

The Kent ISD School Board held a regular meeting at the Kent Conference Center on Monday, January 12, 2026. President Hidle called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Drake, Hamming, Featherston, Hidle.

Member Absent: Schottke

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

Director Danielle Hendry presented the Leading Learning awards on behalf of Dan Bolthouse and Emily Baxter, who were unable to attend the meeting. Director Russell Bray shared a few words of appreciation for Dan Bolthouse.

Alissa Hofstee, Director of ESCE and Integrated Supports, and Ashley Karsten, Director of Early Childhood, provided an overview of Kent ISD's Early Childhood programs, highlighting the benefits and positive outcomes for students in Kent County. Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

Upon motion of Member Featherston, supported by Member Drake, it was resolved to combine and approve action items D.1-D.7.

Ayes: Hamming Featherston, Drake, Hidle

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Hamming, supported by Member Featherston, it was resolved to approve the change order for the ESC renovation project.

Ayes: Featherston, Drake, Hamming, Hidle

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Drake, supported by Member Hamming, it was resolved to approve the WAN Refresh project with revised e-rate eligibility reimbursements.

Ayes: Drake, Hamming, Featherston, Hidle

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Featherston, supported by Member Drake, it was resolved to approve the purchase agreement for Dutton Elementary site.

Ayes: Hamming, Featherston, Drake, Hidle

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

President Hidle offered the opportunity for public comment. No comments were given.

President Hidle shared that the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) is in search of representation for the Executive Board of Directors. If any board member is interested applying, the deadline is January 14.

Superintendent Gorman thanked Ashley Karsten and Alissa Hofstee for their comprehensive presentation on Kent ISD's early childhood programs. He also expressed appreciation to the Board for approving the purchase of the Dutton Elementary satellite site, noting that this acquisition will significantly expand Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities for students across Kent County. Superintendent Gorman additionally recognized School Board Appreciation Month and thanked Board members for their continued leadership and support.

President Hidle adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

Minutes approved on February 16, 2026

Andrea Hidle, President

David Drake, Secretary

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