

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Office of the Superintendent  
1220 Howard Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
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February 19, 2024

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

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Kalamazoo Public Schools will be held on **Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Board Room at the KPS Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49008. The meeting will be live streamed on the Public Media Network on the Live TV Channel PMN 5: <https://www.publicmedianet.org/pmn-discover-live>

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jennie Hill, Secretary  
Board of Education

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

**KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**1220 Howard Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49008**  
**February 22, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**A G E N D A**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Ceremonial Swearing-in of New Trustee**
- IV. Acceptance of Agenda**
- V. Attendance**
- VI. Board Recognitions**
- VII. Committee Reports/School Reports**
- VIII. Correspondence**
- IX. Consent Calendar Items**
  - A. Minutes**
    - February 1, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
    - February 8, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes
    - February 9, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes
  - B. Business and Financial Reports**
    - Purchase Recommendations 2024-28 and 2024-29
  - C. Personnel Items**
    - Personnel Changes
- X. Reports and Recommendations**
  - A. Superintendent's Report
  - B. ESSER III Budget Update
- XI. Persons Requesting to Address the Board (3-minute individual limit)**
- XII. Other Business**
  - A. MASB Region 6 Board of Directors Election
- XIII. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent**
- XIV. Closed Session (if needed)**
- XV. Next Regular Board of Education Meeting: Thursday, March 7, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.**

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Board of Education Meeting  
1220 Howard Street  
**February 1, 2024 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**III. Acceptance of Agenda**

President Harrison asked for a motion to accept the agenda.

**MOTION:** Trustee Sholler-Barber, supported by Secretary Hill, motioned to accept the agenda.

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

**IV. Attendance**

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

**V. Board Recognitions**

Linda Mitchell, principal, and Sierra Prather, assistant principal at Woods Lake Elementary, recognized students Clarion Coleman, Zaiden Turner, Leonardo Razo-Hernandez, Chamiur Cook, Caelen Ryan, Addison Davis, Xander Sweet, and Kevin Rodriguez-Almendarez.

Mitch Hawkins, principal at Milwood Magnet, recognized students Ayandrea Bridges, Isaac Delgado, Elia Diaz, Jenna Itawi, Ariel Johnson, Malia Morrow, Emiliano Salas, Ruby Santiago, Winter Walsh, Meadow Walsh, Monique Hudson, Caleb Shorter, Emerson Nardi-Palmer, Jourdan Gilling, and Camden Zeigler.

**VI. Committee Reports/School Reports:**

None.

**VII. Correspondence**

Secretary Hill reported the correspondence for the period of January 10, 2024 - January 30, 2024.

- Email received Jan. 12 from Susan O'Connor regarding reading instruction questions. Dr. Slade responded to the email and a meeting was set up.
- Email received Jan. 24 from Robert Becker announcing he was running for the board of the Michigan Association of School Boards. Trustee Hill responded.

**VIII. Consent Calendar**

President Harrison presented the Consent Calendar items: VIII.A. January 11, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, and January 18, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes, VIII.B. Purchase Recommendations 2024-20, 2024-21, 2024-22, 2024-23, 2024-24, 2024-25, 2024-26, and 2024-27, VIII.C. Personnel Changes.

**Board discussion:**

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Thanked the community for supporting the bonds so the district can continue to improve our buildings and school. She thanked Karen Jackson for working through the incoming bids.
- Mentioned personnel changes that were happening and one of the biggest ones is that Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Sheila Dorsey-Smith is retiring. She noted how much the district appreciates everything she has done and how she will be deeply missed.

Jennie Hill

- Thanked the voters who pass our bonds so that we can do the updates needed for Kalamazoo Public Schools buildings.

Karla Murphy

- Thanked everyone who helped pass these bonds so that remodels are possible.
- She also asked if purchase recommendation 2024-27 had a link to more information. Ian Haight responded that the bid link is not open to the public. She asked how many vendor bids we received. Ian Haight confirmed more than 6 bids were received.

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

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

**IX. Reports and Recommendations**

**A. Superintendent's Update**

Dr. Slade introduced Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo Executive Director James Devers.

Mr. Devers shared the CIS history and model of support.

Communities in Schools (CIS) was founded by Bill Milliken in New York City in 1977. CIS is located in 28 states and Washington D.C. There were 3,270 schools and community sites served in the 2021-22 school year with 1.8 million students reached in the 2021-22 school year.

The City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Public Schools, and the local Chamber of Commerce imagined a more just and healthy community, one in which every child had a chance to finish school and be ready for college and the workforce. In 2003, two organizations merged: Kalamazoo Public Education Foundation (KPEF) and Kalamazoo Area Academic Achievement Program (KAAAP). Upon the completion of this merger, and the desire to implement the national Communities In Schools (CIS) model of integrated student support, the CIS of Kalamazoo was officially formed.

The CIS of Kalamazoo mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life, and their vision is an engaged community where every child fulfills their promise.

Ten areas of support are provided: academic assistance, basic needs, behavioral interventions, college and career prep, community and service learning, enrichment, family engagement, life skills, mental health, and physical health.

For more information visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8J-FUDxNJYc>

## **B. Recommendation and Resolution Authorizing 2024 Refunding Bonds**

**MOTION:** Vice President Jackson, supported by Trustee Sholler-Barber, made a motion to accept the recommendation and resolution authorizing 2024 refunding bonds.

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

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

Public comments/audience participation. No actions taken.

## **XI. Other Business**

- A. Travel Request for TiAnna Harrison
- B. Acknowledgement of upcoming MASB Election

## **XII. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent**

TiAnna Harrison

- Thanked Mr. Devers for his presentation and the work he does in the Kalamazoo community. She stated that KPS as a whole could help out by volunteering our time and skills to support CIS.

Jermaine Jackson

- Recognized Black History Month and stated how a community event will be taking place on Saturday, February 3 at 11:30 a.m. at the Alma Powell Library to celebrate it.
- Asked the community to keep Milwood's crossing guard, Michael Cunningham, in their thoughts because he was unfortunately hit by a car while on duty. He thanked Dr. Slade for taking our student's safety and concerns seriously.
- Showed appreciation to former Trustee Alcalá for bringing up concerns for the Hispanic community and the language barriers they may have and struggle with within Kalamazoo.

Jennie Hill

- Congratulated Mrs. Kayser and her financial team for keeping the financial books almost completely perfect.
- Shared highlights from one of the NSBA conference.

Karla Murphy

- Shared her experience attending her first NSBA conference.

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Apologized for not mentioning at the last meeting that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day coming up. She stated how impressed she was with Loy Norrix and Kalamazoo Central's Symphony of Brotherhood performance.
- Thanked State Representative Julie Rodgers for choosing Dr. Slade to be her one guest at the Governor's State of the State. She thanked Governor Whitmer for focusing on public school teachers and students.
- Thanked Mr. Devers for all the hard work they do at CIS.
- Asked the community to keep Michael Cunningham in their thoughts.
- NSBA is a great learning tool to become better for our district.

Takisha Johnson

- Thanked the drivers for making sure our students got to school okay during the crazy weather.
- Mentioned that Girls on the Run needs volunteers to keep the program running.
- Hopes everyone is magnificent during Black History Month.

Superintendent Dr. Slade

- Thanked the entire Kalamazoo Public Schools staff for their hard work in January. He also thanked our crossing guards for keeping our students safe. Let the crossing guard who was struck by a car know that we were all thinking about him.

**XIII. Closed Session (if needed)**  
None

**XIV. Next Board of Education Meeting**

The next regular Board of Education meeting is Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

**MOTION:** Trustee Sholler-Barber, supported by Trustee Johnson, made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

President Harrison adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby Kroeze, Recording Secretary,  
on behalf of Jennie Hill,  
Secretary, Board of Education



KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Board of Education Meeting  
1220 Howard Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
**February 8, 2024 - Special Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

President Harrison called the February 8, 2024, Special Board of Education meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**III. Acceptance of Agenda**

President Harrison asked for a motion to accept the agenda.

**MOTION:** Trustee Sholler-Barber, supported by Secretary Hill, moved to accept the agenda.

**Disposition:** Voice vote; all in favor. The motion was carried unanimously

**IV. Attendance**

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

**V. Reports and Recommendations**

- A. First Reading - Policies 3.2 Non-Discrimination, 8.1 Equal Employment Opportunity, 8.2 Hiring and Staff, 8.4 Staff Evaluation, and 8.7 Staffing, Assignment, Layoff, and Recall of Classroom Teachers

Dr. Slade explained the First Reading of policies 3.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.4, and 8.7 and Secretary Hill read the policies.

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

Public comments/audience participation. No actions taken.

**VII. Other Business**

All trustees chose 5 top candidates to interview for the board vacancy. These 5 candidates will be notified tonight and interviewed on Friday, February 9 at 6:00 p.m. Each interview will be 30 minutes long.

**VIII. Next Special Board of Education Meeting: Friday, February 9, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.**

President Harrison announced the next Board of Education meeting date: Special Board of Education Meeting, Friday, February 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

**MOTION:** Trustee Johnson, supported by Trustee Sholler-Barber, made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Disposition:** Voice Vote; all in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

President Harrison adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby Kroeze, Recording Secretary,  
on behalf of Jennie Hill,  
Secretary, Board of Education



KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Board of Education Meeting  
1220 Howard Street  
**February 9, 2024 – Special Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

President Harrison called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**III. Acceptance of Agenda**

President Harrison asked for a motion to accept the agenda.

**MOTION:** Trustee Sholler-Barber, supported by Treasurer Murphy, moved to accept the agenda.

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

**IV. Attendance**

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

**V. Reports and Recommendations**

A. Second Reading - Policies 3.2 Non-Discrimination, 8.1 Equal Employment Opportunity, 8.2 Hiring and Staff, 8.4 Staff Evaluation, and 8.7 Staffing, Assignment, Layoff, and Recall of Classroom Teachers

**MOTION:** Secretary Hill, supported by Trustee Sholler-Barber, made a motion to accept the new policies.

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

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

Public comments/audience participation. No actions taken.

**VII. Other Business**

**A. Interviewing Applicants for Open Board of Education Trustee Position**

President Harrison read key points of the interview process. Board members took turns asking questions of the four trustee candidate finalists. One candidate selected to interview was unavailable.

- Carol McGlinn
- Jacqueline Slaby
- Dr. Margaret Hale-Smith
- Pastor Ronnie Coleman

**MOTION:** Secretary Hill, supported by Trustee Sholler-Barber, made a motion to appoint Carol McGlinn to fill the vacant board seat.

**Disposition:** Roll Call Vote; all in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

**VIII. Next Regular Board of Education Meeting**

The next regular meeting date is Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

**MOTION:** Trustee Johnson, supported by Trustee Sholler-Baber, made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

President Harrison adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby Kroeze, Recording Secretary,  
on behalf of Jennie Hill,  
Secretary, Board of Education

**KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION DATA SHEET**

**Board Meeting Date:** February 22, 2024  
**Request Number:** 2024-28  
**Amount:** \$255,158.77

**Item:** Districtwide Custodial Equipment Replacement

**Cost Center:** ESSER III

**Cost Center Representative(s) Attending Board Meeting:** Karen Jackson

**Description of Need:**

This purchase recommendation is for the purchase of 193 pieces of custodial equipment in 30 KPS buildings. This includes backpack vacuums, upright vacuums, walk-behind scrubbers, floor machines, spotter/extractors, riding scrubbers, wet/dry vacuums, tilt trucks, flatbeds, scrubbers, extractors, restroom cleaning machines, 3-speed blowers, and cordless blowers.

**Vendor:** KSS Enterprises  
Kalamazoo, MI

**Number of Proposals Requested:** 3    **Received:** 1

**Low Bid Accepted?** N/A

**Additional Information:**

**KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION DATA SHEET**

**Board Meeting Date:** February 22, 2024  
**Request Number:** 2024-29  
**Amount:** \$4,804,235.00

**Item:** Architectural & Engineering Professional Services for 2022 Bond Projects

**Cost Center:** 2022 Bond

**Cost Center Representative(s) Attending Board Meeting:** Karen Jackson

**Description of Need:**

This purchase recommendation is for architectural/engineering and design services for 2022 bond projects identified in the first and second draws approximating \$64M of construction costs.

**Vendor:** TowerPinkster  
Kalamazoo, MI

**Number of Proposals Requested:** 4    **Received:** 2

**Low Bid Accepted?** N/A

**Additional Information:**

A selection committee comprised of staff from the Business Office and Facilities Management reviewed the proposals. The selection committee evaluated the proposals based on cost, quality of proposal, strength of the structure and personnel in its proposed staffing model (including hours, staffing and management), familiarity with KPS, K-12 experience, single point of contact, cross disciplinary capability, diversity, and local presence. Based on these criteria, the committee unanimously recommends TowerPinkster be awarded the contract to provide architectural and engineering services.

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOL  
Office of the Superintendent

TO: Board of Trustees  
FROM: Dr. Darrin Slade, Superintendent  
DATE: February 22, 2024  
SUBJECT: Personnel Changes

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

- I. Employment
  - A. Professional/Management
    - Jerrell R. Amos**, Climate/Culture Coach, Hillside Middle School, 02/20/2024
    - Casey P. Bess**, Social Studies/PE Teacher, Hillside Middle School, 01/31/2024
    - Kelly M. Blair**, Speech Language Pathologist, Itinerant, 02/19/2024
    - Maureen D. Mead**, English Teacher, Kalamazoo Central High School, 03/04/2024
    - Kathryn Nichols**, School Psychologist, Itinerant, 02/12/2024
  - B. Classified
    - Rebekah Alderman**, Lead Secretary, Winchell Elementary School, 02/19/2024
    - Guadalupe L. Lopez-Diaz**, Special Education Paraprofessional, Kalamazoo Central High School, 02/05/2024
    - Ashley N. Williams**, Multilingual Paraprofessional, Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, 02/05/2024
- II. Promotions/Key Transfers
  - A. Professional/Management
  - B. Classified
    - Angela Thomas**, transfer from Payroll Clerk to Lead Accounts Payable Clerk, Business Office, 02/19/2024
- III. Leaves of Absence
  - A. Professional/Management
  - B. Classified
- IV. Terminations
  - A. Professional/Management
    - Gloria P. Foster-Wimbley**, Assistant Principal, Kalamazoo Central High School, Retirement, 06/30/2024
    - Dolores M. Brinker**, Kindergarten Teacher, Greenwood Elementary School, Retirement, 06/30/2024
    - Julie Scott**, Fourth Grade ELA Teacher, Milwood Elementary School, Retirement, 06/30/2024
    - Corie L. Maddox**, Early Childhood Teacher, Prairie Ridge Elementary School, Retirement, 06/30/2024
    - Liam H. Wendt**, Psychologist, Itinerant, Retirement, 06/30/2024
  - B. Classified

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- V. Termination from Leave of Absence
  - A. Professional/Management
  - B. Classified
- VI. Return from Leave of Absence
  - A. Professional/Management
  - B. Classified
- VII. Lay-offs
  - A. Professional/Management
  - B. Classified