

**Board of Education
November 19, 2024 – 5:30 PM
Conference Room A/B/C
1819 East Milham Avenue
Portage, Michigan 49002
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Virgil “Skip” Knowles, Mr. David Webster, Dr. Delores Myers, Ms. Lynne Cowart, Mr. Randy VanAntwerp

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF: Dr. Dedrick Martin, Mr. Tom Zahrt, Ms. Mindy Miller, Mr. Scott Thomas, Mr. Brian Schupbach, Mr. Eric Stewart, Ms. Paige Daniels, Ms. Rachel Roberts, Ms. Meredith Lewis, Ms. Sandy Barry-Loken, Ms. Stephanie Brown, Ms. Aubree Spencer, Ms. Megan Lozen, Ms. Ti Lee and Ms. Jackie Martell

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Corey VanDyke, Ms. Krissy Conner

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Knowles called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2024
- B. Approval of Board of Education Closed Meeting Minutes – October 22, 2024
- C. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes – November 8, 2024
- D. Approval of New Hire
- E. Approval of New Position
- F. Approval of Monthly Financial Report
- G. Approval of Head Start Financial Report

Mr. VanAntwerp moved; Ms. Cowart supported approving the consent agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

III. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Plante Moran Annual Audit Report – Corey VanDyke & Krissy Conner

Audit report was presented from Plante Moran.

- B. WoodsEdge Learning Center Continuous Improvement Update – Aubree Spencer and Megan Lozen

The continuous improvement update for WoodsEdge Learning Center was presented.

- C. KRESA Specialized Instructional Services (KSIS) Continuous Improvement Update – Ti Lee

The continuous improvement update for KSIS was presented.

IV. CENTER OF EXCELLENCE UPDATE

A. Early Childhood Update – Mindy Miller & Rachel Roberts

KRESA's Kalamazoo County Great Start Collaborative – attachment link is provided on the agenda posted online.

The Governing Body's Monthly Report for ongoing monitoring in accordance with the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) is provided in the consent agenda.

B. Special Education Update – Mindy Miller & Angela Telfer

Valley Center School has turned over 30% of their staff this fall. Many of these positions we needed to fill have the role of supporting behavior and the emotional needs of our students. This has posed some significant challenges, but we are beginning to see the positive outcomes of our efforts. We streamlined the interview process and have been able to hire 5 of the 8 open positions so far (School Social Worker, Behavior Support Specialist, Special Education Teacher, Behavior Technician and a Paraprofessional). Interviews continue for the 3 open Behavior Technician positions. Even the Valley Center students have been part of the solution. One of the Valley Center High School Students met with Principal Meghan Haas when he noticed how many staff were leaving to express his concern and offer his help. As a result, he and his classmates took on the job of Friday snacks and are baking things that students can choose on Fridays.

During this time, we have supported Valley Center School by sending Behavior Support Specialists and Behavior Technicians from other KRESA programs every week, which has helped support them and helped us identify the needs in the Valley Center School systems that we have begun addressing.

We are contracting with an outside agency to review all of Valley Center's systems and data collection to make recommendations for streamlining the kinds of supports all students receive. This agency (Positive Behavior Support Corporation) will be providing training for all staff during a couple of afternoons of the week of November 18th. This training will include positive reinforcement training/recommendations as well as training on a new student check sheet system, which will only include the positive behaviors students are displaying. Staff will check in with students every 30 minutes throughout the school day and mark which positive behaviors the student displayed. These positive marks result in frequent rewards throughout the day as well as translating to school store money at the end of each day. Staff will learn how to build in more choices for students throughout the day as well (all learning choices) that will give students more control of their day.

Also, during the week of November 18th, staff will be trained in Ukeru, a trauma informed intervention to help students feel supported during the de-escalation of big emotions. This is critical for the new staff but also a refresher for the entire staff will support the consistent use of this intervention, leading to a reduction in seclusion and restraint.

Looking ahead to the next school year, we have worked with transportation departments to adjust the time schedules for our Valley Center Students as well as Juvenile Home School students. This adjustment will give more time each day to debrief about incidents that happened, review student data and make proactive adjustments to plans for the next day when needed. Currently these schools only have 15 minutes each morning and 30 minutes each afternoon for this important practice, which doesn't give sufficient time for this critical planning.

Next year the student schedule will be 7:15 – 1:15 daily, which gives one and three-quarter hours at the end of the day. This schedule change still allows us to meet our hours requirement of 1,098 hours per school year.

The leadership and staff at Valley Center School have demonstrated admirable resilience and positivity during this time of transition and are committed to doing what is best for students.

C. Career Connect Update – Eric Stewart, Paige Daniels & Sarah Mansberger

MiCareerQuest Southwest: The 11th annual MiCareerQuest Southwest event was held on October 22nd and 23rd. This immersive career exploration experience gives students the opportunity to engage with local professionals to explore in-demand careers across multiple industry sectors.

Career Champions: The 2024-2025 Career Champions commenced with its Fall Convening on Thursday, November 7th. Career Champions are K-12 educators and other youth-serving professionals who commit to a year-long journey of training, reflection, workshops, and tailored career readiness projects within their districts or organizations. This year we are proud to support 65 Career Champions, including local district staff from 8 of the 9 school districts, as well as community champions, forming 15 countywide champion teams. We are thrilled with the growth and impact of the Career Champions program over the past few years:

- 2022-2023: 14 Career Champions representing 5 districts
- 2023-2024: 37 Career Champions representing 7 districts
- 2024-2025: 65 Career Champions representing 8 districts

Career Connect Campus: Preparation for the opening of the Career Connect Campus (CCC) is progressing well. Here are a few highlights:

- We anticipate moving staff to the CCC in April to begin readying the space and equipment for instructional use.
- Leadership has been meeting with local district superintendents and business officials to clarify details regarding enrollment-based funding and CCC scheduling, as outlined in the latest CTE Consortium Agreement.
- The KRESA Business Office has provided each district with a projected cost comparison per enrollment, showing the differences between the current model and the updated model that will take effect next fall.
- The team is guiding local districts in developing their transportation schedules.
- CC leaders are supporting local districts through decisions and discussions regarding the transition of certain programs from countywide consortium oversight to local district control.
- We expect to bring additional equipment lists to the Board (by pathway) for approval beginning in December.

D. Educator Supports Update – Mindy Miller & Stephanie Brown

STEM and Math Highlights - The Instructional Services and Community Supports (ISCS) team includes three math consultants and one STEM consultant, all of whom play crucial roles in supporting local districts throughout the greater Kalamazoo area. Our mission is to ensure that every student has daily access to high-quality, grade-level mathematics, promoting skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, collaboration, and meaningful discourse.

STEM consultations focus on integrating Computer Science standards, using design and computational thinking to create authentic, cross-disciplinary learning experiences. This work spans K-12 classrooms, driving innovation and enhancing educational outcomes across all content areas.

Here are key highlights of how our math and STEM consultants are making a lasting impact in the greater Kalamazoo area and throughout Michigan:

Instructional Coaching - Our consultants collaborate with educators using a student-centered coaching approach, structured around coaching cycles that include the following steps:

1. Goal Setting - Work with teachers to set specific, measurable goals focused on student learning outcomes or instructional strategies.
2. Co-Planning - Plan collaboratively for an upcoming lesson aligned with the identified goal(s). This includes choosing effective instructional strategies, defining observable indicators ("look-fors"), and preparing the tools necessary to collect meaningful student and classroom data.
3. Classroom Implementation - Support teachers through co-teaching, modeling lessons, or providing feedback on lesson facilitation.
4. Classroom Data Discussion - Review the data collected during classroom implementation to evaluate student progress toward the goal and the impact of the teacher's instructional practices.
5. Refine or Reset the Goal - Based on the data, either refine the current goal or set a new goal to promote continuous improvement in student outcomes and teaching practices.

Throughout the coaching cycle, our consultants employ research-based, high-quality instructional practices in mathematics education, as outlined in the resources below:

- Michigan's Essential Instructional Practices in Early Mathematics (PK-5)
- NCTM's Effective Mathematics Teaching Practices (K-12)
- Math Recovery Guiding Principles (K-8) Math coaching currently is taking place in Climax-Scotts, Comstock, Kalamazoo, KRESA CTE, KRESA Juvenile Home, Parchment, Portage, Schoolcraft, Vicksburg and Centerville.

Professional Development - A wide range of professional learning opportunities are provided for educator development and networking. County-wide professional learning sessions are hosted at the Service Center to enhance instruction around high-level instructional practices. Additionally, in-district professional learning sessions are tailored to meet the specific needs of each district. Since August, math consultants have provided 4 district-specific professional learning sessions and 2 Math Leadership Network Collaboratives. Our STEM consultant has provided 4 professional learning sessions and several collaborative networks.

- Consulting – Our consultants are supporting several districts by facilitating comprehensive curriculum reviews and adoption processes to ensure adoption and implement of high-quality math instructional resources.

- State Grant Work - 23h: Michigan Math Recovery Specialist Network has begun training in every partner ISD in the state. Currently, 375 out of approximately 3,000 educators have participated in a Math Recovery course statewide. Two virtual network sessions have brought our Specialists together to reshape elementary mathematics in Michigan.

- Artificial Intelligence - Based upon district-initiated interest, the STEM Consultant supports the implementation of AI tools at the district, leadership, and building levels. Our STEM Consultant is also providing learning around AI for our department as well as local superintendents and school boards.

E. Operational Supports Update

1. Business Services Update – Scott Thomas

KRESA levies property taxes during both winter and summer based on when the local school district levies their property taxes. Each year KRESA is required to renew its annual summer tax levy resolution and send it to taxing authorities no later than December 31 to continue levying summer taxes.

Included in the November Board agenda for action is a resolution to continue the summer tax levy in 2025.

2. Technology & Operations Report – Mr. Brian Schupbach

Technology

- At the Service Center, we are now pilot testing catering for breakfast and lunch service in Resource Central. This will allow us to order food from the café at the Career Connect Campus for use in all KRESA conference rooms.

- KRESA was just awarded a Section 12c Consolidation Grant from the Michigan Department of Education for \$31,669,361 to lead a statewide project called "MiCloud". MiCloud will help schools in Michigan move their legacy on-premise datacenters to modern cloud-based datacenters. Thanks to the leadership and hard work of Mike Coats and his team, KRESA has established a reputation for being the leader in the state in this space.

Facilities

- Maintenance of the retention pond near WoodsEdge Learning Center is now complete • To support Centers of Excellence, facility master planning meetings with Eckert-Wordell will begin on November 20th.

- Scheduling and planning for the HVAC controls project has begun with Miller-Davis and the vendor ICS.

3. Deputy Superintendent Update – Tom Zahrt, Sandy Barry-Loken & Meredith Lewis

Human Resources

Culture & Belonging Strategic Plan – Completed seven workgroup sessions held across the agency and open to all KRESA staff with approx. 300 people engaging. We are in the process of analyzing the data collected to inform the development of the Culture and Belonging Strategic Plan.

- 2025 Benefit Open Enrollment– Launched a successful annual benefit open enrollment including in-person presentations and office hours at each KRESA site to support employees with their benefit elections.

Deputy Superintendent

KRESA Brand Refresh

We are in the final weeks of completing a refresh of KRESA's brand position and visual identity (logo, etc.). More details are available in Dr. Martin's report. Once complete, we will shift our focus to redeveloping the KRESA website to improve the user experience and align the content with the Centers of Excellence.

KRESA Foundation

The KRESA Foundation has developed three subcommittees: Scholarship Growth, Fund Development and Marketing/Communications. Each committee is made up of Foundation board members and has had its initial orientation.

For the first time, the KRESA Foundation will host a Giving Tuesday Campaign by featuring testimonials from participants/family members of our various KRESA programs and services on KRESA social media and encouraging our followers to support the Foundation. Giving Tuesday is on Tuesday, December 3.

To date this school year, we have secured the following:

- \$60,000 in sponsorship dollars to support the Career Connect Campus (including commitments)
- \$25,000 in grants to support future TAG Awards and Foundation Scholarships

Community Engagement

Our Student & Community Outreach team has participated in 31 community events/convenings year-to-date to grow exposure and awareness of Career Connect courses and programs, with a particular goal to strategically fill all 1,440 seats at the Career Connect Campus in fall 2025. We'll also be walking in the Kalamazoo Holiday Parade on Saturday, November 23 with the Career Connect Discovery Lab as our main feature.

MiCareer Quest 2024

MiCareer Quest 2024 was a great success with 4,700 eighth grade students attending from 43 middle schools across Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Allegan and Cass counties. A total of 85 employers hosted career exploration booths. Giant thanks to 744 volunteers who helped make the event possible.

Save the Dates

A reminder to please mark your calendar for the following special events in the year ahead:

Career Connect Open House – December 3, 2024, | 5-7:30 PM @ the Air Zoo Outstanding Achievement Awards – April 30, 2025 | 7:15 - 10 AM @the Radisson Plaza Hotel Career Connect Campus Grand Op

VI. Superintendent Report – Dr. Dedrick Martin

Global Servers Network for Data Management Grant (MiCloud) - I'm happy to report that thanks to the efforts of Brian Schupbach, Mike Coats and the Tech Department, KRESA has just been awarded \$31,669,361. This funding is part of the \$101 million in grants awarded to districts around the state to consolidate tech services and improve efficiency, reduce costs and provide equitable access. The funds provided to KRESA will help to centralize cloud data hosting across the state. This centralized cloud hosting will provide a unified and secure cloud solution for all of Michigan's local school districts through the MiCloud initiative.

Preliminary CTE Center – Over the past few weeks our team has been busy updating previous communications that were shared with our local superintendents, high school principals, business

officials and counselors. Most of this information was shared about a year ago; however, some things needed to be updated and revised as we are quickly moving from concept to reality and student scheduling for the 25/26 school year at the high school level is quickly approaching. The chart below reflects updated projections of current vs projected enrollment targets as well as the potential net impact on funding the new center.

	Current Design		New Design		Difference
<u>District</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Center/Satellite Costs</u>	<u>Enrollment at 80% Minimum</u>	<u>Center Costs at 80% Minimum*</u>	<u>Change - (Increase) Decrease</u>
Climax	26	43,383	21	37,277	6,106
Comstock	44	147,073	67	120,257	26,816
Galesburg	28	78,816	34	60,511	18,305
Gull Lake	83	383,138	128	232,088	151,050
KPS	338	1,020,537	380	721,028	299,509
Parchment	32	133,229	60	107,491	25,738
Portage	204	677,715	323	606,900	70,815
Schoolcraft	56	197,361	38	67,916	129,445
Vicksburg	129	423,268	102	184,087	239,181

*assumes all other districts are 100% enrolled

Many concerns have been raised around the minimum enrollment projections of 80% that each of our districts would be responsible for. Given the enhanced number of programs available to the students, the CTE millage and various cost efficiencies once they are all under one roof, you can see that we will be able to service more students, with better programming options, at a cost that is currently less than what they are paying today.

KRESA Brand Refresh Update - As shared earlier this year, our Communications and Community Engagement Team has been leading a process to refresh KRESA’s brand positioning and identity. The goal is to increase awareness of KRESA and our impact by developing a consistent way of framing our work, both internally and with the broader community, while aligning with the Centers of Excellence. This process has included extensive community engagement with internal surveys, work group sessions, targeted interviews and a community survey that has resulted in over 230 community members providing input through the process.

As a result, we have developed the following brand positioning update:

	KRESA Status Quo	KRESA Brand Refresh
Vision	To transform lives by inspiring educational excellence	A transformative, equitable, and innovative education for all in the Greater Kalamazoo region
Mission	Provide a continuum of educational services and support to students, families, school districts, and communities.	We deliver transformative, equitable and innovative programs, and specialized services that empower learners, families and schools to thrive in a rapidly changing world.
Tagline	Inspiring Educational Excellence Cradle to Career	Transforming Futures
Core Values	We work together – Collaboration We find a better way – Innovation We lead with heart – Compassion We act with integrity - Trustworthy We value all people - Respect	We work together – Collaboration We find a better way – Innovation We lead with heart – Compassion We maintain trust - Integrity We value all people - Respect
Delivery Model	Centers of Excellence	Centers of Excellence

The Communications team will be introducing an updated KRESA logo in the weeks ahead as well as logos for each of the 5 Centers of Excellence and the KRESA Foundation. This refresh will help ensure we have a consistent and visible presentation of our brand, programs and services. We will do an external roll out in early 2025 beginning with the 2023-24 annual report.

VII. Thrun Law Notes

A. Correspondence/Informational

VIII. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

A. Approval of Annual Audit Report

Dr. Myers moved, Mr. Webster supported the approval of the annual audit report.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Contractor’s Employee Approval

Mr. VanAntwerp moved, Ms. Cowart supported the approval of hiring of contractor’s employee.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of Annual Summer Tax resolution 2025 (Roll Call Vote).

Ms. Cowart moved, Dr. Myers supported the approval of the Annual Summer Tax resolution 2025.

Dave Webster – yes, Delores Myers - yes, Randy VanAntwerp – yes, Lynne Cowart – yes, Skip Knowles - yes

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Superintendent requests that the Board of Education adjourn into closed session to review and discuss attorney/client privileged information.

Ms. Cowart moved, Mr. Webster supported the adjourning into closed session to review and discuss attorney / client privileged information at 6:44 pm.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Webster moved, Ms. Cowart supported the motion to move into open session at 7:54 pm.

Motion carried unanimously.

IX.ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Cowart
Board Secretary

Jackie Martell
Recording Secretary

Minutes
Approved on _____