certificate of Completion would be granted at the end of the school year of the request.

For all recipients of the Certificate of Completion:

1. Students who complete the requirements for the Certificate of Completion may participate in graduation ceremonies. No ceremonial distinction will be made between those who receive Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) diplomas and those who receive Certificates of Completion.
2. All students who are recommended for a Certificate of Completion will receive verification from the dean of students, building principal, and/or central office administrator.
3. A Certificate of Completion is not the equivalent of a Michigan Merit Curriculum diploma. Students who receive a Certificate of Completion may work toward a General Equivalency Degree (GED) or other post-secondary options.

Board Discussion:
Carol McGlinn asked if the only thing being stricken was NovaNet.

Craig Herschleb stated that the world language requirement for 2015 is 1 credit; however, it would be 2 credits in 2016 and beyond.
Ken Greschak noted that the reference to NovaNet would be replaced with virtual online learning.

Patti Sholler-Barber asked if Strategic Computer Technology was a new course being added.

Superintendent Dr. Rice explained that this was a name change from Strategic Computer Technology in 2015 to Computer Applications in 2016 and beyond. He also clarified that the change in world language requirement was mandated by state law.

Dr. Rice noted that the amendments to the policy that related to Phoenix High School were to make the policy consistent with the Board’s decision made at its June 26, 2014 meeting, and were not related to any changes in state law.

B. Proposed Sixth Grade Curriculum Review Charge and Committee Members for the Reproductive Health Advisory Committee (RHAC)

Superintendent Dr. Rice explained that the sixth grade RHAC and the committee’s charge need Board approval before the committee can proceed with its work.

**MOTION:** Moved by Trustee Greschak, supported by Trustees Dr. Warfield and Hill, to approve the sixth grade Reproductive Health Advisory Committee and its charge.

Board Discussion: None.

Audience comments: None.

**Disposition:** Roll call vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

C. June 30, 2014 Financial Audit Report

Dr. Rice recognized the outstanding work of Deputy Superintendent Gary Start, Business Manager Laura Kayser, KPS administration, and the Board of Education for the completion and outcome of the financial audit.

Deputy Superintendent Start praised Business Manager Laura Kayser for her excellent work on the budget audit, and the Board and Superintendent Dr. Rice for their support and leadership.

Deputy Superintendent Gary Start read the recommendation for the Board to receive the June 30, 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Audit Report with Supplemental Information and Federal Awards Supplemental Information. He explained that each year the district engages an independent CPA firm to review financial statements and express an opinion about whether the district accurately presents its financial position. Mr. Start introduced Mr. Jeff Egberts, a representative of the district’s auditor, Plante & Moran, PLLC.

Mr. Egberts stated that the auditors had already met with the Board’s Operations Committee and done a more detailed walk-through of the statements and other reports. He then reviewed the audit process and explained that the audit’s length was to allow the auditors an opportunity to render an opinion on the financial status of the district.

Mr. Egberts noted that the audit went very well and the opinion rendered was “unmodified,” which is the highest opinion that can be given. He stated that the district was eligible to apply for a certificate of excellence due to the excellent audit.
Mr. Egberts concluded by complimenting Deputy Superintendent Gary Start, Business Manager Laura Kayser, and the staff of the Kalamazoo Public Schools Business Office for their assistance throughout the audit process. He also complimented the district administration and the Board of Education for its continued ability to maintain a balanced budget.

**MOTION:** Moved by Trustee Herschleb, supported by Trustee McGlinn, to receive the June 30, 2014 Financial Audit Report.

Board Comments:
Carol McGlinn expressed her appreciation for the more detailed presentation given to the Operations Committee. She also thanked Business Manager Kayser for the additional work she did to provide the Comprehensive Annual Financial Audit Report because it gave a much bigger picture than previous years’ audit reports, and was also easier to read and understand. Ms. McGlinn complimented Plante & Moran for always keeping the Board well informed in a timely manner.

Patti Sholler-Barber seconded Ms. McGlinn’s comments, and thanked the business office staff for keeping the KPS financial house in order. She also thanked Superintendent Dr. Rice, Deputy Superintendent Start, Business Manager Kayser, and her fellow Board members for the excellent work on the budget.

Jennie Hill noted that the business of KPS is educating our youth, and the financial audit is one of the many behind-the-scenes activities that make it possible for the district to operate in a sound manner.

Dr. Rice noted that KPS has worked with Plante & Moran as its auditor for a number of years and that it is the best auditor in the state. He explained that the auditors put KPS through its paces, as it should, because we are fiscal stewards of the public’s money. He thanked Mr. Egberts and the staff at Plante & Moran for their high standards and excellent work.

Audience Comments: None.

**Disposition:** Roll call vote: 7-yes; 0-no; 0-absentions.

**X. Other Business**
None.

**XI. Comments by Trustees**

*Dr. Martha Warfield* thanked the voters who elected/re-elected the school board trustees. She noted that the Board is grateful to the voters for their confidence in and support of the district and that the Board would continue to strive to be good stewards of the public’s funds and trust.

*Ken Greschak* thanked the voters for their confidence in electing him to the Board and stated that he would work diligently to fulfill that confidence.

Ken Greschak reminded everyone to be careful driving in the winter weather. He cautioned drivers to pay special attention as there are many young, inexperienced drivers on the road. Mr. Greschak encouraged everyone to be careful and to slow down throughout the winter.
Carol McGlinn concurred with Mr. Greschak to take care with winter driving, and reminded everyone to be on the alert for kids playing outside.

TiAnna Harrison thanked the community for allowing her to be of service on the Board. She stated that she was appreciative that everyone on the Board is an individual with their own opinions; however, they come together collectively for what is best for KPS and its students.

Craig Herschleb noted that Shrek the Musical would be presented by Kalamazoo Central High School on November 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, and 23, and encouraged everyone to attend.

Mr. Herschleb stated that trees were planted at Washington Writers’ Academy this week, and that wood chips had been installed in both the pre-kindergarten and upper elementary playground areas. He noted that in less than two months, students would be learning in the new building.

Jennie Hill noted that she considers November the “Promise season” because the Kalamazoo Promise was originally announced in November of 2005, and thanked the donors. She stated that she was proud to be part of this community.

Patti Sholler-Barber congratulated her fellow Board members Dr. Martha Warfield, Ken Greschak, and TiAnna Harrison on their newly elected/re-elected positions. She thanked the voters for going through the long ballot to get to the KPS Board of Education section. Ms. Sholler-Barber also thanked those who re-elected her to the Board. She noted that this was a fine Board made up of individuals with different opinions, who work through those different opinions to make a collective decision that is for the good of the order.

Patti Sholler-Barber reminded families to keep reading. She advised that we must embed literacy in every aspect of children’s lives, not just at school but also at home and in the community. Ms. Sholler-Barber also suggested that families work on math activities together. She explained that these activities are essential to help children develop lifetime skills.

Patti Sholler-Barber thanked the Board for allowing her to attend the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Annual Conference November 6-9. She stated that Superintendent Dr. Rice gave an excellent presentation at the urban conference and that she attended several classes. Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that education, reading, and being aware are important for board members.

Patti Sholler-Barber congratulated the Kalamazoo Central High School band for how well it had done this year at competitions. She noted that the band is a wonderful and vibrant program.

Comments by the Superintendent
Superintendent Dr. Rice expressed his condolences to the family of Simon Cooper, a fourth grade student at Winchell Elementary School, who had recently passed away after a valiant fight against leukemia.

Dr. Rice also extended condolences to the family of Cindy Bewick, a former early childhood coordinator for KPS. He noted that Cindy was a courageous, irreverent, and very intelligent individual who would be missed in the community.

Dr. Rice noted that President Sholler-Barber participated in the MASB Conference presentation with him, and that he believed the strong portions of the presentation were the ones that she did.
Dr. Rice extended congratulations to Patti Sholler-Barber and Dr. Martha Warfield for their re-election to the Board, and to TiAnna Harrison and Ken Greschak for their election to the Board. He stated that he looks forward to more time working with them.

Dr. Rice also extended congratulations to representatives-elect Jon Hoadley and Brandt Iden. He noted that the senatorial election presented a good civics lesson about the importance of voting, and he looked forward to congratulating the senator-elect when the election results had been finalized.

Dr. Rice reminded everyone that, with the holidays, often come unusual behaviors from children. He noted that many children do not have the glorious holiday experiences that are depicted on television and in advertising. Dr. Rice asked KPS staff, parents, and community members to be on the watch for signs of anxiety in our children, and to reach out to those in need.

XII. **Closed Session**
President Sholler-Barber did not ask for a motion to move into closed session and adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

President Sholler-Barber announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education
I. Call to Order
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the December 4, 2014 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

IV. Announcements and Recognitions
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized the following Kalamazoo Central High School seniors: National Merit Scholarship commended student, Isaac Bertman; and National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists Cameron Andrews and Laura Mortenson.

Also in attendance and introduced by Mr. Lee was Kalamazoo Central High School Principal Valerie Boggan. The students’ parents, family, and friends in the audience were also recognized.

Mr. Lee announced that the week of December 1-5 was the 14th Annual Inclusive Schools Week, an event created to celebrate the progress that schools have made toward providing a quality education for our increasingly diverse student population and those students marginalized due to disability, gender, socioeconomic status, cultural heritage, language preference, and other factors. He encouraged those interested in learning more to visit the Inclusive Schools Network website at www.inclusiveschools.org.

V. School Reports/Committee Reports
Committee Reports
Curriculum Committee - Carol McGlinn, chair, stated that the committee did not meet on December 3; however, the Board enjoyed a tour that evening of the new Washington Writers’ Academy (WWA). She advised that she was “blown away” by the incredible building that retains the integrity of the neighborhood. Ms. McGlinn concluded that the new WWA would provide an incredible learning environment for students and that she was very excited for the January opening of the school.

TiAnna Harrison stated that she was very impressed by all of the details installed throughout the building to make sure that the school would fit the students that it will serve.

Craig Herschleb noted that seeing all of the details from the design to the finished product was amazing. He noted that some of the exterior brickwork from the original 1919 building was now installed inside, where it would be protected and preserved. Mr. Herschleb also stated that a bust of George Washington that had been in the original building would now be displayed in a protective case in the new building.
Jennie Hill stated that she was very excited about the various textures throughout the building, which included terrazzo, tile, and carpeting throughout the building, and the velvet drapes on the stage. She pointed out the attention to detail, which included flooring in the art room specially constructed to withstand damage from art projects. Ms. Hill noted that the CSM Group had done a fabulous job to provide a well-crafted school to meet the needs of our students.

Dr. Martha Warfield commented that she would like to return to elementary school because the new Washington Writers’ Academy felt so comfortable that she was certain the students would be eager to attend school there every day.

Ken Greschak praised the incredible emphasis that had gone into ensuring every detail throughout the building. He explained that the new Washington Writers’ Academy would be a community treasure, which was a gift from the community to the community. He encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming open house at the new Washington Writers’ Academy and thanked the voters for their support of the 2010 bond, which had made this new building possible.

Patti Sholler-Barber stated that she was most impressed with the security, glass, and visibility throughout the building. She noted that the window frames and cornices look like cherry wood, which created a warmth throughout the building. Ms. Sholler-Barber was also pleased by the secure entrance to the building, which provides safety for our students and staff. She thanked the community for its support of the bond and encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming open house. She noted that the architects and construction crew raised the bar and had produced a showplace. Ms. Sholler-Barber concluded that when the Washington Writers’ Academy students entered the new building, it would be a great gift.

Wellness Committee – Ken Greschak, representative, stated that the committee met on November 20, and launched the wellness incentive for staff “Holiday No Weight Gain Challenge,” which would run December 1 through February 1. He concluded that the committee would meet again on December 18.

Teaching and Learning Council – Patti Sholler-Barber, representative, stated that the committee met on November 20, and received updates on Michigan Merit Curriculum, Capturing Kids Hearts, the second year of implementation of the Pearson Reading Street English Language Arts curriculum, and state testing. She concluded that the council would meet again on January 15.

Legislative Liaison – Carol McGlinn, representative, had no report.

Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo (CISK) – Carol McGlinn, representative, announced that a fund raiser for CISK would be held on December 9 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Old Burdick’s Bar and Grill. Ms. McGlinn stated that for a $10 or more cash contribution or donation of items from the Kids Closet Wish List, individuals could be entered into an Ugly Sweater Contest for a chance to win a prize for the ugliest sweater. She encouraged everyone to visit www.kcis.us to access the Kids Closet Wish List. Ms. McGlinn concluded that the CISK board would meet again on January 16.

President Patti Sholler-Barber announced the meeting dates for the remaining committees:

- Operations Committee would meet on December 8, 2014;
- Policy Committee would meet on December 8, 2014;
- Evaluation/Accountability Committee would meet on December 9; and
- Curriculum Committee would meet on January 7.
School Reports
None.

VI. Correspondence
Secretary Jennie Hill reviewed the correspondence received for the period of November 14, 2014 through December 4, 2014. (File #9)

VII. Consent Calendar

Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start reviewed the purchase recommendations:

- 2015-24 in the amount of $222,480 for 240 HP EliteDesk 800 PCs with Microsoft Office 2013 for use by administrative and support staff in elementary, middle, and high schools from the 2010 bond;
- 2015-25 in the amount of $26,400 for 60 ten-unit locking and charging Chromebook storage units by Blackbox for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Westwood Elementary School and The Woodward School for Technology and Research from the 2010 bond;
- 2015-26 in the amount of $74,850 for 150 Lenovo ThinkPad 11e Yoga Chromebooks for student use in classrooms at The Woodward School for Technology and Research from its School Improvement Grant; and
- 2015-27 in the amount of $85,500 for CompassLearning Odyssey renewal and expansion of supplemental resources for Washington Writers’ Academy and The Woodward School for Technology and Research from the School Improvement Grants for each school.

MOTION: Implied to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Board comments:
President Sholler-Barber expressed the Board’s appreciation to the community for passing the KPS bond requests.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board
Lee Jennings, 1391 Grand Pre, Kalamazoo, introduced himself as the parent of five children attending Kalamazoo Public Schools. Mr. Jennings expressed his concerns and frustrations about an incident involving his son at Hillside Middle School, and the lack of prompt communication and action by school administration.

Kris Mbah, 2224 East Cork Street, Kalamazoo, introduced himself as a former candidate for the KPS Board of Education and congratulated Patti Sholler-Barber, TiAnna Harrison, and Ken Greschak for their elections to the Board. Mr. Mbah asked the Board to reconsider its policy on public participation during a Board meeting.

Lisa Boulding, 3520 North Drake Road, Kalamazoo, read a letter from the Executive Director of Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), which described the program and
encouraged the Board to approve adding FCCLA as an elective course at Kalamazoo Central High School. The recommendation to add the course was part of a series of changes to the high school course bulletin recommended by Dr. Rice on the December 4 Board agenda.

Frank Crummel, 3506 Mount Olivet Road, Kalamazoo, introduced himself as a parent and grandparent of children in Kalamazoo Public Schools. Mr. Crummel expressed his concerns over an incident that happened on a bus going to an Academically Talented class and during that class, and his sense of the inappropriateness of response to the incident.

Chris McGuire, 106 South Dartmouth Street, Kalamazoo, introduced herself as the parent of a Kalamazoo Central High School/KAMSC student. Ms. McGuire stated her concerns with the KPS hiring process.

IX. Reports and Recommendations
   A. Preamble and Supplement to Policy 4.3 – Graduation Requirements – Second Reading
      Superintendent Dr. Rice explained the changes that were brought before the Board for a first reading at the November 13, 2014 meeting and stated that no changes had been made since that first reading.

      MOTION: Moved by Trustee Herschleb, supported by Trustee Dr. Warfield, to approve the changes to Preamble and Supplement to Policy 4.3 – Graduation Requirements.

      Board Discussion:
      Carol McGlinn noted that the changes in credits for Phoenix High School were based on changes approved by the Board last year and that this action brings the policy information into alignment with the earlier changes.

      Audience Comments: None.

      Roll Call vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions

   B. Bylaw 2.4 – Public Election of Board Trustees – First Reading
      Superintendent Dr. Rice stated that proposed bylaw changes are introduced, discussed, and modified accordingly, and then brought back for a second reading and vote. He stated that the change to Bylaw 2.4 was to align it with state elections law.

      Bylaw Article 2.4 reads as follows:

      Article 2 Public Election of Board Trustees
      2.1 The biennial election shall be held in accordance with state law governing school elections. The candidate(s) receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. Term of office shall begin on January 1 following the biennial school board election.

      2.2 The Board of Trustees consists of seven members. Trustees shall be elected at each biennial election for a term of six years.

      2.3 Within 10 days of notification of election, each newly elected board member must file an acceptance of office certificate, an affidavit of eligibility, and take an oath of office. The oath may be re-administered at the next official Board meeting for ceremonial purposes.

      2.4 Should a vacancy occur, the trustee appointed to fill that vacancy shall serve a term as described by Michigan’s Election Laws.
Board Discussion:
Policy Committee Chair Craig Herschleb explained that the need for a change to Bylaw 2.4 was brought to the attention of the Policy Committee due to the appointments to the Board that had to be made throughout this school year. He explained that the wording of Bylaw 2.4 would keep it current with state elections law.

C. Grades 9-12 Course and Program Changes Recommendations for 2015-2016 – First Reading
Dr. Rice explained that the Board conducts two readings of the grades 9-12 course and program recommendations each year to allow time between readings for Board members to be clear about the recommendations coming forward. He reviewed the proposed changes with the Board.

Board Discussion:
Carol McGlinn stated that she was excited about the FCCLA program, and noted that it had developed in the last few years under the leadership of Lisa Boulding. She stated that she was happy that FCCLA was being designated as an elective course at Kalamazoo Central High School. Ms. McGlinn also noted that it was great to see that the state had allowed more flexibility in some of the required classes.

Jennie Hill gave kudos to FCCLA. She noted that she admires the number and flexibility of classes offered at KPS.

Patti Sholler-Barber commended those who continue to work on the curriculum to make sure that students have as many options as possible, despite the struggle the district has with limited funds received from the state. She thanked the FCCLA students in the audience. Ms. Sholler-Barber also stated that she was pleased to see that more options were available to our students through the Education for Employment Early/Middle College curriculum.

D. Kalamazoo County Early/Middle College Consortium Program Contract for 2015-2016.
Dr. Rice read the recommendation. He explained that this program was the result of several years of work to permit young people throughout Kalamazoo County to take advantage of a variety of programs, which include two machinist programs, one a certificate program and the other an Associate’s Degree program; a PC computer support technician program; and a welding program. Dr. Rice noted that these courses would offer additional opportunities for our students.

Dr. Rice explained that Early College refers to college courses begun in high school through dual enrollment, which allows students to earn college credits. He continued that the Early/Middle College program was an expansion of that work and would permit students to earn a certificate of professional achievement or an Associate’s Degree at the college level, while still attending high school. Dr. Rice stated that Early/Middle College could extend high school beyond 12th grade and provide an exciting opportunity for our young people to earn credits toward a specific career field.

MOTION: Moved by Trustee McGlinn, supported by Trustee Hill, to approve the Kalamazoo County Early/Middle College Consortium Program Contract for 2015-2016.
Board Discussion:
Patti Sholler-Barber stated that the Early/Middle College (EMC) program would provide incredible opportunities to help ensure that our graduates have the necessary training that they deserve.

Carol McGlinn noted that KPS has many programs in place such as Advance Placement, Education For Employment, Education For the Arts, and dual enrollment; however, the difference between those programs and the Early/Middle College program was that EMC would allow students to focus on a specific area and receive support at the high school level to keep them engaged and involved in their education.

Dr. Rice noted that some students are very connected and engaged with school, while others are disconnected or disengaged from school. He continued that it is conceivable that one or more of the Early/Middle College programs would excite students enough to keep them connected and engaged with school.

Dr. Martha Warfield asked if additional programs would be added to the EMC.

Dr. Rice stated that KPS is exploring additional opportunities for expansion of the Early/Middle College program.

Patti Sholler-Barber concurred that keeping students involved and engaged with school and their education is an important component and a good reason for KPS to add the Early/Middle College program.

Audience Comments: None.

Roll Call vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions

Dr. Rice expressed his appreciation to the teachers, deans of students, principals, Director of Secondary Education Johnny Edwards, and Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Services Dr. Deborah Piotrowski for all the time and work put in to update the schedule and course changes.

X. Other Business
None.

XI. Comments by Trustees

Ken Greschak reminded teenagers to limit their You Tube time and read more instead.

Dr. Martha Warfield noted that the reminder that this is Inclusive Schools Week was a timely one because there is a change in demographics going on across the nation. She noted that Western Michigan University President John Dunn had spoken on a panel at the White House earlier in the day about how universities are working to meet that change in student demographics.

Carol McGlinn stated that today was the 40th anniversary of SLD Read, a center that works with children who struggle to learn how to read. She noted that it is appropriate to give a shout-out about literacy and the fact that not all children are the same when it comes to learning how to read. She encouraged everyone to identify the children that are struggling to learn to read so that those students can get the extra help they need.
Ms. McGlinn noted that there are a lot of school winter programs scheduled in the next two weeks. She encouraged family and friends to attend their children’s events. Ms. McGlinn also announced that the annual Loy Norrix High School Alumni Day was scheduled for December 19. She explained that the Alumni Day provided an opportunity for recent Loy Norrix graduates who are attending college to return and share their college experiences with high school students.

_TiAnna Harrison_ invited everyone to attend the Northglade Montessori Magnet School holiday program or any of the other elementary holiday programs. She explained that the children would love to see friends and family in the audience at these events.

_Craig Herschleb_ stated that he had attended the opening of girls’ basketball season on November 25. He noted that both the JV and Varsity games were awesome. Mr. Herschleb encouraged everyone to support our students by attending athletic events.

_Jennie Hill_ reminisced that elementary holiday programs are always sweet, sincere, and a lot of fun to attend. She reminded everyone that December is the giving season, and encouraged everyone to share a smile and share some time with others.

_Patti Sholler-Barber_ encouraged everyone to read, read, read. She explained that Kalamazoo was fighting and succeeding every day with literacy; however, she cautioned that it could not continue to succeed without the important people in children’s lives reading with and to them. Ms. Sholler-Barber reminded everyone that the First Saturday at Kalamazoo Public Library would be 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on December 6 at the main downtown branch.

Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that the holiday season is not always a pleasant time for all children. She explained that we need to be sensitive to the ways people react to the stress of the holiday season.

Ms. Sholler-Barber thanked the over 200+ KPS community partners. She invited everyone to attend the holiday programs throughout the district.

**Comments by the Superintendent**
Superintendent Dr. Rice thanked the FCCLA students who were in attendance. He stated that it was terrific to see their support of Lisa Boulding and the FCCLA program. He also reminded the students to complete their homework when they got home after the meeting.

Dr. Rice reminded everyone that the KPS bus drivers were holding a “Stuff the Bus” food drive on Saturday, December 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at D & W Fresh Market on Parkview Avenue. He noted that the Greater Kalamazoo Area Annual Holiday Food Drive was not taking place this year, so he encouraged everyone to please give to this food drive if they were able.

**XII. Closed Session**
President Sholler-Barber did not ask for a motion to move into closed session and adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

President Sholler-Barber announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, December 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education
I. Call to Order
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the December 18, 2014 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

IV. Announcements and Recognitions
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized the following Turn-Around Students: Milwood Elementary School first grade student Matthew Hunter-Sparks; and Prairie Ridge Elementary School fourth grade students Camryn Carpenter, Keegan Dahl (unable to attend), Juan Pablo Figueroa, Darqwaun Hoskins, Jazmin McGrew, and Rhyan Norman (unable to attend).

Also in attendance and introduced by Mr. Lee were Milwood Elementary School Principal Sara Glendening and Prairie Ridge Elementary School Principal Karen Spencer. The students’ parents, family, and friends in the audience were also recognized.

Mr. Lee announced that, for the second consecutive year, the KPS Transportation Department received a perfect score on the 2013 state school bus inspection. He recognized KPS bus mechanics’ supervisor Mike Champion; and mechanics Kraig Champion, Marty Crawford, Bob Greis, Mike Smith, Brad Webber, and Gary White (unable to attend).

Mr. Lee introduced Executive Supervisor of Transportation Terri Aman and bus driver Robin Hanko. He thanked all the bus drivers that had participated in the recent Stuff the Bus holiday food drive, and noted that the food drive brought in 1,547 pounds of food and $426 for Loaves and Fishes.

V. School Reports/Committee Reports
Committee Reports
Wellness Committee - Ken Greschak, representative, stated that the committee was scheduled to meet on December 18; however, the meeting had been canceled. He advised that the committee would meet again on January 15.

Evaluation/Accountability Committee - Jennie Hill, chair, stated that the committee met on December 9, and received a report from Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Cindy Green on discipline procedures in the district. She continued that the committee also received a brief update from Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Services Dr. Deborah Piotrowski about the district’s plan for state testing in the spring. Ms. Hill advised that KPS would have some
schools pilot the computer testing, while others would do the traditional paper and pencil test. Ms. Hill concluded that the committee would meet again on January 13.

Policy Committee - Craig Herschleb, chair, reported that the committee met on December 8, and reviewed Policies 5.1 through 5.5, and that revisions for a first reading would be presented to the Board at a subsequent meeting. He concluded that the committee would meet again on January 27.

Operations Committee - Patti Sholler-Barber, chair, reported that the committee met on December 8, and received a presentation from the National Alumni Institute. She concluded that the committee would meet again on January 27.

Legislative Liaison – Carol McGlinn, representative, had no report.

President Patti Sholler-Barber announced the meeting dates for the remaining committees:
- Curriculum Committee would meet on January 7;
- Teaching and Learning Council would meet on January 15; and
- Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo would meet on January 16.

School Reports
None.

VI. Correspondence
Secretary Jennie Hill reviewed how Board correspondence is handled:
- If addressed to Dr. Rice and the Board of Education in that order, Dr. Rice responds;
- If addressed to the Board of Education and Dr. Rice in that order, the Board secretary responds; or
- If addressed to an individual BOE member, that individual responds.

Secretary Hill then reviewed the correspondence received for the period of December 5, 2014 through December 18, 2014. (File #10)

VII. Consent Calendar

Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start reviewed the purchase recommendations:
- 2015-28 in the amount of $55,600.09 for 31 iMac 21.5” computers with Apple Care Protection Plan to replace the computers in the computer lab at KAMSC from the 2010 bond;
- 2015-29 in the amount of $61,662.00 for food service equipment at Spring Valley Center for Exploration from the 2013 bond;
- 2015-30 in the amount of $495,850.00 for remodeling at Winchell Elementary School from the 2010 and 2013 bonds; and
- 2015-31 in the amount of $2,356,516.00 for remodeling at Indian Prairie Elementary School from the 2010 and 2013 bonds.

MOTION: Implied to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.
Board comments:
President Sholler-Barber expressed the Board’s appreciation to the community for passing the KPS bond requests.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board
Amanda Miller, 34969 CR 652, Mattawan, introduced herself as president of the Kalamazoo Education Association (KEA). She read a statement acknowledging the diligence and professionalism of the KEA members during the implementation of a new grading system, and stated the KEA’s willingness to continue to work with the district to resolve the problems with the new grading system.

Diana McCue, 3205 Tamsin Avenue, Kalamazoo, introduced herself as a KPS parent. She expressed her concerns and frustration about not being allowed to watch a video of an October 30 incident that involved her son and a substitute teacher.

IX. Reports and Recommendations
A. Bylaw 2.4 – Public Election of Board Trustees – Second Reading
Superintendent Dr. Rice stated that proposed bylaw changes are introduced, discussed, and modified accordingly, and then brought back for a second reading and vote. He stated that the change to Bylaw 2.4 was to align it with state elections law.

MOTION: Moved by Trustee McGlinn, supported by Trustee Herschleb, to approve the changes to Bylaw 2.4 – Public Election of Board Trustees.

Board Discussion: None.

Audience Comments: None.

Roll Call vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

B. Grades 9-12 Course and Program Changes Recommendations for 2015-2016 – Second Reading
Dr. Rice explained that the Board conducts two readings of the grades 9-12 course and program recommendations each year to allow time between readings for Board members to be clear about the recommendations coming forward. He reviewed the changes.

MOTION: Moved by Trustee Herschleb, supported by Trustee Hill, to approve the Grades 9-12 Course and Program Changes Recommendations for 2015-2016.

Board Discussion: None.

Audience Comments: None.

Roll Call vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

C. Recommendation for Approval of Best Practices Incentive Resolution
Deputy Superintendent Start explained that Section 22f of the School Aid Act provides $50 per pupil to districts that meet at least seven of nine of the so-called best practices criteria, and that Kalamazoo Public Schools meets these criteria.
**MOTION:** Moved by Trustee Greschak, seconded by Trustee Hill, to approve the Best Practices Incentive Resolution.

**Board discussion:** None.

**Audience comments:** None.

**Disposition:** Roll call vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

**X. Other Business**

None.

**XI. Comments by Trustees**

*Ken Greschak* reminded everyone that books make good gifts and encouraged students to read over winter break.

*Carol McGlinn* encouraged families to visit the Kalamazoo Public Library and enjoy reading together.

*TiAnna Harrison* encouraged families to create priceless memories by spending time together.

*Dr. Martha Warfield* stated that she was very impressed and thankful for the KPS bus mechanics who have kept 115 KPS busses well-maintained.

Dr. Warfield reminded everyone that the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Celebration would take place on January 17, and explained that the celebration was a collaboration between KPS, other area schools, and Western Michigan University. She invited and encouraged parents to attend the Book Bowl finals and other events at the MLK Celebration. Dr. Warfield challenged Board members to read the Book Bowl books.

*Jennie Hill* wished all staff a happy holiday season, and thanked them for their hard work and support of our students.

*Craig Herschleb* noted that Washington Writers’ Academy teachers had been in the new building to see their classrooms. He stated that construction is on schedule, and when students return from winter break on January 5, they will be in the new Washington Writers’ Academy building.

Mr. Herschleb reminded everyone that the Kalamazoo Central High School versus Loy Norrix High School girls and boys varsity basketball games would take place on December 19 at Western Michigan University. He encouraged everyone to attend.

*Patti Sholler-Barber* stated that she had enjoyed several elementary school holiday programs throughout the district. She stated that it was a delight to watch both the students and their parents at these events.

Ms. Sholler-Barber stated that she was impressed with the sportsmanship seen both on the court and in the audience, and encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming basketball games between Kalamazoo Central High School and Loy Norrix High School.
Ms. Sholler-Barber stated that she and Dr. Martha Warfield were on a committee planning the ten-year celebration of the Kalamazoo Promise. She thanked the donors for their brilliant, wonderful, and ingenious idea that has helped our students and their families. Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that it was now our responsibility to help the students become Promise-ready. She thanked teachers for their work with our students.

Ms. Sholler-Barber stated that she was impressed with the communication between the community and the Board. She cautioned everyone to be sensitive to those in the KPS family for whom the holidays might be difficult. She encouraged families to remind their children to be kind to and accepting of others.

Comments by the Superintendent
Superintendent Dr. Rice stated that he had had the opportunity to go to the Stuff the Bus holiday food collection of our bus drivers on December 6, and that it was a joyous function. He noted that it was all the more important this year because the Greater Kalamazoo Area Holiday Food Drive had been canceled for this year. Dr. Rice continued that Kalamazoo Central High School also had a Stuff the Bus food drive, which brought in just under 8,000 pounds worth of food or funding to buy food.

Dr. Rice stated that KPS runs 101 bus routes per tier this year, with three full tiers and a mini fourth tier. He explained that that equals 303 bus routes before 8:45 a.m., and again in the afternoon. He noted that there are also sports routes and weekend routes. Dr. Rice noted that it is easy to complain about small numbers of cases that don’t work; however, overall he was proud of the way KPS staff members support students and community members. He noted that there is still room for improvement, but that there are many people who work very hard to improve our community.

Dr. Rice wished children a happy reading holiday and a happy writing holiday. He stated that he had had the opportunity to be in the schools that day and had noticed that for some children there was excitement about the holidays, and that for others the holidays were a time for uncertainty and challenge. Dr. Rice encouraged everyone to be kind to our children.

XII. Closed Session
President Sholler-Barber did not ask for a motion to move into closed session and adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

President Sholler-Barber announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education
I. Call to Order
Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice called the January 8, 2015 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Absent: Patti Sholler-Barber. Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice was also present.

IV. Announcements and Recognitions
The ceremonial swearings-in of recently elected/re-elected Board members Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, and Dr. Martha Warfield were conducted by Dr. Charles Warfield.

V. Election of Officers
Dr. Rice asked for nominations for president.

Motion: It was moved by Trustee Ken Greschak, and supported by Trustee Craig Herschleb, to elect the full slate of officers as follows:
- President – Patti Sholler-Barber
- Vice President – Carol McGlinn
- Secretary – Jennie Hill
- Treasurer – Dr. Martha Warfield

Board discussion: Nominations were closed without objection.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

VI. Committee Reports/School Reports
Curriculum Committee, Carol McGlinn, chair, reported that the committee met on January 7, and participated in a discussion of possible changes to the KPS organizational chart in the Teaching and Learning Services Department. She concluded that the committee would meet again on February 4.

Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo (CISK), Carol McGlinn, representative, stated that she had attended a community partnership forum on January 7, 2015. She explained that this meeting was an opportunity for CISK and its partners to discuss the work that is being done by each organization to support the young people in our community. Ms. McGlinn noted that it was inspiring to hear what the many community partners are doing for our children, and thanked them for their hard work and dedication. Ms. McGlinn advised that Von Washington, Jr. also gave a presentation on The Kalamazoo Promise at this meeting.

Vice President Carol McGlinn announced the meeting dates for the remaining committees:
- The Evaluation/Accountability Committee would meet on January 13;
- Teaching and Learning Council would meet on January 15;
- The Wellness Committee would meet on January 15;
- Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo would meet on January 16;
- The Operations Committee would meet on January 27; and
- The Policy Committee would meet on January 27.

School Reports
None.

VII. Correspondence
Secretary Hill reviewed the Board correspondence that was received for the period of December 19, 2014 through January 8, 2015 (File #11).

VIII. Consent Calendar

Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start reviewed purchase recommendation 2015-32 in the amount of $363,504 for remodeling at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Westwood Elementary School from the 2010 and 2013 bonds.

Motion: Implied to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

IX. Persons Requesting to Address the Board
Kris Mbah, 2224 East Cork Street, Kalamazoo, announced that he was going on an eight-day hunger strike to raise social awareness for KPS students who are not assigned textbooks to take home. He explained that the eight days represents the eight years since The Kalamazoo Promise was implemented.

X. Reports and Recommendations
None.

XI. Other Business
None.

XII. Comments by Trustees
Jennie Hill stated that she had attended the El Sol Elementary School holiday program, and that it was a very fine performance. She continued that she had also attended the Kalamazoo Central High School versus Loy Norrix High School basketball game, and thanked Western Michigan University for hosting the game at its facilities.

Ms. Hill extended congratulations to the Washington Writers’ Academy students on their move into the brand new school building on January 5. She also extended congratulations to the Board members sworn in at this meeting.

Ms. Hill noted that she had driven her nephew to Loy Norrix High School on January 6, because he had a science project as well as his textbooks to carry, and did not want to take all of that on the
school bus. She continued that her nephew explained to her that he not only had a geometry book at home, but also had one in his classroom. Ms. Hill explained that her nephew commented that many textbooks are available to students online. She reminisced about when her daughters were in school. She would hear the thud of their backpacks full of textbooks needed to complete homework hitting the floor when they entered the house.

Craig Herschleb reported that the first day for students at Washington Writers’ Academy was enjoyed by both staff and students. He stated that the students were in awe when they entered the building, and that their excitement grew throughout the day.

Mr. Herschleb stated that his children in 8th and 10th grades have homework each night, and that some of the homework consists of worksheets to be completed, while other homework requires them to bring textbooks home. He noted that his children always have everything they need to complete their homework.

TiAnna Harrison stated that one of her middle school daughters spent time over winter recess doing school work. She noted that this was possible because her daughter had brought the necessary textbooks home with her. Ms. Harrison explained that students need more than textbooks; they also need their parents to invest time in them and their education. As a parent herself, Ms. Harrison stated that it is a parent’s responsibility to support their children, be their cheerleader, be a good example, and advocate for them.

Ken Greschak expressed his gratitude to the voters for giving him the opportunity to serve on the Board. He noted that one of his campaign tenets was advocating for parental involvement with their children because parents play a very large role in the success of our students in all aspects of life.

Mr. Greschak stated that his daughter comes home with homework every school day and that, as a parent, it is his job to ensure that she has the necessary space and tools to complete that homework each night. He explained that parents are their children’s coach, coddler, prodder, and advocate. Mr. Greschak stated that one of the greatest tools for learning that our children have is their teachers, and students should be encouraged to ask their teachers for help when they have a question or need further guidance in a class. He continued that if your student is shy about asking for extra help, that it is then the parent’s responsibility to talk to the teacher on the child’s behalf. Mr. Greschak concluded that all parents need to step up and play their role if we are going to make significant academic improvements in our district.

Dr. Martha Warfield stated that she has had the pleasure of working with a committed group of staff and students who are getting ready for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration on January 17. She thanked them for their hard work and interest in helping younger students. Dr. Warfield noted that the MLK celebration describes what all of the other KPS trustees were saying in terms of the responsibility of parents and the role that education plays in preparing our children for college.

Dr. Warfield commented that, when her granddaughter drops her book bag by the door, it is too heavy for Dr. Warfield to pick up. She stated that her granddaughter has explained to Dr. Warfield that some information and textbooks are available online, and that there is always a way for her to complete her homework. Dr. Warfield expressed her appreciation for any community concern; however, she noted that the necessary textbooks and tools are easily available and accessible to all students. She also complimented the teachers for their commitment to educating our students.
Dr. Warfield concluded her remarks by thanking the voters for allowing her to continue to serve on the Board.

Carol McGlinn wished everyone a happy new year, despite the challenging weather experienced this week. She encouraged everyone to shovel their sidewalks, and reminded students and drivers to be cautious.

Ms. McGlinn noted that the presentation at the CISK meeting by Von Washington, Jr. was a reminder that The Kalamazoo Promise was now nine years old. She stated that she was proud of the education her children had received in KPS, and how well KPS had prepared them for success in college and beyond.

**Comments by the Superintendent**
Superintendent Dr. Rice thanked Director of Facilities Management Al Tyler, Deputy Superintendent Gary Start, Washington Writers’ Academy Principal Micole Dyson, the Board of Education, and all those that had been involved in the work to build a new Washington Writers’ Academy (WWA). He noted that the former WWA building was 94 years old when it was razed 1.5 years ago, and that the new WWA building was a wonderful testament to the work the district does in support of young people. Dr. Rice invited the entire community to attend the Washington Writers’ Academy Open House on January 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Rice continued that the new second gymnasium at Kalamazoo Central High School had been completed, and invited the community to attend an open house there on Sunday, January 11, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. He thanked the board, Deputy Superintendent Gary Start, Director of Facilities Management Al Tyler, Executive Assistant for Facilities Management Karen Jackson, Kalamazoo Central High School Principal Valerie Boggan, Kalamazoo Central High School Athletic Director Van Dickerson, Architects Tower Pinkster, and Construction Manager CSM Group for their work on this project. Dr. Rice explained that Kalamazoo Central High School had been the only school in the conference without a second gymnasium, and that this addition would help from both a curricular and an extra-curricular standpoint. He noted that it would also enable our students to complete athletic practices and get home earlier in the evenings.

Dr. Rice thanked Dr. Martha Warfield for her work on the Western Michigan University/Kalamazoo Public Schools Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration scheduled for January 17. He also thanked the eight KPS secondary school principals and Director of Secondary Education Johnny Edwards for their efforts in organizing young people to participate in this celebration.

Dr. Rice noted that January is a month full of activities, with the MLK celebrations and the two open houses at KPS. He stated that there would be a few more announcements forthcoming in the next few weeks for community members.

**XIII. Executive Session**
Vice President McGlinn did not call for an executive session, and adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Vice President McGlinn announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, January 22, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Miller, Recording Secretary,
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education
I. Call to Order
Vice President Carol McGlinn called the January 22, 2015 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Absent: Patti Sholler-Barber. Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice was also present.

IV. Announcements and Recognitions
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized the following Hillside Middle School Turn-Around Students: Damarrion Simmons, grade 7; and Quincie Alexander, Salim Dixon, and Kenndrel Palmore, all grade 8.

Also in attendance and introduced by Mr. Lee were Hillside Middle School Principal Scott Millin and Assistant Principal Dana Heyl. The students’ parents, family, and friends in the audience were also recognized.

V. Committee Reports/School Reports
Evaluation/Accountability Committee, Jennie Hill, chair, reported that the committee met on January 13, and received a report from Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Services Dr. Deborah Piotrowski on the preparations underway for the state-mandated testing to be done in the spring. She explained that some schools would have students take tests online, and other schools would have students use paper and pencil tests. Ms. Hill also noted that starting in 2016, the new state standardized test would be the SAT rather than the ACT. Ms. Hill stated that the committee also discussed its preparation for Superintendent Dr. Rice’s yearly evaluation. She concluded that the committee would meet again on February 10.

Wellness Committee, Ken Greschak, representative, stated that the committee met on January 22, and discussed the well-attended healthy cooking demonstration that was presented by Chef Shaun Robinson. He announced that there was a computer application available on the KPS website called nutrislice, which shows the nutritional information of the food being served to KPS students. He concluded that the committee would meet again on February 19.

Teaching and Learning Council, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Deborah Piotrowski stated that the Council met on January 15, and enjoyed presentations from 30 teachers on innovative grant ideas for the Council’s consideration. She explained that the Council would be reviewing the grant applications to determine which ones would be funded. She concluded that the Council would meet again on March 19.

Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo (CISK), Carol McGlinn, representative, stated that Board President Patti Sholler-Barber was attending the Communities in Schools National Town Hall
January 21 through 23, at which a KPS school and CISK site coordinator would be honored. She concluded that the CISK board would meet again on February 20.

Vice President Carol McGlinn announced the meeting dates for the remaining committees:
- The Operations Committee would meet on January 27;
- The Policy Committee would meet on January 27; and
- The Curriculum Committee would meet on February 4.

School Reports
None.

VI. Correspondence
Secretary Hill reviewed the Board correspondence that was received for the period of January 9, 2015 through January 22, 2015 (File #12).

VII. Consent Calendar
Vice President McGlinn presented the Consent Calendar items: VII.A. January 8, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes, VII.B. Purchase Recommendation 2015-33, and VII.C. Personnel Changes.

Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start reviewed purchase recommendation 2015-33 in the amount of $100,980 for 270 Hewlett Packard 14” Chromebooks to supplement the existing computers during online testing at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Westwood Elementary School and Linden Grove Middle School from the 2010 bond.

Motion: Implied to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board
Marcy Peake, P.O. Box 2004, Kalamazoo, thanked the KPS Board of Education, administration, staff, and students for embracing and welcoming Western Michigan University (WMU) College of Education and Human Development TRiO students, who provide tutoring and mentoring services to students at Phoenix High School. She continued that the WMU TRiO students and staff were also given the opportunity to serve as judges in the social justice Book Bowl competition at the recent WMU/KPS Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration. Ms. Peake explained that for several months before the Book Bowl, middle school and high school students were given books about social justice to read and discuss in preparation for the Book Bowl competition. She noted that it was exciting to bring the college campus community and the public school students together in literacy. Ms. Peake concluded by commenting that the prizes given out for the Book Bowl were Kindles, which would help prepare high school students for the interaction with technology and eBooks that they would experience at the college level.

Lisa Kistler 220 Parkwood Avenue, Kalamazoo, introduced herself as an active KPS parent for 12 years, with a current 11th grade student at Loy Norrix High School and an 8th grade student at Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology. She stated that she had served as an elementary school substitute teacher and had also volunteered at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Ms. Kistler expressed her frustration as a parent to read fallacies about KPS in the newspaper and hear them repeated on television. She stated that KPS had always provided the resources that her children needed to succeed. Ms. Kistler noted that it would be great to have even more resources for our students; however, that conversation should be taken up at the state level for increased funding for public schools, rather than at the district level.
Allegra Kistler Ellis, 220 Parkwood Avenue, Kalamazoo, introduced herself as a junior at Loy Norrix High School. She stated that she had attended KPS since kindergarten, and in all those years had always had all the resources that she needed. Ms. Kistler Ellis concluded that the teachers and staff were always nice and helpful and that she enjoyed attending KPS.

Angel Banuelos, 1020 Hays Park Avenue, Kalamazoo, stated that he was a sophomore at Loy Norrix High School. He explained that he started his education at Washington Writers’ Academy and had always had all the resources and textbooks needed for him to be successful.

Lindsey Hill, 529 Charles Street, East Lansing, introduced herself as a 2012 Loy Norrix High School graduate. She stated that she was currently in her third year at Michigan State University in the teacher education program. Ms. Hill stated that as a Kalamazoo Promise graduate she was very prepared for college, and expressed her appreciation for Kalamazoo Public Schools.

Thomas Mayer, 421 Creston Avenue, Kalamazoo, introduced himself as a freshman at Loy Norrix High School. He stated that he has always had all the books and resources that he needs to succeed.

Victor Moss, 2211 Rambling Road, Kalamazoo, stated that he was a freshman at Loy Norrix High School and has had all the resources that he needed throughout his educational years.

Nick Ranger, 1210 Homecrest Avenue, Kalamazoo, stated that he had attended Milwood Elementary School and Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology, and was currently a senior at Loy Norrix High School. He explained that throughout the years he knew that all the necessary resources had been provided to him by KPS, and that if he was unable to find necessary material, KPS teachers and staff were always available to point him in the right direction for those materials.

Olivia Stier, 3706 South Burdick, Kalamazoo, explained that she had attended KPS Parkwood Upjohn Elementary School and Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology, and was currently a senior at Loy Norrix High School. She stated that throughout her educational career she had been given all the resources needed, and that if there was no textbook, teachers used handouts.

Kris Mbah, 2224 East Cork Street, Kalamazoo, presented the Board with a petition with 236 signatures. He stated that it would have been nice to see students of color or lower socioeconomic background represented at this board meeting. Mr. Mbah explained that he considered it shameful that there was no diversity or inclusion on the Board, and asked the Board to take into consideration who they were representing when they make decisions. He noted that the students who spoke at this meeting came from advantaged backgrounds and may not understand that others do not. Mr. Mbah concluded that KPS must provide an equal chance for every student to have a successful education.

IX. Reports and Recommendations
A. Policy 5.1 – Student Choice of Schools – First Reading
Policy Committee Chair Craig Herschleb stated that proposed policy changes are introduced, discussed, and modified accordingly, and then brought back for a second reading and vote. He explained that Policies 5.1 and 5.2 had minor changes, and that Policy 5.3 had been reviewed by the Committee and no changes had been made.
Policy 5.1 – Student Choice of Schools, reads as follows:

**Policy**
The District will endeavor to allow students to attend a school that best meets their needs, within the philosophical, financial, and operational parameters of the District.

**Specifics**
1. The District will endeavor to make parents and the community aware of building selection options within the District.
2. Decisions regarding placement of students in school sites will be made by the Superintendent or designee.
3. The Superintendent or designee will be authorized to approve requests from non-resident students to attend school in the Kalamazoo Public Schools when such enrollment does not diminish or limit options available to residents. Tuition may be charged pursuant to District procedure and/or inter-district agreements.
4. Release of students to attend school in another school district will require compliance with any inter-district agreement and approval of the Superintendent or designee.

B. **Policy 5.2 – Attendance – First Reading**

Policy 5.2 – Attendance, reads as follows:

**Policy**
The District feels strongly that every student should attend all of his or her classes every day on time.

**Specifics**
Attendance is the shared responsibility of students, parents, teachers, and staff; procedures will be developed to fairly and consistently reinforce these responsibilities.

C. **Policy 5.3 – Student Records – First Reading**

Policy 5.3 – Student Records, reads as follows:

**Policy**
The District will gather data and information about students for effective and efficient school operations, individual educational planning, program planning, and building use.

**Specifics**
1. Student records will include but not be limited to academic, attendance, health, census, and instructional.
2. Student records will be developed, maintained, stored, used, released, disseminated, and destroyed in compliance with applicable state and federal laws.
3. Student records will be made available for review, subject to restrictions imposed by state and federal laws.

**Board Comments:**
Ms. McGlinn asked if the modification to Policy 5.2 was to make a stronger statement on attendance.

Mr. Herschleb replied that that was correct.
D. Textbooks and Other Materials
Director of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Terina Harvey and Director of Secondary Education Johnny Edwards presented an overview on textbooks in our rapidly changing world, and the process for ordering textbooks in KPS. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

Board Comments:
Jennie Hill noted that teachers often save older books and use them as supplemental material in their courses. She stated that doing so shows that teachers are interested in the success of their students and want them to have additional resources available to them.

TiAnna Harrison asked what a parent should do if they feel that their child needs to bring a textbook home.

Dr. Harvey stated that students have many options, which include checking out books and additional resources for home study, and accessing online textbooks. She explained that what is available varies by course and assignments.

Ken Greschak asked if the process for purchasing and distributing textbooks was evenly applied throughout the middle schools and high schools.

Mr. Edwards responded yes.

Ken Greschak then asked if students who qualify for free and reduced lunch as an indicator of socioeconomic status were also pretty evenly divided across our middle schools and high schools.

Mr. Edwards responded that that was correct.

Mr. Greschak asked if KPS could unevenly distribute textbooks based on ethnic background or socioeconomic status.

Mr. Edwards explained that students in the same course would receive the same material, regardless of their ethnicity or socioeconomic status. He stated that, as a former high school principal, he had never received a complaint from a student or parent who believed a teacher had withheld information or textbooks that had been shared with the student’s peers and not with their child.

Mr. Greschak queried if there was any type of qualifier used to determine a student’s merit to take a textbook home.

Dr. Harvey responded absolutely not.

Dr. Martha Warfield thanked Dr. Harvey and Mr. Edwards for the report and noted that it contained a lot of information that needs to be known. She stated that if a student did not take a textbook home, he or she had other resources available in and outside of the classroom. Dr. Warfield asked if there was anything that would get in the way of students achieving what is expected of them that was not textbook-driven.
Dr. Harvey responded that KPS has dedicated classroom teachers who are aware of the needs of their students and work to ensure that each student has the opportunity to take textbooks home. She explained that teachers and administrators are always looking for resources that offer different ways of conveying information to our diverse group of students.

Carol McGlinn thanked Dr. Harvey and Mr. Edwards for the information in their report. She wondered if a discussion on the need for textbooks would change in the next 10 years because information was already obtained in many different ways and could be updated so quickly online. Ms. McGlinn explained that at the college level, there was already less reliance on textbooks and more on eBooks and technology. She stated that this would be a challenge for schools and an important subject as the educational community deals with the changing environment on materials and information.

Superintendent Dr. Rice thanked Dr. Harvey and Mr. Edwards for the presentation. He clarified that 20 percent of our secondary school courses have online access to materials; however, that is in addition to printed textbooks.

Dr. Harvey replied that students have access to printed as well as online textbooks, and they may choose to use only printed textbooks, only online textbooks, or both printed and online textbooks.

Dr. Rice asked if a secondary student wanted to take home a textbook from a classroom set, could he or she request one and the textbook would be made available to them.

Dr. Harvey stated that there was a system in place for checking out classroom textbooks and that, in some cases, KPS students have a textbook for home and a classroom textbook.

Dr. Rice asked what Mr. Edwards’s position was prior to becoming the Director of Secondary Education.

Mr. Edwards responded that he was principal at Loy Norrix High School for five years, and during that time had the opportunity to interact with thousands of parents and students. He stated that at no time was there a discussion or concern expressed about the lack of resources or access to textbooks. Mr. Edwards commented that students entered and exited the building each day with backpacks full of books, and the only complaint they occasionally offered was perhaps KPS should cut back on textbooks.

X. Other Business
None.

XI. Comments by Trustees
Ken Greschak noted that if you say something loud enough and often enough on the Internet you sometimes can build belief, even if the information is not correct. He stated that he expects parents in the community were seeing through this cloud of misinformation and coming to what is the right decision, which is that KPS does not have a textbook problem and provides all the resources that our students need to succeed. Mr. Greschak also assured those parents considering KPS for their children that the district was fully committed to providing all the resources for all children to succeed academically, and that it was a false discussion to say otherwise.

Dr. Martha Warfield commented that this was a chance for the community to learn some things about KPS. She stated that she observed her high school student with textbooks at home. Dr.
Warfield explained that students appreciate how we are changing the way that information is delivered and offering them alternative methods to obtain information. She stated that she was glad to have this discussion because truth drives the point that KPS was a district that cares about all of its students and provides them with the resources they need to be successful.

Dr. Warfield announced that over 400 KPS students participated in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration at Western Michigan University. She stated that the Book Bowl was one of the best events. She thanked former Board Trustee Marcy Peake for acting as one of the Book Bowl judges, and noted that it took a lot of wonderful, hardworking people to make the event a success.

Dr. Warfield announced that February 8 was College Goal Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Western Michigan University. She explained that this was an opportunity for parents and students to receive assistance in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Dr. Warfield reminded everyone not to miss the deadline for filing this important form.

Jennie Hill stated that she was proud to be a part of KPS and its Board of Education. She noted that the open house at Washington Writers’ Academy was a shining moment for the community. She concluded by thanking Dr. Harvey and Mr. Edwards for their informative presentation, and also thanked the students, parents, and community members for their support of KPS.

Craig Herschleb stated that it was great to see the turnout for the Washington Writers’ Academy open house, which had many community and family members in attendance. He also commented that it was neat to see kids on the playground again in the afternoons.

Mr. Herschleb encouraged everyone to attend local school sporting events and to support our students. He noted that junior varsity and freshmen teams need as much support as the varsity teams to cheer for them.

TiAnna Harrison stated that the citizens of Kalamazoo decided on November 4, 2014, who they wanted to represent them on this Board of Education. She explained that the trustees work together as a team to support and do what is best for all children, without regard to ethnicity or socioeconomic status. Ms. Harrison explained that all the trustees were available, approachable, and actively involved, and even though the district was not perfect, they work as a team to make improvements that benefit our children. She concluded that the Board would be happy to work with those who also have the best interests of our children at heart.

Carol McGlinn reminded parents that if they have an issue about something at their child’s school, to please talk to the teachers and principals. She noted that there may be bumps in the road; however, in her experience she had always found the district to be very cooperative for all students, and that staff are there to look out for the best interest of their students.

Ms. McGlinn noted that it was a great honor to attend the open house at Washington Writers’ Academy, and thanked the community for its support of the bond that made this new building possible. She stated that it was a joy to see the pride of the students, teachers, and staff as they showed off this magnificent building to community members.
Comments by the Superintendent
Superintendent Dr. Rice thanked Marcy Peake and Phoenix High School Principal Mark Hill for the partnership between Phoenix High School and the Western Michigan University (WMU) TRiO program. He explained that the Board of Education had worked with KPS administration to restructure Phoenix High School for this school year, and that the restructuring had provided an improved environment for our students. Dr. Rice noted that the relationship with the WMU School of Education and the TRiO program was very positive.

Dr. Rice expressed his appreciation to all those involved in the WMU/KPS celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that took place on January 17, which included Dr. Martha Warfield, WMU President John Dunn, Carmelita Foster, Vanessa Laurent, Deanna Roland, Johnny Edwards, and the many others who were involved and helped to judge the Book Bowl. He explained that several hours of preliminary rounds of the Book Bowl had been held at Linden Grove Middle School. Dr. Rice noted that we often hear what our children are not doing or on what they aren’t focused; however, on January 17, there were 400 middle school and high school students locked into winning this Book Bowl about civil rights and social justice literature. He stated that it had been an honor for him to be allowed to speak to those students and to have the students participate in a discussion about civil rights and social justice.

Dr. Rice complimented the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sponsored by the Northside Ministerial Alliance (NMA) held at the Galilee Baptist Church on January 18. He stated that hundreds of people attended this event and were treated to performances by the Kalamazoo Central High School cheerleaders, the MLK choir led by Phoenix High School Principal Mark Hill, and speeches from Pastor Dr. Addis Moore, President of NMA, and other members of the pastorate.

Dr. Rice stated that the open house at the new Washington Writers’ Academy on January 19 was an exciting event, with hundreds of kids, the full KPS Board of Education, State Representatives Jon Hoadley and Brandt Iden, State Senator Margaret O’Brien, Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell, and most of the members of the Kalamazoo City Commission in attendance. He thanked Washington Writers’ Academy Principal Micole Dyson and her very flexible staff for having endured working in three school buildings in three years: the old building, the temporary building, and now in the beautiful new building.

Dr. Rice expressed his appreciation to those who had spoken to the Board that evening. He explained that it had taken a lot of courage to get up and speak at a public meeting.

Dr. Rice concluded his remarks with a tongue-in-cheek thank you to Deputy Superintendent Gary Start for providing us with good weather the past two weeks.

XII. Executive Session
Vice President McGlinn did not call for an executive session, and adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

XIII. Vice President McGlinn announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary,
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education
Textbooks in Our Rapidly Changing World – Dr. Terina Harvey

More than a decade ago, textbooks served as the primary source and method of delivering information. In today's schools, and KPS is no exception, to prepare students for college and the workplace, our students receive course content through printed materials, online textbooks (eBooks) for selected courses, and supplementary resources available on and off line. Teachers compile course packets containing relevant and up-to-date information in the form of worksheets, articles, and other related materials to further engage students in the classroom. With respect to the inclusion of textbooks and other resources in classrooms, teachers and administrators consider state and local changes regarding standards, the increase in demands for particular courses, the introduction of new courses, and best practices for instructional delivery. Gaining information does not solely revolve around textbooks. The best resources are purchased and distributed to students to meet course requirements.

With respect to the use of textbooks in KPS, there is no policy that states that students may not take textbooks home. We purchase and distribute to students many textbooks. Purchases take place annually with the expectation that students use textbooks for coursework and homework. If you observe our students on any given day at one of the three high schools or the five middle schools, you will notice students carrying backpacks containing books for homework.

Consistent with best practice, we provide a variety of curriculum materials to students in traditional and nontraditional ways. In some classrooms, books are assigned to each student with the expectation that they will be used for coursework and homework. We have a growing number of courses using textbooks with eBooks as options for home study.

In other cases, we provide classroom sets of textbooks. These are textbooks that may no longer be in print, but may continue to be the strongest resource on the market, and we want to use them as long as they continue to be the best materials. In these classrooms, teachers provide additional written materials for homework.

Some courses are designed to engage students in project-based learning. Students engage in hands-on activities that require using a wide range of reference resources. Students produce a variety of products to demonstrate understanding through essays, presentations, artifacts, and other means.

There are some classes that appropriately use workbooks and worksheets instead of, or in conjunction with, textbooks. Some classes feature course packets with articles and manuals to deliver information. As a common practice in schools, a process exists to ensure that textbooks and other resources are purchased and distributed to students.

My colleague will explain the process used in KPS for ordering and distributing textbooks to students.

Process for Ordering Textbooks – Mr. Johnny Edwards

It is wholly inaccurate to say that students are not permitted to take home textbooks.
KPS Board of Education Meeting                                                                                                                              10
January 22, 2015

KPS schools adhere to a timely process for ordering textbooks and other resources to ensure that all
students are equipped with the necessary tools to learn at school and home. The manner in which we
order new and replacement textbooks is consistent with many other school districts.

Each spring, buildings receive budget projections with allocations specifically earmarked for textbook
replacements. Department heads meet with their content-area teachers to determine textbook needs based
on completed inventories and projected course schedules for the upcoming school year. Principals process
textbook orders over the summer, with the goal of ensuring delivery to department heads by the beginning
of school. In coordination with department heads, teachers distribute the newly purchased textbooks to
their students with the expectation to use them to meet learning outcomes in class and at home. The
ordering process extends, if needed, throughout the school year.

Textbooks and other resources are replenished for core courses which include English, mathematics,
science, and social studies along with subject-area elective courses in the core curriculum. Textbooks are
also replenished for general-content courses such as world languages and English as a Second Language,
computer applications, business, art, music, health, Education for Employment, and family and consumer
science.

The Teaching and Learning Services Department supports schools in acquiring textbooks. The
department purchases textbooks and resources, for example, for new adoptions and new course offerings.
On average, over the last five years, KPS has spent more than $1 million annually on textbooks to ensure
that all students are prepared for daily coursework for homework, post-secondary education, and career
opportunities. Courses in which students are assigned textbooks include, but are not limited to, the
following:

- **English Language Arts**
  - English 9 through 12
  - AP English: Language and Composition
  - AP English: Literature and Composition

- **Mathematics**
  - Algebra I and II
  - Geometry
  - Mathematical Modeling
  - Personal Financial Literacy
  - Statistics and Probability
  - AP Statistics
  - Precalculus
  - AP Calculus

- **Science**
  - Human Anatomy and Physiology
  - Forensic Science

- **Social Studies**
  - United States History
  - AP Social Studies Courses

- **Business – Education for Employment**
  - Business Finance
  - Accounting
  - Business Law

In addition, students are able to take home books from classroom sets from other courses. Those same
courses have many ways of providing information to students. For example, courses use workbooks,
course packets, worksheets, online textbooks (eBooks), and other materials. Approximately 20 percent of
our secondary courses provide students with online access in addition to supplementary materials to
reinforce learning outcomes.

In addition, we've purchased a considerable amount of computers, mobile devices, educational software,
and interactive software, all of which have been helpful in the work we do with children.

In summary, KPS adheres to an ongoing process involving educators and administrators in the purchase
and distribution of textbooks to students.
I. Call to Order
Vice President Carol McGlinn called the January 26, 2015 special Board of Education meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Absent: Patti Sholler-Barber. Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice was also present.

IV. Reports and Recommendations
Resolution Declaring Support for Special Education Millage Proposal
Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice announced that the purpose of the meeting was to consider a resolution of support for the special education millage proposal.

MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Greschak, supported by Trustee Hill, to approve the Resolution Declaring Support for Special Education Millage Proposal.

Board Discussion:
Carol McGlinn asked how special education services are funded.

Superintendent Dr. Rice explained that there were four forms of funding for special education: (1) federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; (2) state funds; (3) local special education millage; and (4) district general education budget out of the general fund for the shortfall from the first three funding sources. He stated that special education services in the county of Kalamazoo are currently underfunded by $11 million. He continued that the proposed 1.5 mills would fund special education expenditures from special education revenue, which would eliminate the need for funds from general education to fund special education.

Dr. Martha Warfield asked how this resolution fits with the other school districts in the KRESA area.

Dr. Rice stated that there had been a number of discussions among superintendents and board presidents in the past year and a half, and that some districts were passing resolutions. He noted that every district had expressed some measure of support for this millage proposal.

Carol McGlinn asked for clarification that this was actually a KRESA millage, and that the KPS Board would be stating that it supports the KRESA board putting the millage on the ballot.

Dr. Rice stated that that was correct and that this would be much the same as with the enhancement millage: it is the KRESA board that puts the millage on the ballot, not local school boards. He continued that in 1994, when Proposal A passed, the notion of a local school district putting an operating millage on the ballot ceased to be possible. Dr. Rice continued that operating
millages can be put on the ballot only on a countywide basis. He explained that there are three types of operating millages: an enhancement millage, a special education millage, and a career and technical education millage. Dr. Rice stated that individual school districts can do local capital millage requests, known as bonds, which KPS has done; however, an operating millage must be done on a countywide basis.

**Audience Comments:** None.

**Disposition:** Roll call vote: Motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstention.

V. **Closed Session**
Vice President Carol McGlinn did not call for a closed session, and adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

VI. **Next Regular Board of Education Meeting**
Vice President McGlinn announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary  
on behalf of Jennie Hill, Secretary  
Board of Education
I. Call to Order
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the February 12, 2015 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

IV. Announcements and Recognitions
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized the following Turn-Around Students:
- Spring Valley Center for Exploration: fifth grade students Kanye Ford and Vincent Snell; and

Also in attendance and introduced by Mr. Lee were Spring Valley Principal Mitch Hawkins and staff members Jenifer Rubin and Nancy Buchanan; and Milwood Magnet School Principal Craig LeSuer. The students’ parents, family, and friends in the audience were also recognized.

V. School Reports/Committee Reports

Committee Reports
Operations Committee - Carol McGlinn, representative, stated that the committee met on January 27, and discussed restructuring of the Teaching and Learning Services Department to support the increase in information technology. She concluded that the committee would meet again on February 17.

Policy Committee – Craig Herschleb, chair, stated that the committee met on January 27, and reviewed Board policies. He noted that the committee was waiting for information from the district’s attorney on some policy questions, and that the committee would meet with central office administrators on February 17.

Curriculum Committee – Carol McGlinn, chair, stated that the committee would meet again on March 9.

Legislative Liaison – Carol McGlinn, representative, had no report.

Evaluation/Accountability Committee – Jennie Hill, chair, reported that the committee met on February 10, and agreed upon the process to be used to evaluate Dr. Rice. She explained that the committee reviewed materials and decided upon the timeline for the evaluation. She concluded that the committee would meet again on February 22.
President Patti Sholler-Barber announced the meeting dates for the remaining committees:
- Wellness Committee on February 19;
- Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo (CISK) on February 20; and
- Teaching and Learning Council on March 19.

School Reports
None.

VI. Correspondence
Secretary Jennie Hill reviewed the correspondence received for the period of January 22, 2015 through February 12, 2015. (File #13)

VII. Consent Calendar

Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start reviewed the purchase recommendations:
- 2015-34 in the amount of $355,278.00 for the rebuilding of exterior masonry at Parkwood Upjohn Elementary School from the 2010 bond; and
- 2015-35 in the amount of $2,249,894.50 for masonry restoration work at the Community Education Center from the 2010 and 2013 bonds.

MOTION: Implied to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Board comments:
President Patti Sholler-Barber thanked the community for its support of the bonds.

Audience comments: None.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board
Sarah Drumm, 1124 Merrill Street, Kalamazoo, introduced herself as the parent of two students at El Sol Elementary School. She thanked the Board and Dr. Rice for the opportunities students had been given at El Sol Elementary School and expressed her appreciation for the work being done to provide continued daily Spanish immersion at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts. Ms. Drumm concluded that she hoped that a middle school Spanish immersion course would be available for the 2015-2016 school year.

Luna Drumm Walsh, 1124 Merrill Street, Kalamazoo, stated that she was a fifth grade student at El Sol Elementary School. She explained that it was important to have a Spanish immersion course in middle school because if she did not practice her Spanish on a daily basis, she would lose it. Ms. Drumm Walsh also noted that it would open doors for students when they look for employment because many businesses look for employees who can speak fluent Spanish with customers.

Sarah Hill, 1917 Brentwood Avenue, Kalamazoo, introduced herself as the president of the parent teacher organization at El Sol Elementary School and a proponent from the start for the formation of the Spanish immersion program. She thanked the Board and Superintendent for taking a leap of
faith to provide students the opportunity to learn in two languages. Ms. Hill stated that she would continue to support the dual language program’s expansion into middle school. She concluded that she was grateful and proud of KPS for the Spanish immersion program and that she would like to be a part of the next step in expanding the program into middle school.

_Tanya McClure, 1890 Partridge Lane, Kalamazoo_, introduced herself as a KPS graduate with a kindergarten student at El Sol Elementary School. She explained that she was born in Mexico and had grown up with the unique opportunity to learn in English at school, and then return home and speak Spanish with her family. She thanked the Board and Superintendent for providing her child and others the great and awesome experience of dual language learning because it is important to be fluent in more than one language.

_Janelle Boothby, 1621 North 9th Street, Kalamazoo_, stated that she had grown up in Ontario, where students attend French classes from second grade through high school. She explained that she can no longer speak French because it was no longer a part of her daily life. Ms. Boothby stated that she was delighted that her daughter had the opportunity to participate in the Spanish immersion program at El Sol Elementary School because that is the best way to learn a second language. She expressed the importance for students to continue with daily Spanish in middle school and beyond. Ms. Boothby thanked the Board and Dr. Rice for their consideration of expanding Spanish immersion into middle school and beyond.

_Erica Dodde, 3217 Davcliff Avenue, Portage_, introduced herself as a parent of two El Sol Elementary School students. She stated that the Spanish immersion program was hard work; however, she and her family consider it worth the extra effort. Ms. Dodde offered her assistance to the Board and Dr. Rice to make Spanish immersion available in middle school.

_Evelia Osorio, 2319 Cumberland Street, Kalamazoo_, stated that she represented the Spanish-speaking community, which stands ready to help make it possible for Spanish immersion to expand into middle school.

### IX. Reports and Recommendations

**A. Policy 5.1 – Student Choice of Schools - Second Reading**

Policy Committee Chairperson Craig Herschleb explained that the changes to Policies 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3 had been brought before the Board for a first reading at the January 22, 2015, meeting and stated that no changes had been made since that first reading.

**MOTION:** Moved by Trustee McGlinn, supported by Trustee Dr. Warfield, to approve the changes to Policy 5.1 – Student Choice of Schools.

**Board Discussion:** None.

**Audience Comments:** None.

**Roll Call vote:** motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions

**B. Policy 5.2 – Attendance – Second Reading**

**MOTION:** Moved by Trustee McGlinn, supported by Trustee Hill, to approve the changes to Policy 5.2 – Attendance.

**Board Discussion:** None.
Audience Comments: None.

Roll Call vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions

C. Policy 5.3 – Student Records – Second Reading

MOTION: Moved by Trustee Greschak, supported by Trustee McGlinn, to approve the changes to Policy 5.3 – Student Records.

Board Discussion: None.

Audience Comments: None.

Roll Call vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions

X. Other Business

None.

XI. Comments by Trustees

Dr. Martha Warfield stated that she was encouraged by the passion expressed by the parents at this meeting. She explained that parent and community input informs the Board that it is implementing changes and programs that support students, parents, and the community. Dr. Warfield noted that Western Michigan University faculty and staff are also encouraged to learn and be immersed in a second language. She concluded that she was glad to hear from the community about something liked and supported in the district.

Ken Greschak said that it was wonderful to see parents come out in support of a program. He explained that he had had seven years of Spanish and had done his immersion in Guatemala as an exchange student; however, he knows firsthand that dual language can be lost if not used on a daily basis. Mr. Greschak concluded that he endorsed the expansion of Spanish immersion into middle school.

Carol McGlinn noted that it was going to be a very cold weekend, and reminded everyone to have children bundled up with winter coats, hats, mittens, and boots. She reminded everyone to be safe.

TiAnna Harrison stated that she was encouraged by the parents who had spoken at the meeting and inspired by the student speaker. She explained that the Board was here to make sure that students had opportunities that had not been available to the trustees. Ms. Harrison concluded that the Board is made up of individuals whose goal is to do what is best for our students.

Craig Herschleb commented that those who were not able to attend the recent Kalamazoo Central High School versus Loy Norrix High School basketball games had missed excellent contests. He noted that district and regional competitions were coming up, and encouraged everyone to support our athletes.

Jennie Hill commented that several Board trustees and KPS administrators had attended the Kalamazoo Central High School versus Loy Norrix High School basketball games. She thanked the parents who had spoken at this meeting for promoting on behalf of not just their children, but for all KPS children.
Patti Sholler-Barber commended the enthusiasm that had been shown by the speakers at this meeting. She explained that it was a tremendous example of what the Board wants to see at the podium: parents who take an active role to inform the Board of both positives and negatives that were happening in the district. Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that the creation of the Spanish immersion program and formation of El Sol Elementary School would not have happened without the excellent leadership of Superintendent Dr. Rice.

Ms. Sholler-Barber thanked Dr. Warfield for her exemplary work on the recent Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration and Book Bowl. She noted that Western Michigan University continues to be an excellent partner on behalf of KPS students.

Ms. Sholler-Barber concurred with Trustee Herschleb and asked the community to please attend sporting events and support our athletes. She also reminded everyone to be on the alert for children playing outside.

Ms. Sholler-Barber concluded her remarks by reminding everyone that a lot of charitable organizations were getting low on donations of hats, mittens, gloves, and boots. She noted that these items could be delivered to the schools for distribution.

Comments by the Superintendent
Superintendent Dr. Rice stated that he had had the opportunity to spend four to five quality hours watching some fun and hotly contested basketball games between Kalamazoo Central High School and Loy Norrix High School at University Arena on January 30. He continued that he had also enjoyed the cheerleading competition held the past weekend, and extended congratulations to the cheerleaders at Kalamazoo Central High School, Loy Norrix High School, and Hillside Middle School. Dr. Rice thanked Coach Deveta Gardner for inviting him to the competition.

Superintendent Dr. Rice continued that he had also attended two pre-kindergarten events in the last couple weeks, one for KC Ready 4s and the other for Head Start. He noted that another Head Start pre-kindergarten event was coming up soon. Dr. Rice explained that these efforts were designed to help students move into kindergarten as seamlessly as possible.

Superintendent Dr. Rice stated that El Sol Elementary School was one of his favorite schools on earth, mainly because it was the first school he helped to start in KPS. He explained that he met with parents six weeks after starting at KPS and discussed the need for an enhancement millage renewal to pass in 2008 so that KPS could start El Sol Elementary School and the Middle School Alternative Learning Program. Dr. Rice noted that the millage passed in May 2008, and that both El Sol Elementary School and the Middle School Alternative Learning Program were created.

Dr. Rice noted that El Sol Elementary School began at the former Vine Alternative School with 140 students on the first level. He explained that for several years prior to 2008, the building had been used for storage. Dr. Rice continued that in its second year, El Sol Elementary School grew to 280 students on two floors of the building; in the third year it grew to 310; and it currently educates 330 students. He noted that this year’s fifth grade graduating class would be the second class to go through the entirety of the school, and that as a former foreign language teacher himself, he was very proud of the dual language program.

Dr. Rice explained that KPS had been working on creating a Spanish language literature class at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts for several months. He announced that there would be such an elective course offered at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts in the 2015-2016 school year. Dr. Rice expressed his appreciation for the support from the El Sol community.
noted that it was a tribute to the theme of the school that KPS drew students not simply from Kalamazoo, but from outside the district as well to attend El Sol Elementary School.

Dr. Rice noted that January was national school board recognition month; however, due to President Sholler-Barber’s absence, he would distribute certificates of appreciation at this meeting. He thanked the Board for its substantial commitment on behalf of young people. Dr. Rice noted that people see the challenges in the district, but do not always notice the successes. He explained that KPS had grown by 1200 students in the last five years, expanded from 22 to 25 schools, and continued to have rising reading, math, and writing scores. Dr. Rice asked for the continued support of the community for KPS in its commitment to the success of all students. He stated that there would be a special education millage vote on May 5, and expressed his hope that voters would consider that millage very seriously.

President Patti Sholler-Barber noted that the members of this Board were a feisty yet respectful group of people, who always put the best interests of the children first. She also commended the KPS staff for its incredible work on behalf of our students, and the community for its continued support of KPS. Ms. Sholler-Barber stated her hope that the May special education millage would be supported by the community.

XII. Closed Session
President Sholler-Barber did not ask for a motion to move into closed session and adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

XIII. President Sholler-Barber announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education
I. Call to Order
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the February 26, 2015 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Absent: TiAnna Harrison. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

IV. Announcements and Recognitions
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized the following Turn-Around Students from Arcadia Elementary School: second grade students Abdullah Al-Aani, Aneliece Blue, and Xavier McFerrin (unable to attend); and third grade student Doris Martinez.

Also in attendance and introduced by Mr. Lee were Arcadia Elementary School Principal Greg Socha and staff members Donna Needham, Erin Hanley, Julie Schmidt, Marty Bielby, and Kate Kemerling. The students’ parents, family, and friends in the audience were also recognized.

Superintendent Dr. Rice stated that Board President Patti Sholler-Barber had recently accompanied members of Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo (CISK) to New Orleans for the National Communities in Schools Town Hall meeting at which Arcadia Elementary School was honored with the National CIS Schools of Excellence Unsung Hero Award. He congratulated the entire staff of Arcadia Elementary School, Principal Greg Socha, CISK Site Coordinator Gulnar Husain, and CISK Executive Director Pam Kingery.

A short CIS video presentation, which featured Arcadia Elementary School, was shown.

V. School Reports/Committee Reports

Committee Reports
Operations Committee – Patti Sholler-Barber, chair, stated that the committee met on February 17, and discussed the sale of Washington Writers’ Academy bricks, the governor’s proposed budget, and the upcoming special education millage request. She concluded that the committee would meet again on March 24.

Policy Committee – Craig Herschleb, chair, stated that the committee met on February 17, and reviewed three Board policies, two of which would be presented to the Board for a first reading at this meeting. He noted that the committee was waiting for information from the district’s attorney on some policy questions, and that the committee would meet again on March 24.

Wellness Committee – Ken Greschak, representative, had no report.
Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo (CISK) – Carol McGlinn, representative, stated that the CISK board met on February 20, and enjoyed a presentation by Cate Jarvis of Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan. She explained that Hospice Care is one of the many resources that CISK provides to KPS. Ms. McGlinn stated that Ms. Jarvis provides grief and loss classes for many KPS students and demonstrated some of her techniques during her presentation. Ms. McGlinn expressed her appreciation to Hospice Care for continuing its program with KPS after the initial grant ended. She emphasized the importance of CISK and the opportunities that CISK provides our students. Ms. McGlinn concluded that the board would meet again on March 20.

President Patti Sholler-Barber stated that she was also very impressed with the dedication and enthusiasm shown by CISK members and thanked Pam Kingery for all that CISK provides to our students.

Legislative Liaison – Carol McGlinn, representative, had no report.

Evaluation/Accountability Committee – Jennie Hill, chair, reported that the Board members on the committee met on February 23, and discussed Dr. Rice’s evaluation. She concluded that the committee would meet again on March 17.

President Patti Sholler-Barber announced the meeting dates for the remaining committees:
- Curriculum Committee on March 9;
- Teaching and Learning Council on March 19; and
- Wellness Committee on March 19, 2015.

School Reports
None.

VI. Correspondence
Secretary Jennie Hill reviewed the correspondence received for the period of February 13, 2015 through February 26, 2015. (File #14)

VII. Consent Calendar
President Sholler-Barber presented the Consent Calendar items: VII.A. February 12, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes and VII.C. Personnel Changes.

MOTION: Implied to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Board comments: None.

Audience comments: None.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board
None.

IX. Reports and Recommendations
A. Policy 5.4 – Student Extracurricular Activities - First Reading
Policy Committee Chair Craig Herschleb stated that proposed policy changes are introduced, discussed, and modified accordingly, and then brought back for a second reading and vote. He
explained that the Policy Committee was recommending minor changes to Policies 5.4 and 5.5.

Policy 5.4 reads as follows:

**Policy**
District extracurricular programs will foster and support students in their academic achievement and exploration of areas of interest.

**Specifics**
1. District extracurricular programs will facilitate student achievement during the entire school year through:
   - consistently applied grade point eligibility requirements,
   - regular review of student academic eligibility, and
   - tutoring/support services for assisting students in maintaining a 2.0 grade point average or higher.
2. Students whose grade point averages fall below the eligibility standard will improve their grade point averages as a condition to continued participation.
3. District extracurricular programs will require representative behavior by students and all extracurricular personnel, both staff and volunteers, throughout the calendar year.
4. District extracurricular personnel and programs should promote exploration and learning in areas beyond the experiences offered in traditional course work.
5. District extracurricular programs should provide opportunities for as many students as possible, within the constraints of the programs, facilities, staff and budget.
6. Participation in extracurricular programs is a privilege, not a right.
7. Extracurricular budgets and actual spending will be available for public review.

**Board Discussion:** None

B. **Policy 5.5 – Student Athletics – First Reading**

Policy 5.5 reads as follows:

**Policy**
District athletic programs will foster and support students in their academic achievement and character development.

**Specifics**
1. District athletic programs will facilitate student achievement during the entire school year through:
   - consistently applied grade point eligibility requirements,
   - regular review of student academic eligibility, and
   - tutoring/support services for assisting students in maintaining a 2.0 grade point average or higher.
2. Students whose grade point averages fall below the eligibility standard will improve their grade point averages as a condition to continued participation.
3. District athletic programs will require representative behavior by student athletes and all athletic personnel throughout the calendar year.
4. The District will develop and consistently apply an athletic code of conduct for student athletes, all athletic personnel, and spectators that has high standards of conduct and clear and meaningful consequences for breaches of the code.
5. District athletic personnel and programs should promote skills development and traits essential for successful living, including responsibility, dedication to task, punctuality, leadership, respect, teamwork, sportsmanship, communication, a healthy lifestyle, and work ethic.
6. District athletic programs should provide athletic opportunities for as many students as possible, within the constraints of facilities, staff and budget.
7. District athletic programs should develop athletic skills and physical fitness.
8. District athletic programs and events will promote a respectful yet enthusiastic atmosphere.
9. Participation in interscholastic athletic activities is a privilege, not a right.
10. Athletic budgets and actual spending will be available for public review.

Board Discussion: None

C. Recommendation for Teaching and Learning Services (TLS) Department Restructuring
Superintendent Dr. Rice read the Recommendation for Teaching and Learning Services Department Restructuring.

MOTION: Moved by Trustee McGlinn, seconded by Trustee Hill, to approve the Teaching and Learning Services (TLS) Department Restructuring.

Board discussion:
Carol McGlinn clarified that the Coordinator of Technology position was being created to provide more specific focus on technology, a rapidly growing area.

Patti Sholler-Barber expressed her appreciation that the restructuring of Teaching and Learning Services was being done at no additional budget expense, and praised the forward thinking to address technology growth.

Dr. Rice congratulated Dodie Reycaft on her promotion and recognized Director of Elementary Education Judy D’Arcangelis, who were both in the audience.

Audience comments: None.

Disposition: Roll call vote: motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

X. Other Business
None.

XI. Comments by Trustees
Dr. Martha Warfield stated that staff at Arcadia Elementary School had reached out to her to recruit Promise students to speak to Arcadia students for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration. She noted that four Western Michigan University Promise students and two Phoenix students who were dual-enrolled at Kalamazoo Valley Community College had spoken to the entire student body at Arcadia. Dr. Warfield stated that it had been a good experience for all involved.

Patti Sholler-Barber stated that she was happy to hear that Promise students were able to speak to the elementary students because it is most effective when students speak to students.
Ms. Sholler-Barber thanked all those who had attended the first meeting about the special education millage. She stated that there was a lot of enthusiasm from parents, community members, and students. Ms. Sholler-Barber explained that this millage is very much needed.

Ms. Sholler-Barber invited everyone to attend the First Saturday at the main branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library on March 7, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Ms. Sholler-Barber stated that she had attended a wonderful meeting at the First Day Shoe Fund on February 25. She noted that out of the 2,516 children who qualified to receive shoes, the First Day Shoe Fund was able to provide 2,077 pairs of shoes.

Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that this year is the tenth anniversary of the Kalamazoo Promise. She stated that there would be various activities held throughout the year to celebrate, and thanked the Promise donors and the KPS teachers and staff who help our students become Promise-ready.

Ms. Sholler-Barber gave a shout-out to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kalamazoo, which was awarded $20,000 for new computers by the Women Who Care. She thanked Chief Professional Officer Bob Ezelle and his staff at the Boys and Girls Clubs for the wonderful partnership with KPS.

Comments by the Superintendent
Superintendent Dr. Rice expressed his appreciation for the great partnership between KPS and the Kalamazoo Public Library (KPL). He noted that he was also looking forward to First Saturday at KPL.

Dr. Rice noted that the partnership with Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo (CISK) is very strong, and serves 20 out of 25 KPS schools. He expressed his appreciation for the leadership of CISK Executive Director Pam Kingery. Dr. Rice noted that Arcadia Elementary School is a jewel of a school, that the staff there does a fine job, and that he loves the diversity of our KPS schools. He noted that CISK Arcadia Site Coordinator Gulnar Husain was great for students, parents, and students to work with on a regular basis. Dr. Rice thanked Arcadia Elementary School Principal Greg Socha for the wonderful job he does.

XII. Closed Session
President Sholler-Barber did not ask for a motion to move into closed session and adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

XIII. President Sholler-Barber announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the special meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Superintendent’s Conference Room at the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a communications workshop and conduct an evaluation of the Superintendent.

Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice was also present.

After general discussion, the Evaluation/Accountability Committee gave its report on the evaluation document. The Board collectively and collaboratively discussed the aspects of the document. The Committee received suggestions from Board members, and the resulting document was compiled.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Trustee Herschleb, and supported by Trustee Dr. Warfield, to go into closed session for the purpose of the Superintendent’s evaluation.

Board discussion: None

**Disposition:** Roll call vote: 7-yes, 0-no, 0-absences

President Sholler-Barber adjourned the meeting to go into closed session at 7:00 p.m. President Sholler-Barber reconvened the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

The Board returned to public session and a discussion of ways to continue to improve the district.

**The following narrative was read into the record:**

The Trustees of the Board of Education are in unanimous agreement that Dr. Rice has demonstrated continued positive progress on the goals set by the Board of Education for the Superintendent. After compiling the individual trustees’ responses to an agreed upon evaluation protocol, the evaluation committee concludes that the aggregated replies substantiate that Dr. Rice has exceeded and/or met expectations pertaining to general responsibilities, instructional leadership, personnel administration, and school and community relations. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Rice has received a positive evaluation for the 2014-2015 school year.

As educational leader, Dr. Rice promotes the success of all students by maintaining a focus on professional, legal, and policy obligations to ensure the smooth operation of the district. He effectively promotes the success of all students by advocating for, nurturing, and sustaining a culture and instructional program conducive to student learning and staff professional development. He oversees the district’s comprehensive human resources program tied to defined district goals and targets. As CEO of the district, Dr. Rice works with budget development, budget implementation, and budget monitoring that reflect sound fiscal judgment in support of district goals. Dr. Rice models appropriate administrative behavior, promoting a climate of mutual respect and trust, and establishing a professional working relationship with the Board of Education. He consistently collaborates with families, community members, social agencies, and the media to respond to diverse community interests and needs to mobilize community resources.
Our community is privileged to have in Dr. Rice a highly energized, dedicated, and committed leader as an advocate for our students.

President Patti Sholler-Barber adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennie Hill, Secretary
KPS Board of Education
I. **Call to Order**
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the March 12, 2015 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. **Attendance**
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

IV. **Announcements and Recognitions**
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized the following Turn-Around Students.

- Damion Riley Armstrong, first grade at Winchell Elementary School;
- Bishop Sutton, second grade, and Andrea Mendez-Melchor, fifth grade, at El Sol Elementary School; and

Also in attendance and introduced by Mr. Lee were Winchell Elementary School Principal Michael Hughes and staff members Christy Roth and Michelle Jones; El Sol Elementary School Principal Heather Grisales and staff members John Linebaugh, Joel Osborn, and Jorge Mojarro; and Edison Environmental Science Academy Principal Julie McDonald, staff member Darryl Blasingame, and bus driver Norman McNees, who awarded Shawn LeFlore-Ray with a star bus rider award. The students’ parents, family, and friends in the audience were also recognized.

V. **School Reports/Committee Reports**

**Committee Reports**

**Wellness Committee** – *Ken Greschak, representative*, stated that the committee met on February 19. He advised that the “Go Red for Women” event held in February had 288 participants from 19 KPS buildings. Mr. Greschak announced that the March event would be “Random Acts of Wellness,” where participants who see someone making healthy choices enters that person in a drawing for a prize at the end of the month. He concluded that the committee would meet again on March 19.

**Curriculum Committee** – *Carol McGlinn, chair*, stated that the committee met on March 9, and enjoyed an update on the winter session of Lift Up Through Literacy. She noted that the Lift Up Through Literacy program had served 1200 people in a year, with 155 families and 258 children enrolled in the sessions. Ms. McGlinn announced that the spring session would run April 13 through June 4, and encouraged families to register.

Ms. McGlinn stated that the committee also discussed the structure and content of the Spanish language literature class that would be offered at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts next school year. She concluded that the committee would meet again on April 1.
Legislative Liaison – Carol McGlinn, representative, had no report.

President Patti Sholler-Barber announced the meeting dates for the remaining committees:
- Evaluation/Accountability Committee on March 17;
- Teaching and Learning Council on March 19;
- Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo on March 20;
- Operations Committee on March 24; and
- Policy Committee on March 24.

School Reports
None.

VI. Correspondence
Secretary Jennie Hill reviewed the correspondence received for the period of February 27, 2015 through March 12, 2015. (File #15)

VII. Consent Calendar

Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start reviewed the purchase recommendations:
- 2015-36 in the amount of $24,893 for a four-column lift in the Transportation Department garage from the 2010 bond; and
- 2015-37 in the amount of $115,745 for Microsoft tablets for Washington Writers’ Academy and The Woodward School for Technology and Research from the School Improvement Grant for each school.

MOTION: Implied to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Board comments: None.

Audience comments: None.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board
Sarah Drumm, 1124 Merrill Street, introduced herself as the parent of two students at El Sol Elementary School. She thanked the Board and KPS administration for the progress made in providing the sixth grade Spanish literature elective. Ms. Drumm expressed her frustration at the process implemented to provide this class, and asked the Board and KPS administration to engage and communicate with parents in a way that builds more achievement for our students.
IX. Reports and Recommendations  
A. Policy 5.4 – Student Extracurricular Activities - Second Reading  
Policy Committee Chairperson Craig Herschleb explained that the changes to Policies 5.4 and 5.5 had been brought before the Board for a first reading at the February 26, 2015 meeting and that no changes had been made since that first reading.

MOTION: Moved by Trustee Dr. Warfield, supported by Trustee Greschak, to approve the changes to Policy 5.4 – Student Extracurricular Activities.

Board Discussion: None.

Audience Comments: None.

Roll Call vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions

B. Policy 5.5 – Student Athletics – Second Reading  
MOTION: Moved by Trustee Herschleb, supported by Trustee Hill, to approve the changes to Policy 5.5 – Student Athletics.

Board Discussion: None.

Audience Comments: None.

Roll Call vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions

X. Other Business  
None.

XI. Comments by Trustees  
Carol McGlinn stated that she had attended the Literacy Night events at Parkwood Upjohn Elementary School and Indian Prairie Elementary School on March 4. She noted that students, parents, and staff were all actively engaged in the various activities that were offered at each building.

Ms. McGlinn stated that she had also attended the Kalamazoo County School Officers Association meeting on March 4, which was held at the KRESA West Campus Building, formerly known as Croyden Avenue School. She explained that presentations were made by the Citizens Research Council and the KRESA Superintendent, which were very interesting and informative. Ms. McGlinn advised that the meeting concluded with a tour of the facility, which provided information about the Young Adult Program and early childhood initiatives offered there.

Ms. McGlinn noted that this had been a “Y” day that had started with a breakfast to support the YMCA, which provides many wonderful programs for our children. She stated that she had also attended the community infant mortality forum sponsored by the YWCA, which was very enlightening. Ms. McGlinn explained that there are a significant number of poor African-American women with a high infant mortality rate, and much discussion was held on what can be done to change this rate. She concluded that she appreciated the number of people that were engaged in the discussions, and praised Dr. Cathy Kothari and the research she has done to shine light on this issue.
Jennie Hill stated that she had attended several elementary Literacy Night events on March 4, which had begun with a spaghetti dinner and math games at Milwood Elementary School. She noted that the parking lot at Washington Writers’ Academy was hopping when she drove by on her way to The Woodward School for Technology and Research, which had a camping theme to its Literacy Night. Ms. Hill stated that her last stop was at Edison Environmental Science Academy, where she enjoyed skipping ice chips on the sidewalk with students as the Literacy Night event was ending.

Ms. Hill advised that she had attended the middle school Literacy Night events on March 5 at Linden Grove Middle School and Hillside Middle School. She noted that the events were well organized and that there were a lot of enthusiastic and energetic children in attendance. Ms. Hill praised the teacher who demonstrated making paper cranes because he had the kids in awe and totally engaged during his presentation.

Ms. Hill thanked the YMCA for its partnership with KPS. She explained that students who participated in the YMCA summer camp literacy program had a 90% retention rate.

Patti Sholler-Barber stated that she had also enjoyed Literacy Night events, which included making lions out of paper plates and dinosaurs out of egg crates. She noted that the Parent-Teacher Organizations at the schools that she attended held book fairs. Ms. Sholler-Barber stated that it was wonderful to watch families enjoy the books and events. She stated that she had been able to attend one middle school Literacy Night and was delighted to see parents involved and enthusiastic about the activities.

Ms. Sholler-Barber gave a shout-out to the members of the Citizens for KPS, who were working to provide information to the community about the May 5 special education millage ballot proposal. She explained that a yes vote on this proposal would be in support of all special needs children in Kalamazoo County. Ms. Sholler-Barber thanked prospective yes voters for advocating for our children.

Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that spring appears to be here as the Loy Norrix High School track runners were out in force. She explained that, while she was out walking, she was surrounded by several members of the team at a crosswalk. Ms. Sholler-Barber stated that she had had an enjoyable conversation, and the students were very enthusiastic about Loy Norrix. She noted that this has been an exciting year for several KPS teams. Ms. Sholler-Barber pointed out that as important as sportsmanship on the court is the sportsmanship in the stands, which has also been very impressive.

Ms. Sholler-Barber congratulated Superintendent Dr. Rice on behalf of the Board of Education on his excellent evaluation. She explained that the Board was very proud and pleased with how KPS is doing under his direction. Ms. Sholler-Barber stated that the children of KPS were very lucky and fortunate to be in the good hands of Dr. Rice.

**Comments by the Superintendent**

Superintendent Dr. Rice added that in addition to the literacy nights, the Lift Up Through Literacy winter session had done well. He stated that the spring session would begin in a few weeks and expressed his hope that there are a lot of participants, as has been the case in past spring sessions.
Dr. Rice announced that the Kalamazoo Central High School girls’ basketball team was playing in the regional tournament today against DeWitt High School at Portage Central High School. He added that the boys’ basketball teams would play in the district finals on March 14 as follows:

- Loy Norrix High School versus Jackson High School at Loy Norrix; and
- Kalamazoo Central High School vs Portage Northern High School at Portage Northern.

Dr. Rice asked everyone to focus a moment on resources because the reality is that in the absence of resources we are not able to accomplish our mission as a district. He explained that we are 54 days away from the May 5 election on the state roads referendum and the local special education millage. Dr. Rice noted that the local special education millage is critical because the school districts in the county are underfunded for special education services by $11 million. He stated that passage of the millage would eliminate that special education underfunding and have an impact of $4 million to $5 million for KPS, with proportionate increases for districts across the county. Dr. Rice explained that one of the reasons the local millage was so important was because if the state’s roads referendum does not pass, state legislators have already stated that there would be challenges across the state for local school districts.

Dr. Rice advised that forums would be held to inform the community of what was at stake if the local millage does not pass. He stated that in KPS the reality was that we cut $6 million in 2011, $10 million over the last five years, and approximately $30 million over the last 15 years, which has required the loss of many staff members in a district that has never been overstaffed. Dr. Rice continued that KPS has benefitted from stable to increasing enrollment over the last few years and rising enrollment over the last nine years, which has mitigated the adverse impact of the state’s legislative cuts but has not eliminated the pressure of those cuts. He concluded that if we do not come together as a community on this millage, our children would be adversely affected.

XII. Closed Session
President Sholler-Barber did not ask for a motion to move into closed session and adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

XIII. President Sholler-Barber announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the special meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Superintendent’s Conference Room at the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice was also present.

The following items were discussed:
Board self-evaluation.
Board communications: responsibilities and expectations.
Board thoughts for communication with students, parents, staff, and the general public.

President Patti Sholler-Barber adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennie Hill, Secretary
KPS Board of Education
I. Call to Order
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the March 26, 2015 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

IV. Announcements and Recognitions
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized the following Turn-Around Students.
- From Milwood Elementary School: Emma Smith, first grade; and Jacion Taylor, fifth grade; and
- From Washington Writers’ Academy: Damoni Booker and Allen McGhee, fourth grade (unable to attend); and Aniya Cummings, fifth grade.

Also in attendance and introduced by Mr. Lee were Milwood Elementary School Principal Sara Glendening and staff members Kelly Delorge and April Morgan; and Washington Writers’ Academy Principal Micole Dyson and staff members Emily Ziegler, Tamara Elliott, and Mark Reid. The students’ parents, family, and friends in the audience were also recognized.

V. School Reports/Committee Reports
Committee Reports
Evaluation/Accountability Committee – Jennie Hill, chair, stated that the committee met on March 17 and received a report on the Summer Extended Learning Enrichment Program, with a review of the 2014 program. She explained that students are invited to attend the summer school program based on teacher review and recommendation. Ms. Hill stated that students receive breakfast, lunch, and transportation for the summer school sessions. She thanked the community partners that work with KPS during the summer school program.

Ms. Hill stated that the summer literacy program for students going into grades four, five, and six would continue this summer. She explained that the program provides students with books sent to them through the mail, and the students are provided with postcards that they complete and send to their teachers when they finish books. Ms. Hill concluded that the committee would meet again on April 13.

Teaching and Learning Council – Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Services, Dr. Deborah Piotrowski, reported that the council met on March 19 and discussed innovative grant awards and programs being pursued, as well as the new testing schedule. She concluded that the council would meet again on May 21.
Wellness Committee – Ken Greschak, representative, stated that the committee met on March 19 and continued to promote health and wellness among staff. He stated that the March focus was Random Acts of Wellness, and that on April 30 a cardiovascular presentation would be held at the KEA office. Mr. Greschak continued that a blood drive is being planned for May at the KPS administration building. He concluded that the committee would meet again on April 16.

Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo (CISK) – Carol McGlinn, representative, reported that the CISK board met on March 20 and received a presentation from Deputy Superintendent Gary Start on the special education millage. She stated that Kalamazoo City Manager Jim Ritsema also gave a presentation on the state’s Proposal 1 and what passage of it would mean to the city. Ms. McGlinn advised that both of these proposals would be on the May 5, 2015 ballot.

Ms. McGlinn reported that she had attended a well-attended legislative lunch sponsored by CISK on March 23, and discussed the benefits Communities in Schools provides to schools. She concluded that the CISK board would meet again on April 17.

Operations Committee – Carol McGlinn, representative, stated that the committee met on March 24 and heard a presentation by Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Services Cindy Green and KPS Head of Security Ray Ampey about the recent incident at Loy Norrix High School and security matters in general. She concluded that the committee would meet again on April 28.

Policy Committee – Craig Herschleb, chair, reported that the committee met on March 24 and also received a presentation from Assistant Superintendent Cindy Green and Security Chief Ray Ampey. He stated that the committee discussed security policies and received a report on STDs in the Kalamazoo area. Mr. Herschleb concluded that the committee would meet again on April 28.

Legislative Liaison – Carol McGlinn, representative, had no report.

President Patti Sholler-Barber announced the meeting date for the remaining committee:

- Curriculum Committee would meet on April 1.

School Reports
Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice presented the following report on the gun incident at Loy Norrix High School that took place on Tuesday, March 17, 2015.

Staff from the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS) and the Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) collaborated to resolve this issue. A school resource officer, a member of the police department, is assigned to Loy Norrix High School throughout the school year. Public Safety and KPS are able to work closely together as a result. They did so on March 17.

As readers of the *Kalamazoo Gazette* now know, while a gun was accidentally discharged in a restroom at Loy Norrix between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. on March 17, there was no confirmation of the gun or the firing thereof until a couple of hours later. During the interim, based on tips, Public Safety and KPS implemented protocols and began interviewing students and investigating in many other ways, with the help of Public Safety’s external resources.

Once there was greater clarity of what was in the building, “Quiet Hallways,” a form of lockdown in which a student is allowed in the hallway only with a staff member, effective at 11:54. A full lockdown began at 1:00.
Public Safety and KPS receive many tips during the year. It is rare, even given the tip, to go into a lockdown as a result.

It is important to note, however, that if at any time during the day Public Safety had thought there was an immediate need to go into a lockdown, Public Safety would have ordered such a lockdown. Had there been an active shooter, we would have immediately been in a lockdown. Given only a tip, in the absence of an active shooter and in the absence, initially, of definitive evidence that a gun was or had been in the building, no lockdown was called by either agency.

I spoke with Chief Hadley this week on this very question. We have learned lessons and continue to learn through our analysis of this issue. First, when we work with the police on an issue, the two agencies should draft and send out a joint press release, so that there is no confusion between a tip about a weapon and the actual weapon itself.

Second, while we communicated quickly to our Norrix parents about what took place, immediately after the lockdown and then subsequently, there was an interest in the broader KPS community on this issue. We put a post on our website initially, but in the future, with a challenging issue such as this one, we will update more regularly as more information becomes available. We worked closely with the media on the issue, but as a number of people pointed out to us, they don’t always get, or wish to get, the information from the media; they prefer to hear it from us.

One thing that we have been asked to consider is the possibility of notification of parents and others during a lockdown. Given that such notification could create its own anxiety and inadvertently impede the investigation, we are unable to do this.

I would like to point out a few things about current security without involving the Board at this moment in an enormous amount of detail. The Board is aware that over the last six-and-a-half to seven years we’ve purchased almost 1000 cameras for use in our school buildings. These cameras were hugely helpful in determining what happened on March 17, how it happened, and when it happened. We have buzzer systems in place in front of our schools and hand-held wands that are able to be used at our high schools on an as-needed basis. We have done training through the head of security on job functions, responsibilities, the KPS Student Code of Conduct, investigations reporting, crisis plan, medical emergencies, threats, lockdowns, search patterns, student searches, de-escalation, and other items. We have done security training through inservices, which will continue and certainly be reviewed for need to extend upon that. We have cameras in all of our busses. There are 345 cameras in the busses in the school district.

As we move forward, we will be evaluating our security protocols. We will look at cameras and the placement thereof, numbers of cameras and the like, and we will look at and review the logic of enhanced lockdown procedures because surely, notwithstanding the fact that we do lockdown drills during the year, I think we learned some things in this particular lockdown that can be helpful to us in the future.

VI. Correspondence
Secretary Jennie Hill reviewed the correspondence received for the period of March 13, 2015 through March 26, 2015. (File #16)
VII. Consent Calendar
President Sholler-Barber presented the Consent Calendar items: VII.A. March 12, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes; VII.B. Purchase Recommendations 2015-38 and 2015-39; and VII.C. Personnel Changes.

Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start reviewed the purchase recommendations:

- 2015-38 in the amount of $477,645 for replacement of bleachers at Loy Norrix High School from the 2010 bond; and

MOTION: Implied to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Board comments: Patti Sholler Barber thanked the community for the bond funds that provided these items, as well as the cameras in the buildings that Dr. Rice had mentioned in his report.

Audience comments: None.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board
Kris Mbah, 2224 East Cork Street, Kalamazoo, introduced himself as a member of the Kalamazoo community. He expressed his concerns that the Board does not respond to public comments during the Board meetings and that there is no textbook policy in KPS. Mr. Mbah stated that the school district is the fulcrum to the economic sustainability of the City of Kalamazoo.

Brianna Noyes, 2221 Dorchester Avenue, Kalamazoo, introduced herself as a graduate of Loy Norrix High School, with a student at Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology and a student at Loy Norrix High School. She explained that she was speaking to the Board because her daughter had asked her to address it about the dress policy and how young ladies are being singled out for wearing leggings and skinny jeans, and being taken out of classrooms to put on sweatpants because leggings and skinny jeans are distracting to young men, even though the male students are allowed to wear their pants low on their hips, which exposes underclothing. Ms. Noyes stated that this is discrimination against female students.

Ms. Noyes stated that her second reason for addressing the Board concerned the gun incident at Loy Norrix High School. She explained that in an active shooter situation putting the students in a lockdown in classrooms makes them sitting ducks, and that the proper procedure would have been to get them out of the building. Ms. Noyes expressed her dissatisfaction that it took several hours from when the shot was fired until the gun was found, despite all the cameras located in Loy Norrix. She also stated her frustration that parents were not notified of the incident until 3:33 p.m. by robo-call. Ms. Noyes stated that her daughter is worth more than the cost of a walk-through metal detector and that KPS should invest in walk-through metal detectors at the entrance of Loy Norrix.

Laura Moss, 2211 Rambling Road, Kalamazoo, stated that she was the parent of three KPS students, one at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, and two at Loy Norrix High School. She noted that Kalamazoo is a forward-thinking city, with a willingness to discuss uncomfortable social issues such as racism and sexual orientation. Ms. Moss asked the Board to address the
Naomi Verne, 5351 Brandy Avenue, Kalamazoo, introduced herself as a freshman at Loy Norrix. She asked why the school administration had chosen to wait until the third trimester of the school year to address the issue of leggings. Ms. Verne stated that the entire dress code was sexist and biased toward women, and asked that the dress code be changed.

Ruby Hensley, 1120 Merrill Street, Kalamazoo, stated that she was a junior at Loy Norrix and was at the meeting to speak against the sexist dress code in the district. She expressed her belief that the dress code is biased towards patriarchal views that girls are meant to be hidden rather than allowed to express themselves through fashion. Ms. Hensley stated that it was inconceivable that in a college-going culture, girls were pulled out of class because they were wearing leggings. She noted in the real world there are no dress codes, and that men are able to function without women being a distraction because of what they wear. She explained that faculty and staff are taking the wearing of leggings too seriously and that our bodies are no one else’s business. Ms. Hensley expressed her disgust at the idea that girls wearing leggings would be a distraction to male staff and students.

Genevieve Nicolow, 2344 Sheffield Drive, Kalamazoo, introduced herself as a junior at Loy Norrix and stated that the dress code is built on sexism and enforced through body shaming and arbitrary punishment. She continued that the dress code claims that girls are capable of incapacitating their male peers based upon their attire. Ms. Nicolow stated that the dress code does not improve the high school environment and asked that administrators work with students to develop a better dress code.

Meghan Wineka, 920 Egleston Avenue, Kalamazoo, introduced herself as the parent of students at Loy Norrix and Maple Street. She stated that the gun incident was handled poorly, and that communication was poor between KPS and students, and between KPS and parents. Ms. Wineka expressed her disbelief that Loy Norrix administrators and staff found it necessary to go to classes to discuss the dress code, but no type of debriefing or meeting with students about the gun incident had been held. She expressed her anger that her main source of information during and after the gun incident was through MLive rather than directly from KPS. Ms. Wineka also stated her belief that this incident should have had a special meeting scheduled for discussion, rather than a regular Board meeting. She encouraged KPS to get involved in social media as an additional way of communication. Ms. Wineka stated that she wanted the incident investigated by an outside source that had no ties to either KDPS or KPS. She concluded that she appreciates the Kalamazoo Promise; however, she felt that KPS had broken a promise to her by not guaranteeing the safety of her children.

Jayne Gulliver, 1301 West Maple Street, Kalamazoo, stated that she had two students at Loy Norrix. She stated that her daughter had come home on the first day of the second trimester and said that her English literature teacher had lectured them about why he thought leggings were wrong, and how he believed that girls who wore them were missing a father figure and were looking for male attention. Ms. Gulliver stated that telling the kids a personal value is not a correct thing to do in a classroom. She continued that she had heard that one of the problems with leggings is that they are distracting to the male students and male staff. Ms. Gulliver advised that the dress code is causing real shame for our young women because they are made to feel diminished and not outdated sexist dress code policy. She explained that leggings are about fashion and comfort. She suggested that KPS consider re-examining its reproductive health curriculum at a deeper level to ensure that the language reflects the simple notion that boys need to know that they are responsible for their thoughts and actions, and not to put the onus on girls for their dress.
as valued as male students. She concluded that it is hard to believe that this message is being sent in this day and age and that the dress code needs to be changed.

_Olivia Stier, 3706 South Burdick Street, Kalamazoo_, introduced herself as a Loy Norrix student and part of Kalamazoo4Justice. She stated that she had been stopped by a security guard because he considered what she was wearing was inappropriate. Ms. Stier advised that she was then escorted by him to have two other male security guards look over her outfit. She stated that as a result of this scrutiny by three male staff members, she was sent home, where she arrived in tears. Ms. Stier stated that she felt humiliated by this treatment. She demanded that the Board change the dress code and how it is implemented and enforced because education should not be sexualized.

_Kaitlin Martin, 609 Village, Kalamazoo_, introduced herself as a Loy Norrix graduate and member of Kalamazoo4Justice. She stated that she was there in support of Olivia Stier and as a member of Kalamazoo4Justice. Ms. Martin stated that administrators are allowing KPS employees to sexually harass and sexualize female students under the guise of a dress code policy, which creates a hostile and restrictive environment for female students. She concluded that KPS needs to respond to this pattern of institutionally sanctioned policing of female bodies.

_Shannon Sykes, 2133 Ridge Road, Kalamazoo_, introduced herself as a former KPS student, and that she was in attendance to support Olivia Stier and as a member of Kalamazoo4Justice. She stated that the objectification of women’s bodies made her wonder what the administration’s values are. Ms. Sykes advised that KPS is being heavy-handed with its dress code and its enforcement.

_Angela McCormick, 327 Montrose, Kalamazoo_, stated that she is a parent of two KPS alumni, and two current KPS students. She noted that her daughter at Loy Norrix finds it distracting that boys are allowed to wear pants sagging with their underwear showing. Ms. McCormick stated that KPS should be concerned about guns in schools and not girls wearing leggings. She reminded the Board that the KPS community voted each of them onto the Board because parents trusted the Board with the lives of our children. Ms. McCormick stated that she was not happy with the gun incident, had discussed the incident with Dr. Rice, and does not feel that it was handled correctly; however, she did believe that it was something from which we can learn. She concluded by asking the Board what it is doing to protect our children and make sure they become Promise kids.

_Sam Gulliver, 3201 West Maple Street, Kalamazoo_, introduced himself as a Loy Norrix student, with a younger sister also attending Loy Norrix. He stated that 99% of the male population at Loy Norrix do not pay attention to how much skin is revealed or what a girl is wearing. Mr. Gulliver advised that it is puzzling to him that misogynistic values are being taught along with Shakespeare and the Pythagorean Theorem. He concluded that responsibility is not falling on the right heads.

_Tim Graham, 1749 Greenlawn, Kalamazoo_, stated that he is a resident of Kalamazoo and that the city is in fiscal crisis. He explained that KPS must be a part of the long-term financial sustainability of the city. Mr. Graham stated that the first thing a business looks at is the local school district, and if people are going to be encouraged to move to the city of Kalamazoo, KPS must do its part so Kalamazoo can become a fiscally healthy city.

_George White, 4022 Rockwood Drive, Kalamazoo_, introduced himself as a foster parent of KPS graduates and the Social Justice Director of Vanguard Church. He stated that KPS cannot create a positive educational environment without first addressing health and safety. Mr. White advised that the dress code is clearly misogynistic, and he found it incredulous that the school board had
allowed this to happen. Mr. Wright also took exception to the fact that KPS does not have a textbook policy and stated that this is an issue that should be addressed.

Rachel Thompson, 2221 Dorchester Avenue, Kalamazoo, introduced herself as a sophomore at Loy Norrix. She advised that she had had an experience the previous school year where she was told she had to change out of her leggings, which made her feel shamed and judged. Ms. Thompson stated that she was made to feel that what she was wearing was more important than what she was learning. She advised that she prefers leggings because they are comfortable. Ms. Thompson concluded that it baffles her that policing of leggings is happening in our school.

Mark Liddle, 2309 South Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, advised that he was the parent of two students in KPS. He thanked Board members for reaching out to neighbors and friends. Mr. Liddle stated that the gun incident was screwed up from the beginning. He asked the Board and Dr. Rice to own it, because he found it infuriating that KPS keeps making excuses. He exhorted the Board to say we screwed up, we will learn from it, and move on. He stated that people feel that KPS is sweeping it under the rug.

IX. Reports and Recommendations

Kindergarten to Grade 12 Summer Extended Learning Enrichment Programs
Superintendent Dr. Rice introduced the detailed report concerning the 2015 summer program.

MOTION: Moved by Trustee McGlinn, and supported by Trustee Herschleb, to receive the Kindergarten to Grade 12 Summer Extended Learning Enrichment Program report.

Board discussion:
The following information was discussed and clarified by Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Services Dr. Deborah Piotrowski:

- The 2015 summer school would be similar to what has been done in previous years.
- Students are selected to attend summer school if they are struggling in reading or math.
- Enrollment in summer school will be discussed with the parents of those students at upcoming parent-teacher conferences.
- Secondary summer school courses include Spanish and post-secondary options.
- Summer school information is available from school principals.
- Elementary summer school will be held at Washington Writers’ Academy and The Woodward School for Technology and Research.
- Secondary summer school will be held at Linden Grove Middle School.
- Transportation, breakfast, and lunch will be provided.

Disposition: Roll call vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-absentees.

X. Other Business
None.

XI. Comments by Trustees
Carol McGlinn stated that she had seen the play, Urinetown, at Loy Norrix High School the previous weekend, and gave a shout–out to the students, crew, and staff for an entertaining production. She noted that she is always blown away by the talent of our students, and encouraged everyone to attend this weekend to support our students and enjoy an awesome show.
Ms. McGlinn continued that she had also attended the Promise Community Conversation last week in preparation for the 10th anniversary of the Kalamazoo Promise. She invited everyone to attend the next meeting at The Douglass Center at 6:00 p.m. on March 27.

Ms. McGlinn thanked everyone for coming to this evening’s Board meeting and speaking on these issues. She explained that the trustees do not respond to the comments; however, they are actively listening because these are important matters and taken very seriously by the Board. Ms. McGlinn explained that KPS wants a safe environment for all its students, and she assured the audience that they had been heard.

Ken Greschak stated that he does not like hearing words like misogynistic, or that our young ladies are experiencing things that make them uncomfortable. He announced that it was time to review the dress code and recommended that the Board take a closer look at the dress code and report back.

Dr. Martha Warfield thanked everyone for being here and assured them that the Board is always concerned about the physical, mental, and emotional safety of our students. She stated that the trustees appreciate the opportunity to hear what parents and students have to say. Dr. Warfield expressed her appreciation for everyone’s attention and willingness to give the Board a chance to see what the Board can do to improve KPS.

Dr. Warfield stated that she had also attended the Promise Community Conversation last week, and that the meeting showed that KPS does a number of things pretty well. She explained that the meeting included hearing from parents and students who have had good experiences in KPS and were able to take advantage of the Kalamazoo Promise.

Jennie Hill thanked everyone for coming out, particularly the students. She stated that she appreciates her job as a Board trustee because every day she wants to learn from the community what is needed to make KPS better.

Ms. Hill stated that on March 20 she had had the opportunity to meet with students enrolled in the EFE Allied Health Program. She explained that she was a guest speaker because she is a registered nurse. Ms. Hill stated that discussions were held on soft skills and hard skills, and explained that hard skills are everything she had been doing throughout her nursing career; however, soft skills include our communication skills, including our ability to present, as well as our digital imprint via twitter, Facebook, and other social media.

Craig Herschleb stated that he had also had the opportunity to see the production of Urinetown at Loy Norrix High School on opening night and gave a shout-out to all those involved because they had done a great job. He explained to everyone not to let the title put you off because it is a very good musical.

Mr. Herschleb extended congratulations to the boys’ basketball teams at Kalamazoo Central High School and Loy Norrix High School for winning their district competitions.

Mr. Herschleb concluded by thanking those who had spoken at the meeting.

TiAnna Harrison thanked everyone for taking the time to come and express their concerns and frustrations and reminded them that the Board is also concerned and listening. She asked everyone to take into consideration that the gun incident started at home and came into the school, not the other way around. Ms. Harrison explained that KPS and parents need to take ownership to provide
the best opportunities for our students. She noted that nothing would be perfect because it is a learning process; however, working together we can all do better.

Patti Sholler-Barber stated that she had taught high school for almost 35 years, and in her classes she had always encouraged no gender-specific communications. She noted how impressed she was with the articulation of those who had spoken this evening, which indicated that something was going right in their education. Ms. Sholler-Barber advised that there was not one trustee who does not think being on this Board is the most serious job they have ever had other than being a parent. She continued that the safety and education of all 13,000 KPS students is the focus of the KPS Board, Administration, and staff. Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that like every institution, university, and corporation, KPS must strive to be current in its curriculum, student services, and safety. She asked for the continued support of the community.

Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that it had been a busy week as she had attended the Project Lead the Way event at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts on March 20; Promise Community Conversation to prepare for the ten-year anniversary of the Kalamazoo Promise; the musical, Urinetown, at Loy Norrix High School last weekend; and the open house at the Community Education Center on March 26.

Ms. Sholler-Barber continued that on March 23 she had attended a meeting about the special education millage. She noted that the passage of this millage on May 5, 2015, is critically important to KPS. She asked for the support of the community.

Ms. Sholler-Barber explained that the Board cared about all of our students. She thanked those who had spoken to the Board and explained that the Board could not function without the sharing of information. Ms. Sholler-Barber stated that she had never taken more pride in a job than that of being on the KPS Board of Education. She concluded that she cares deeply about every student in the district and thanked those in attendance for coming.

Comments by the Superintendent
Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice stated that he would be reaching out to some of the young ladies who had spoken to the Board this evening, with Loy Norrix administration, to listen to their experiences. He noted that the students need to be heard in the school where they feel objectified, and staff need to hear what they are perhaps inadvertently foisting on our young women.

XII. Closed Session
President Sholler-Barber did not ask for a motion to move into closed session and adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

XIII. President Sholler-Barber announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education
I. Call to Order
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the April 16, 2015 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

President Sholler-Barber explained that the agenda for this meeting was the standard agenda for each Board meeting.

IV. Announcements and Recognitions
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized the following Turn-Around Students:
- From Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts: Eighth grade student Mercedes Moore;
- From Kalamazoo Central High School: Sophomores Tyrone Lee and Shamara Turner; Junior Joyce Carter; and Senior Adrieana Wright.

Also in attendance and introduced by Mr. Lee were Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts Principal Dr. Jeffery Boggan and Assistant Principal Gloria Foster-Wimbley; and Kalamazoo Central High School Principal Valerie Boggan and staff member Leslie Church. The students’ parents, family, and friends in the audience were also recognized.

Mr. Lee announced that KPS had been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report. He explained that this certificate was the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and congratulated KPS Business Manager Laura Kayser for the award.

Mr. Lee continued that KPS had also received The Association of School Business Officials International Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting award for having met or exceeded the program’s high standards for financial reporting for the fiscal year ending 2014.

Mr. Lee announced that the KPS Secondary Art Show was on display in the KPS administration building and invited the public to stop in to see the amazing work of our students. He invited everyone to attend the opening reception at the administration building on Friday, May 1, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

President Patti Sholler-Barber thanked Mr. Lee for his report, and also thanked the friends and family members who had attended the meeting in support of their students.
V. School Reports/Committee Reports

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee – Carol McGlinn, chair, stated that the committee had met on April 1 and received information about the state testing that had started this week. She advised that the committee had also received information about curriculum guides. Ms. McGlinn concluded that the committee would meet again on May 6.

Evaluation/Accountability Committee – Jennie Hill, chair, reported that the committee met on April 13 and received an in-depth report on the new M-STEP testing, which replaced the MEAP test. She explained that students at Kalamazoo Central High School, Loy Norrix High School, Phoenix High School, Linden Grove Middle School, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Westwood Elementary School were taking the tests online, while students in all other KPS schools were using the paper version of the test. Ms. Hill concluded that the committee would meet again on May 12.

Legislative Liaison – Carol McGlinn, representative, had no report.

President Patti Sholler-Barber announced the meeting dates for the remaining committees:
- Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo would meet on April 17;
- Operations Committee would meet on April 28;
- Policy Committee would meet on April 28;
- Teaching and Learning Council would meet on May 21; and
- Wellness Committee would meet on May 21.

School Reports
None.

VI. Correspondence

Secretary Jennie Hill reviewed the correspondence received for the period of March 27, 2015 through April 16, 2015. (File #17)

VII. Consent Calendar


Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start reviewed purchase recommendation 2015-40 in the amount of $102,393 for Microsoft Enrollment for Education Solutions (EES) volume licensing, which would provide KPS the capability needed to meet the requirements of the spring 2016 online state testing from the Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant.

MOTION: Implied to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Board comments: None.

Audience comments: None.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.
VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board

Jonathan Andrews, 1022 Highgate Road, Kalamazoo, introduced himself as a sixth grade student at Hillside Middle School. He explained that he was concerned that busses were left running while waiting for students to board at the end of the school day. Jonathan noted that this was a waste of gas and taxpayer money, and could also cause health problems, particularly for children. He asked the Board to make it a policy for busses to be turned off until students were seated on the bus.

Lisa Thornton, 817 Dayton Avenue, Kalamazoo, introduced herself as the parent of a Kalamazoo Central High School student, and the sister of Coach Dan Thornton. She stated that her positive feelings about KPS had changed due to the termination of her brother. Ms. Thornton also noted that it had been very difficult to explain to her son why his uncle had been dismissed as the Kalamazoo Central girls’ varsity basketball coach. She asked the Board to look into this matter and not to accept it as KPS politics.

Paulette Hamilton, 242 West Allen Street, Kalamazoo, introduced herself as the parent of Kalamazoo Central basketball player, Sadia Johnson. She stated that the issue with Coach Dan Thornton was that he did not have enough skill and experience to continue as the girls’ varsity basketball coach. Ms. Hamilton also stated that parents wanted a coach who was a good mentor and inspired the students, which would increase their self-confidence. She stated that what the parents did not want was to continue with a coach who yelled at and belittled the students.

Cynthia White, 1214 North Church Street, Kalamazoo, stated that she did not know Coach Thornton; however, she had known Kalamazoo Central Principal Valerie Boggan for many years and was in attendance to support her. She noted that many community members had expressed concerns to her regarding Mr. Thornton’s coaching skills, and that a number of parents and players expressed those same concerns to Principal Boggan and the Kalamazoo Central Athletic Director. Ms. White stated that Mr. Thornton did not have the coaching abilities to take the girls to the state level of competition. She concluded that the team needed a new coach and that it was not politics or something personal against Mr. Thornton; however, the decision had been made to remove him as coach and it was time to move forward.

Michael Williams, 1527 Crumps, Kalamazoo, introduced himself as a member of the Kalamazoo Central Class of 1964. He stated that he had coached AAU basketball, worked as a referee, and been involved in basketball most of his adult life. Mr. Williams explained that he did not have a student in KPS; however, he enjoyed attending high school basketball games. He stated that he had had occasion to attend 10 girls’ basketball games this year and had watched the coach and his interactions with the young ladies, which brought him to the conclusion that the students had lost confidence in Mr. Thornton as their coach. Mr. Williams concluded that Mrs. Boggan and the KPS administration had made the decision to remove Mr. Thornton as coach because it was in the best interests of the students.

Pearlie Williams, 605 West North Street, Kalamazoo, stated that her granddaughter played on the Kalamazoo Central girls’ basketball team. She noted that she had never seen Mr. Thornton be aggressive to the girls; however, she had seen the girls and their parents being disrespectful towards him. Ms. Williams stated that she had attended all the practices and all the games and had never seen Mr. Thornton display any aggression towards the girls. She concluded that Mr. Thornton was a good person and that he was always fair with the girls.

Montiella Robertson, 1314 Concord Place Drive, Kalamazoo, stated that Mr. Thornton had done a great job of getting the team to where it was now; however, it was time to find a more skilled and
qualified coach to get the team to the next level. She concluded that she was looking forward to moving ahead with a new coach.

Leslie Keeler, 1115 North Rose, Kalamazoo, stated that she had two daughters who had been on the Kalamazoo Central girls’ basketball team under Coach Thornton, and that they had never had any problems with him. She stated that Mr. Thornton was not aggressive, and whenever there was an issue with him, it was always worked out. Ms. Keeler explained that aggressiveness was a part of any sport. She concluded that Mr. Thornton was a great person and a good coach.

Orlando Little, 1434 Woodward Avenue, Kalamazoo, introduced himself as the parent of two daughters who hoped to play basketball when they got to high school in a few years. He stated that he was not in support of Dan Thornton continuing as the girls’ basketball coach at Kalamazoo Central. Mr. Little stated that he was also a sports coach and understood yelling and being loud during a game; however, at Kalamazoo Central girls’ basketball games he had not seen any support for the girls from Mr. Thornton when they did something right on the court. He noted that the current team members had been playing together for a long time, which had contributed to the team’s success. Mr. Little stated that the girls do not respect Mr. Thornton as their coach and that the team deserved better.

Tammatha Carver, 1522 Cobb, Kalamazoo, stated that she was in attendance to support Dan Thornton on behalf of herself and her daughter, who had played for Mr. Thornton. She stated that he had done an excellent job and had no problems with the girls.

Quintetta Bush, 605 West North Street, Kalamazoo, stated that she was in attendance in support of her daughter and Kalamazoo Central graduate, Asia Roberson, who was now playing basketball at Auburn University. She stated that she had known Dan Thornton for the last four years and that he had been a terrific coach. Ms. Bush noted that she had had issues with Mr. Thornton; however, he was always very approachable and problems were always worked out. She stated that yelling at sporting events was typical, and switching out players was also done at college and WNBA levels.

Bill Keeler, 1115 North Rose, Kalamazoo, stated that he had a daughter on the Kalamazoo Central girls’ basketball team and that he did not appreciate how little she got to play; however, Mr. Thornton was very responsive to parent contact. Mr. Keeler concluded that Mr. Thornton was a decent coach.

Jackie Middlebrooks, 426 North Arlington, Kalamazoo, introduced herself as the parent of three children who had attended Kalamazoo Central and that she was Dan Thornton’s sister. She stated that her brother had helped many kids so that they could participate in sports at the college level. Ms. Middlebrooks concluded that Mr. Thornton was passionate about coaching.

Karen Jansheski, 5838 Scenic Way Drive, Kalamazoo, stated that she was in attendance as a KPS parent. She stated that she did not know Mr. Thornton, nor did she know what was going on with his coaching employment; however, she explained that she had been looking forward to having him coach her daughter when her daughter moved up from freshman to varsity basketball. Ms. Jansheski concluded by wishing Mr. Thornton the very best in his career.

Wayne Deering, 719 West Vine, Kalamazoo, introduced himself as the parent of three daughters, all of whom had graduated from Kalamazoo Central. He stated that his youngest daughter played under Dan Thornton in the AAU. Mr. Deering stated that his daughter had suffered two severe injuries during that time, and Mr. Thornton had coached and rehabbed her, as a result of which she was now playing basketball at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He noted that the coach’s
yelling was not excessive and that coaches have different styles of coaching. Mr. Deering asked the Board to reinstate Mr. Thornton for a probationary period, with a process in place for parent meetings and performance evaluation.

**Connie Tomlinson, 7452 Capri Street, Portage**, introduced herself as the parent of two female basketball players who had played AAU basketball for Dan Thornton from 2005-2014. She stated that she had only positive things to say about him because he could coach and inspire players. Ms. Tomlinson concluded that Kalamazoo Central could not have a finer basketball coach than Dan Thornton.

**Felicia Thomas, 712 Westbury Lane, Kalamazoo**, stated that she was in attendance to support Dan Thornton. She explained that this had been her first year as assistant coach for the Kalamazoo Central varsity girls’ basketball team. Ms. Thomas stated that she had learned a lot from Mr. Thornton about basketball and about life. She explained that Mr. Thornton was passionate, was not unnecessarily rough with the girls, and cared about the girls. Ms. Thomas concluded that it was not the girls who disliked Mr. Thornton; it was their parents.

**Bill Reeves, 334 Oakhurst, Kalamazoo**, stated that he had known Dan Thornton for 30 years, both personally and professionally. He stated that if his stepdaughter had come home and said that Mr. Thornton was too hard on her, he would have called Mr. Thornton and thanked him.

**Ola Renstrom, 606 James Boulevard, Kalamazoo**, stated that this had been her second year as assistant coach with Dan Thornton. She explained that Mr. Thornton spent many hours outside of practice and game time to make sure the team could advance to the next level. Ms. Renstrom noted that some parents were more worried about their child’s playing time than about the team’s success. She stated that she had never seen Mr. Thornton physically or verbally aggressive. Ms. Renstrom concluded that she hoped Mr. Thornton would be allowed to stay.

**Dan Thornton, 2010 Winters Drive, Portage**, stated that he had been a coach for 24 years and understood that he was not going to make everyone happy. He continued that he had been hired four years previously by the prior principal at Kalamazoo Central and was given the directive to make the girls basketball program as successful as the boys basketball program. Mr. Thornton stated that he had exceeded that, and had received no bad reviews in the last four years. He stated that, if he had resigned, it would have led people to speculate about what he might have done wrong. Mr. Thornton stated he had been contacted by several people asking what he had done that had caused his termination. He expressed his appreciation for the support he had received.

**Ron Welch, 429 Bryant Street, Kalamazoo**, introduced himself as a long-time Kalamazoo resident. He stated that, throughout the wins and losses, Mr. Thornton cared and was passionate about what he did. He stated that sometimes you have to get young people’s attention and how you do that was important because kids need to know that you care. Mr. Welch explained that kids don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care, and the girls that had played for Mr. Thornton knew that he cared. He asked the Board to consider what was important.

**Terry Doyle, 34901 Baseline Road, Gobles**, introduced himself as the board of education president for the Gobles School District. He stated that he had known Dan Thornton for 12-13 years. Mr. Doyle stated that he would like to know what statement KPS would make regarding why Mr. Thornton was let go, and asked if KPS had the documentation to support that statement.

**Clarence Gardner, 3500 Stonegate Road, Kalamazoo**, introduced himself as the winningest Kalamazoo Central girls’ basketball coach. He stated that he was in attendance to support KPS
administration in its decision not to renew Mr. Thornton’s coaching contract. He explained that coaches were given one-year contracts, and that KPS did not have to give a reason for the non-renewal of a contract.

IX. Reports and Recommendations
None.

X. Other Business
None.

XI. Comments by Trustees
Craig Herschleb stated that he had attended the Hillside Middle School talent show and that it was excellent. He encouraged everyone to look to local school programs for good entertainment. Mr. Herschleb noted that spring sports had started, which would provide opportunities to cheer on the students.

Carol McGlinn thanked everyone for attending the meeting and speaking to the Board. She explained that the Board appreciated hearing the comments.

Ms. McGlinn complimented the artwork on display in the administration building and encouraged everyone to stop by to enjoy it.

Ms. McGlinn stated that the new wind protection screen on the Loy Norrix High School soccer field was quite impressive.

Jennie Hill announced that Super Saturday would be held April 18 at Loy Norrix High School and encouraged everyone to attend the many sporting events that would be held there.

Ms. Hill noted that kindergarten through grade eight art was on display at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. She gave a shout-out to the young artists from Milwood Elementary School, Hillside Middle School, The Woodward School for Technology and Research, Spring Valley Center for Exploration, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Westwood Elementary School, Winchell Elementary School, Edison Environmental Science Academy, El Sol Elementary School, and Linden Grove Middle School that had art displayed there.

Ms. Hill stated that she had had the opportunity to register voters at the Young Adult Program, and had also attended the Kalamazoo Promise meeting at the Douglass Community Association the same evening.

Ms. Hill concluded her remarks by congratulating KPS Business Manager Laura Kayser and Deputy Superintendent Gary Start for the Excellence in Financial Reporting award.

Dr. Martha Warfield noted that there had been many opportunities for students to share at the Kalamazoo Promise meeting at the Douglass Community Association.

Dr. Warfield stated that 23 KPS high school seniors were dual enrolled in a freshmen seminar at WMU during their third trimester. She stated her hope that more seniors would take advantage of this opportunity because it was a good way to transition from high school to college culture.

Ken Greschak announced that AP Studio Art students would be part of the May 1 Art Hop at a block party in the 300 block of North Burdick.
Mr. Greschak reminded everyone of the importance of May 5 and the special education millage proposal that would be on the ballot. He explained that special education was substantially underfunded, which created pressure on districts’ general education budgets. Mr. Greschak noted that the funds generated by this millage would be disbursed to each public school district in Kalamazoo County.

Patti Sholler-Barber apologized for her phone ringing during the meeting. She explained that the on/off button was broken and due for repair the next day.

Ms. Sholler-Barber tipped her hat to Jonathan Andrews for an excellent presentation to the Board during public comments. She thanked everyone who had spoken to the Board and stated that she was very pleased that all were respectful of differing opinions.

Ms. Sholler-Barber stated that the May 5 special education millage request was very important. She advised that KPS could not provide what our students need without adequate funding. Ms. Sholler-Barber explained that this millage was a local issue, and the money would stay with local public school districts in Kalamazoo County. She asked everyone to please remember to vote on May 5.

Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that kindergarten enrollment was still open and invited families to call Student Services at 337-0161 to enroll their children.

Ms. Sholler-Barber concluded her comments by reminding families that student attendance for the remainder of the school year was very important.

Comments by the Superintendent
Superintendent Dr. Rice extended his congratulations to Business Manager Laura Kayser and Deputy Superintendent Gary Start for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award. He also thanked the Board for being fiscally prudent to maintain the stability of the district and the services the district provided to our students every day.

Dr. Rice noted that the secondary art show at the administration building was outstanding, and showed that the art programs were strong in KPS.

Dr. Rice stated that the M-STEP testing taking place across the state was challenging for young people. He explained that he had questions regarding the length of time needed for testing, and the balance between instructional time and testing time. Dr. Rice noted that students and staff were doing a wonderful job with the testing process.

Dr. Rice advised that Loy Norrix High School Principal Rodney Prewitt, Counselor Susan Benton, and he had met with the five girls who had expressed concerns about leggings at Loy Norrix High School. He noted that it had been a very good meeting, and that the students had shared some interesting thoughts.

Dr. Rice asked Deputy Superintendent Gary Start to speak about the special education millage on the May 5 ballot.

Deputy Superintendent Start announced that the special education millage would be vital to protect programs for our students. He explained that public school districts had to rely on the state of
Michigan for financing, which had been extremely disappointing. Mr. Start noted that KPS had cut $10 million in the last five years, and $30 million in the last 15 years.

Mr. Start stated that an important thing to note was that the governor had proposed his education budget, and that the budget had been an increase of only 6/10 of one percent to KPS. He explained that that increase would not even cover the increased cost of health insurance, nor would it cover the cost of inflation. Mr. Start stated that the governor’s budget would result in a cut budget for public schools, and that he did not see any evidence that the state legislature would vote to increase the governor’s proposed education budget.

Mr. Start noted that if the roads proposal failed, he believed that the legislature would consider the failure as a vote against taxes and not against roads, and would decide to follow the Bolger Plan that would take money primarily from schools to fund roads. He stated that this was a perfect storm, which would require substantial budget cuts. Mr. Start concluded that he hoped the special education millage would pass because it would provide $4-5 million for KPS students and insulate them against funding cuts this year.

Dr. Rice stated that the state roads referendum was in trouble in the polls, trending at well under 50%. He explained that if voters were thinking that the roads referendum would be the cavalry for educational funding, it was unlikely that that was going to happen at this point.

Dr. Rice noted that the local special education millage would benefit the nine local school districts in Kalamazoo County, and would be helpful to the financial stability of those districts and to services for Kalamazoo County students. He expressed his hope that people would take a strong look at the ballot proposal.

Dr. Rice asked Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Sheila Dorsey to share a few thoughts on the recent coaching situation.

Assistant Superintendent Sheila Dorsey read the following statement into the record:

As a rule, the district does not publicly discuss personnel issues. This is not the forum that we use. Our goal is to work with employees and contract coaches privately – not in public. This approach benefits employees and contract coaches as well as the district.

By contrast and for whatever reason, Mr. Thornton chose to air his personal frustrations publicly after an April 6 meeting with Principal Boggan and Director of Secondary Education Edwards, first on Facebook and then through the media. Rather than attempt to address concerns in the customary way, he chose a public forum.

At the same time, though, in the past week, Mr. Thornton has also spoken to various Kalamazoo Public School administrators as well as administrators from PESG, our third-party contractor, by phone many times. He is well aware of the district’s position regarding his employment.

During an April 6 meeting with the principal and the director of secondary education, Principal Boggan asked Mr. Thornton to meet with parents on April 30. Mr. Thornton left the meeting without stating his intentions relative to the parent meeting and then publicly indicated that he had been terminated.

Without being specific, many parents had verbally raised a range of issues over a period of time, most of which were not playing time issues.

It is possible that things might have gone differently if Mr. Thornton had met with parents and established a course of action to address concerns.

We wish him well in his future endeavors.
Dr. Rice thanked all those who had spoken to the Board on either side of this question. He explained that we were richer for the process. Dr. Rice acknowledged Mrs. Valerie Boggan for her very strong leadership of Kalamazoo Central High School. He noted that she was all about children, as were the other administrators at Kalamazoo Central and throughout the district. Dr. Rice stated that Coach Gardner had talked about the fact that these were one-year coaching contracts, which was correct. He explained that that was the way it was in most jurisdictions for high school coaches. Dr. Rice stated that reasonable people can disagree, and had done so this evening in a relatively agreeable fashion. He explained that the nonrenewal was not to denigrate Coach Thornton; however, it was an acknowledgement that it was time to set sail in a new direction for Kalamazoo Central High School girls’ basketball.

XII. Closed Session
President Sholler-Barber did not ask for a motion to move into closed session and adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

XIII. President Sholler-Barber announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, April 30, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education
Call to Order
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the April 30, 2015 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:05 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, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

Announcements and Recognitions
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized the following students:
From Phoenix High School:
- Turn-Around Students: Seniors Corey Bozman, Jacqueline Butler, Antonio Potts (unable to attend), Mikal White, and Nina Whitt.
From Loy Norrix High School:
- Turn-Around Students: Junior Morgan Kester; and Seniors Laquetta Moore and Aryionna Williams-Young;
- Second Place in State Wrestling: Junior Nicholas May;
- State Qualifier in Bowling: Freshman Trevor Morgan; and
- Class A District 2 Boys’ Varsity Basketball Team Champions: Freshmen Alexander Johnson and Maxwell Link; Juniors Jacob Link, Grant Mitchell, Damarquay Norman, Traver Parlato (unable to attend), Simeon Smith (unable to attend), and GaBreon Wells-Lindsey; and Seniors Mikquawn Crayton, Eddie Gillon, Davon Mitchell (unable to attend), and Spencer Welsh.

Also in attendance and introduced by Mr. Lee were Phoenix High School Principal Mark Hill and college mentor Carlos Clay; and Loy Norrix High School Principal Rodney Prewitt, Boys’ Basketball Coach Matt Covault, Athletic Director Andrew Laboe, and Assistant Boys’ Basketball Coach Gary Zandt. The students’ parents, family, and friends in the audience were also recognized.

Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Cindy Green explained that parents throughout the county nominated staff members for the Special Education Excellence in Education award. She introduced Christy Dyke and Carmina Jones, representatives from the KRESA Special Education Parent Advisory Committee, who presented awards to the KPS winners: Paul Mahar, Loy Norrix High School; Lindsay Wilson, Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts; and Amanda Frensley and Mindy McNulty from Parkwood Upjohn Elementary School.
V. School Reports/Committee Reports

Committee Reports

Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo (CISK) – Carol McGlinn, representative, stated that the CISK board had held two strategic planning sessions the previous week, which had gone well and were well attended. She concluded that the CISK board would meet again on May 15.

Operations Committee – Patti Sholler-Barber, chair, reported that the committee had met on April 28 and discussed the upcoming local special education millage. She reminded everyone to please vote on May 5. Ms. Sholler-Barber stated that the committee also discussed the KPS bus emissions policy. She concluded that the committee would meet again on May 26.

Policy Committee – Craig Herschleb, chair, reported that the committee had met on April 28 and reviewed Policy 5.8-Prohibition on Bullying, which will be brought before the Board for a first reading on May 14. He explained that the policy had been updated to include cyberbullying. Mr. Herschleb stated that the committee had also discussed student dress code and the reproductive health curriculum. He concluded that the committee would meet again on May 26.

Legislative Liaison – Carol McGlinn, representative, had no report.

President Patti Sholler-Barber announced the meeting dates for the remaining committees:
- Curriculum Committee would meet on May 6;
- Evaluation/Accountability Committee would meet on May 12;
- Teaching and Learning Council would meet on May 21; and
- Wellness Committee would meet on May 21.

School Reports

None.

VI. Correspondence

Secretary Jennie Hill reviewed the correspondence received for the period of April 17, 2015 through April 30, 2015. (File #18)

VII. Consent Calendar

President Sholler-Barber presented the Consent Calendar items: VII.A. April 16, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes; VII.B. Purchase Recommendations 2015-41, 2015-42, and 2015-43; and VII.C. Personnel Changes.

Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start reviewed the purchase recommendations:
- 2015-41 in the amount of $1,194,941.01 for exterior improvements at Loy Norrix High School from the 2010 and 2013 bonds;
- 2015-42 in the amount of $32,200.09 for Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention Kits for The Woodward School for Technology and Research from Woodward’s School Improvement Grant; and
- 2015-43 in the amount of $87,788.88 for the Summer Literacy Independent Reading Program 2015 from the Teaching and Learning Services Department budget.

MOTION: Implied to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Board comments: None.
Audience comments: None.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board

Cheryl TenBrink, 704 Lynn Avenue, Kalamazoo, introduced herself as a retired KPS school librarian, with a Master’s Degree in Library Science and an elementary teaching degree from Western Michigan University. She explained that she had been a school librarian at 11 KPS elementary schools. Ms. TenBrink stated that elementary library assistants were being asked to perform job duties for which they were not qualified. She urged the Board to work tirelessly to bring back elementary school librarians.

Hether Frayer 127 North Berkley Street, Kalamazoo, introduced herself as the parent of two KPS students. She stated that as the Fresh Food Fairy, she tried to make fresh food fun through presentations in schools and at local events. She asked the Board to get the community involved in conversations about improving school food and providing input into the selection of the foodservice provider for KPS.

IX. Reports and Recommendations

Local Special Education Millage

Deputy Superintendent Start explained that school districts were heavily dependent on the state of Michigan for their funding, and that the state drastically underfunded school districts. He stated that KPS had had to cut in excess of $10 million over the last five years, and $30 million over the last fifteen years due to the state’s underfunding of public schools. Mr. Start also noted that districts across the state have had to cut similar amounts proportionate to their sizes. He explained that the funding from the state had not kept up with inflation. Mr. Start noted that, for KPS, the foundation allowance had grown by only 0.27% (less than one percentage point) from 2005-2006 to 2014-2015, while inflation had increased by 21.39% during the same period. He stated that this was akin to a loss of 21% in funding to inflation, which was one-fifth of KPS buying power.

Deputy Superintendent Start expressed his concern that the continued underfunding for public education by the state of Michigan would result in KPS having to make additional budget cuts. He explained that KPS had already made many budget cuts over the last 15 years, and that there was very little left to cut that would not adversely affect students.

Deputy Superintendent Start stated that the governor’s proposed 2015-2016 budget for public education was inadequate, and would result in a 0.6% increase for KPS. He explained that that amount would cover only the increase in the cost of employee insurance and no other inflationary factors. Mr. Start did commend the governor for his proposed $100 million in at-risk funds. He stated that he did not hold out much hope that Michigan legislators would adequately improve funding for schools beyond the governor’s budget.

Deputy Superintendent Start stated that if the state roads referendum (Proposal 1) failed at the May 5 election, the governor and legislature would need to decide how to find the funds needed to repair roads. He expressed his concern that the legislature would decide to follow the previously suggested Bolger Plan, which would take money from the school aid fund to repair roads. Mr. Start stated that this would mean a decrease in funding from the state for public education of $475 per student, which would cost KPS approximately $6 million.
Deputy Superintendent Start advised that special education costs in the county were inadequately funded. He explained that special education services were required by federal and state laws, and that at one time those services were funded through dedicated special education sources. He noted that those sources had not kept up with special education needs, which meant that local Kalamazoo County school districts had had to fund those unfunded special education costs out of their general education budgets. Mr. Start explained that the unreimbursed special education costs for all districts in the KRESA service area had risen from $5.2 million in 2010-2011 to $11 million in 2014-2015. He also noted that for KPS those costs had more than doubled from $2.8 million in 2010-2011 to $5.2 million in 2014-2015. Mr. Start explained that, because more general budget funds had to be used for special education costs, cuts such as eliminating elementary school librarians had had to be made.

Deputy Superintendent Start predicted a perfect financial storm for public schools based on the combination of the governor’s proposed budget for school districts being insufficient to cover inflation, which would create the need for cuts by local school districts; the failure of Proposal 1; and the legislature deciding to use school aid to fund roads based on the Bolger Plan. He explained that that would create a dismal financial environment for public education and the students we educate.

Deputy Superintendent Start stated that the solution would be the passage of the local special education millage on May 5, which would be used by KRESA to substantially or fully reimburse local school districts for the existing shortage in special education funding. He explained that for KPS that would be $3-$4 million. Mr. Start noted that those reimbursements would be available to be used by local school districts, including Kalamazoo, to protect students from adverse state actions.

Board Discussion:
Carol McGlinn stated that many people think that special education is fully funded. She noted that special education services were mandated and KPS provided those services; however, to do so, KPS and other local school districts must use general education funds to cover unfunded special education costs, which for KPS was $5 million. Ms. McGlinn explained that the passage of the local special education millage would allow KPS and the other KRESA school districts to have special education funded, leaving more general operating funds for services in general education classrooms. She stated that passing the local special education millage would provide for all students.

TiAnna Harrison asked what would happen if the local special education millage did not pass on May 5.

Deputy Superintendent Start replied that it was impossible to know at this time what services KPS would have to cut. He stated that he foresaw very large cuts, which would be difficult because the services that KPS was currently providing were what had not been cut before, because those services were considered too important to lose.

Jennie Hill asked what positive effects would be experienced by general education students if the local special education millage passed.

Deputy Superintendent Start stated that the first positive would be that KPS should not have to cut its budget, because the special education millage funds should be adequate to cover whatever actions the state takes. He explained that that would mean that class sizes should not increase, and important programs and services should not have to be cut. Mr. Start stated that KPS should at least
be able to maintain the services it currently had, rather than having to make additional budget cuts, which would affect the morale of students and staff.

Craig Herschleb reminded everyone that the local special education millage would mean local dollars staying in the local community.

Patti Sholler-Barber asked if all public school districts in Kalamazoo County were experiencing the same issue as KPS of having to use general education funds to cover special education costs, and if so, would all of those districts make up that shortfall in the same way as KPS if the special education millage passed.

Deputy Superintendent Start stated that all the Kalamazoo County school districts had to use general education funds to cover the unfunded costs of special education services, and that if the local special education millage passed, all the local districts would benefit. He noted that both general education and special education students benefit from general education budget components, and explained that one cut KPS had had to make in 2011 eliminated all elementary assistant principals, which had affected both special education and general education students. Mr. Start explained that when you cut the general education budget, it affects all students.

Patti Sholler-Barber noted that passage of the local special education millage would have a positive impact on all general education and special education students at all the public schools in the county. She encouraged everyone to support the local special education millage and get out and vote on May 5.

Dr. Rice explained that the state of Michigan must pass its budget on or before September 30, and that in the last four years the state legislature had worked to approve the state budget on or around June 1, which has allowed public school districts to meet their statutory requirement to craft their budgets in a more thoughtful way on or before June 30. He stated that school districts had less information at this moment than they normally would because of the state's road referendum. Dr. Rice expressed his concern that, if the roads referendum did not pass, the legislature would adopt the Bolger Plan, which would cut hundreds of millions of dollars out of the state budget to fund roads. Dr. Rice stated that the major expense in state government was schools, so when certain legislators talked about funding roads out of the current state budget, they were talking about paving the roads in Michigan at the expense of schoolchildren. He expressed his hope that the state legislature would put forward a better plan for state roads funding that would not adversely affect schoolchildren.

Dr. Rice stated that unreimbursed special education costs in Kalamazoo County had more than doubled in the last four years, which was an enormous unfunded liability that, as a rule, affects all of the nine local public school districts each year. He explained that the proposed local special education millage would be levied, collected, distributed, and spent locally for the benefit of local schoolchildren. Dr. Rice listed some of the special education programs and services that were provided throughout the county: Woods Edge Learning Center, speech therapy, psychological services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, resource rooms, and self-contained classrooms.

Dr. Rice explained that, due to the complexity of federal law and the requirement that school districts fund special needs children first and completely, general education children were often adversely affected by the underfunding of special education in the state of Michigan. He noted that in other states it was not as challenging to educate either special needs children or general education children as it was in the state of Michigan. Dr. Rice concluded that the passage of the local special
education millage would be a small but significant effort to make sure that that challenge would be acute in Kalamazoo County.

X. Other Business
None.

XI. Comments by Trustees

TiAnna Harrison encouraged everyone to vote on May 5, and reminded them that all local districts in Kalamazoo County would benefit when the millage passed.

Dr. Martha Warfield stated that it would not make sense to vote against the millage because it would benefit both special education and regular education students. She explained that some had brought their concerns to the Board, and that the trustees and KPS administration were themselves concerned about the lack of funding for elementary assistant principals, librarians, and school nurses. Dr. Warfield noted that there were many types of storms happening throughout the United States and the world for which people may not have had a lot of choices to prevent them. She stated that we do have a choice in Kalamazoo, and that this financial storm was something that voters could address by getting to the polls and voting for the local special education millage on May 5.

Ken Greschak reminded everyone that one November 2014 election had been decided by less than 60 votes, and that if you were in support of the local special education millage, this was the time to make sure your vote counts. He asked everyone to exercise his or her right to vote on May 5.

Carol McGlinn stated that she had been on the Board when elementary assistant principals had been cut, and that it had been a very difficult budget cut decision. She continued that KPS had only two librarians and two nurses on KPS staff due to previous budget cuts. Ms. McGlinn explained that the passage of the local special education millage would not provide the funds to replace some of those positions; however, it would help to prevent additional major cuts. She concluded by encouraging everyone to get to the polls and vote on May 5.

Ms. McGlinn thanked the donors of the Kalamazoo Promise and thanked them for the incredible gift.

Jennie Hill congratulated Loy Norrix High School for hosting Super Saturday on April 18. She stated that she had enjoyed a great afternoon watching several sports contests.

Ms. Hill reminded everyone that it was not too late to get an absentee ballot at the City Clerk’s Office for the May 5 election.

Patti Sholler-Barber commented that it had been a great week at KPS. She congratulated the students who had been honored for Excellence in Education, Education for Employment, Young Women of Achievement at YWCA, the Loy Norrix High School soccer team, and other KPS teams throughout the district.

Ms. Sholler-Barber reminded everyone that the Art Hop this weekend would include the secondary art show at the administration building, with an opening reception on May 1.

Ms. Sholler-Barber stated that KPS cannot do what it needs to do for our students if we must continue to cut programs and staff. She encouraged everyone to post on social media to encourage
support of the local special education millage. Ms. Sholler-Barber explained that a yes vote on the May 5 special education millage would be a vote for all Kalamazoo County public schools.

**Comments by the Superintendent**

Dr. Rice noted that what is accepted as normal funding of public education in the state of Michigan would not be considered logical or legitimate in other states. He stated that KPS had eliminated an entire layer of building administration, the elementary assistant principals, as the result of 2011 budget cuts that rained down on local school districts across the state. Dr. Rice explained that the cuts KPS had had to make were gentle compared to many school districts. He stated that school districts such as Inkster and Buena Vista no longer existed, while others like Muskegon Heights and Highland Park had become charter schools; the Detroit Public Schools were being balkanized; and another four and a half dozen school districts were in deficit and under state monitoring.

Dr. Rice stated that the state of Michigan was so concerned about the finances of local school districts that it was working on a package of bills in the state legislature to deal with so-called early warning systems. He respectfully submitted that if the state had properly funded public schools in the last decade that there would not be a need for early warning systems or for substantial monitoring of school districts in the state of Michigan.

Dr. Rice stated that the cuts KPS had had to make were difficult, and having had to cut $30 million in the last 15 years was an enormous amount. He stated that he agreed with Ms. TenBrink on the importance of librarians, and that in his previous district he had added librarians, nurses, and teachers; however, in his previous district the state had not made $10 million worth of budget cuts necessary over five years. The reason for the budget cuts, he said, was the lack of adequate funding for public education.

Dr. Rice thanked Deputy Superintendent Start for his excellent presentation, and Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Cindy Green for her leadership of special education in the district. He also thanked the many community people and organizations that had stood with children the last four months. Dr. Rice reiterated that there was value in local dollars staying in local communities helping local schools, and asked everyone to please get out and vote on May 5.

**XII. Closed Session**

President Sholler-Barber did not ask for a motion to move into closed session and adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

**XIII.** President Sholler-Barber announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education
Local Special Education Millage
April 30, 2015 Board Meeting

Michigan school districts are heavily dependent on the State of Michigan for financial support.

Budgetary General Fund Revenues
Kalamazoo Public Schools
2014/15 Preliminary Budget

- Districted by KRESA
- Other Revenues
- Controlled through State Appropriations

The State of Michigan has drastically underfunded Michigan school districts.

The State of Michigan has drastically underfunded Michigan school districts (Cont.)

- Due to the state’s underfunding, Kalamazoo Public Schools has had to cut in excess of $10 million over the last five years, and $30 million over the last fifteen years.
- Districts across the state have had to cut similar amounts proportionate to their sizes.
The Governor's Proposed 2015-16 budget is inadequate.

Governor Snyder's 2015-16 Budget Recommendation
As it Applies to the KPS Budgetary General Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase in foundation allowance ($75)</td>
<td>$940,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elimination of best practices funding (-$50)</td>
<td>($630,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assumed award of performance funding ($20)</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Increase in operating budget ($45)</td>
<td>$560,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent Increase: 0.6%

Michigan legislators are considered by many to be unlikely to adequately improve funding for schools beyond the Governor's budget.

Governor Snyder's 2015-16 Budget Recommendation
As it Applies to the KPS Budgetary General Fund (Cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Increase in operating budget ($45)</td>
<td>$560,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in the cost of employee insurance (4.6%)</td>
<td>($560,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Available for other inflationary factors</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What Happens if the State Roads Referendum (Proposal I) Fails?

- The governor and legislature will need to decide how to proceed.
- They could shift funding from existing sources of state funds, including schools, to roads.
- They could pass a bill similar to the bill previously approved by the House of Representatives.

What Happens if the State Roads Referendum (Proposal I) Fails? (Cont.)

- Experts have estimated that the House roads bill would have cost the school aid fund $725 million, when fully implemented, which equates to $475 per student.
- A decrease of $475 per student would cost KPS approximately $6 million.
- Many have expressed concern that the House bill could be the starting point for the legislature and governor, if the state roads referendum fails.
Special Education Costs in the County are Inadequately Funded

- At one time, all special education services were dedicated special education sources.
- However, these sources have not kept up with special education needs.
- Special education services are largely required through federal and state laws.
- Local Kalamazoo County school districts have had to fund these otherwise unfunded costs out of their limited operating budgets.

The Perfect Financial Storm

- The Governor's budget proposal for school districts isn't sufficient to cover inflation, which would create the need for cuts by local school districts.
- The upcoming legislative budget process is considered by many to be unlikely to adequately address school funding needs.
- If Proposal 1 were defeated, the legislature could use school aid to fund roads.
- This combination could create a dismal financial environment for Michigan school districts, and the students we educate.

The Solution – Passage of the Local Special Education Millage

- This millage would be used by the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) to substantially or fully reimburse local school districts for the existing shortage in special education funding.
- These reimbursements would be available to be used by local school districts, including Kalamazoo, to protect their students from adverse state actions.
I. Call to Order
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the May 14, 2015 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

IV. Announcements and Recognitions
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized the following Kalamazoo Central High School athletes: Senior Romeo Riley, runner-up at the MHSAA State Wrestling competition; and Boys’ Basketball Team District Champions and Regional Finalists: Sophomores Ontario Burnett, Juniors Prescott Coleman, Devon Daniels, and Jeremiah Richard.

Also recognized, although unable to attend, were Sophomores Isaiah Livers, Bass Ollie, Rog Stein, and Jeremiah Vincent; Junior Orlando Little; and Seniors Hunter Hale, Jordan Hunt, Nikko Payton, Anthony White, and Adrian Young.

Also in attendance and introduced by Mr. Lee were Kalamazoo Central High School Principal Valerie Boggan, Boys’ Basketball Coach Ramsey Nichols, who had been named 2015 Coach of the Year by the Kalamazoo Gazette, former Wrestling Coach Ron Russo, and current Wrestling Coach Steve Cramer. The students’ parents, family, and friends in the audience were also recognized.

V. School Reports/Committee Reports
Committee Reports
Curriculum Committee – Carol McGlinn, chair, stated that the committee had met on May 6 and discussed math fluency. She stated that a presentation was given by teachers on ways to embed math fluency into the curriculum at all grade levels. Ms. McGlinn concluded that the committee would meet again in the fall.

President Patti Sholler-Barber announced the meeting dates for the remaining committees:
- Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo would meet on May 15;
- Teaching and Learning Council would meet on May 21;
- Wellness Committee would meet on May 21;
- Operations Committee would meet on May 26; and
- Policy Committee would meet on May 26.

School Reports
None.
VI. Correspondence
Secretary Jennie Hill reviewed the correspondence received for the period of May 1, 2015 through May 14, 2015. (File #19)

VII. Consent Calendar
President Sholler-Barber presented the Consent Calendar items: VII.A. April 30, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes; VII.B. Purchase Recommendations 2015-44, 2015-45, 2015-46, and 2015-47; VII.C. Personnel Changes; and VII.D. Approval of Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) Grant Application Submission for Arts in Education Residency (AIER) Program.

Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start reviewed the purchase recommendations:
- 2015-44 in the amount of $72,335 for Chromebooks for student use at Washington Writers’ Academy from Washington’s School Improvement Grant;
- 2015-45 in the amount of $1,205,412 for thirteen (13) 2015 International School Buses from the 2010 bond;
- 2015-46 in the amount of $583,110 for 570 HP EliteDesk 800 PCs for all middle and high school computer labs from the 2010 bond; and
- 2015-47 in the amount of $1,077,030 for Chromebooks and charging storage units for student use at 13 elementary schools from the 2010 bond.

MOTION: Implied to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Board comments: None.

Audience comments: None.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board
None.

IX. Reports and Recommendations
A. Policy 5.8 – Prohibition of Bullying – First Reading
Policy Committee Chairperson Craig Herschleb explained that proposed policy changes are introduced, discussed, and modified accordingly, and then brought back for a second reading and vote. He explained that the changes to Policy 5.8 were to include cyberbullying, which was now required by state law. The proposed revised Policy 5.8 is:

Policy:
The District strictly prohibits the bullying and cyberbullying of a district pupil, and also prohibits the retaliation or false accusation against a target of bullying, a witness, or another person with reliable information about an act of bullying. All students are protected under this policy; bullying is prohibited at school regardless of its subject matter or motivating animus.

As defined within MCL §380.1310b, bullying is any written, verbal, or physical act, or any electronic communication, including, but not limited to, cyberbullying, that is intended to
harm, or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm, one or more students either directly or indirectly by doing any of the following:

1. Substantially interfering with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of one or more students.

2. Adversely affecting the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the school district’s or public school’s educational programs or activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress.

3. Having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student’s physical or mental health.

4. Causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

Cyberbullying means any electronic communication that is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one or more pupils either directly or indirectly by doing any of the elements described in sections 1 through 4 above.

The District will not tolerate or condone any act of bullying and/or cyberbullying, regardless of the motive, including, but not limited to, bias or discrimination toward any person on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, gender identification, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, and/or any other distinguishing characteristics or association with another person who has, or is perceived to have, any distinguishing characteristic.

Bullying is prohibited “at school,” meaning on school premises, at school-sponsored activities or events, on a school bus or related vehicle, at official bus stops, or on a telecommunications access device or service provider owned by or under the school’s control. “Telecommunications access device” and “telecommunications service provider” mean those terms as defined in Section 219a of the Penal Code (MCL §750.219a). Subject to any applicable law and this policy, bullying that does not occur at school but occurs off school campus, including “cyberbullying,” may be subject to disciplinary action if it causes harm to pupils or a substantial disruption to the educational environment as defined in items 1 through 4 above.

The Superintendent is responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented in compliance with Public Act 241 of 2011.

Specifics

1. This policy shall annually be circulated in all school buildings and departments, discussed with students, incorporated into student handbooks, and posted on the District’s website.

2. Reports or complaints of bullying or cyberbullying shall be filed with the building principal, assistant superintendent of student services, or their designees, as described within the Student Code of Conduct and/or Administrators’ Handbook. The District strongly encourages reports or complaints of bullying to be filed promptly after it is believed that bullying has occurred. Except for District staff, who are involved in the investigation and determination of a bullying or cyberbullying incident, the District will maintain the confidentiality of an individual who reports an act of bullying.

3. Upon receipt of a report or complaint of any act of bullying, the principal or principal’s designee shall promptly investigate and document the findings and consequences, if any, and where appropriate, take corrective action.

4. In the event an investigation finds that bullying has occurred, the principal or principal’s designee shall promptly notify the parent or legal guardian of the victim(s) of the bullying, and the parent or legal guardian of the perpetrator(s) of the bullying.

5. Each school shall document any prohibited incident of bullying that is reported and any resulting disciplinary consequences.
6. All verified incidents of bullying and cyberbullying and the resulting consequences, including discipline and referrals, shall be annually reported to the Board of Education.

7. On an annual basis, the District shall report incidents of bullying to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) according to the form and procedures established by the MDE.

**Board Discussion:** None.

**Audience Comments:** None.

**B. Resolution Authorizing 2015 Refunding Bonds**

Deputy Superintendent Start explained that this was a matter of paying off bonds and then refinancing at a lower rate of interest. He stated that the KPS financial advisor believed that the net savings would be approximately $4 million, and that these savings would be used to lightly decrease future millage rates, which would be a savings for our taxpayers.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Trustee McGlinn, and supported by Trustee Dr. Warfield, that the Board adopt the resolution authorizing 2015 refunding bonds

**Board Comments:** None.

**Audience comments:** None.

**Disposition:** Roll call vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-absentions.

**C. Administrative Appointment – Athletic Director of Kalamazoo Central High School (added on the floor)**

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Sheila Dorsey read the recommendation to appoint Ms. Wendy Bridges as Athletic Director of Kalamazoo Central High School.

**MOTION:** Moved by Trustee Greschak, supported by Trustee Herschleb, to appoint Ms. Wendy Bridges as Athletic Director of Kalamazoo Central High School.

**Board discussion:** None.

**Audience comments:** None.

**Disposition:** Roll call vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

**X. Other Business**

None.

**XI. Comments by Trustees**

Craig Herschleb stated that he had had the opportunity to attend the KPS All-City Orchestra concert on May 11. He explained that the orchestras from Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts and Hillside Middle School combined and played two pieces, followed by the combined orchestras of Kalamazoo Central High School and Loy Norrix High School, which played three pieces. Finally, all four orchestras combined to play an additional three pieces. Mr. Herschleb stated that it was a wonderful concert. He also noted that the passage of the local special education millage would help to ensure that programs such as this would not have to be cut, and thanked the voters for their support of the millage.
Mr. Herschleb announced that Thursday, May 21, would be the spring Girls on the Run 5K in downtown Kalamazoo. He explained that over 2,000 girls, community runners, and spectators cheering them on would be in Kalamazoo and encouraged everyone to come out in support of the girls. Mr. Herschleb noted that the Kalamazoo Girls on the Run was one of the largest in the nation.

Carol McGlinn thanked the voters for coming out in support of the countywide special education millage. She noted that campaigning for the millage had been tough due to the state’s Proposal 1 being on the same ballot. Ms. McGlinn expressed her appreciation that Kalamazoo County citizens understand the value of education and how important it is to properly fund public education. She expressed her hope that the need for proper funding of public education would be acted on by the legislators in Lansing.

Dr. Martha Warfield noted what a phenomenal county we live in, and thanked everyone who supported the special education millage. She stated that it was evident that a lot of people care about the students in Kalamazoo County.

Dr. Warfield acknowledged a special person, her sister, Phyllis Seabolt, who had celebrated her 90th birthday on May 4. She explained that her sister was the first African American secondary teacher in KPS and had taught until 1970, at which time she went to Western Michigan University and taught for an additional 17 years. Dr. Warfield noted that Phyllis had had to prove that she could teach, so when she first started at KPS there was a supervisor in the room and she was treated like a student teacher. Dr. Warfield stated that her sister had made many special contributions to KPS.

Jennie Hill thanked the voters for passing the special education millage and noted that it showed the community support and trust in public education for all students.

Ms. Hill congratulated Kalamazoo Central High School seniors Demetria Webster and Jacob Caruso and Loy Norrix High School seniors Lauren Dougherty and Lyric Kleber for their B’nai B’rith Scholar-Athlete awards.

Patti Sholler-Barber congratulated the KPS students who were recently awarded YWCA Young Women of Achievement Awards.

Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that farewell and moving up ceremonies would be taking place in elementary and middle schools, and high school graduations would be held the first week in June. She reminded students to continue their hard work at school and not to let up as the school year drew to a close.

Ms. Sholler-Barber thanked the voters for the countywide effort in support of the special education millage that was passed on May 5. She noted that public education continues to receive fewer funds from the state of Michigan, and that passage of the countywide special education millage was an outstanding effort in a child-friendly county. She thanked everyone who had spent long hours working on the millage and the community groups that had supported the effort in many ways.

Ms. Sholler-Barber concluded her remarks by complimenting the student artwork on display in the KPS administration building, and noted that the Art Hop reception on May 1 had been great.


Comments by the Superintendent
Dr. Rice stated that the KPS All-City Orchestra concert had been outstanding.

Dr. Rice extended his congratulations to Phyllis Seabolt on her recent birthday. He stated that she was an inspiration and a natural teacher.

Dr. Rice thanked the voters, the KPS Board of Education, community supporters and organizations, KPS staff, Deputy Superintendent Gary Start, Facilities Management Executive Assistant Karen Jackson, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Cindy Green, and Executive Supervisor of Transportation and Operations Terri Aman, who were very important in informing the community about the special education millage. He also expressed his appreciation to the other public school districts in Kalamazoo County that had also had their share of votes in support of the special education millage. Dr. Rice explained that it was helpful to have pools of votes from a wide range of areas throughout Kalamazoo County. He thanked the adjacent communities for their support, and noted that the children were the winners.

XII. Closed Session
President Sholler-Barber did not ask for a motion to move into closed session and adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

XIII. President Sholler-Barber announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education
I. Call to Order
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the May 28, 2015 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Absent: Carol McGlinn. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

IV. Announcements and Recognitions
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized the following students:
- Northglade Montessori Magnet School Turn-Around Students: Drayanna O’Day, first grade; Doug’Khia Woodard, second grade; and Donesha Slater-Reese, third grade;
- Milwood Elementary School Turn-Around Student: Randi Rodriguez, fourth grade;
- Kalamazoo Central High School MHSAA Class A District Girls’ Basketball Champions: Sophomores Scheniya Alexander-Pritchett, Anasia Harris, Arjanae’ Morgan (represented by her mother), and Toshanae Owens (represented by her mother); and Juniors Shamari Browning, Kiera Parkman, and Arileyonna Yarbrough;
- Also recognized, although unable to attend, were Freshmen Talia Edmonds, Josephine Fonger, and Markiela Woodson; Sophomore Sara Gries; Juniors Tasia Hayes, Sadia Johnson, Cierra McCants, Taylor Washington, and Quierra Wilson-Abrams; and Seniors Ladayshia Brown, Jaquia Leflore-Swindle, and Sara Visser.

Also in attendance and introduced by Mr. Lee were Northglade Montessori Magnet School Principal Dale Mogaji and staff members Donna Partin and Angela Smith; Milwood Elementary School Principal Sara Glendening and staff member Pamela Phillips; and Kalamazoo Central High School Principal Valerie Boggan. The students’ parents, family, and friends in the audience were also recognized.

V. School Reports/Committee Reports
Committee Reports
Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo (CISK) – No report.

Policy Committee – Craig Herschleb, chair, stated that the committee met on May 26 and outlined its plans for the 2015-2016 school year.

Operations Committee – Patti Sholler-Barber, chair, stated that the committee met on May 26 and discussed the recent special education millage and the governor’s proposed budget for public education. She stated her hope that the state legislators would vote generously for our students.
Wellness Committee – Ken Greschak, representative, stated that the committee held its end-of-year meeting on May 21 and discussed the many programs that had been done throughout the year such as the preventive wellness campaign, blood drives, and the diabetes prevention program. He stated that the committee discussed focusing on inservice programs for staff on stress management and other areas in 2015-2016.

Teaching and Learning Council – Patti Sholler-Barber, representative, stated that the Teaching and Learning Council met on May 21 and discussed college-going culture and specifically the college-going culture components of higher expectations for students and staff, development of strong problem-solving skills, and development of success skills.

President Sholler-Barber announced that the only committee that would meet during the summer would be Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo.

School Reports
None.

VI. Correspondence
Secretary Jennie Hill reviewed the correspondence received for the period of May 15, 2015 through May 28, 2015. (File #20)

VII. Consent Calendar
President Sholler-Barber presented the Consent Calendar items: VII.A. May 14, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes; VII.B. Purchase Recommendations 2015-48, 2015-49, and 2015-50; and VII.C. Personnel Changes.

Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start reviewed the purchase recommendations:
- 2015-48 in the amount of $132,000.00 from the 2013 bond for demolition of the north building and the abandoned boiler house at Milwood Elementary School;
- 2015-49 in the amount of $345,734.31 from the 2013 bond for audio and video enhancement systems for Northeastern Elementary School and Greenwood Elementary School; and
- 2015-50 in the amount of $713,332.08 from the 2013 bond for audio and video enhancement systems for Indian Prairie Elementary School, Lincoln International Studies School, and Winchell Elementary School.

MOTION: Implied to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Board comments:
Patti Sholler-Barber thanked the community for its support of bond requests.

Audience comments: None.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board
None.
IX. Reports and Recommendations

A. Policy 5.8 – Prohibition of Bullying – Second Reading

Policy Committee Chairperson Craig Herschleb explained that the changes to Policy 5.8 – Prohibition of Bullying had been brought before the Board for a first reading at the May 14, 2015 meeting and that no changes had been made since that first reading.

**MOTION:** Moved by Trustee Hill, supported by Trustee Dr. Warfield, to approve the changes to Policy 5.8 – Prohibition of Bullying.

*Board Discussion:* Patti Sholler-Barber stated that she was pleased that KPS was focusing on the addition of cyberbullying to Policy 5.8 because cyberbullying was an important issue in schools throughout the nation.

*Audience Comments:* None.

*Roll Call vote:* motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions

B. Resolution Regarding the 2015-2016 Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) Budget

Deputy Superintendent Start read the recommendation. He noted that this was a required resolution due each year by June 1. He stated that he had reviewed the KRESA proposed budget and had no recommendations for changes to the budget.

**MOTION:** Moved by Trustee Greschak, supported by Trustee Herschleb, to approve the 2015-2016 KRESA budget as presented.

*Board Discussion:* None.

*Audience comments:* None.

*Disposition:* Roll call vote: motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

C. Recommendation for Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Membership for 2015-2016

Superintendent Dr. Rice explained that this was an annual resolution to continue the district’s membership in the MHSAA.

**MOTION:** Moved by Trustee Dr. Warfield, supported by Trustee Hill, to approve the resolution for Michigan High School Athletic Association Membership for 2015-2016.

*Board Discussion:* None.

*Audience Comments:* None.

*Disposition:* Roll Call vote: motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

D. Administrative Appointment – Principal of Hillside Middle School

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Sheila Dorsey read the recommendation to appoint Mr. Atiba McKissack as principal of Hillside Middle School.
MOTION: Moved by Trustee Dr. Warfield, supported by Trustee Hill, to appoint Mr. Atiba McKissack as principal of Hillside Middle School.

Board discussion:
Ken Greschak noted that he had worked with Mr. McKissack on the Loy Norrix High School Parent Advisory Council, and that Loy Norrix’s loss was Hillside’s gain.

Dr. Warfield commented that Mr. McKissack should be a good principal because she had gotten to know him as an undergraduate at Western Michigan University.

Audience comments: None.

Disposition: Roll call vote: motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

E. Administrative Appointment – Coordinator of Bilingual Education, English as a Second Language, and World Languages
Assistant Superintendent Sheila Dorsey read the recommendation to appoint Mr. Scott Hunsinger as Coordinator of Bilingual Education, English as a Second Language, and World Languages.

MOTION: Moved by Trustee Greschak, supported by Trustee Dr. Warfield, to appoint Mr. Scott Hunsinger as Coordinator of Bilingual Education, English as a Second Language, and World Languages.

Board discussion: None.

Audience comments: None.

Disposition: Roll call vote: motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

F. Administrative Appointment – Principal of Washington Writers’ Academy
Assistant Superintendent Sheila Dorsey read the recommendation to appoint Lanisha Spiller as principal of Washington Writers’ Academy.

MOTION: Moved by Trustee Herschleb, supported by Trustee Hill, to appoint Lanisha Spiller as principal of Washington Writers’ Academy.

Board discussion:
Dr. Rice clarified that Ms. Spiller would begin her principalship at Washington Writers’ Academy (WWA) at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year. He noted that Ms. Micole Dyson, the current WWA principal, would become principal at Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts, effective the 2015-2016 school year, as noted in the personnel changes that had been approved by the Board as part of the consent calendar items.

Audience comments: None.

Disposition: Roll call vote: motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.
G. Administrative Appointment – Coordinator of Instructional Technology - Added on the Floor
Assistant Superintendent Sheila Dorsey read the recommendation to appoint Ms. Caycee Sledge as Coordinator of Instructional Technology.

MOTION: Moved by Trustee Dr. Warfield, supported by Trustee Hill, to appoint Ms. Caycee Sledge as Coordinator of Instructional Technology.

Board discussion:
Dr. Rice noted that this was a new position that had been created as part of the restructuring of the Teaching and Learning Services Department. The department’s budget remained the same from the restructuring approved in the winter.

Audience comments: None.

Disposition: Roll call vote: motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

X. Other Business
None.

XI. Comments by Trustees
Jennie Hill stated that the Loy Norrix High School marching band had done an excellent job representing KPS in the Mackinaw City Memorial Day parade. She stated that the band received many compliments on their music, uniforms, behavior, and exuberance.

Ken Greschak advised that he had attended the KPS adult education graduation on May 18 and offered his congratulations to the graduates who had persevered to obtain their diploma. He explained that it was markedly more difficult now to earn an adult education diploma than it had been in previous years. Mr. Greschak stated that he had had the opportunity to meet with one of the recent graduates in a professional environment, and that the graduate was an excellent representative of the quality of our adult education program.

Craig Herschleb stated that the Girls on the Run held in downtown Kalamazoo on May 21 was an awesome celebration. He explained that almost 2,000 girls and many community runners participated in the event. Mr. Herschleb noted that a new Girls on the Run middle school program called Heart and Soul had been a pilot program this year, and that Heart and Soul would be in all the middle schools next year. He congratulated all the girls who had participated in this wonderful event.

Patti Sholler-Barber concurred with Mr. Herschleb that the Girls on the Run had been a great event and thanked him for his involvement in the program.

Dr. Martha Warfield congratulated the new administrative appointees in the district, and noted that she was happy that the Board was able to make many of those administrative appointments from within KPS.

Patti Sholler-Barber agreed with Dr. Warfield and stated that it spoke well of the quality and enthusiasm of our employees that KPS was able to promote from within.

Patti Sholler-Barber announced that Peace Pizzazz would take place on May 30 in Bronson Park and expressed her hope for good weather for the event. She also noted that June 6 would be fun
and exciting downtown due to events such as First Saturday at KPL, the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts show, Greek Fest, and the Do-Dah parade.

Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that there were many spring sports events in the near future, including:
- Kalamazoo Central High School girls soccer versus Okemos High School in the division 1 district semifinals taking place that evening in Okemos;
- Loy Norrix High School baseball versus Mattawan High School district semifinals on Saturday, May 30 in Mattawan;
- Girls’ state track and field qualifiers Morgan Hawkins from Loy Norrix High School in discus and Alex-saundra Hudson from Kalamazoo Central High School in the 100-yard hurdles scheduled for May 30 in Rockford; and
- Boys’ state track and field qualifiers Kenny Jones from Kalamazoo Central High School in the 100-yard dash, and Donavan Williams from Kalamazoo Central High School and Devon Mitchell from Loy Norrix High School in the 400-yard dash scheduled for May 30 in Rockford.

Ms. Sholler-Barber congratulated the students who had recently received Young Women of Achievement Awards from the YWCA:
- Champagne Bennett, Tiara Blair, Imara Bowers, Kiki Buchanan, Naomi Sarelis, and Emily Worline from Loy Norrix High School; and
- Valerie Coakley, Arianna Dickason, and Kyra Hudson from Kalamazoo Central High School.

Ms. Sholler-Barber announced that middle school end-of-year events were as follows:
- The Middle School Alternative Learning Program transition ceremony took place at 5:00 p.m. on May 28;
- The Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts awards ceremony was scheduled for noon on June 4 at Chenery Auditorium;
- The Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology recognition ceremony was scheduled for 5:45 p.m. on June 5 at Chenery Auditorium;
- The Hillside Middle School awards ceremony was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on June 8 at Kalamazoo Central High School auditorium; and
- The Linden Grove Middle School eighth grade awards night was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on June 9 at Chenery Auditorium.

**Comments by the Superintendent**

Dr. Rice stated that the new KPS administrators would do an outstanding job as a team.

Dr. Rice concurred with Trustee Herschleb and President Sholler-Barber that the Girls on the Run was a moving party, and that he looked forward to running the race next year.

Dr. Rice reminded everyone that KPS would hold three high school graduations on June 2, 3, and 4 and urged everyone to drive safely throughout the graduation season and beyond.

Dr. Rice concurred with Trustee Greschak that the KPS adult education graduation was outstanding. He extended kudos to the graduates, the head of the adult education program, Ms. Kim Bell, and her staff.

Dr. Rice noted that at a time when adult education and the obtaining of a GED had become more challenging, the state legislature was considering cutting the budget for adult education. He
explained that adult education funding in the state of Michigan had been $80 million approximately a decade ago, and now that funding was down to only $22 million. Dr. Rice stated that the governor had recommended a continuation of the $22 million for adult education, the Senate had recommended an increase to $29 million, and the House had recommended a total elimination of adult education funding, all at a time when the state legislature professes to be interested in improving outcomes in education throughout the state.

Dr. Rice explained that some people don’t do well in school the first time around; however, adult education offers them the opportunity to come back and obtain a diploma. He stressed that the state of Michigan had already cut $58 million from adult education over the last decade, and said shame on the state legislature for even considering additional budget cuts in, or the total elimination of, adult education.

XII. Closed Session
President Sholler-Barber asked for a motion to move into closed session to consider a legal opinion.

MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Greschak, and supported by Trustee Hill to move into closed session.

Disposition: Roll call vote: Motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

President Sholler-Barber indicated that the board might or might not return to open session. The meeting moved into closed session at 7:49 p.m.

President Sholler-Barber reconvened the meeting at 8:10 p.m. and asked for a motion on the Resolution Designating District’s Electoral Representative for the June 1, 2015 Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) Biennial Election.

MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Greschak, and supported by Trustee Hill, to approve the Resolution.

Disposition: Roll call vote: motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

The motion was read into the record as follows:

WHEREAS:
1. The biennial election of the Board of Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency, Michigan (the "KRESA Board") will be held on Monday, June 1, 2015; and
2. The members of the KRESA Board will be elected by an electoral body composed of one (1) person designated by the board of each of the constituent school districts; and
3. In accordance with Section 614(2) of the Revised School Code, MCL 380.614(2), this Board desires to designate Patti Sholler-Barber as this District's proposed representative and any member available as an alternate designated representative in the event the designated representative is unable to attend, and further desires to direct said representative and alternate to vote on behalf of this Board as indicated below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:
1. This Board does hereby approve the designation of Patti Sholler-Barber as the representative of this Board for the electoral body, which body will elect one (1) candidate to the vacancy on the KRESA Board on Monday, June 1, 2015 and any member available as an alternate in the event the designated representative is unable to attend.
2. The Board does not support the sole candidate, Lynne Cowart, and directs its representative not to vote for her candidacy.

3. The Secretary of this Board is hereby further directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Secretary of the KRESA Board.

4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Reconvened regular meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

XIII. President Sholler-Barber announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary  
on behalf of Jennie Hill,  
Secretary, Board of Education
I. Call to Order
Vice President Carol McGlinn called the June 11, 2015 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Jennie Hill, Carol McGlinn, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Absent: Patti Sholler-Barber. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

IV. Announcements and Recognitions
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized the following students:
- Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts Turn-Around Students: First grade-Corvell Clopton and Mary Perry; Second grade-Farkhunda Firdavsi (unable to attend) and Anakin Jordan (unable to attend); Third grade-Keith Jackson (unable to attend) and Emely Morales-Amates; and Fourth grade-Samariah Steel.
- Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology winners of Digital Arts, Film and Television (DAFT) awards in Detroit:
  - Junior Honor: Seventh grade-Sara Elfring, Lydia Dantes, and Cecilia Mireles Caballero; Eighth grade-Rylee Thomas (unable to attend) and Katie Shantz (unable to attend);
  - Junior Best of Show: Eighth grade-Julie Labadie, Caroline Hall, Etienne LeSuer, Xavier Jimenez (unable to attend), and Ty Overhiser (unable to attend);
  - Senior Honor: Eighth grade--Nick Thompson; and
  - Senior Excellence, Senior Honor at DAFT, and Best in Show in technical category at KPL Teen Filmmaker: Eighth grade-Tom Outinen.

Also in attendance were Woods Lake Elementary School Principal Tamara Jamieson and staff members Kim Berry, Amy Eastman, and Barbara Marsman; and Milwood Magnet School Principal Craig LeSuer and Video Production Teacher Rana Findling. The students’ parents, family, and friends in the audience were also recognized.

V. School Reports/Committee Reports
Committee Reports
None.

School Reports:
None.

VI. Correspondence
Secretary Jennie Hill reviewed the correspondence received for the period of May 29, 2015 through June 11, 2015. (File #21)
VII. Consent Calendar

Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start reviewed purchase recommendation 2015-51 in the amount of $123,900 from the 2013 bond for new playground equipment at Arcadia Elementary School and Edison Environmental Science Academy.

MOTION: Implied to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Board comments
None.

Audience comments
None.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board
None.

IX. Reports and Recommendations
2015-2016 Preliminary Budget
Deputy Superintendent Start characterized the proposed 2015-2016 budget as one that would protect kids and was fiscally sound. He noted that this budget would not have been possible without the passage of the local special education millage and expressed his appreciation for the voter support. Mr. Start explained that, without the passage of the special education millage, the budget he would have had to present would have been gloomy and would have adversely affected our students. Mr. Start explained that the budget must be adopted before July 1 by state law, and would be brought before the Board for a vote at its June 25 meeting. His report included a presentation of calculations included below.

Mr. Start explained the computation of the operating deficit carried forward to 2015-2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated decrease in June 30, 2015 fund balance</td>
<td>$(600,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elimination of one-time items:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best practices revenue</td>
<td>$(630,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best practices bonus</td>
<td>$430,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-time portion of heating budget increase</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating deficit carried forward to 2015-2016</td>
<td>$(700,000)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr. Start continued by presenting the computation of funds available for budget priorities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating deficit carried forward to 2015-2016</td>
<td>$ (700,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation allowance increase ($128 per student)</td>
<td>$1,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projected enrollment increase (12 students)</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated additional special education revenue from recent voter-approved special education millage</td>
<td>$4,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional enhancement revenue due to increase in property values</td>
<td>$ 80,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional teaching position to accommodate enrollment increase $ (90,000)
Compensation assumptions, subject to negotiations:
Increase in employee insurance cost (4.6%), which is lower than statewide averages $ (560,000)
Steps (2.4%), which are raises connected to an employee’s years of service for a set number of years $(1,920,000)
Base pay increase (1.0%) $ (800,000)
Attrition savings $ 800,000
Available for budget priorities $ 3,000,000

Mr. Start noted that KPS has had to cut $30 million over the last 15 years and, while this increase was a step in the right direction, it represented only 10% of those budget cuts from previous years.

Mr. Start presented the recommended budget priorities:

Two additional instructional days
Mr. Start explained that the state of Michigan requires schools to add instructional time in the 2015-2016 school year. He stated that KPS instructional leaders advised that adding a few minutes to each day was not helpful to instruction; however, adding days would be beneficial for student learning. This amount represents the cost of staff compensation for the additional two days of instructional time. $ 720,000

Special education teacher consultant
Mr. Start stated that a special education teacher consultant works with both regular education and special education teachers to help students be successful in general education classrooms. $ 90,000

.5 Special education social worker
Mr. Start noted that the special education social worker was currently a half-time position, and that increasing it to a full-time position would provide more assistance to our students. $ 45,000

Culturally responsive education/classroom management professional development
Mr. Start stated that there was a strong need for increased professional development in culturally responsive education and classroom management. $ 150,000

Elementary library improvements
Mr. Start explained that these funds would be used to provide improvements to elementary school libraries. He noted that how the funds would be used would be decided at a later time; however, the funds could be used to provide additional staff time, professional development, additional materials, or technology. $ 90,000
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lift Up Through Literacy programs</td>
<td>$440,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Start explained that there were no more Lift Up Through Literacy grant funds. However, KPS was delighted to be able to continue these successful programs in parent education and family literacy.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional PEEP slots</td>
<td>$85,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Start noted that the number of available PEEP slots was expected to increase, and that the number of slots had more than doubled over the last few years.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenwood Elementary School Principal</td>
<td>$130,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Start explained that as a previous budget cut the early childhood coordinator position and the principalship of Greenwood Elementary School had been combined. He noted that, with the doubling of the number of pre-K slots and an expansion to full-day pre-kindergarten at our highest poverty schools, it was necessary to return the early childhood coordinator to a separate position.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral positions transferred from Title I</td>
<td>$740,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Start explained that the poverty level had gone down, which had reduced our Title I funding by 10%. In addition, the Michigan Department of Education had stated that behavioral and home support specialists could no longer be funded through Title I as had been the case for many years. Therefore, KPS would need to transfer this former Title I expense to its general fund.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computers for on-line testing</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Start noted that on-line testing required more equipment, so additional Chromebooks would be purchased. He stated that the Chromebooks would not just be used for testing, but would be implemented in classrooms throughout the school year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer technician</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Start explained that, with the addition of technology throughout the district, there was a need for an additional technician.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacement of data warehouse</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Start stated that the data warehouse company KPS was currently using was no longer providing the service, which required KPS to change providers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preheaters on buses

Mr. Start explained that KPS would like to minimize the amount of time that busses idle, which wastes fuel and releases fuel emissions. He explained that preheaters allow for the diesel engine and interior of the bus to warm up without running the engine. $50,000

Recommended budget priorities, which would result in no change in the fund balance. $3,000,000

Board discussion:

Ken Greschak asked for clarification that KPS could add two days of instructional time to its 2015-2016 school year by adding minutes to instructional time each day rather than adding two days to the end of the school year.

Deputy Superintendent Start said that the days could be added with more minutes to each day rather than with two full days at the end of the school year. He explained that every instructional leader with whom he had discussed the issue had stated that adding a few minutes to a day did not help with student instruction. Adding days to create a longer school year is supported in the research to drive higher student achievement.

Jennie Hill commented that it was interesting to learn that KPS enrollment was predicted to go up because other districts were losing students. She stated that it said a lot about KPS and what it had to offer.

Mr. Start thanked the donors of the Kalamazoo Promise. He stated that many districts were losing enrollment drastically.

Dr. Martha Warfield thanked Mr. Start for thinking through a difficult budget. She stated that research about success for students like Kalamazoo Promise students, who were from low-income homes and having the first opportunity in their family to go to college, indicated that the strongest indicator of success was if the student could walk into a culturally sensitive environment on the college campus. Dr. Warfield stated that this made her glad to see the professional development for faculty and staff in the budget.

TiAnna Harrison stated that she was overjoyed that Lift Up Through Literacy (LUTL) would continue in the community. She stated that as a past participant in LUTL and an advocate for non-traditional efforts in community involvement, she had found that LUTL added value to the culture of the community and would help to make Kalamazoo the first fully literate urban community in the nation.

Carol McGlinn noted that the budget priorities in the report were what the Board and KPS had talked about and strategically looked at throughout the years. She expressed her appreciation for having a positive budget that allowed KPS to do more for our students.

Dr. Rice thanked Deputy Superintendent Start and Business Manager Laura Kayser for their work on the budget. He noted that they were a great team and worked well with the Board and senior staff. Dr. Rice also thanked the community for its support of our children, our schools, and for the passing of the special education millage.
Dr. Rice noted that KPS was in a different place than many districts in many counties in the state for a host of different reasons, including the support of our community and the care with which the Board and KPS administration do budget work. He thanked the Board, the community, and the KPS business office. He noted that KPS takes seriously its fiscal stewardship, which requires the balancing of children’s needs on the one hand and fiscal prudence on the other hand.

**Audience comments**

None.

**IX. Other Business:**

None.

**XI. Comments by Trustees**

_Jennie Hill_ reminded everyone to read throughout the summer, take care, and have a nice time. She stated that KPS looked forward to students return in the fall.

_Dr. Martha Warfield_ stated that it had been pleasant to attend commencements and award programs and see the enthusiasm of the students as they plan for their future.

_Carol McGlinn_ agreed with Dr. Warfield about the excitement of commencements. She congratulated all the graduates.

Ms. McGlinn reminded everyone that summer school starts on June 24 and runs through the end of July. She expressed her hope that students would take advantage of the Kalamazoo Public Library, stay safe, and read, read, read throughout the summer.

**Comments by the Superintendent**

Dr. Rice extended congratulations to the fifth and eighth grade graduates as well as the high school graduates. He noted that kindergartners had also had graduation programs, and that it just showed that it was never too early to celebrate graduating from one grade to another in KPS.

Dr. Rice thanked video production teacher Rana Findling for her outstanding work with young people at Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology. He stated that her program was a jewel in the district and that her work with her students was outstanding.

Dr. Rice noted that the Kalamazoo Public Library had been doing summer reading programs for many decades. He echoed Trustee Harrison’s exhortation that Kalamazoo was trying to be the first fully literate urban community in the country, which meant that higher numbers of students would need to be reading and to take advantage of all that the library had to offer. He noted that if you can shoehorn technology into your busy lives, you can also shoehorn reading into your summer. Dr. Rice reminded everyone that students in kindergarten through second grade should read at least 20 minutes per day, and students in grades 3-12 should read at least 30 minutes per day.

Dr. Rice reminded everyone about the summer literacy program that KPS provides in partnership with Goodwill Industries of Southwest Michigan in which students going into 4th, 5th, and 6th grades each receive a book at school before summer break and then each receive seven books in the mail during the summer. He stated that students would receive letters reminding them that those eight books were just the priming of the pump and not the only books we want them to read throughout the 90 days of summer.
Dr. Rice reminded parents, grandparents, family members, and friends to read with and to their children. He stated that your children want to know that you have an interest in spending time with them and that you care for them.

Dr. Rice shared some remarks that the graduating seniors gave to him and to Board members. He noted that these remarks indicated that everyone has his or her unique impact on the world.

Dr. Rice concluded by stating that it had been a strong school year, with both successes and challenges. He noted that KPS was an urban public school district so the challenges come with the territory and make the successes all the more rewarding.

XII. Closed Session
Vice President McGlinn did not ask for a motion to move into closed session and adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

XIII. Vice President McGlinn announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, June 25, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the special meeting to order at 6:49 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

Board members present: Ken Greschak, Craig Herschleb, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Absent: TiAnna Harrison and Jennie Hill. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

President Patti Sholler-Barber explained that Michigan law requires that a hearing be held before the Board takes action on the 2015-2016 preliminary budget. The purpose of the hearing is to give the Board the opportunity to hear public comment on the budget for the next school year.

Ms. Sholler-Barber asked for comments regarding the proposed 2015-2016 operating budget for Kalamazoo Public Schools.

Audience comments: None.

After a call for comments, President Patti Sholler-Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education
I. Call to Order
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the June 25, 2015 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:59 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, Craig Herschleb, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Absent: TiAnna Harrison and Jennie Hill. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

IV. Announcements and Recognitions
Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized Indian Prairie Elementary School Turn-Around students: Kadence Witteveen, first grade; and Duwan Washington, third grade. Also recognized, although unable to attend, were Winter Owens, second grade; and Jaylin Nix and Karion Pimpleton, third grade.

Also in attendance and introduced by Mr. Lee was Indian Prairie Elementary School Principal Kelly Bertch. The students’ parents, family, and friends in the audience were also recognized.

V. School Reports/Committee Reports
Committee Reports
None.

School Reports
None.

VI. Correspondence
Vice President Carol McGlinn reviewed the correspondence received for the period of June 12, 2015 through June 25, 2015. (File #22)

VII. Consent Calendar

Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start reviewed the purchase recommendations:

- 2015-52 in the amount of $29,612.45 from the Teaching and Learning Services budget for elementary science consumable materials;
- 2015-53 in the amount of $51,255.08 from the Teaching and Learning Services budget for elementary handwriting consumable materials;
- 2015-54 in the amount of $96,188.88 from the Teaching and Learning Services budget for elementary mathematics consumable materials; and
• 2015-55 in the amount of $306,600.00 from the Teaching and Learning Services, Title I, and Title II budgets for CompassLearning Odyssey.

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

**Board comments:**
President Sholler-Barber expressed her enthusiasm for the emphasis on handwriting.

Carol McGlinn noted that she had been trained in the *Handwriting Without Tears* curriculum and that it was a great way to help children learn how to form their letters and create good penmanship.

**Audience comments:**
None.

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

**VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board**
None.

**IX. Reports and Recommendations**

**A. Adoption of the 2015-2016 Preliminary Budget and 2014-2015 Close Estimate Budget**
Deputy Superintendent Start read the recommendation for the adoption of the 2015-2016 preliminary budget and the 2014-2015 close estimate budget. He explained that the proposed budget incorporated the recommendations that he had outlined for the Board at its June 11 meeting. Mr. Start noted that it was an outstanding budget that was made possible by the support of voters in the county for the local special education millage. He commended Business Manager Laura Kayser for her excellent work.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Trustee Herschleb, supported by Trustee McGlinn, to adopt the 2015-2016 preliminary budget and the 2014-2015 close estimate budget.

**Board discussion:**
Carol McGlinn asked Mr. Start to review the overall KPS budget amount.

Mr. Start referred to Exhibit 4 in the budget notebook, which itemized the general, debt retirement, and special revenue funds. He explained that each school had a grant budget for Title I and at-risk funds.

Ms. McGlinn stated that the information contained in the budget notebook helped her to understand the costs involved for each school. She expressed her appreciation to Mr. Start and Ms. Kayser and their staff for all the work that had gone into preparing the budget.

Mr. Start stated that Ms. Kayser was excellent at keeping track of cost centers, each of which pay for a number of positions. He explained that when districts lose track of their finances, it was often because they lost track of the number of positions they have. Mr. Start noted that the information on total number of positions in a school district was very important to maintain a tight rein on actual spending.

Dr. Martha Warfield asked how the KPS budget compared to similar districts.
Mr. Start replied that KPS was very fortunate because, while many other school districts throughout the state of Michigan were laying off staff and asking for pay concessions, KPS was able to anticipate an increased budget due to the passage of the local special education millage and the slight increase in funding from the state. He explained that KPS was not able to reinstate all the previous cuts; however, it was nice to have an improved budget. Mr. Start thanked the voters for their support of the special education millage and noted that, without that millage, the budget would have required severe cuts.

Patti Sholler-Barber stated that one of the largest responsibilities for the Board and school administration was to make sure that the budget was maintained and that there was good recordkeeping on how money was spent. She expressed her respect and admiration for the KPS business office staff. Ms. Sholler-Barber also thanked the many volunteers who had worked on the special education millage and the voters who had supported the millage.

Mr. Start expressed his appreciation for the support of Dr. Rice and the Board of Education. He noted that some school boards make unwise financial decisions. Mr. Start stated that he and Ms. Kayser were delighted to have a Board and superintendent that were good stewards of the district’s finances.

Patti Sholler-Barber responded that the Board and KPS administration were a good team.

Dr. Rice thanked Mr. Start and Ms. Kayser for their excellent work under very tight timelines. He also thanked his other senior staff members for their work on behalf of our students: Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Cindy Green, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Sheila Dorsey, and Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Services Dr. Deborah Piotrowski. He echoed Mr. Start’s comment about the importance of a fiscally responsible Board, and thanked the KPS Board members for their continued diligence in keeping KPS financially sound. Dr. Rice noted that there were four dozen school districts in deficit that were now monitored by the state, with another several dozen on shaky financial ground. He stated that across the state of Michigan, notwithstanding the best budget from the state in eight years, it was a rocky road for many districts.

Dr. Rice concluded by thanking the many volunteers who had worked on the special education millage and the voters who had supported it.

**Audience comments:**
None.

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

**B. Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Notes in Anticipation of State School Aid**
Deputy Superintendent Start read the recommendation for the Board to adopt a resolution that would authorize the district to borrow up to $17.0 million in anticipation of state aid. He explained that KPS must do this every year to meet its financial obligations, as do other districts across the state, because the state changed its payment schedule to local school districts several years ago, which created the need for this resolution.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Trustee Greschak, supported by Trustee Dr. Warfield, to adopt the resolution authorizing the district to borrow up to $17.0 million in anticipation of state aid.

**Board Discussion:**
Carol McGlinn expressed her frustration that the state of Michigan does not pay school districts at the beginning of the fiscal year, which forces districts to borrow money and incur additional expense until the state releases the funds.

Mr. Start explained that the last two state aid payments are paid in late July and August; however, the fiscal year ends in June. He noted that the last note in anticipation of state school aid cost KPS approximately $65,000 in interest.

Patti Sholler-Barber noted that $65,000 would pay for the cost of an additional teacher. She stated that she considered the state’s budget process to be disrespectful; however, she explained that the state’s budget process was an evil that public schools in Michigan had to endure every year.

Audience comments:
None.

Disposition: Roll call vote; motion carried, 5-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

C. Resolution to Pay up to 80% of the Cost of Medical Benefit Plans
Deputy Superintendent Start explained that Public Act 152 requires the district to establish specified dollar “caps” for district payments to health insurance plans, unless the district elects to pay up to 80% of the total annual costs for all of the medical benefit plans it offers or to which it contributes for its employees. He advised that the 80% option must be approved by a vote of the majority of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Rice noted that the Board had approved this resolution for the last five years.

MOTION: It was moved by Trustee McGlinn, and supported by Trustee Herschleb, that the Board approve the resolution to pay up to 80% of the total annual costs for all of the medical benefit plans.

Board discussion:
None.

Audience comments:
None.

Disposition: Roll call vote; motion carried, 5-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

D. Approval of Employee Association Agreements
Dr. Rice read the recommendation for the Board to approve one-year (2015-2016) contractual agreements with the following employee associations:

- UAW Local 2150 Administrators (Units I & II)
- Food Service Managers Collective Bargaining Unit
- Teamsters Local 214 Maintenance
- Service Employees International Union Local 586 (custodians)
- Home School Support Specialists/Home School Interventionists SEIU Local 517m
Dr. Rice noted that the members of all of these employee groups provide very important services to our students, families, and school personnel and that the agreements have been ratified by the various memberships and are within the parameters of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Rice thanked Deputy Superintendent Start, Assistant Superintendent Sheila Dorsey, and the various employee associations for their diligence and hard work in completing these contractual agreements.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Trustee Greschak, supported by Trustee Dr. Warfield, to approve the employee association agreements as presented.

**Board Discussion:**
Patti Sholler-Barber expressed the Board’s appreciation to Assistant Superintendent Sheila Dorsey, Deputy Superintendent Gary Start, their staff members, and the associations for working out these agreements in a timely manner. She noted that having these agreements completed early provides time for staff to concentrate on preparing for the next school year for our students. Ms. Sholler-Barber stated that without these employee groups, KPS could not provide quality programs for our students.

**Audience Comments:**
None.

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

**E. Administrative Appointment – Assistant Principal/Dean of Students at Loy Norrix High School**
Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Sheila Dorsey read the recommendation to appoint Mr. Christopher Aguinaga to the position of Assistant Principal/Dean of Students at Loy Norrix High School.

**MOTION:** Moved by Trustee Herschleb, supported by Trustees Greschak and McGlinn, to appoint Mr. Christopher Aguinaga as the Assistant Principal/Dean of Students at Loy Norrix High School.

**Board discussion:**
None.

**Audience comments:**
None.

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

**IX. Other Business**
None.

**XI. Comments by Trustees**
Carol McGlinn complimented the article in the *Kalamazoo Gazette* about the study of the Kalamazoo Promise released by the W.E. Upjohn Institute. She noted that it was good news about the Promise; however, she stated that she expected that the benefits from the Promise would continue to increase. Ms. McGlinn concluded that KPS must continue to work hard to ensure that
more students were ready to take advantage of the great opportunity the Kalamazoo Promise could provide.

_Patti Sholler-Barber_ congratulated the recent KPS graduates. She noted that it was always a lot of fun to wish the graduates well at each high school commencement and that she especially enjoyed when a graduate informed her that he or she would be attending Michigan State University.

Ms. Sholler-Barber agreed with Trustee McGlinn on the Kalamazoo Promise article and that the statistics would continue to rise. She explained that parents were making sure that their children were attending school and that KPS continued its work to improve curriculum and services to help our students become Promise ready, which would also improve college graduation rates. She thanked KPS administrators, teachers, staff, and the community partners who work tirelessly on behalf of our students. Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that it takes a great team to make sure all our students are Promise ready.

Ms. Sholler-Barber stated that she was ecstatic that the U.S. Supreme Court had kept the Affordable Care Act (ACA) intact because the ACA helped many of our students.

Ms. Sholler-Barber expressed her grief about the recent tragedy in Charleston, South Carolina and her concern about its traumatic effect on children not just in Charleston, but across America. She stated that this was a huge teaching moment that must be embraced to stop the hate and violence. Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that there was no child in America that deserved to live in fear of intolerance, bigotry, and violence. She explained that in the KPS family we are a part of taking care of our children. Ms. Sholler-Barber expressed her joy at commencement speeches in which students expressed their appreciation for the diversity provided at KPS. She concluded with a request for support of the children affected by this tragedy and the hope that they would never have to witness another historical event of this nature.

**Comments by the Superintendent**

Dr. Rice recognized the governor’s leadership for the strong budget with an increased per pupil foundation and more at-risk funding. He noted that without the governor’s leadership there would have been no additional at-risk funding in this budget. Dr. Rice continued that he also appreciated the governor’s leadership with respect to third grade reading and not vilifying children who were behind, but instead looking for solutions to help those children who were struggling. He noted that KPS was not a financially distressed district; however he recognized and appreciated the governor’s leadership in recognizing those districts that were in financial distress.

Dr. Rice extended thanks to KPS administrative departments:

- The Teaching and Learning Services Department under the leadership of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Deborah Piotrowski, Director of Elementary Education Judy D’Arcangelis, and Director of Secondary Education Johnny Edwards for their work on the summer school sessions being held at The Woodward School for Technology and Research and Washington Writers’ Academy for elementary children, and at Linden Grove Middle School for middle school and high school students;
- The Student Services Department under the leadership of Assistant Superintendent Cindy Green for its continued efforts on behalf of our students;
- The Human Resources Department under the leadership of Assistant Superintendent Sheila Dorsey for its hard work negotiating contracts and interviewing prospective employees;
• The Business Office under the leadership of Deputy Superintendent Gary Start for presenting a balanced budget under extremely tight timelines; and  
• The Communications Department under the leadership of Executive Director Alex Lee for its continued outreach to the community.

Dr. Rice spoke about the Handwriting Without Tears curriculum and remembered a teacher remarking on his writing that it was definitely not handwriting without tears. He also jokingly referred to the handwriting of Deputy Superintendent Start, whose hieroglyphics were as hard to read as Dr. Rice’s.

Dr. Rice stated that he considered the Promise article an interesting one because it was a study of results that were seven years old, ending with the class of 2008, and was wholly a study about the advent of the Kalamazoo Promise and comparing right before its advent versus the period right after its advent. He noted that there have been many improvements and gains that have taken place since 2008 that include, but are not limited to:

• By September of next year the number of pre-kindergarten slots will have more than doubled and the number of kindergarten slots will have more than quintupled;  
• The implementation of Lift Up Through Literacy parent education and family literacy programs had begun, programs which have served almost 2,000 families with over 3,200 young people;  
• A new kindergarten through grade five language arts program had been implemented;  
• New math curriculum in elementary and middle schools had been adopted;  
• Strategic Reading and Strategic Math had been added in middle schools;  
• New schedules had been adopted in middle schools and high schools; and  
• KPS had doubled the number of students taking AP courses and more than tripled the number of AP courses it offered.

Dr. Rice extended kudos to Dr. Timothy Bartik and the W.E. Upjohn Institute for its report, and to Kalamazoo Gazette writer Julie Mack for the article on the Promise. He explained that it was also the work performed by KPS teachers, paraprofessionals, aides, bus drivers, custodians, administrators, and many other employees that continued to drive higher student achievement, higher test scores, higher graduation rates, lower dropout rates, higher advanced placement participation, higher participation in college going, higher college retention, and ultimately college success, all of which leads to what KPS is ultimately about, which is giving more children the maximum amount of opportunity to live out their dreams.

Dr. Rice expressed his appreciation to the many community partners that work with KPS and its students. He noted that the Kalamazoo community had made a concerted effort post-Promise to become more cohesive because KPS alone cannot help our children reach their dreams when they are in school only 1/6 of their time, with the remaining 5/6 of their time spent out in the community. He stated that as urban educators we have a requirement to do better by our children in the 5/6 of their time that they are outside of school.

Dr. Rice spoke about some of the over 200 KPS community partners and explained that KPS provided enormous support in myriad ways for those different institutions because they provide even more support for our children and families. He made mention of a few of those community partners:

• Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo  
• Title I Parent Corps  
• Big Brothers Big Sisters
• Boys and Girls Club
• Kalamazoo Center for Youth and Community
• Black Arts and Cultural Center
• Douglass Community Association
• Mt. Zion Baptist Church
• First United
• Christian Life Center
• Allen Chapel AME
• Open Door
• Trenches Community Church
• Skyridge Church

Dr. Rice stressed the need for support of those children with extra needs, whether socioeconomics, learning disabilities, or physical challenges. He explained that KPS alone cannot meet all those needs. Dr. Rice stated that KPS was in business to help kids achieve and that if their needs were not met, our children would slip further and further behind and ultimately become a challenge not just for themselves but for the community. He explained that in an ideal society all young people’s needs would be met, and that while we were not there yet by any means, he appreciated the Board, senior staff, principals, teachers, and staff who remained focused on providing what our students need. Dr. Rice concluded that we have miles to go before we sleep, but that we are taking steps in the right direction.

XII. Closed Session
President Sholler-Barber did not ask for a motion to move into closed session and adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

XIII. President Sholler-Barber announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill, Secretary, Board of Education
I. Call to Order
President Patti Sholler-Barber called the June 29, 2015 special Board of Education meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance
Board members present: Ken Greschak, TiAnna Harrison, Craig Herschleb, Carol McGlinn, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Absent: Jennie Hill.

IV. Reports and Recommendations
A. Approval of Employee Association Contractual Agreement
Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communications and Operations Gary Start read the recommendation for the Board to approve one-year (2015-2016) contractual agreements with the following employee associations:
- Kalamazoo Support Professionals
- Kalamazoo Public Schools Transportation Association
- Food Service Employees Collective Bargaining Unit
- Kalamazoo County Education Association/Kalamazoo Behavioral Specialists

MOTION: It was moved by Trustee McGlinn, supported by Trustee Herschleb, to approve the employee association agreements as presented.

Board Discussion:
Mr. Start expressed his appreciation to the Board, KPS administration, and the members of these employee associations for working out these agreements in a timely manner.

Ms. Sholler-Barber expressed the Board’s appreciation to Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Sheila Dorsey, Deputy Superintendent Gary Start, and the members of these employee associations. She noted that these employee groups are vital to helping us get our students Promise ready.

Audience Comments:
None.

Disposition: Roll call vote; motion carried, 6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions

V. Closed Session
President Sholler-Barber did not call for a closed session and adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

President Sholler-Barber announced the next regular Board of Education meeting date: Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Miller, Recording Secretary
on behalf of Jennie Hill,
Secretary, Board of Education