KALAMAZOO RESA | Transforming Futures

Board of Education
October 20, 2026 – 5:30 PM
Conference Room H
1819 East Milham Avenue
Portage, Michigan 49002
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mr. Virgil "Skip" Knowles, Mr. David Webster, Mr. James Devers, Mr. Randy VanAntwerp
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Ms. Lynne Cowart
ADMINISTRATION/STAFF:	Dr. Dedrick Martin, Ms. Mindy Miller, Mr. Eric Stewart, Ms. Sarah Mansberger, Mr. Brian Schupbach, Ms. Stephanie Brown, Ms. Paige Daniels, Mr. Scott Thomas, Ms. Angela Telfer, Ms. Rachel Roberts, Ms. Meredith Lewis, Ms. Sandy Barry-Loken, Mr. Michael Holmes, Ms. Michelle Triemstra, Mr. Garrett Meade and Ms. Jackie Martell

OTHERS PRESENT:

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – September 15, 2026
B. Approval of New Hire
C. Approval of Monthly Financial Report
D. Approval of Head Start Financial Report
E. Approval of September PAC meeting minutes
F. Approval of 2027- 2028 More Common Calendar

Mr. Webster moved; Mr. Devers supported approving the consent agenda.
Motion carried unanimously.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

A. MiTeach Continuous Improvement Update – Michael Holmes & Michelle Triemstra
MiTech Continuous Improvement update was presented to the Board of Education.

B. Operations Continuous Improvement Update – Garrett Meade
Operations Continuous Improvement update was presented to the Board of Education.

V. CENTER OF EXCELLENCE UPDATE

A. Early Childhood Update –Rachel Roberts
The Governing Body's Monthly Report for ongoing monitoring in accordance with the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) were attached to the board agenda.

B. Special Education Update –Angela Telfer
Each year the Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education (MDE-OSE) issues determinations, which are ratings of performance on special education compliance and special education outcomes (ratings include all school districts in the county as well as KRESA programs as a whole). Our county has struggled to meet the state targets in several areas for some time, and we have worked with the MDE-OSE to put proactive practices in place to improve our scores for the last few years.

After being placed in the "Needs Intervention" category for the 5th year this year, we have developed a new system of support, called, "Differentiated Framework of Supports," which is designed to provide targeted assistance to districts where they need it most. Each district receives its district determination rating from our special education technical assistance department, which drives the types of support KRESA and the Regional Director of Special Education will provide to the district in the 26-27 school year. This has been presented to local superintendents at their meeting (2 meetings this year) to inform them of the need for improvement and ask for their support in improving our special education compliance and outcomes for students.

While we have been providing assistance in a variety of ways over the years, we are hoping that the added clarity of what we expect districts to do, how they will receive support, and accountability through the submission of data, will significantly move our determinations scores in a more positive direction. "Differentiated Framework of Supports" for was attached for review.

C. Career Connect Update – Eric Stewart, Sarah Mansberger & Paige Daniels
Career Connect Advisories
This month, Career Connect is hosting its first series of advisory meetings for the school year. These meetings provide an opportunity for staff to engage directly with business and industry partners and gain valuable insights into the current and emerging needs of local employers. As advisors, our partners help shape curriculum, provide guidance on equipment and technology, and offer valuable

feedback to our instructional teams. Career Connect currently convenes 14 advisory committees three times each year, bringing together 192 business and industry partners. We also provide technical support to several local district advisory groups, extending the impact of these partnerships across our region. Staying aligned with local business needs and trends is critical to our students' long-term success, and we thank our advisors for providing this support.

Career Connect Superstar
We recently honored Executive Assistant of Career Connect, LeAnne Perkowski, with the Superstar award. LeAnne's work with summer camps, interviews, purchasing, Early/Middle College supports, Education for the Arts grants, staff onboarding and training, and front desk coverage were listed as reasons for her nomination by Sarah Mansberger.

Conference Travel
Sarah Mansberger will be traveling to Seattle, WA to present at the A4LE conference November 4-7, 2026.

D. Educator Supports Update –Stephanie Brown
The ELA team has had a meaningful start to the year, grounded in the belief that every educator has a role to play in supporting all students. Literacy coaches are working across the county and beyond to help educators build a shared understanding of Michigan's K–12 Literacy and Dyslexia Law by unpacking the legislation, clarifying key terms and expectations, and connecting that language to everyday instruction. Literacy coaches are also deepening their own expertise through the State's Dyslexia Network, so they can bring informed, meaningful support back to local classrooms and help every educator build an understanding of dyslexia and evidence-informed practices.

The K-12 Literacy and Dyslexia Law website houses all Michigan's specific dyslexia guidance and is continually being updated with the most current information.

Michigan's Dyslexia Handbook: A Guide Accelerating Learner Outcomes in Literacy provides educators with research, background knowledge, and classroom applications to support students who experience reading difficulties.
In addition to this work, the ELA team delivered, and will continue delivering, professional learning to support districts with back-to-school planning and engagement, including structured literacy practices. These sessions help teachers put strong foundational skills needed to be a reader into practice. Looking ahead, we're excited to bring Dyslexia 101 sessions to both our elementary and secondary educators in an effort to support our Kalamazoo County students. English Language Arts Professional Learning Catalog

E. Operational Supports Update

1. Business Services Update – Scott Thomas

No report this month.

2. Communications & Community Engagement – Sandy Barry-Loken

MiCareerQuest 2026

As a reminder, MiCareerQuest Southwest 2026 will be held on October 21-22, 10 am–1 pm at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center. MiCareerQuest is an interactive, hands-on career exploration event for 8th-grade students in southwestern Michigan to discover high-demand careers through engagement with local professionals and employers. Students participate in activities that let them use the tools and technology of various jobs in fields like healthcare, manufacturing, and information technology. More than 4,500 eighth-grade students are expected to be in attendance.

3. Human Resources Update – Meredith Lewis

2027 Health Insurance Benefit Proposal

The 2027 benefits recommendation has been finalized and is ready for board approval. Preparations are underway for the upcoming open enrollment period, which begins on November 5.

Consistent Attendance Incentive Recipients

Through our new Wellness Incentive Program, 322 employees earned one of three Consistent Attendance incentive tiers—an increase of 18% from the 271 recipients last year. The incentive recognizes eligible employees who supported our learners, families, and schools through dependable attendance, using 5.0 or fewer sick days between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026.

Union Negotiations

KRESA and KCTEA participated in a mediation session with a state-appointed mediator on September 21. The parties have not yet reached any agreement during mediation, and an additional mediation session will be scheduled on a mutually agreed upon date.

4. Technology & Operations Update – Brian Schupbach

We reviewed six RFP responses for construction management services for the new KRESA Transitional Services Building and the renovation of West Campus into an Early Childhood Center of Excellence. After narrowing the pool to four firms, we invited each to present in person so our team could further evaluate their qualifications and experience. Following the presentations and reference checks,

the team selected American Village Builders (AVB) based on a variety of factors including team qualifications, relevant experience, and competitive fee proposal. We recommend the Board approve moving forward with a contract with AVB for architectural engineering services.

VI.Superintendent Report – Dr. Dedrick Martin

Getting Around Our Community:

This past month was filled with community engagement and key meetings. Highlights included the NAACP and El Concilio fundraising dinners; the Career Connect team presenting at the Northside Ministerial Alliance meeting; a welcome luncheon for new Kalamazoo College President Dr. Karlyn Crowley; the DNA Learning Center meeting at WMU Medical School hosted by Dean Dr. Joseph A. Tyndall; the SWMF Education Council meeting hosted by Southwest Michigan First; and the Stryker Johnston Foundation's Public Education Leadership discussion. We also welcomed delegates from Flint Community Schools and their community foundation partners, as well as delegates from Goodwill International, including the CEO Mr. Steven Preston, for tours of the Career Connect Campus. Mr. Preston previously served as U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development during the Bush administration.

KCSOA Dinner:

A friendly reminder that our first KCSOA dinner is tomorrow, October 21, at 5:00 p.m. at the Fetzer Center. We are trying a new format and look forward to presentations from three local districts—KPS, Comstock, and Vicksburg. Each district will have 10 minutes to highlight the remarkable things happening in its school community. I look forward to seeing everyone at dinner.

VII. Thrun Law Notes

A.Correspondence/Informational

VIII. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

A. Approval of 2027 Employee Health Insurance Premium to comply with PA 152 as permitted by law.

Mr. VanAntwerp moved, Mr. Devers supported the approval of 2027 Employee Health Insurance Premium to comply with PA 152 as permitted by law.
Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approve the selection of AVB for construction management services for the new KRESA Transition Services building and the Early Childhood Center renovation projects contingent upon a final negotiated contract.

Mr. Webster moved, Ms.Cowart supported the approval of the selection of AVB for construction management services for the new KRESA Transition Services building and the Early Childhood Center renovation projects contingent upon a final negotiated contract.
Motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of the request to purchase a black and white copier for the KRESA Print Center

Mr. VanAntwerp moved, Mr. Webster supported the approval of the the request to purchase a black and white copier for the KRESA Print Center**.**
Motion carried unanimously.

D. Approve the June 10, 2026 Thrun Policy Update

Mr. Webster moved, Mr. VanAntwerp supported the approval June 10, 2026 Thrun Policy Update.
Motion carried unanimously.

E. Approve to impose the months of November, December, January, February on the Board's proposed 10-month and 11-month CTE calendars.

Mr. VanAntwerp moved, Mr. Devers supported the approval to impose the months of November, December, January, February on the Board's proposed 10-month and 11-month CTE calendars.
Motion carried unanimously.

F. Approve conference travel for Sarah Mansberger to Seattle, WA to present at the A4LE conference.

Mr. Webster moved, Mr. Devers supported the approval of conference travel for Sarah Mansberger to Seattle, WA to present at the A4LE conference.
Motion carried unanimously.

G. Approval of Michigan Works! Southwest Workforce Development Board Procurement and Property Management Policy, as presented (see attachment), to be utilized for WIOA Youth Services, Young Professionals, Young Professionals Plu and Jobs for Michigan's Graduates.

Mr. Devers moved, Mr. VanAntwerp supported the approval of Michigan Works! Southwest Workforce Development Board Procurement and Property Management Policy, as presented (see attachment), to be utilized for WIOA Youth Services, Young Professionals, Young Professionals Plu and Jobs for Michigan's Graduates.
Motion carried unanimously.

H. Superintendent requests that Board of Education adjourn into closed session to discuss personnel hearing.

Mr. VanAntwerp moved, Mr. Webster supported the request to adjourn into closed session.
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. VanAntwerp moved and Mr. Webster supported the recommendation presented to the Board of Education.
Motion carried unanimously.

IX.ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

_____ _____

Lynne Cowart
Board Secretary

Jackie Martell
Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved on

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Office of the Superintendent,
Dr. Dedrick Martin