



BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

Monday, July 13th, 2026 – 6:30 PM
Kentwood Public Schools
5820 Eastern Ave SE
Kentwood, MI 49508

The regular meeting of the Kentwood Board of Education was held on Monday, July 13th, 2026. The regular meeting was called to order by Board President Mimi Madden at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Mimi Madden, President
Sylvia James, Vice President
Allen Young, Secretary
Pete Battey, Trustee
Kim Taboada-Arzate, Trustee
Marlon Brown, Trustee
Kevin Polston, Superintendent
Jamie Gordon, Executive Director
Tom Lagone, Executive Director
Carrie Tellerico, Executive Director
Bre Bartels, Executive Director
Veronica Lake, Executive Director
Sunil Joy, Executive Director
Sydney Hanlon, Recorder

Absent: Tanya Powell-May, Treasurer

Ms. Madden led the board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE

Motion by Ms. Taboada-Arzate, supported by Mr. Brown, to approve the minutes from the board meeting of June 22nd, 2026.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion carried.

Mrs. Madden explained the procedure for the audience participation portion of the agenda. She asked all persons wishing to address the Board to sign the participation card prior to that item of business (Bylaw 9115 and PA 267, Sec. 3(5)).

AUDIENCE
PARTICIPATION
PROCEDURE

The superintendent's report included the following:

SUPT'S REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The superintendent provided an update on the recently approved state budget, noting that it was signed into law on July 3 and expressing appreciation that the policy work led by the district team and Kevin had reached the finish line. The new budget includes changes to the way students are funded, providing greater flexibility in supporting English Learner (EL) students and revising pupil accounting to base 90% of funding on current enrollment rather than a three-year average. Mimi thanked Kevin for his advocacy in Lansing, recognizing him as a voice of reason and acknowledging his efforts on behalf of the district, while also expressing gratitude to Senator Brinks for her support. The superintendent also introduced the district's new Community Resource Officer, Deputy Douglas, who brings experience from the Saginaw area and Comstock Park and is a Kentwood resident.

Motion by Mr. Brown, supported by Ms. James, to approve parents to serve on the KISD Parent Advisors for Special Education.

KISD PASE

Motion carried.

Motion by Ms. James, supported by Mr. Battey, to hire Jaime Bellant as a Special Education Supervisor.

SPECIAL ED
SUPERVISOR NEW
HIRE

Motion carried.

Motion by Ms. Taboada-Arzate, supported by Mr. Brown, to approve Taylor Lindman as the Dean of Early Childhood.

DEAN OF EARLY
CHILDHOOD

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Battey, supported by Mr. Allen, to approve a (3) three year agreement with the Kentwood Public Schools Kentwood Educational Secretarial Support (KESA) Group as follows in the attached document.

KESA
AGREEMENT

Motion carried. Brown abstains.

Motion by Ms. James, supported by Ms. Taboada-Arzate, to approve a (3) three year agreement for the attached miscellaneous employment groups.

MISC
EMPLOYMENT
GROUP
AGREEMENT

Motion carried. Brown abstains

Motion by Mr. Young, supported by Mr. Battey, to approve a (3) three year agreement with the Kentwood Public Schools Administrative Employee Group (2020) as attached.

2020 AGREEMENT

Motion carried. Madden and James abstain.

Motion by Ms. James, supported by Mr. Brown, to approve the attached board policies. This is the second reading.

POLICIES SECOND
READING

Motion carried.

Motion by Ms. Taboada-Arzate, supported by Mr. Young, to approve the employment of the attached list.

NEW HIRE LIST

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Brown, supported by Ms. James, to approve the following student handbook changes as they pertain to the Kentwood Public Schools Cell Phone and Personal Wireless Device Policy Guidance. This is the first reading.

CELL PHONE
POLICY - FIRST
READING

Motion carried.

Motion by Ms. James, supported by Ms. Taboada-Arzate, to approve the purchase of furniture from Custer Inc. for Meadowlawn Elementary in the amount of \$46,647.44. Funding is from the General Fund.

MEADOWLAWN
FURNITURE

Motion carried. Battey abstains.

Motion by Mr. Brown, supported by Ms. James, to approve the purchase of a 2026 Ford F350 from Vanderhyde Ford in the amount of \$50,583. Funding is from the General Fund.

VEHICLE
PURCHASE

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Brown, supported by Ms. Taboada-Arzate, to approve the disbursement summary for June 2026.

DISBURSEMENT
SUMMARY

Motion carried.

Motion by Ms. James, supported by Ms. Taboada-Arzate, to go into closed session for the purpose of 5 student reinstatements. (Closed session at 7:04PM, Open session at 7:23pm)

CLOSED SESSION

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Battey, supported by Ms. James, to approve the reinstatement of Student A.

STUDENT A
REINSTATEMENT

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Brown, supported by Mr. Young, to approve the reinstatement of Student B.

STUDENT B
REINSTATEMENT

Motion carried.

Motion by Ms. Taboada-Arzate, supported by Ms. James, to deny the reinstatement of Student C.

STUDENT C
REINSTATEMENT

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Brown, supported by Ms. James, to approve the reinstatement of Student D.

STUDENT D
REINSTATEMENT

Motion carried.

Motion by Ms. Taboada-Arzate, supported by Mr. Young, to deny the reinstatement of Student E.

STUDENT E
REINSTATEMENT

Motion carried.

Motion by Ms. Taboada-Arzate, supported by Mr. Brown, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 P.M. ADJOURNMENT

Allen Young, Secretary