

Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, April 16, 2026 6:00 PM Eastern

Shirley M. Rodgers Administration Bldg.  
Georgia Brown Board Room  
519 W. Kalamazoo  
Lansing, MI 48933

|                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Dr. Caitlin Cavanagh:        | Absent  |
| Dr. LaVonte Heard:           | Present |
| Ms. Aurora Lemieux-McKissic: | Present |
| Mr. Guillermo Lopez:         | Present |
| Mrs. Robin Moore:            | Absent  |
| Mr. Dan Nowiski:             | Present |
| Dr. Nino Rodriguez:          | Present |
| Mrs. Cirea Strobe:           | Present |
| Ms. Rosalyn Williams:        | Present |

Present: 7, Absent: 2.

6:30 PM Mrs. Robin Moore: Present

Present: 8, Absent: 1.

### **I. Opening Ceremonies:**

- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Reading of the District's Mission**
- **Land Acknowledgment**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Lopez

### **II. Roll Call**

Executive Team Present: Adams, Black, Keck, Sleight

Executive Team Absent:

Interim Superintendent Present: Benavides

Parliamentarian Present:

Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education Present: Fulce

### **III. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

There were no public comments on agenda items

### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

No corrections were suggested to the March 19, 2026 Regular Board Meeting and Informational Study Session. Minutes were approved as printed.

'I move to approve minutes as presented'. This motion, made by Ms. Rosalyn Williams and seconded by Dr. LaVonte Heard, Passed.

Dr. Caitlin Cavanagh: Absent, Mrs. Robin Moore: Absent, Dr. LaVonte Heard: Yea, Ms. Aurora Lemieux-McKissic: Yea, Mr. Guillermo Lopez: Yea, Mr. Dan Nowiski: Yea, Dr. Nino Rodriguez: Yea, Mrs. Cirea Strobe: Yea, Ms. Rosalyn Williams: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

## V. Presentations

### VI. Reports

#### VI.A. Officers

##### VI.A.1. Report from Secretary

Mrs. Strode provided the following report:

##### Invitations, Communications and Announcements

-April 29, 4:00-6:00 PM. FAFSA Support Event. Free food and refreshments. Raffle prizes and giveaways. Location: The Welcome Center, 2400 Pattengill Ave.

-April 30, 4:30—6:30 PM. Join us for a special evening as we share how Lansing is building strong readers through research-based literacy instruction and supporting families with tools to help students succeed. Location: Dr. Richard J. Halik Professional Development Center, 4200 Wainwright Ave. Registration is required. Ask your school for the link.

-April 30, 6:00 PM - Interim Superintendent Vision Discussion with the Community. Mt. Hope, 1810 Harding Ave.

-April 24 - No School

-May 8 - PD Day - No School

##### Next Board Meetings:

-April 23 - Regular Board Meeting and Informational Study Session

-May 7 - Regular Board Meeting

-May 14 - Regular Board Meeting (held only as needed).

#### VI.B. Committee

##### VI.B.1. Equity Committee

No report was provided

##### VI.B.2. Facilities Committee

No report was provided

##### VI.B.3. Finance Committee

Mr. Nowiski provided the following report:

The Finance Committee met on March 23, 2026.

The detailed Treasurer's report for the period of February 1, 2026 through February 28, 2026 is attached to this evening's agenda. The following are the highlights of the report.

The beginning cash and investment balance was \$58,758,266. Receipts totaled \$19,588,901 while disbursements equaled (\$18,939,614). Net interfund transfers totaled (\$297,717) in interest from fund investments to the student and bond funds as well as journal entries to remove the due to/due froms in all funds. The monthly transfer to the general fund for bond expenses was \$10,094,198.

The ending general fund cash and investment balance on January 31, 2026 was \$69,204,034.

Donation(s) received during the month of February 2026 totaled \$6,131.

'that the Board of Education approve the expenditures as presented for February 2026'. This motion, made by Mrs. Cirea Strode and seconded by Dr. Nino Rodriguez, Passed.

Dr. Caitlin Cavanagh: Absent, Mrs. Robin Moore: Absent, Dr. LaVonte Heard: Yea, Ms. Aurora Lemieux-McKissic: Yea, Mr. Guillermo Lopez: Yea, Mr. Dan Nowiski: Yea, Dr. Nino Rodriguez: Yea, Mrs. Cirea Strode: Yea, Ms. Rosalyn Williams: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

The upcoming Finance Committee will take place on April 27, 2026.

#### VI.B.4. Personnel Committee

Mr. Nowiski provided the following report:

The Personnel Committee Meeting met on April 13, 2026

The following information was shared:

-The Committee reviewed the monthly personnel reports, which provide oversight on current staffing changes and recent new hires.

-A revision was requested to the current reporting format. A new format will be implemented.

-The Committee is working on the revision of internal guidelines, staff handbook and broader policy updates.

Following a meeting with the attorney last month, the Committee is continuing to refine specific policies. There is currently no new update regarding the specific policy inquiry previously raised.

The upcoming Personnel Committee will take place on May 11, 2026.

'that the Board of Education approve new hires from February 2, 2026 to March 23, 2026 as presented'. This motion, made by Dr. Nino Rodriguez and seconded by Ms. Aurora Lemieux-McKissic, Passed.

Dr. Caitlin Cavanagh: Absent, Mrs. Robin Moore: Absent, Dr. LaVonte Heard: Yea, Ms. Aurora Lemieux-McKissic: Yea, Mr. Guillermo Lopez: Yea, Mr. Dan Nowiski: Yea, Dr. Nino Rodriguez: Yea, Mrs. Cirea Strode: Yea, Ms. Rosalyn Williams: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

#### VI.B.5. Policy Committee

Mrs. Strode provided the following report:

The Policy Committee hasn't convened since the Spring Break recess. Current activities are focused on coordinating schedules for the next session.

The Committee highlighted upcoming shifts in the regulatory landscape that will require immediate attention:

The Committee is awaiting a consultation with legal counsel to review these specific "Spring Updates." The meeting will be finalized once the attorney's schedule is confirmed.

#### VI.B.6. Recognition Ad Hoc Committee

Trustee Williams provided the following report:

The committee met on March 24, 2026

Board members Present: Dr Rodriguez, Ms. Williams and Ms. Lemieux-McKissic.

The committee discussed the Scoring Process. Feedback was provided.

The committee agreed that all scoring needs to be completed by April 28, 2026.

The Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education notified all committee members about the scoring deadline of April 28, 2026.

The next meeting has been confirmed for April 28, 2026 at Eastern High School Cafeteria.

#### VI.B.7. Student Achievement Committee

Dr. Rodriguez provided the following report:

The Student Achievement Committee met on April 13, 2026.

Board Members Present: Dr. Rodriguez

Staff members present: Interim Superintendent Benavides, Dr. Stalter and Mr. Fulce

The following items were discussed:

##### Focused on Achievement: How We Are Preparing Students for Success?

The district is focused and strategic in their support of students learning to the highest level. Here are a few of the things that have happened and some that are occurring now as the testing window has started.

-Schools are providing targeted supports for students such as small groups, mentoring, tutoring, and intervention.

-Staff are using data to identify and support students in real time.

-Daily exposure in classrooms for students to learn testing platforms and skills needed such as highlighting or underlining text during.

-Motivating students through daily conversations, school announcements, posters.

-Schools have intentional testing plans that ensure students have the preparation, space, and routines to allow students to shine.

-Schools are increasing parent engagement through multiple platforms and in-person conversations around student data and at-home strategies.

##### School Data

Interim Superintendent Benavides shared information about school data.

The system used by the District to monitor progress in school data was shared with the committee.

##### Strategic Plan Metrics (Student Achievement)

The committee stressed the need of having student achievement metrics in the strategic plan.

'that the Board of Education empowers the Student Achievement Committee to work with the Superintendent to collaborate on drafting specific language for a Student Achievement goal and bring it to the Board for approval'

Motion made by Dr. Heard and seconded by Ms. Williams

This motion wasn't voted on.

'that the Board of Education postpone the previous motion to the next meeting after the Student Achievement Committee Meeting'. This motion, made by Dr. Nino Rodriguez and seconded by Dr. LaVonte Heard, Passed.

Dr. Caitlin Cavanagh: Absent, Dr. LaVonte Heard: Yea, Ms. Aurora Lemieux-McKissic: Yea, Mrs. Robin Moore: Yea, Mr. Guillermo Lopez: Yea, Mr. Dan Nowiski: Yea, Dr. Nino Rodriguez: Yea, Mrs. Cirea Strode: Yea, Ms. Rosalyn Williams: Yea  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

#### VI.C. Superintendent

Interim Superintendent Benavides provided the following report:

##### Student Success

-Seal of Biliteracy: Over 30 students earned this state-recognized honor for multilingual proficiency.

-Student Leadership: Three students (Eastern and Sexton High) presented to the State Board of Education, earning accolades for their reflections on biliteracy.

##### Facilities & Bond Updates

-Groundbreaking: Celebrated the start of the Lewton project; Sheridan Road is next.

-Construction: Willow opens this fall; work continues at Mount Hope.

##### Community Engagement

-Student Voice: Engaged with the Lansing Empowerment Network.

##### Upcoming Events:

-April 30: Vision for the District presentation at Mount Hope (6:00 PM).

-May 12: African American Recognition Ceremony (6:30 PM).

#### VII. New Business

#### VIII. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

#### IX. Comments from the Board

Comments were shared by Board Members

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm by President Lopez