



East Lansing Board of Education

509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823

Items of Information
January 26, 2026 - 7:00 PM
MacDonald Middle School Auditorium
1601 Burcham Dr
East Lansing, MI 48823

Agenda

I. Future Action

A. Religious and Cultural Calendar 2026 -2029





Religious and Cultural Calendar

East Lansing Public Schools are committed to honoring the rich cultural diversity of our students and community. The school calendar, adopted by the Board of Education, reflects this commitment. The dates listed below highlight major holidays observed by various religious and cultural groups in our district.

Whenever possible, administrators, teachers, coaches, and event planners will be mindful of these dates when scheduling activities. This includes major exams, exam reviews, tryouts, and significant events such as prom, graduations, banquets, and student elections.

If you would like a date or celebration considered for future inclusion, please contact the Superintendent’s Office at 517-333-7424.

Holiday		2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Muharram	Muslim	June 16, 2026	June 6, 2027	May 25, 2028
Krishna Janmashtami	Hindu	September 4, 2026	August 25, 2027	August 13, 2028
Rosh Hashanah	Jewish	September 11 – September 13, 2026	October 1 – October 3, 2027	September 20 – September 22, 2028
Yom Kippur	Jewish	September 20 – September 21, 2026	October 10 – October 11, 2027	September 29 – September 30, 2028
Shardiya Navaratri	Hindu	October 11 – October 20, 2026	September 30 – October 9, 2027	September 19 – September 28, 2028
Dussehra	Hindu	October 20, 2026	October 9, 2027	September 27, 2028
Diwali	Hindu	November 8, 2026	October 29, 2027	October 17, 2028
Bodhi Day	Buddhist	December 8, 2026 April 9, 2026	December 8, 2027 April 9, 2027	December 8, 2028 April 9, 2028
Hanukkah	Jewish	December 4 – December 12, 2026	December 24, 2027 - January 1, 2028	December 12 – December 20, 2028
Christmas	Christian	December 25, 2026	December 25, 2027	December 25, 2028
Kwanzaa	African-American	December 26, 2026 – January 1, 2027	December 26, 2027 – January 1, 2028	December 26, 2028 – January 1, 2029
Chinese New Year	Buddhist/East Asian	February 6, 2027	January 26, 2028	February 13, 2029
Ash Wednesday	Christian	February 10, 2027	March 1, 2028	February 14, 2029
*Magha Puja	Buddhist	February 21, 2027	February 10, 2028	February 27, 2029
Persian Nowruz	Iranian	March 21, 2027	March 21, 2028	March 20, 2029
Holi	Hindu	March 22, 2027	March 11, 2028	March 1, 2029
Good Friday	Christian	March 26, 2027	April 14, 2028	March 30, 2029
Passover	Jewish	April 21 – April 29, 2027	April 10 – April 18, 2028	March 30 – April 7, 2029
Easter	Christian	March 28, 2027	April 16, 2028	April 1, 2029
Orthodox Easter	Christian	May 2, 2027	April 16, 2028	April 8, 2029
Ramadan	Muslim	February 7 - March 8, 2027	January 27 – February 25, 2028	January 15 – February 13, 2029
Eid al-Fitr	Muslim	March 9, 2027	February 27, 2028	February 14, 2029
Vesak	Buddhist	May 20, 2027 ₂	May 8, 2028	May 27, 2029
Eid al-Adha	Muslim	May 16 - 17, 2027	May 4- 5, 2028	April 23 - 24, 2029

Explanatory Notes

Ash Wednesday – Begins Christian Lent; symbolized by ashes.
Bodhi Day – Buddhist observance of the Buddha’s enlightenment.
Chinese New Year – Lunar New Year celebrated across East Asia.
Christmas – Christian holiday marking Jesus Christ’s birth.
Diwali – Five-day Hindu Festival of Lights celebrating good over evil.
Easter – Christian celebration of Jesus Christ’s resurrection.
Eid al-Adha – Marks the end of Hajj; honors Abraham’s act of faith.
Eid al-Fitr – End of Ramadan; multi-day celebration.
Good Friday – Christian observance of Jesus’ crucifixion.
Hanukkah – Eight-day Jewish Festival of Lights.
Holi – Festival of Colors welcoming spring.
Krishna Janmashtami – Celebration of Lord Krishna’s birth.
Kwanzaa – Seven-day celebration of African-American heritage.
Magha Puja – Honors the Buddha’s early disciples.
Muharram – Islamic New Year begins.
Navratri/Dussehra – Nine-day festival honoring the divine feminine.
Passover – Seven- or eight-day Jewish celebration of the Exodus.
Persian Nowruz – Iranian New Year, beginning at the spring equinox.
Ramadan – Month of fasting, prayer, and reflection in Islam.
Rosh Hashanah – Jewish New Year; start of the High Holy Days.
Vesak – Buddhist celebration of Buddha’s birth, enlightenment, and passing.
Yom Kippur – Jewish Day of Atonement; fasting and prayer.

Jewish and Muslim holy days begin at sundown on the first day indicated.

***Observance of this day can vary based on region. Dates are based on the lunar calendar and should be check every year.**

Hindu holidays were determined from <https://www.india.gov.in/calendar> with additional resources from <https://publicholidays.in/>

Adopted by the Board of Education:

II. **Committees**

A. **Sex Education Advisory Committee**

1. Agenda - January 15, 2026

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ELPS Sex Education Advisory Board Meeting
Board Meeting Room – East Lansing High School
January 15th, 2026, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

- 1) **Call to Order.**
- 2) **Membership Roll Call.**
- 2) **Approval/Modifications to the Previous Meeting Minutes**
- 3) **Approval/Additions to the Agenda**
- 4) **Public Comment:**
- 5) **Guest Speaker: N/A**
- 6) **Presentations/Committee Reports**
 - a. Sex Ed Director Report:
 - b. Committee Reports:
 - i. Data and Evaluation Committee Report (Heather Marlow/Andrea Kelley/Jonathan Gold/Megan Maas)
 - ii. Community Education Committee Report (Karessa Wheeler/Bridget Burns)
 - iii. Curriculum Committee Report (Danny Hearit, Asmau Ayub, Chad O'Neil, Melisa Fore)
- 7) **Unfinished Business**
- 8) **New Business**
 - a. SEAB Recommendation: Adopt the Michigan Model Updated HIV/STI Curriculum and Update Grade Level Materials for 7th and 8th Grade
- 9) **Announcements**
- 11) **Adjournment**

Sex Education Advisory Board Meeting

HUB Meeting Room – East Lansing High School

October 16th, 2025, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

1) Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Danny Hearit at 6:32 PM

2) Membership Roll Call.

- a. Members present: Asmau Ayub, Danny Hearit, Heather Marlow, Andrea Kelley, Karessa Wheeler, Bridget Burns-King, Anne Scott, Megan Maas, Jonathan Gold, Melissa Fore, Dori Leyko (filling in for new assistant superintendent Mark Dobson)
- b. Guests: Stacey Whipple, Lena Turner, Drew (students from MSU observing)

3) Approval/Modifications to the Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the previous meeting minutes without any changes was made by Jonathan Gold and seconded by Heather Marlow. Motion passed unanimously.

4) Approval/Additions to the agenda

A motion to approve the agenda with changes of adding School Based Health Center and about our new Assistant Superintendent: Mark Dobson was made by Danny Hearit and seconded by Karessa Wheeler. Motion passed unanimously.

5) Public Comment:

- a. None.

6) Guest Speaker

- a. None.

7) Presentation/Committee Reports

- a. Recently ELPS approved our new Assistant Superintendent - Mark Dobson. He is from St. Johns High School as the principal. He'll be able to attend the next meeting.
- b. Sex Ed Director Report: Anne Scott, ELPS Sex Education Supervisor
 - i. Early October community meeting is now happening in early November in the HUB.
 - ii. Middle school curriculum will get online access. MI model. Through Eaton RSA grant, this is free.
 - 1. State standards folded in HIV/STI into the Michigan Model and reduced significantly the number of lessons. They were 22 in high school. Now there are three lessons in middle school.
- c. Committee reports:
 - i. Subcommittees broke out into individual meetings

<p><u>Data and Evaluation:</u></p> <p>Heather Marlow, Andrea Kelley</p>	<p><u>Goals:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent & Student Survey for 2025-26 	<p>Sept – Established membership and set goals</p> <p>Oct - Surveys are ready. Working to get them out as soon as possible</p>
<p><u>Community Education:</u></p> <p>Karessa Wheeler, Bridget Burns, Megan Maas</p>	<p><u>Goals:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two community education meetings - one in spring and one in fall 	<p>Sept - Established membership and set goals</p> <p>Oct – Discussed possible parent porn education with Megan Maas’s PopPorn event similar to two years ago.</p>
<p><u>Curriculum</u></p> <p>Danny Hearit, Asmau Ayub, Chad O’Neil, Melissa Fore. Jonathan Gold, Megan Mass</p>	<p><u>Goals:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-3 sexual assault prevention • Curriculum review for middle school 	<p>Sept - Established membership and set goals</p> <p>Oct - Anne will send out email of instructions for curriculum review for middle school. Committee will review before next board meeting. Discusses ideas for K-3 sexual assault prevention. Asmau suggested a human rights perspective.</p>
<p>Ongoing SEAB Goals</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure inclusive language and content in the curriculum at all grade levels • Use the adopted curriculum evaluation tool that includes criteria for representation and inclusion of a diverse student body in a meaningful and positive manner when adding content to the present curriculum and evaluating the new curriculum • Identify family education methods and resources to support sex education at home. Link families to these resources • The ELPS Sex Education Supervisor, in conjunction with the SEAB, will update the Sexual Health Education Handbook available on the ELPS website a minimum of once per year. 		

8) Unfinished Business

- a. None.

9) New Business

- a. (TABLED) Rights, Respect & Responsibility Community Presentation Feedback
- b. (TABLED) SEAB Recommendation for MS/HS Sex Education Curriculum
- c. ELPS Health Center Update
 - i. Health Center is done and staff is there.
 - ii. Waiting for an inspector to come back. Sparrow folks expect it sometime at the end of next week.
 - iii. Big ribbon cutting event with UM Health Sparrow and speaker coming.
 - iv. Oct. 30 expecting to be open by then. PA Allison and MSW Clare and assistant there as well. Ages 5-21 (or 26 with IEP).

10) Announcements

- a. November 13th Michigan State Board of Education - Public comment on new state guidance/standards for health education.
 - a) Related to State Health Education Standards that were open for public comment through Oct. 10 2025
 1. <https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/health-safety/public-comment-for-health-education-standards>
- b. Next meeting November 20, 2025
- c. November 5th community curriculum meeting, evening.

11) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Heather Marlow and seconded by Mellisa Fore. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

**ELPS Sex Education Advisory Board Meeting
HUB – East Lansing High School
November 20th, 2025, 6:30 -8:00 PM**

1) Call to Order.

2) Membership Roll Call.

- 1) Not Present - Chad O'Neil and Karessa Weir
- 2) Welcome: Mark Dobson, Asst. Superintendent & District Staff Liaison to SEAB - Mark Dobson introduced himself and was welcomed by SEAB members.

2) Approval/Modifications to the Previous Meeting Minutes

- a. **Add Jonathan Gold and Megan Maas to the curriculum committee.**
- b. **Correct Asmau Ayub and Melissa Fore's names in minutes.**

3) Approval/Additions to the Agenda

- a. **Amended**

4) Public Comment:

- a. With a large public attendance of the meeting from MSU students observing the meeting, Co-Chair Danny Hearit and Mark Dobson provided a brief synopsis of what the SEAB purpose and role is in approving sexual health education for the East Lansing Public Schools.

5) Guest Speaker: N/A

6) Presentations/Committee Reports

- a. Sex Ed Director Report: Anne Scott, ELPS Sex Education Supervisor
 - i. Anne shared about the outcome from the November 10th, 2025, Board of Education Meeting. Both recommended guest speakers (Trickey/LAAN and Vaive/GLWC) were approved. The first hearing of the SEAB recommendation to adopt the Rights, Respect, and Responsibility curriculum for high school health classes. Anne reported that the BOE provided positive comments on the addition of a guest speaker on the topic of consent.
 - ii. Instruction for 4th and 6th Grades is in progress. High School will instruct from the Michigan Model this semester, pending approval of the recommended replacement curriculum.
 - iii. Discussed the passage of the updated State Health Standards
- b. Data and Evaluation Committee Report (Heather Marlow/Andrea Kelley/Jonathan Gold/Megan Maas)
 - i. Finalized parent survey questions for the community survey. Anne will work out an

opportunity and process to release that in early 2026. Anne was going to work with Mark Dobson on how to survey with students. The committee and the sex education supervisor discussed incorporating some questions considered for the student survey into the pre- and post-assessments for the current curriculum.

- c. Community Education Committee Report (Karessa Wheeler/Bridget Burns)
 - i. The committee organized and facilitated the community meeting on November 5th.
- d. Curriculum Committee Report (Danny Hearit, Asmau Ayub, Chad O'Neil, Melissa Fore)
 - i. 7-8th Grade Updated Curriculum Review of Michigan Model Growing Up and Staying Healthy (HIV/STI education). The committee reviewed the 7th-8th-grade material. The committee completed the review and submitted information using the rubric form. The committee recommended that the SEAB recommend the updated curriculum to the BOE. Also discussed was sexual assault prevention from K-3, from a human rights perspective.

7) Unfinished Business

- a. Anne provided a brief review of the steps of the curriculum approval process, and the outcomes of the community meeting feedback from November 5th and the result of the first hearing of the Rights, Respect & Responsibility Curriculum presentation to the Board of Education on November 10th.
 - i. Andrea Kelly motioned that the SEAB formally recommend Rights Respect and Responsibility curriculum to the ELPS BOE for consideration of adoption. Bridget Burns-King seconded. No discussion. Approved by unanimous vote.

8) New Business

- a. Danny Hearit provided an overview of a book that has been circulated to various school committees for recommendation. The book would be used in Elementary classrooms. The book is called "What Are Your Words" by Katherine Locke. Danny read the book to the SEAB. The book was requested by an elementary family to support a better understanding of gender fluidity.
 - i. After discussion, the SEAB endorses the spirit of the idea of an elementary appropriate book on pronouns as a resource for the classroom setting. The SEAB may also provide some additional references that might be better suited to different elementary grade levels.

9) Announcements

- a. Next meeting January 15th, 2025. No December meeting.

11) Adjournment

Andrea Motioned, Jon seconded.

B. Mental Health Advisory Committee

1. Agenda - January 26, 2026

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Attendance, Welcome and Introductions

- **Present:**
 - [Sign in Form](#)
- **Not Present:**
- **Note Taker:**
- Introductions

Review of Last Meeting and Clarification

- Logos
- 3rd Annual Mental Health and Awareness Summit

Review of Past Initiatives & Outcomes (5:50 – 6:00 PM)

- Review of 12/8/25 Meeting

Current Priorities & Projects: Moving forward

- Program Evaluation, Policy Review and Development:
 - Review MySAEBRS Google Form
 - Align Questions for Elementary Staff
 - Align Questions for Secondary Staff
 - How do we reassure staff for deaggregating data?
 - What questions do we want to know as a district?
 - What questions would it be helpful as a parent to feel the district knows?
- [Mental Health and Awareness Summit](#)
- Strategic Planning: 1 year, 3 year and 5 year Plan

Discussion: Needs & Opportunities (6:35 – 6:55 PM)

- Brainstorm ideas for future initiatives or collaborations

Next Steps & Action Items (6:55 – 7:00 PM)

- Assign responsibilities or follow-ups
- January 26, 2026 5:30pm-7:00pm

Adjournment- Closing & Next Meeting Date (6:55–7:00 PM)

December 8, 2025/ 5:30pm / ELHS

AGENDA

Call to Order (Start in the Library) (Fin) - 5:36pm

- [Sign in for Attendance](#) - Everyone did introductions

Approval of the meeting agenda (Fin) -

- A motion to approve the [agenda](#) was made by

Approval of the meeting minutes

- A motion to approve the [minutes](#) was made by - Erin moved 5:47 pm and 2nd Tyler

Public Comment

Agenda Topics: 5:40

- Welcome/Introductions-Those who have not introduced themselves, do so now
 - Committee and Action Focus - Fin gave a history of the group and what prompted its inception (student advocacy/liaison to the administration/hope to work with possibly policy gaps)
 - We need a logo - google sheet sent to vote on it
 - Activities/Initiatives: Cocoa and Cram, Hygge, Positivity, Stall, Zines
 - [Mental Health and Wellness Summit Fundraiser and Publicity ElementarySecondary](#)
 - Activities - Chris, Erin, Brandon, Kristen, Anika, and Jen
 - Policy/Strategic Plan - Amy, Stephanie, Dahlia, Autumn, Tyler, Jason, Laurie
 - Mental Health and Wellness Summit : April 29, 2025
 - Next Steps:
 - Each Committee given contact information for potential partners/buildings/admin -
 - C6:20 pm-6:25 pm-Break and Transition to HUB [The zoom link](#)
- **6:25-700: Building local school capacity to effectively connect students to mental health supports (pg 2)**
 - Procedure Committee discussed MySAEBRS Parent Memo
 - Activities Committee Discussed Summit

New Business/ Future Meeting Topics

Announcements

- Next Full Committee Meeting: 1.26.25

10. Adjournment 7:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

***Dori Leyko
Superintendent***