

Minutes of Board of Education Regular Meeting
The Board of Trustees
Gull Lake Community Schools

A Board of Education Regular Meeting of the Gull Lake Community Schools was held on the 17th day of November 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Thomas M. Ryan Intermediate Media Center, Richland, Michigan.

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Roll Call

A. Present

Mini Paulose-Murphy, Carole Mendez, Laura Zervic, John McCann, Krystal Scott-Rhodes, Eddie Keene, Desiree LaDuke

B. Absent

None

C. Staff Members

Superintendent Christopher Rundle, Deputy Superintendent Lisa Anderson, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instructional Technology Drew Bordner, and Recording Secretary Danelle Wheeler

D. Guests Present

Amanda McElroy, Kari Blanchett, Rob Woodrow, Suzy Barrett, Anna Peters, Michelle Jaros, Danielle Buckmaster, Courtney Boyce, Bobbi Jo Stoner, Tia Vacha, Betsy Springer

4. Communications/Public Comments

A. Public Comments

Tia Vacha – Teacher & GLEA President: Addressed the Board to highlight happenings around the District. She noted that Kellogg Elementary recently hosted a “very vintage” performance for 1st and 2nd graders, while Richland Elementary kindergarten classes are celebrating Native American and Pilgrim Day. She also shared that GLMS is conducting its penny wars in support of the Community Volunteers. The State Budget has been passed and the GLEA is proceeding with its bargaining process.

B. Superintendent Comments

Deferred comments until later in the agenda

C. Deputy Superintendent Comments

No comments

D. Assistant Superintendent Comments

Assistant Superintendent Bordner stated that November is designated as National Military Family Appreciation Month, a time to honor the sacrifices, commitment, and resilience of military families who support our nation’s service members.

E. Board President Comments

President Mendez reported on last month’s KCSOA meeting, which included a presentation by Dan Jaqua of Jaqua Realtors regarding development trends in the greater Kalamazoo area. Current projections indicate that the community does not have sufficient housing to meet demand. As additional housing is developed in the region, the

District can expect corresponding enrollment impacts. The District has already experienced 49.5% growth, with an additional 18% projected, and continues planning accordingly. The Board President also noted that this evening's agenda includes a presentation from PFM Financial Advisors to discuss upcoming bond work.

5. Consent Agenda

- A. Board Minutes:** October 20, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes and October 24, 2025 Special and Closed Meeting Minutes
- B. Budget Report:** October 2025 Budget Report
- C. Accounts Payable Report:** October 2025 Accounts Payable Report
- D. New Hire:** John Hirsch – Richland Elementary Intervention Specialist
- E. Resignations:** Brad Glessner – Building & Grounds Supervisor; Diana Kwiatkowski – GLHS Counselor
- F. Retirements:** Karl Anderson – GLHS Math Teacher; Lori Launder – Ryan Intermediate 5th Grade Teacher

It was moved by Treasurer Zervic and supported by Trustee Scott-Rhodes to approve the Consent Agenda, including acknowledgment of the resignations and retirements with gratitude and regret. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Presentations & Reports

A. PFM Financial Advisors, LLC – Financial Presentation

Deputy Superintendent Anderson introduced Kari Blanchett of PFM Financial Advisors, who provided a comprehensive presentation on the District's bonded debt and future growth planning. The presentation included an overview of capital financing options, a comparison of permitted uses for Sinking Funds versus Bonds, and information regarding voted school bonds. Ms. Blanchett also reviewed the District's existing debt and projected debt millage and presented a summary of potential bond options. In addition, she outlined considerations for potential 2026 and 2027 election timelines and associated lead times. The Board expressed appreciation for the informative presentation.

B. MASB Annual Conference Report

Trustee Scott-Rhodes presented her report on the MASB Annual Conference. She noted that she attended the conference last month and wished to update the Board on key objectives and activities. The first objective—participation in the Annual Delegate Assembly—was accomplished, with 220 delegates representing 56 counties. She emphasized that MASB continues to serve as an important collective voice for school boards across the state. Trustee Scott-Rhodes also highlighted discussions related to the resolutions included in the Consent Agenda, as well as the valuable opportunities to network with representatives from other districts.

The second objective involved attending the general conference sessions, held Thursday through Sunday, which offered a variety of training opportunities. The third objective focused on board member certification and training; Trustee Scott-Rhodes reported that she completed four classes toward her continuing education.

C. Bond Update

Trustee McCann reported that a lot of the work is nearing completion; the work took place at GLMS, Kellogg, Bedford, Maintenance, and the GLCFA. The Sinking Fund projects are complete except for the Ryan Intermediate skylight replacement, which is

scheduled for next summer.

D. Board of Education Community Relations Committee

The Committee will meet on Thursday.

E. Board of Education Curriculum Committee

The Committee met and discussed the K-5 District Improvement Plans & Vision with the building principals and reviewed the Technology Purchase for GLMS that will be addressed under New Business. The Committee also received an update on the Starbase program, thank you to Assistant Superintendent Bordner and Principal Woodrow for visiting the base.

F. Board of Education Facilities Committee

The Committee met and discussed 1) Facility Planning; 2) Filter First Quote for removal of bubblers at Kellogg & Ryan; 3) Environmental Club Requests; 4) Director of Building & Grounds Update

G. Board of Education Finance Committee

The Committee received an overview of the Food Service Excess Fund Balance with Josh Reames. The Student Information System from Skyward will be addressed under New Business. The Committee also reviewed student enrollment figures.

The Committee discussed 31aa funding and determined that the district will not accept these funds. Sub Pay Rates were reviewed, with the topic also discussed at the Personnel Committee. The Committee received the monthly budget report.

H. Board of Education Negotiations/Personnel Committee

The Committee met and entered a Closed Session for Collective Bargaining discussions. The Superintendent's mid-year evaluation materials have been provided to the Board, with responses requested by December 1st. The Committee reviewed the Sub Pay Rates, noting that no adjustments have been made for the past three years, and provided a recommendation to Administration. The Committee also received a transportation update, reviewed salary/wage information for all staff, and open staffing positions.

I. Board of Education Policy Committee

The Committee met and discussed policy updates that will be presented under New Business. The Committee also reviewed Board Policies 2201 and 2203 along with the Board of Education Trustee Handbook and Code of Conduct.

7. Old Business – none

8. New Business

A. Technology Purchase

Assistant Superintendent Bordner presented the Technology Purchase to the Committee, outlining the purchase of 28 HP ZBook x16 devices at a total cost of \$35,818.16 using Technology Bond funds.

It was moved by Secretary Paulose-Murphy, on behalf of the Curriculum Committee, to approve the Technology Purchase as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Student Information System – Skyward

Assistant Superintendent Bordner presented the Skyward Student Information System to the Board with a brief overview. The total cost of the Skyward Student Information System is \$290,394 over a five-year period.

It was moved by Treasurer Zervic, on behalf of the Finance Committee, to approve the

Skyward Student Information System as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Policy 3118 Title IX Sexual Harassment

Vice President LaDuke presented Policy 3118 Title IX Sexual Harassment with a brief overview to the Board.

It was moved by Vice President LaDuke, on behalf of the Policy Committee, to approve Policy 3118 Title IX Sexual Harassment as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Policy 4113 Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA)

E. 4113-F-1 Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) Form

F. 4113-F-2 Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) Leave Request Checklist

Vice President LaDuke presented Policy 4113 Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA), 4113-F-1 Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) Form, and 4113-F-2 Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) Leave Request Checklist to the Board with a brief overview.

It was moved by Vice President LaDuke, on behalf of the Policy Committee, to approve Policy 4113, 4113-F-1, and 4113-F-2 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business President Mendez adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

President Carole Mendez

Secretary Mini Paulose-Murphy

Minutes approved: _____