

Kent ISD Special Board Meeting

Monday, September 15, 2025 5:00 PM

Kent Conference Center (Lower Level) , 1633 East Beltline NE , Grand Rapids,
MI 49525

A. **Call to Order**

B. **Welcome Visitors and Roll Call**

C. **Kent ISD School Board Candidate Interviews**

D. **Kent ISD School Board Discussion**

E. **Adjournment**

June 2021 - Present

**WEST MICHIGAN CONSTRUCTION INSTITUTE
President**

- 501c3 non-profit executive leadership including strategic planning, board relations, budgeting, fund development, and staff management
- Launched a comprehensive commercial construction education facility in January 2022
- Lead a team of 7 full-time staff and over 30 part-time instructors
- Lead high school career and technical education programs, adult apprenticeship and craft training programs, and construction professional development courses quadrupling enrollment in 3.5 years
- Owner overseeing two WMCI building construction projects, including a \$3M state and county grant funded expansion project
- Established educational and industry partnerships with Kent ISD, Ferris State University, the Literacy Center of West Michigan, and regional construction companies

September 2015- June 2021

**ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS
WESTERN MICHIGAN CHAPTER**

Vice President of Operations

July 2018- June 2021

- Oversaw daily operations of a 400+ company member association supporting the commercial construction industry and extending throughout Western, Northern, and the Upper Peninsula of MI
- Led a team of 5 association staff
- Worked in collaboration with the President/CEO and Board of Directors to develop and implement strategic plans

Vice President of Workforce Development

August 2017 – July 2018

- Supported the workforce development initiatives for the West Michigan commercial construction industry
- Led career outreach events and acted as a spokeswoman for career opportunities in commercial construction with students, school stakeholders, and parents
- Developed and implemented construction craft training programs in partnership with Grand Rapid Community College MTEC
- Team member for ABC National Workforce Taskforce who developed a national training branding and implementation plan for 70 ABC chapters across the country

Director of Workforce Development & External Affairs

September 2015 – August 2017

Membership & Marketing Director

January 2014 – September 2015

December 2011 – January 2014

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION RESOURCES [PAR]

- Association Executive managing 4 professional associations and charitable organizations in a 12-client association management company
- Led and supported boards of directors in their strategic and visionary goals

PAR SPECIFIC ASSOCIATION CLIENT WORK INCLUDED:

Executive Director
US Green Building Council West Michigan Chapter

Association Executive
National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals

Association Executive
Michigan State Club of West Michigan

Association Executive
American Advertising Federation of West Michigan

**November 2007 –
August 2011**

C.D. BARNES CONSTRUCTION
Director of Marketing & Business Development

Board Experience

Grand Rapids Planning Commission
Appointed Commissioner
2025 - present

West Michigan Works!
Workforce Development Board Member
2022 - present

Grand Rapids Downtown Development Authority
Appointed Board Member
2018 - present

Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education
Elected Trustee
Officer Roles: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary
Committee Leadership: Finance Chair, Policy Chair, Legislative Chair,
Ad Hoc Facilities Chair
March 2016 –December 2024

**Awards +
Recognition**

Crain's Grand Rapids: 200 Most Influential Business Leaders
September 2023 + October 2024

Crain's Most 50 Influential Women in West Michigan
May 2024

Grand Rapids Business Journal: 2022 Newsmaker of the Year
Real Estate/Construction Category
February 2023

Grand Rapids Business Journal: 40 Under Forty Honoree
August 2016 + October 2019

YWCA West Central Michigan: Tribute Winner
Business, Management, Industry & Labor Category
October 2018

**Licenses +
Certifications**

Indiana University: Non-profit Executive Leadership Certificate
Anticipated Completion February 2025

National Center for Construction Education + Research
Master Trainer

Michigan Political Leadership Program
2017 Fellow

Cosmetology
State of Michigan License

MARY S. VONCK

maryvonck@gmail.com

EDUCATION

- 2018-2019 **IPEC (INSTITUTE FOR PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE IN COACHING)** Chicago, IL
Professional Coach Training Program
- Certified Professional Coach (CPC) Certification, February 2019
 - Completed 3-module training program March 2018-February 2019
 - Earned Energy Leadership Index - Master Practitioner certification
- 1989-1992 **THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN** Ann Arbor, MI
Graduate School of Business Administration
- Master of Business Administration, August 1992
 - Degree conferred with distinction
 - Concentration in Marketing with International Emphasis
- 1983-1987 **THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS** Champaign-Urbana, IL
College of Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in General Engineering, May 1987
 - Field of Concentration: Business Administration

CREDENTIALS

- 1993 **REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER** State of Michigan

EXPERIENCE

- 2004-2024 **FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION - TRUSTEE** Grand Rapids, MI
- Oversaw superintendent search effort, including coordinating board professional development, hiring an interim superintendent, and hiring an executive search firm
 - Trained in Restorative Practices and facilitated Restorative Circles
 - Completed Institute for Healing Racism and Global Learners Initiative Training
 - Launched and served on Communications Resource Team to improve community communications
 - Facilitated creation of and served on district Finance Task Force to discuss public education funding mechanisms
- 2016-2021 **President**
- Participated in the selection of the district's first Director of Educational Equity and Inclusion March 2021
 - Participated in the interview and selection of the district's Director of Communications
 - Participated in interviews for Executive Assistants to the Superintendent
 - Presided over student expulsion hearings, supported families during expulsion, and presided over readmittance hearings
 - Launched 21st Century Learning Task Force to better serve students in post-secondary pursuits
 - Created and Launched district's Student Advisory Council, September 2020
 - * Attended superintendent's monthly meetings with students
 - * Supported the council's leadership team with monthly planning meetings
 - Managed correspondence with over 1,000 concerned community members and initiated small-group conversations to address community concerns during the pandemic
 - Facilitated board involvement in creating and overseeing \$130,000,000 annual budget; the district annually received unmodified opinions in audits and the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the ASBO
- 2013-2015 **Vice President**
- 2008-2012 **Secretary**
- 2011-2016 **Curriculum Committee Chair**
- Worked with Assistant Superintendent of Instruction to plan monthly board curriculum meetings, including identifying instructional highlights and action items for board approval

- Represented board in classroom visits and presentations to observe programs/curricula slated for board approval and participated in student projects, workshops and discussions

2011-2016 Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation Board Liaison

- Served on the Foundation Consolidation Task Force, recommending merging of the district's Fine Arts Center and Public Schools Foundations
- Participated in the interview and selection of the Foundation's first Director of Development

2021-present ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL - BOARD MEMBER

Grand Rapids, MI

- Participated in Strategic Planning
- Supported assistant principal in instruction planning
- Collaborated with Cardinal Newman Society to achieve Newman Guide recognition for upholding the standards of faithful Catholic Education

2017 DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS - SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

Grand Rapids, MI

- Taught Spanish 1, 2, 4 and 5 at Catholic Central High School for two weeks
- Prepared lessons and demonstrated on-track progress through assessments

2015-Present FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS -

Grand Rapids, MI

PROJECT CHARLIE/CHUCK SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

- Proposed and facilitated transition from adult volunteer instructors to high school student instructors
- Oversee high school student facilitators, including selection, training, scheduling, and mentoring
- Coordinated student development of additional curriculum to support the program at teachers' urging

2015-Present FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS -

Grand Rapids, MI

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PANEL CREATOR/COORDINATOR

- Select and invite college admissions representatives to participate in a panel discussion about the college preparation and admissions process with the Forest Hills community
- Support Academic Boosters Groups at three Forest Hills High Schools to plan event and generate format

1998-2016 FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOOSTER GROUPS – EXECUTIVE BOARD

Grand Rapids, MI

**Forest Hills Eastern and Northern High Schools
Academic, Athletic, Band, Orchestra, and Theater Booster Committees**

1998-2011 ST. ROBERT OF NEWMINSTER CHURCH

Ada, MI

2001-2011 Pastoral Council Member - Chairman (2004-2011)

2002-2007 Parish Memorial Garden - Creator and Fundraiser

1998-1999 Mothers' Group President

1996-2007 Catechist

WORK EXPERIENCE

1995-1998 PROCESS ENGINEERING & EQUIPMENT COMPANY

Comstock Park, MI

Product Manager, HVAC Product Group

- Managed transition from factory-direct to agency representation, including negotiations with corporate representatives, marketing/communications, training of staff, and oversight of sales force
- Identified by York International as a top performing agency in 1996-1998

1987-1995 YORK INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

Phoenix, AZ/Troy, MI

Senior Sales Engineer, Applied Systems Products

- Established local representation in Western Michigan; increased sales volume over 600%
- Advised facility managers, engineers and mechanical contractors on the selection and application of mechanical equipment in new and retrofit construction projects

CREDENTIALS

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

- Certified Board Member Award
- Award of Merit
- Award of Distinction

Functional knowledge of Spanish



Melissa Manning M. Ed: Systems Leader

Design and implement comprehensive systems and frameworks to foster a culture of continuous growth focused on shared goals, bringing together stakeholders to prioritize and address the needs of the educational ecosystem to best support our school community

Contact

Phone



Email

mmanning877@gmail.com

LinkedIn: melissa-manning877

Education

2019

M.A. Education Leadership
Western Michigan University

2005

Bachelor's of Arts
University of South Florida

Expertise

- MTSS Framework Creation and Implementation
- Curriculum Design
- Professional Development Facilitation
- Data-Driven Best Practice Expert
- Leadership Consulting
- Cognitive Coaching

Accolades

MiMTSS Presenter

Director of Administration for Western Michigan University GSA
Highly Effective Classroom Teacher Before Becoming an Administrator

Experience

July 2025-Present

Great Minds

Implementation Specialist and Education Consultant

- Partner with district and school leaders to support successful adoption and implementation of Great Minds curricula. Leveraged deep knowledge of program features to drive instructional success and ensure alignment with educational goals.

2022-July 2025

School Administrator

Kentwood Public Schools

- Served as MTSS Lead, driving school-wide initiatives to optimize resources and student learning. Developed project vision, mission, and implementation plans. Led PLC training, designed targeted interventions, and aligned school practices with district goals. Fostered community partnerships, supported staff through coaching and research-based practices, and led professional development using data-driven decision-making. Oversaw the AP program, including exam administration, student recruitment, and coordination of state-level testing.

2017-2022

Michigan Education Corps and Curriculum Associates

Early Literacy Master Coach and Education Consultant

- Delivered engaging professional development for adult learners and provided ongoing coaching to Reading Corps Interventionists and Internal Coaches. Guided program implementation, conducted observations, and offered actionable feedback to support growth and fidelity. Collaborated with school leaders to address literacy needs, develop intervention frameworks based on student data, and ensure accurate data tracking through assessment systems and dashboards.
- Consulted with district and school leaders to create frameworks (MTSS) to ensure student success through a guaranteed and viable curriculum and assessment analysis.

Reference

Sunil Joy

Executive Director of Innovation

Phone: 248-225-0426

Email: sunil.joy@kentwoodps.org

Jessica Baker

Secondary Instructional Coach

Phone: 616-881-3205

Email: jessica.baker@kentwoodps.org

Tanya D. Powell-May CPA, Associate Broker

Phone: [REDACTED] Email: tanyapmaycpa@gmail.com

Summary

Licensed Real Estate Associate Broker and CEO of one of West Michigan's top-producing real estate teams. Experienced CPA with 30+ years of experience in all aspects of Finance and Accounting for both large and small publicly and privately held organizations. Areas of experience include Internal audit, Cost Accounting, Budgeting & Planning, Forecasting, Sarbanes Oxley Compliance, Strategic Planning, General Ledger Management, and SEC Financial Reporting & Analysis.

Education

Masters of Science, Taxation, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Professional Experience

Vibrant Futures *CFO*

Grand Rapids, MI
October 2024 to present

- Leads financial operations with annual budget of almost \$10 million operation
- Works with CEO to advance growth strategies
- Monitors our compliance with state and federal grants-awards

Keller Williams Grand Rapids North *Associate Broker/CEO*

Grand Rapids, MI
December 2017 to present

LegacyHomeGR is a top-producing West Michigan real estate team

- Market Center Agent Leadership Council 2020-2022
- GRAR Leadership Academy graduate 2022
- Grew team to 9 licensed team agents in 2024
- Referred over 3 dozen prospective agents to the market center agent services director.
- Closed 629 units and over \$132.1 Million in closed volume since the team's inception in 2014

Real Estate Salesperson

February 2017 to December 2017

- Grew team from 4 to 6 licensed agents
- Closed 59 units and over \$9.4 Million in closed volume in 2017

1000 Families of Color Inc *Executive Director*

Grand Rapids, MI
January 2022 to present

Collaborates with local Realtors, Lenders and churches to advocate for and educate the community in the areas of wealth building and financial literacy, homeownership, real estate career opportunities

- Served over 460 participants to date with homeownership education
- Served over 330 participants to date with financial literacy and wealth building education
- Provided access for over 80 participants to obtain real estate prelicensing classes for in seat and online offerings (12 new licensees)

Coldwell Banker AJS Schmidt
Real Estate Salesperson

- Closed 23 transactions as a new Independent Agent in 2015
- Started a team and grew 4 licensed agents in 2016
- Closed 78 units and over \$11.6 Million in closed volume in 2015 & 2016.

Grand Rapids, MI
January 2015 to February 2017

Network 180
Deputy Director of Administrative Services

Grand Rapids, MI
May 2012 to November 2014

Served as a member of the executive management team reporting to the Executive Director. Developed short and long-range strategic financial goals and plans to ensure the continuing availability of quality mental health care and substance abuse treatment services for the residents of Kent County. Supervised managers in assigned administrative areas of responsibility, including human resources, accounting & audit, financial analysis, reimbursement, and information systems. Assisted in managing staff/organizational issues, carried out supervisory responsibility per Network180 policies, procedures, and applicable laws, and provided training for necessary job skills. Provided appropriate financial reporting to the Board, and Provider Network. Directed planning, designing, developing, and implementing budgeting and accounting systems to ensure fiscal integrity. Ensured that all Network180 staff and contractual service providers complied with established MDCH financial reporting standards and financial policies and procedures, and directed the development of policies, programs, and practices to ensure the efficient management of financial resources.

- Successfully planned and managed the organization's annual \$140 million budget during a time of reduced state funding.
- Directly supervised manager/director-level staff of 6 and a department of 40 professionals in administrative areas of responsibility, including accounting & audit, financial analysis, reimbursement, and information systems, and human resources.
- Encouraged integration of project management framework as a standard practice within Finance.

Herman Miller, Inc.
Divisional Controller

Zeeland, MI
April 2011 to May 2012

Herman Miller, Inc.
Shared Services Controller

Zeeland, MI
September 2008 to April 2011

Herman Miller, Inc. –
Business Risk Assurance Manager

Zeeland, MI
October 2005 to September 2008

Grand Rapids Community College
Davenport University
University of Phoenix
Adjunct Faculty-Business Department

Grand Rapids, MI **January 2011 to April 2015**
Grand Rapids, MI **September 2008 to April 2012**
Grand Rapids, MI **April 2010 to January 2013**

CTS Companies, Inc.
Corporate Controller

Grand Rapids, MI
January 1996 to September 2005

American Seating Company
Senior Financial Analyst

Grand Rapids, MI
January 1994 to January 1996

PWC
Senior Accountant

Grand Rapids, MI
May 1990 to January 1994

Community & Professional Boards

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Theta Chi Omega Chapter	Life Member	July 1991 to present
NAREB-Realtist of West MI Association	Member	January 2023 to present
Kentwood Public Schools	Board Member	September 2022 to present
Mothers of Professional Basketball Players, Inc.	National Treasurer	January 2022 to present
Fellowship of Christian Athletes- West Michigan	Member	January 2021 to present
Bretonfield Neighborhood Association	Board Member	January 2020 to present
Priority Health Quality Committee	Board Member	January 2014-November 2014
The Growth Center Inc.	Board Member	January 2009-December 2014
Leadership Grand Rapids	Community Trustee	September 2013-June 2014
Jubilee Jobs	Board Member	January 2003-December 2008
West Michigan Sports Commission	Board Member	January 2006-December 2008

References Available Upon Request