

The Kent ISD School Board held a regular meeting at the Kent Conference Center on Monday, September 15, 2025. President Haidle called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Drake, Hamming, Featherston, Haidle

Member Absent:

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

Staff Members: Cinnamon Mellema, Kathern O'Hara Wallis, Elissa Talsma, Garrett Burgett

President Haidle welcomed attendees and turned the meeting over to Director Arnold to honor Elissa Talsma with the Leading Learning Award.

Upon motion of Member Featherston, supported by Member Hamming, it was resolved to combine and approve the consent agenda action items D.1-D.6.

Ayes: Hamming, Featherston, Haidle

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Hamming, supported by Member Featherston, it was resolved to approve the Letter of Agreement amending the existing collective bargaining agreement for Kent ISD Interpreters.

Ayes: Featherston, Hamming, Haidle

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Featherston, supported by Member Hamming, it was resolved to approve Kent ISD Administration to reduce up to 4.0 FTE from the Bright Beginnings program at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year.

Ayes: Featherston, Haidle

Nays: Hamming

Abstained: Drake

Motion failed

Member Drake joined the meeting 4:10 pm.

Upon motion of Member Hamming, supported by Member Featherston, it was resolved to approve Kent ISD Administration to discontinue the KCTC Career Navigation team at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year.

Ayes: Hamming, Featherston, Drake, Haidle

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Featherston, supported by Member Hamming, it was resolved to approve the initial payment of Special Education Act 18 funds.

Ayes: Featherston, Drake, Hamming, Haidle

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Drake, supported by Member Hamming, it was resolved to adopt the resolution to honor Mr. Matt Rettig for his service as a Kent ISD School Board Member.

Ayes: Drake, Hamming, Featherston, Haidle

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

President Haidle provided the opportunity for public comment. No public comments were given.

Member Hamming shared that the upcoming School Board Finance Bootcamp session will be held on Tuesday, September 30 at the Kent Conference Center. If members are interested in attending, registration is still open.

Superintendent Gorman outlined the evaluation timeline for 2025-2026 school year. His yearly goals will be presented to the Board in October, followed by a midyear progress review in December, an informal update in February, and the final evaluation to take place in April.

Dr. Gorman shared that Kent ISD is exploring the possibility of establishing a satellite Career and Technical Education (CTE) site at the former Dutton Elementary School in Caledonia. This potential location would allow us to offer additional CTE classes and provide greater access for students across the county. Additional input from board members, staff, and the community will be sought before any decisions are made.

Mr Dan Behm provided a legislative update and shared the current status of the state budget. School districts are currently discussing contingency plans should the state government shut down due to the lack of a state budget passing prior to October 1.

President Haidle adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes approved on October 20, 2025

Andrea Haidle, President

David Drake, Secretary