

**Board of Education
November 18, 2025 – 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, Mr. James Devers, Ms. Lynne Cowart, Mr. Randy VanAntwerp (6:20 pm)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF: Dr. Dedrick Martin, Ms. Mindy Miller, Mr. Scott Thomas, Mr. Brian Schupbach, Ms. Sarah Mansberger, Ms. Paige Daniels, Ms. Stephanie Brown, Ms. Angela Telfer, Ms. Meredith Lewis, Ms. Sandy Barry-Loken, Ms. Jackie Martell, Ms. Aubree Spencer, and Ms. Ti Lee

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Corey VanDyke

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Sarah Dickman made comments in regard to union concerns.
- B. Ben Bierlin made comments in regard to Career Connect Campus culture and climate.
- C. Jill Lansky made comments in regard to Great Start Collaborative..

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2025
- B. Approval of Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes – October 28, 2025
- C. Approval of New Hire
- D. Approval of New Position
- E. Approval of 2026-2027 More Common Calendar
- F. Approval of Monthly Financial Report
- G. Approval of Head Start Financial Report

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Plante Moran Annual Audit Report – Mr. Corey VanDyke
The Plante Moran Annual Audit Report was presented to the Board of Education.
- B. WoodsEdge Learning Center Continuous Improvement Update – Aubree Spencer & Angela Telfer
The WoodsEdge Learning Center Continuous Improvement Update was presented to the Board of Education.
- C. Autism Supports & Interventions Continuous Improvement Update – Ti Lee & Angela Telfer
The Autism Supports & Interventions Continuous Improvement Update was presented to the Board of Education.
- D. Bargaining Update Presentation – Meredith Lewis
An update to the bargaining agreement 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
The Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) is made up of 30 administrators, coordinators, and instructional coaches from the Special Education, Early Childhood, and Educator Support Centers of Excellence at Kalamazoo RESA. The team gathers monthly as a way for the instructional leaders to connect and build capacity collaboratively. The capacity building during this gathering is focused on building the systems and skills leaders need to support our ongoing continuous improvement efforts including improving school culture/climate, utilizing effective instructional practices, and improving student outcomes.
There will be two areas the ILT will be focused on for the 2025-26 school year and beyond: Instructional Rounds and Leading Inclusion & Students Engagement for All.
- **"The Harvard Model of Instructional Rounds"** are a research-based, systematic way for schools/districts to improve teaching, learning, and student outcomes. It is a concept taken from the medical field. It looks at classroom instruction in a focused, systematic, purposeful, and collective way and helps to provide data related to continuous improvement goals and strategies. Educator Supports has provided training for

Instructional Rounds county-wide over the past four years and WoodsEdge Learning Center will be hosting the county-wide group on November 17.

- **"Leading Inclusion and Student Engagement for All"** will be led by Engagement Specialists from Educator Supports: Kelli Bielang, CA Williams, and Jennifer Schmitendorff. They will be building capacity in leaders to support the effective implementation of evidence-based practices to create meaningful access to the learning environment for students. Additionally, they will address the mindsets and supports needed from leadership to address bias in the educational system. The goal is to help produce significant student outcomes to meet the needs of ALL learners.

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

- **Early Middle College Planning** – Career Connect leadership are collaborating with local districts to explore updates to the EMC funding model that will support long-term sustainability. An initial meeting with the EMC Superintendent Subcommittee has taken place, and additional updates will be shared as discussions progress.

- **CCC Award** - The KRESA Career Connect Campus has been named the 2025 Project of the Year by the Southwest Michigan Public Works Association. We will receive the award at a December banquet.

- **Work-Based Learning (WBL) Capstone** – Beginning in 2026-2027, we will launch the first in a series of capstone experiences for CTE students who have successfully completed a CTE course. The WBL Capstone is designed to deepen students' career readiness through internships aligned with their CTE pathway. Opportunities will focus on rotational experiences with multiple business partners. In addition to their internship placements, students will engage in on-campus sessions for reflection, skill-building, and ongoing support facilitated by CTE Work-Based Learning Coordinators and staff.

D. Educator Supports Update –Stephanie Brown

KRESA math consultants focus on ensuring all students have daily access to rich, grade-level mathematics, fostering problem-solving, critical thinking, collaboration, and meaningful discourse.

KRESA Vision for Mathematics Instruction in Kalamazoo County

High-quality mathematics instruction is student-centered, empowering students as thinkers and problem solvers, and positioning teachers as facilitators of meaningful learning. Through exploration, dialogue, and creativity, teachers guide students to develop deep understanding and apply mathematics authentically to the world around them.

What guides our work?

- What students need to know and do:
 - [Michigan Content and Practice Standards](#)
- What teachers need to know and do:
 - [Michigan's Essential Instructional Practices in Early Mathematics \(PK-5\)](#)
 - [NCTM's Effective Mathematics Teaching Practices \(K-12\)](#)
 - [Math Recovery Guiding Principles \(K-8\)](#)
 -

Professional development we provide at the county level

Throughout the year, the math team offers a robust menu of professional development opportunities, for both elementary and secondary educators and leaders, including:

- Variety of Math Recovery (Integrow Numeracy Solutions) courses
- Math Instructional Leaders Network
- BTC: A Transformative Approach to Teaching and Learning Mathematics
- Fostering Student Success Through Number Sense and Fluency

Services we provide at the district level

The math consultants provide a comprehensive menu of services—coaching, consulting, and professional development—designed to support collaboration with teachers and leaders. All districts in the county, as well as one out-of-county district, have contracted with Educator Supports for math services in the capacities above.

Continuing Our Growth

Math consultants are furthering their professional growth by engaging in conferences and institutes and attaining additional credentials to support their delivery of professional learning.

Through professional learning, coaching, and consulting, the Kalamazoo RESA Math Team empowers educators and students to realize our vision of equitable mathematical success for all PK–12 learners across the county.

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. 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 2026.

Corey from Plante Moran will be presenting our 2024-25 audited financial statements, which has been submitted to the Michigan Department of Education.

2. Technology & Operations Update – Brian Schupbach

- The playground remodeling projects at WoodsEdge and West Campus are complete.
- Construction of the CCC greenhouse is well underway. Structure is up and enclosed.
- Plumbing and electrical work is about 80% complete. We hope to complete construction by the end of this month.
- The Informacast emergency notification system is now active at the Career Connect Campus. Staff are trained to handle alerts, which trigger building pages, text messages, email notifications, and display messages on staff devices and clocks.

VI. Superintendent Report – Dr. Dedrick Martin

31aa Litigation: Funding for school safety and mental health supports

Last Wednesday, 36 Independent School Districts (ISDs) and local school districts from various regions collectively sought Declaratory and Injunctive Relief in both state and federal courts. This legal action challenges the constitutionality of the newly enacted Section 31aa(9) of the School Aid Act, 2025 PA 15. The main issue revolves around the law's unconstitutionally vague language, which mandates schools to relinquish attorney-client privileges under broadly defined circumstances of mass casualties to secure essential funding for school safety, as provided in recent years. While the intent of Section 31aa may have been to address tragic incidents like the one in Oxford, its extremely broad and ambiguous language could potentially encompass events such as concussions during sporting events or injuries from bus accidents. The law fails to offer clear guidance on which legal privileges school officials would be forfeiting, the specific conditions under which this would occur, and the duration for which these privileges would be waived.

House Bill 5044: Requires schools to allow personalized medical services during the school day

If this current bill passes, it would mandate that by July 1, 2026, all school districts, ISDs, and PSAs must have a policy allowing students to receive medically necessary treatments at school. These treatments must be prescribed or recommended by a licensed health care specialist. The scope of this bill would include medical devices, person-implemented treatments like applied behavior analysis, and other therapeutic interventions for conditions such as mental health disorders and autism spectrum disorders. This bill would also allow specialists to observe and treat students during the school day while collaborating with school staff. Parents must be informed of their right to appeal school board decisions regarding treatment access.

While sounds great in some aspects, if passed in will create significant operational challenges for staff to meet required IEP needs as outside providers can commandeer up to 40 hours of services per week during school time. Additionally, this expansive bill as written could further complicate a teachers ability to provide appropriate services to all students if outside providers are demanding changes for one child that may not be possible without potentially impacting the needed services for other students within a given classroom environment.

campaign.

VII. Thrun Law Notes

A. Correspondence/Informational

VIII. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

A. Approval of Annual Audit Report.

Ms. Cowart moved, Mr. Devers supported the approval of the annual audit report.
Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Annual Summer Tax Resolution 2026.

Mr. Webster moved, Ms. Cowart supported the approval of the annual summer tax resolution 2026.
Motion carried unanimously.

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Cowart
Board Secretary

Jackie Martell
Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved on