

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
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Kalamazoo, MI 49008
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December 12, 2023

**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, December 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49008. The meeting will be live streamed on Public Media Network on the Live TV Channel PMN 5: <https://www.publicmedianet.org/pmn-discover-live>.

The Board of Trustees, Superintendent, and senior staff will have an informational dinner meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Superintendent's office area and will also discuss any matters that may come before the Board.

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Karla Murphy, 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

1220 Howard Street

December 14, 2023

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Acceptance of Agenda**
- IV. Attendance**
- V. Board Recognitions**
- VI. Committee Reports/ School Reports**
- VII. Correspondence**
- VIII. Consent Calendar Items**
 - A. Minutes**

November 30, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes
 - B. Business and Financial Reports**
 - C. Personnel Matters**

Personnel changes
 - D. Other**
- IX. Reports and Recommendations**
 - A. Superintendent's Update**
 - B. 5.2 Attendance – Second Reading**
- X. Persons Requesting to Address the Board (3-minute individual limit)**
- XI. Other Business**
 - A. Travel Request for Trustee Alcala**
- XII. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent**
- XIII. Closed Session (if needed)**
- XIV. Next Board of Education Meeting: Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
1220 Howard Street
November 30, 2023 – Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

Vice President Jermaine Jackson called the November 30, 2023, regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:01p.m. in the Boardroom of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Acceptance of Agenda

MOTION: Trustee Patti Sholler-Barber, supported by Trustee Jennie Hill, made a motion to approve the change in purchase recommendation of 2024-15

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

IV. Attendance

Board members present: Trustee Hill, Secretary Karla Murphy, Trustee Patti Sholler Barber, Treasurer Maricela Alcala, Vice President Jackson, and Trustee Takisha Johnson. Superintendent Dr. Darrin Slade was also present. President TiAnna Harrison arrived at 7:15pm.

V. Board Recognitions

Principal Ms. Meaghan Timmons from Arcadia recognized students Quinn Conners, Meenakshi Ramanathan, Dhia Almaali, Santiago Perez Galdamez, Khalil Hernandez, Lucas Skalski, and Shimeka Divalukidi.

Tommy Bunick the athletic director from Maple Street recognized students Cody Lam and Lilly Harthorn

Principal Mr. Chris Aguinaga from Loy Norrix recognized students Jackson Lam, Aria Anglin, Myla Bierlein, Bridgette Bol, Hannah Boothby, Ruby Brent, Vivienne Chapman, Olivia Doud, Eloise Dunfee, Allie Goodrich, Amelia Gougam, Elise Gougam, Alice Harn, Ella Kennedy, Shayla Kilduf, Liliana Leighton, Grace Mahar, Liliana Mahar, Tatum Mielke, Abigail Milliken, Nadia Moore, Eva Morris, Johanna Mortimore, Ella Perl, Lauren Rafferty, Emma Rayner, Alexandra Sedore, Leah Sparks, Alaina Suarez, Katherine Suarez, Audra Tate, Ashlyn Teal, Stella Van Duine, Alice Wadsworth-Curcuru, Paisley Wall Emerson, and Shyanne Weston.

VI. Committee Reports/School Reports:

Trustee Sholler-Barber reported that the Academic excellence committee spoke about the strategic plan Dr. Slade is working on and discussed a community wide reading event.

Trustee Jackson reported upcoming events the Community Engagement committee is developing.

Trustee Sholler-Barber reported that Communities in Schools met the previous Friday to discuss their strategic planning. Also, she stated how excited they were for the ugly sweater party that is happening on December 5. She made a pitch for CIS as well by explaining who they are and what they do for our students.

Trustee Alcala stated that the Operations committee met on Tuesday that week. Dr. Slade went over monthly financials with the committee. Facilities Executive Supervisor Karen Jackson went over the bond timelines for upcoming years and provided overviews of various items such as payment distributions. Mrs. Terri Aman provided an update about purchase recommendations needed for transportation. Dr. Slade also mentioned different employment opportunities through KPS.

VII. Correspondence

Secretary Murphy reported that there was no correspondence.

VIII. Consent Calendar

President Harrison presented the Consent Calendar items: VIII.A.1., Regular Meeting Minutes, VIII.B. Purchase Recommendations 2024-12, 2024-12, 2024-13, 2024-15 and 2024-16, and VIII.C. Personnel Changes., VIII.D. Other

Purchase recommendations were as follows:

- 2024-12 in the amount of \$37,500.00 from Transportation to replace the 1987 tow truck.
- 2024-14 in the amount of \$71,164.00 from Transportation to replace the 2002 and 2003 maintenance vans.
- 2024-13 in the amount of \$2,984,521.00 from Transportation to replace buses that have passed their useful life in miles and years.
- 2024-15 in the amount of \$404,354.00 from MDE Section 97 Safety Grant to add additional security cameras at eight elementary schools.
- 2024-16 in the amount of \$3,983,183.00 from 2018 and 2022 Bonds to replace the stone panels at Kalamazoo Central High School.

Board discussion:

Trustee Sholler-Barber was very pleased that the purchase recommendations were all based around security and safety.

Vice President Jackson asked for a better understanding of the panels being replaced at Kalamazoo Central. Ms. Jackson further explained their purpose along with a timeline.

President Harrison was thankful for getting to see the bids, understand what they were for and having a good explanation of the project.

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

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

Comments:

IX. Reports and Recommendations

A. Presentation from Mrs. Robin Greymountain:

Supporting Students that are Homeless and in Foster Care - Robin Greymountain is the Homeless Liaison, Kalamazoo County McKinney Vento Coordinator, Foster Care Liaison, and Adult Education Leader. Mrs. Greymountain can be reached at address 714 S. Westnedge Rm 224 Kalamazoo, MI 49007. She can also be reached at phone number 269-337-0063.

What is Homelessness? - Lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Homeless living situations include sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (doubled-up). Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations is another homeless living situation as well as staying in emergency or transitional shelters and sleeping in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

Indicators of Homelessness - Percentage of students who report feeling uncomfortable disclosing their homelessness and seeking help at school. Student homelessness doesn't always look like we'd expect. Instead, we may notice struggles or behaviors that reflect the trauma of losing housing, sleeping on someone's couch, staying in a shelter, or sleeping in a car.

Potential Indicators of Homelessness - Tardiness or absences, poor hygiene, wearing the same clothes repeatedly or not appropriately dressed for the weather, unmet medical/dental needs, missing the bus, sleeping in class, fatigue, hunger, enrollment at multiple schools, lack of records, gaps in learning, social and behavioral challenges like extreme shyness, anxiety late in the school day, lack of participation in field trips or after school activities, lack of school supplies.

Homelessness is a traumatic experience for children and youth. The devastating impact of homelessness begins early in life, with harm to health and development prenatally, in infancy, in early childhood, and in school-age years. Students experiencing homelessness are more likely to drop out of high school and have high school rates that are well below graduation rates who are poor but have stable homes. Tragically, not getting a high school degree or GED is the single greatest risk factor for experiencing homelessness as a young adult. Youth experiencing homelessness who do persist to graduate from high school face significant barriers to achieving higher education, which is the surest path to economic independence.

The Importance of Identification - Homelessness creates significant educational barriers for children and youth. Students experiencing homelessness lack basic resources like a safe and stable place to live, food and clothing, all of which impacts their ability to attend and succeed in school. They also may lack school and immunization records, other documentation necessary to enroll in school, and school supplies. Additionally, students in homeless situations may not only lack the ability to provide their own transportation to school daily, but also may struggle with getting to school to register or enroll.

Educational Rights of students experiencing homelessness - While the McKinney-Vento Act provides children and youth experiencing homelessness with certain educational rights, families or unaccompanied youth may not be aware of the supports available under the Act. They will receive immediate school enrollment, even if lacking paperwork normally required, or their right to continue attending the school of origin, if this is in their best interest, even if they have moved outside the school's residential zone. Free school meals and transportation to students experiencing homelessness as well as resources to remove barriers.

Statistics - 1.3 million children and youth experience homelessness in the 2019-2020 school year. This was an all-time record and roughly equal to the population of Dallas, Texas. Another 1.4

million under the age of 6 are estimated to experience homelessness. In addition to children who experience homelessness with their parents, at least one in thirty adolescents ages 13-17, and nearly 1 in 10 young adults 18-24 are estimated to experience homelessness on their own. These numbers are now likely much higher because of the pandemic and related economic and family stress.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth - Unaccompanied homeless youth are young people experiencing homelessness who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. Homelessness among unaccompanied youth is most caused by severe family dysfunction and exacerbated by poverty. Family dysfunction includes abuse, conflict, and substance abuse.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Risk - Unaccompanied youth are at a much higher risk for labor and sex trafficking, assaults, and other forms of victimization than their housed peers. Most unaccompanied youth are unable to access safe housing or shelter, for a combination of reasons, including being too young to consent for services without a parent; fear of child welfare involvement; and the lack of services overall: more than half of those who seek shelter cannot access it because shelters are full.

Building Homeless Point of Contacts - Every school is required to have a Building Homeless Point of Contact. Building Point of Contacts help to support and remove barriers for students experiencing homelessness.

Identification - School secretaries, teacher, staff, volunteers can refer families that are suspected as being homeless to Mrs. Greymountain's office. Mrs. Greymountain can contact families and complete an intake form to determine eligibility. Not every family referred is homeless, but many unidentified families are struggling and need to be referred. Also, remember that it's a delicate and sensitive process.

Questions/ Comments/ Concerns - Call or email Robin Greymountain at 269-337-0063 or Greymountainrc@kalamazoopublicschools.net

Vice President Jackson thanked Mrs. Greymountain for her presentation and helping people understand the situations that others go through.

Trustee Sholler-Barber stated that the presentation was so respectful, and that Mrs. Greymountain did an amazing job having the correct supports up around the issues.

Trustee Alcala thanked Mrs. Greymountain for her presentation. She also asked if our fund that we have for homeless students must go to the "book" definition of homelessness. Mrs. Greymountain explained where the funds need to legally go. Trustee Alcala then asked how the board could help support the matter more. Mrs. Greymountain said it's helpful having people know and become aware of the situation.

Trustee Murphy asked what percent of Kalamazoo students were homeless. Mrs. Greymountain gave her the statistics explaining approximately how many students were homeless in KPS.

President Harrison asked what the support looks like during breaks. Mrs. Greymountain stated that there is a whole procedure done during breaks so that they are not left homeless alone.

Trustee Johnson stated her appreciation for the work Mrs. Greymountain is doing and how shocking it was to hear the number of students that are homeless.

B. 5.2 Attendance - First Reading

Trustee Hill explained what a policy was and then proceeded to read Policy 5.2.

C. Middle and High Schools Course and Program Recommendations for 2024-2025 - Second Reading

Dr. Angela Justice reread the Middle and High Schools Course and Program Recommendations for 2024-2025

MOTION: Trustee Sholler-Barber, supported by Trustee Johnson, made a motion to accept the Middle and High School Course and Program Recommendations for 2024-2025

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

Public comments/audience participation. No actions taken.

XI. Other Business:

Travel request Form for Trustee Sholler-Barber, Trustee Hill, and President Harrison.

MOTION: Trustee Johnson, supported by Vice President Jackson, made a motion to accept the travel requests provided.

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

XII. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent

Vice President Jackson stated how much he appreciated the presentation that Mrs. Greymountain provided. He brought attention to the increase in murders happening in our community. He also reminded everyone that this Saturday, December 2, was a celebration of holidays around the world from 11a.m. to 1p.m. at the Alma Powell Library in the Douglass community Association, 1000 W. Paterson. It is free.

Trustee Hill stated she appreciated the presentation from Mrs. Greymountain. Trustee Hill also thanked Dr. Justice for her explanation of Courseware last week.

Trustee Sholler-Barber congratulated the swim team that was recognized tonight. She did a shout out to Mrs. Greymountain for her wonderful presentation and making the board more aware of the situation. Trustee Sholler-Barber also gave a shout out to the staff for noticing when students are struggling due to homelessness. She went to Kalamazoo Central and watched their musical and said it was amazing. Also, she gave a shout out to CIS for providing extra clothes and necessary products for students and family in need. Lastly, she made a comment that academics and athletics go hand in hand.

Trustee Johnson stated that we all should be more mindful considering we had a presentation about homelessness during the holiday season.

Trustee Murphy explained that she has people come and stay at her house so they aren't on the streets.

President Harrison thanked Mrs. Greymountain for her role at KPS. She reminded everyone that there is a gingerbread house competition for 3rd – 9th graders, 14 and under.

Dr. Slade recognized all the students who are excelling at their sports.

XIII. Next Board of Education Meeting

President Harrison announced the next Board of Education meeting date: Regular Board of Education Meeting, Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

President Harrison adjourned the meeting at 8:40 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby Kroeze, Recording Secretary,
on behalf of Karla Murphy,
Secretary, Board of Education

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOL
Office of the Superintendent

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Darrin Slade, Superintendent
DATE: December 14, 2023
SUBJECT: Personnel Changes

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

I. Employment

A. Professional/Management

Amber M. Lester, Kindergarten Teacher, Lincoln International Studies School,
12/20/2023

B. Classified

Jayden J. Bowen, Montessori Teaching Assistant, Northglade Montessori Magnet
School, 11/27/2023

Heather G. Brent, Early Childhood Special Education Paraprofessional, Parkwood
Upjohn Elementary School, 11/27/2023

Kari K. Burke, Lead Secretary, Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts,
12/11/2023

Christine A. Captain, Assistant School Secretary, Maple Street Magnet School for the
Arts, 11/27/2023

Travis J. DeYoung, Montessori Teaching Assistant, Northglade Montessori Magnet
School, 11/27/2023

Tajane B. Hawkins, Assistant School Secretary – Guidance Office, Hillside Middle
School, 12/18/2023

Quianna M. Jenkins, Special Education Paraprofessional, Winchell Elementary School,
11/9/2023

Jordan Orozco Johnson, Attendance Interventionist, Milwood Magnet School: A
Center for Math, Science and Technology, 12/18/2023

Jace M. Osborn-Sweet, Special Education Paraprofessional, Loy Norrix High School,
10/30/2023

Alaine S. Partin, Montessori Teaching Assistant, Northglade Montessori Magnet
School, 10/30/2023

Jasmine S. Walker, Montessori Teaching Assistant, Northglade Montessori Magnet
School, 11/27/2023

II. Promotions/Key Transfers

A. Professional/Management

B. Classified

III. Leaves of Absence

A. Professional/Management

- B. Classified

IV. Terminations

- A. Professional/Management
 - Teresa L. Hazzard**, Payroll/Benefits Supervisor, Business Office, retirement, 06/28/2024
 - Julie A. LaBudda**, Art Teacher, Kalamazoo Central High School, retirement, 06/30/2024
- B. Classified
 - Elaine Willis**, Special Education Paraprofessional, Lincoln International Studies School, Retirement, 12/31/2023

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

**POLICY
of the
BOARD OF EDUCATION
KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

5.2 Attendance

Policy

The district feels strongly that every student should attend all their classes every day on time.

Specifics

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

Adopted: January 23, 2003

Revised: February 12, 2015

Revised: December 14, 2023

This policy supersedes all other policies on this issue.

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CONFERENCE / TRAVEL REQUEST FORM

(Requests must be made 14 days prior to early registration deadline)

Board Policy 1.3 and The Revised School Code (MCL Act 451 §380.1254) permits the school district to pay actual, reasonable, and necessary expenses incurred by a board member in performing functions as authorized by the Board of Trustees. Registration and travel arrangements can only be completed after board approval.

Maricela Alcala

12/6/23

Name

Request Date

NSBA equity symposium and Advocacy institute

1/27/24 to 1/30/24

Name of Event

Date of Conference/Class

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Is this an MASB conference? ☐ Yes ☒ No If no, please indicate: NSBA

Is this request in time to receive early registration discount on conference? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Attending: ☒ In person ☐ Virtual ☐ Other; please explain: _____

List courses/sessions you plan to attend. **NOTE: Registration **cannot** be finalized unless this section is completed.**
Equity Symposium and Advocacy Institute

LODGING INFORMATION

Lodging required? ☒ Yes ☐ No Check-in and check-out dates? 1/27-24 to 1/31/24

Conference hotel name Marriott Marquis Washington DC

Is this request in time to receive the discounted room rate? ☒ Yes ☐ No

OTHER

Dietary requirements? none

Any additional information? none

For office use only.

Date received _____

Approval date? _____

☐ Registration _____

☐ Hotel _____

☐ Confirmation(s) sent _____

☐ Per Diem (?) _____

☐ Other _____

Board Expectations Subsequent to Attendance at Conference/Classes

1. Thorough report during the board comment section at the next Board of Education meeting.
2. If handouts are provided at the conference, please pass out to trustees at this time.
3. Presentation should include:
 - a. Conference name and date
 - b. How applicable to KPS Board of Education
 - ☐ Governance
 - ☐ Approving district budget
 - ☐ Hiring and evaluating superintendent
 - c. Summary of conference

It is the attending trustee's responsibility to remind the board president/secretary of intent to present.

Milage reimbursement should be requested in writing after returning from the conference/travel.