

The Kent ISD School Board held a regular meeting at the Kent Conference Center on Monday, March 16, 2026. President Haidle called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Drake, Hamming, Featherston, Schottke, Haidle.

Member Absent:

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

Staff Members: Tom Guikema, Allie Hamel, Kathryn O'Hara Wallis, Joanne Boorsma, Sabrina Ricardo, Jacob Bandstra, Todd Jones, Sabrina Ricardo.

Guests: Andrea Donovan, Hannah Werth, Lisa Pletcher-Vetter, Maddie Rhoades, Mary Breder, Tina Ratcliff, Ana Aleman-Putman, Angela Boyer, Leigh Ann Hoffman, Beth Ann DeLaet, Rebecca Chronowski, Sara Cinadr, Vickie Finkler, John Kozal, Cindy Patin, Hollin De La Cruz, Jennifer Clary, Jenny Nielsen.

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President Haidle welcomed visitors and provided the opportunity for public comment. The following individuals shared comments regarding the elimination of the English Learner Coaching position: Ms. Andrea Donovan, Ms. Hannah Werth, Ms. Lisa Pletcher-Vetter, Ms. Maddie Rhoades, Ms. Mary Breder, Ms. Tina Ratcliff, Ms. Ana Aleman Putman, Ms. Angela Boyer, Ms. Leigh Ann Hoffman, Ms. Beth Ann DeLaet, Ms. Rebecca Chronowski, and Ms. Sara Cinadr

On behalf of the Lily Frog Pad organization, the following individuals shared comments regarding the sale of the Howard Christensen Nature Center to the Land Conservancy of West Michigan: Ms. Vicki Finkler, Mr. John Kozal, and Ms. Cindy Patin.

Director Hendry honored Ms. Allie Hamel and Mr. Tom Guikema with the March Leading Learning Awards. Supervisors had the opportunity to share words of appreciation.

Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Kirsten Myers, Alissa Hofstee, Toni Moore, and Heather Sneider presented an overview of the Student Services strategic plan and future direction of the programs. President Haidle expressed appreciation to the Student Services team for their work.

Upon motion of Member Hamming, seconded by Member Featherston, it was resolved to combine and approve the consent agenda items D.1-D.20, except for D.13, and to move D.13 to a separate action item as agenda item E.

Ayes: Drake, Featherston, Schottke, Hamming, Haidle

Nays: None

***Motion declared to have carried.***

Upon motion by Member Drake, supported by Member Hamming, it was resolved to approve Kent ISD Administration to discontinue the EL Coach position in the Student Services Department.

Superintendent Gorman shared that the expiration of both state and federal grant funding has impacted several positions throughout the organization. Assistant Superintendent Myers and Director Larkin provided an overview of how this work will continue to be supported moving forward. Member Schottke affirmed the commitment to ensuring continued support for English Learner students across Kent County.

Ayes: Featherston, Schottke, Hamming, Drake, Haidle

Nays: None

***Motion declared to have carried.***

Upon motion of Member Featherston, supported by Member Schottke, it was resolved to approve Progressive Companies for their architectural services for the KCTC satellite campus.

Ayes: Schottke, Hamming, Drake, Featherston, Haidle

Nays: None

***Motion declared to have carried.***

Upon motion of Member Hamming, supported by Member Drake, it was resolved to approve the purchase agreement for the Howard Christensen Nature Center. Superintendent Gorman shared the feedback he has received from the local superintendents regarding the declining use of the property. Representatives from the Land Conservancy shared that they will continue to maintain the trails for the exercise and enjoyment of community members.

Ayes: Hamming, Drake, Schottke, Haidle

Nays: Featherston

***Motion declared to have carried.***

Member Hamming shared that the Kent Intermediate Association of Schools Boards Legislative dinner will be held this Thursday, March 19, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The meal will be prepared by KCTC culinary students.

Member Schottke thanked the audience for sharing their thoughts during public comment.

President Haidle adjourned the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

Minutes approved on April 20, 2026

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Andrea Haidle, President

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David Drake, Secretary