

The Kent ISD School Board met for its regular meeting at the Kent Conference Center on Monday, September 21, 2026. President Hamming called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Drake, Featherston, Schottke, Haidle, Hamming.
Member Absent:

Kent ISD Staff Present: Superintendent Gorman, Assistant Superintendents Finkel, Philipps, Rodgers, Myers; Directors Arnold, Baine, Behm, Bray, Campbell, Burns, Graham, Hendry, Hisson, Hofstee, Houtman, Karsten, Larkin, Lienesch, Lillis, Maynard, McClintic, Moore, Murphy, Sneider, Verwey; Recording Secretary Lovell;

Staff Members: Bill Holland, Joy Walczak, Jacob Bandstra, Cinnamon Mellema, Jennifer Kolhoff

Guests: Jared Gauss (Owen Ames Kimball), Cindy Patin (Lily's Frog Pad), Sarah Read, Emma Read

President Hamming welcomed staff and visitors and requested approval of the Board agenda.

Upon Motion by Member Featherston, supported by Member Hamming, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

Ayes: Featherston, Schottke, Haidle, Drake, Hamming
Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

President Hamming turned the meeting over to Director Hendry to present the Leading Learning Award to Bill Holland. Assistant Superintendent Finkel shared words of appreciation.

Mr. Ron Houtman presented an update on Kent ISD's LEAD 2.0 Strategic Plan, highlighting accomplishments to date and outlining next steps for the upcoming strategic planning process. Members Featherston and Haidle thanked Mr. Houtman for his work. Board members discussed their role in the strategic planning process, including opportunities to provide input and help shape the organization's future direction.

Upon motion by Member Schottke, supported by Member Featherston, it was resolved to combine and approve the consent agenda items E.1-E.11.

Ayes: Schottke, Haidle, Drake, Featherston, Hamming
Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Haidle, supported by Member Schottke, it was resolved to approve the special education distribution of Act 18 in the amount of \$25 million to local districts.

Ayes: Haidle, Drake, Featherston, Schottke, Hamming

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Featherston, supported by Member Drake, it was resolved to approve the memo of Understanding between Kent ISD and Grand Valley State University for the tuition payments associated with the West Michigan Teacher Collaborative.

Ayes: Drake, Featherston, Schottke, Haidle, Hamming

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Schottke, supported by Member Hamming, it was resolved to approve the bid from Veneklasen Construction for the pre-engineered metal building.

Ayes: Featherston, Schottke, Haidle, Drake, Hamming

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Haidle, supported by Member Featherston, it was resolved to approve Kent ISD Administration to phase out the Great Start to Quality program by reducing 7.0 FTE of the program's 8.0 FTE positions via layoffs, with employment ending on October 30, 2026.

Ayes: Schottke, Haidle, Drake, Featherston, Hamming

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Featherston, supported by Member Drake, it was resolved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding established between Kent ISD and local colleges and universities to grow Early Middle College and CTE Dual Enrollment offerings for students throughout Kent County.

Ayes: Haidle, Drake, Featherston, Schottke, Hamming

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Haidle, supported by Member Featherston, it was resolved to approve the partnerships in CTE regional programming with the educational institutions listed in the board packet.

Ayes: Drake, Featherston, Haidle, Hamming

Nays: None

Abstain: Schottke

Motion declared to have carried.

President Hamming offered the opportunity for public comment.

Ms. Cindy Patin from Lily's Frog Pag shared public comment expressing concerns about the demolition of the buildings at the Howard Christensen Nature Center.

Member Haidle expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend the NSBA Advocacy Institute and encouraged fellow Board members to attend the upcoming KIASB Fall Presentation. She also thanked SNN for its continued coverage and articles.

Superintendent Gorman thanked Ron Houtman for his comprehensive strategic plan presentation and thanked the entire Kent ISD team for their outstanding work. Dr. Gorman recognized the Facilities and Grounds teams for maintaining clean, welcoming facilities and for their positive attitudes. He also acknowledged Cinnamon Mellema and expressed his appreciation for the strong, collaborative relationship Kent ISD maintains with its union representatives.

President Hamming adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

Minutes approved on October 19, 2026

Anne Hamming, President

Laura Featherston, Secretary