Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, September 3, 2026 6:00 PM Eastern

Shirley M. Rodgers Administration Bldg. Georgia
Brown Board Room
519 W. Kalamazoo
Lansing, MI 48933

Dr. Caitlin Cavanagh:	Absent
Dr. LaVonte Heard:	Present
Ms. Aurora Lemieux-McKissic:	Present
Mr. Guillermo Lopez:	Present
Mrs. Robin Moore:	Absent
Mr. Dan Nowiski:	Present
Dr. Nino Rodriguez:	Present
Mrs. Cirea Strode:	Present
Ms. Rosalyn Williams:	Present

Present: 7, Absent: 2.

I. **Opening Ceremonies:**

- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Reading of the District's Mission**
- **Land Acknowledgment**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Lopez

II. **Roll Call**
Executive Team Present: Adams, Keck, Sleight, Pickens
Executive Team Absent: Black
Superintendent Present: Benavides
Parliamentarian Present:
Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education Present: Brandon

III. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**
There were no Public Comments on Agenda Items

IV. **Approval of Minutes**
'I move to approve minutes for August 20, 2026 - Regular Board Meeting as presented'. This motion, made by Ms. Rosalyn Williams and seconded by Mrs. Cirea Strode, Passed.
Dr. Caitlin Cavanagh: Absent, Mrs. Robin Moore: Absent, Dr. LaVonte Heard: Yea, Ms. Aurora Lemieux-McKissic: Yea, Mr. Guillermo Lopez: Yea, Mr. Dan Nowiski: Yea, Dr. Nino Rodriguez: Yea, Mrs. Cirea Strode: Yea, Ms. Rosalyn Williams: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

V. **Presentations**

V.A. High School Drumline
Superintendent Benavides arranged for the Everett and Eastern drum-line bands to perform.

V.B. Operations Team Recognition
Superintendent Benavides recognized the Operations Team for the work they do to keep the District's buildings safe, secure, and functional

V.C. Food Service
New meal service provider Chartwells introduced their team and presented their student meal plan to the Board

V.D. Proud to Be LSD 5K
Superintendent Benavides presented a video of the Proud to Be LSD 5k event that took place 8/29/26

VI. **Reports**

VI.A. Officers

VI.A.1. Report from Secretary
Mrs. Strode shared the following secretary's report:
Invitations, Communications and Announcements

- The Lansing School District offers a tuition-free Preschool program designed to prepare children for kindergarten. Complete the preschool application through the Ingham Preschool
- The Transportation Assistance Team (TAT) can help with any transportation issues that may arise during the school year - that includes questions about gas cards. Call 517-755-3017 or email tat@lansingschools.net
- September 4 - No school
- September 7 - Labor Day, no School

Next Board Meetings:

- September 10, 6:00 PM - Regular Board Meeting
- September 17, 6:00 PM - Regular Board Meeting and Informational Study Session
- October 8, 6:00 PM - Regular Board Meeting

VI.B. Committee

VI.B.1. Equity Committee
Trustee Strode provided the following report:
The Equity Committee has requested a copy of the report from the Equity Audit, to determine how the results can be embedded throughout our District. Discussion of this report and implementation will be an agenda item at a future Board of Education meeting.

VI.B.2. Facilities Committee
Trustee Williams shared information about the following:
A Laux Change Orders - Wexford Addition
-Wexford COR 33 - Bulletin 5 - Fire Suppression Only
-Wexford COR 31 - Bulletin 5 - Additions to Fire Suppression
B Bid Recommendations - SB 0066 - Sheridan Road
-WC02 - Earthwork & Site Utilities
-WC05 - Site Concrete
-WC06 - Asphalt Paving
-WC07A - Permanent Fencing
-WC08 - Landscaping
-WC10 - Structural Concrete
-WC11 - Masonry
-WC12 - Structural Steel
-WC14 - Roofing & Sheetmetal

-WC15 - Metal Siding
-WC18 - Glass, Glazing & Aluminum Entrances
-WC20 - General Trades
-WC21 - Walls & Ceilings
-WC22 - Hard Tile
-WC23 - Carpet & Resilient Flooring
-WC24 - Painting & Wallcovering
-WC25 - Food Service Equipment
-WC26 - Fire Protection
-WC27 - Mechanical & Plumbing Systems
-WC28 - Electrical Systems

Board discussion of these items occurred, with focus on allocation of bond dollars and sinking fund dollars spent and remaining

'that the Board of Education accept items A and B as presented'. This motion, made by Mrs. Cirea Strode and seconded by Ms. Aurora Lemieux-McKissic, Passed.

Dr. Caitlin Cavanagh: Absent, Mrs. Robin Moore: Absent, Dr. LaVonte Heard: Yea, Ms. Aurora Lemieux-McKissic: Yea, Mr. Guillermo Lopez: Yea, Mr. Dan Nowiski: Yea, Dr. Nino Rodriguez: Yea, Mrs. Cirea Strode: Yea, Ms. Rosalyn Williams: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

VI.B.3. Finance Committee
Mr. Nowiski provided the following report:
The detailed Treasurer's report for the period of July 1, 2026 through July 31, 2026 is attached to this evening's agenda. The following are the highlights of the report.
The beginning cash and investment balance was $63,152,127.00. Receipts totaled $50,114.781.00 while disbursements equaled ($32,089,682.00). Net interfund transfers totaled ($716,896.00) in interest from fund investments to the student and bond funds as well as journal entries to remove the due to/due froms in all funds. The monthly transfer to the general fund for bond expenses was $68,163.00.
The ending general fund cash and investment balance on July 31, 2026 was $63,152,127.00.
Donation(s) received during the month of July 2026 totaled $30.00.

'that the Board of Education approve the expenditures as presented for July 2026'. This motion, made by Ms. Rosalyn Williams and seconded by Ms. Aurora Lemieux-McKissic, Passed.

Dr. Caitlin Cavanagh: Absent, Mrs. Robin Moore: Absent, Dr. LaVonte Heard: Yea, Ms. Aurora Lemieux-McKissic: Yea, Mr. Guillermo Lopez: Yea, Mr. Dan Nowiski: Yea, Dr. Nino Rodriguez: Yea, Mrs. Cirea Strode: Yea, Ms. Rosalyn Williams: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

VI.B.4. Personnel Committee
Dan Nowiski shared details about the new hire report. He also discussed that the Personnel Committee is working with the Policy Committee to update several policies that pertain to the hiring/termination of Support Staff; delegating these responsibilities to the Superintendent (po4120 & po4140). Approval of the hiring/termination of Professional Staff will remain at the Board level, as required by law. The Board will continue to approve both Support and Professional staff hiring/termination until such time as Board Policies are updated.

'that the Board of Education approve new hires from September 8, 2026 to September 14, 2026 as presented'. This motion, made by Mr. Dan Nowiski and seconded by Dr. Nino Rodriguez, Passed.

Dr. Caitlin Cavanagh: Absent, Mrs. Robin Moore: Absent, Dr. LaVonte Heard: Yea, Ms. Aurora Lemieux-McKissic: Yea, Mr. Guillermo Lopez: Yea, Mr. Dan Nowiski: Yea, Dr. Nino Rodriguez: Yea, Mrs. Cirea Strode: Yea, Ms. Rosalyn Williams: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

VI.B.5. Policy Committee
Mrs. Strode shared the following report:
The Policy Committee met on September 1; all (3) Trustees of the Policy Committee were present. There are (6) policies that will be recommended to the Board of Education for first-read:

- po5610 - Emergency removal, suspension, and expulsion of students
- po1410 - Staff Ethics
- po4210 - Staff Ethics
- po1210 - Board Superintendent Relationship
- po4120 - Employment of Support Staff
- po4140 - Termination or Resignation of Support Staff

The Policy Committee is working with other Board Committees to establish collaborative procedures when requesting updates to current policies.
Future meetings for the remainder of 2026 will be held in the Board Room at Administration as follows:

- Tuesday, October 6 @ 12:00 pm
- Tuesday, November 3 @ 12:00 pm
- Tuesday, December 1 at 12:00 pm

Dr. Heard shared that additional policies addressing drug and substance use and prevention, as well as the District's response to these issues, may be reviewed in the near future. While existing policies address various aspects of these concerns, some language may be ambiguous. Policies po5530.02, po5516, po5530, po5532, and po5771 were identified for review. The Committee is currently working with Neola and Thrun to obtain guidance and develop language to strengthen the existing policies or create a clearer, more comprehensive policy addressing these issues.

VI.B.6. Recognition Ad Hoc Committee
Dr. Heard shared the following report:
The purpose of this Committee and this event is to honor alumni, faculty, staff, and/or community members for their contribution to the Lansing School District.
The Recognition Ad Hoc Committee met on August 25, 2026. The Recognition Ceremony is being scheduled for November at Eastern High School, rather than September 24 as originally discussed. The Committee is finalizing event expenses and working in partnership with the District, which is pursuing community sponsorships to help offset costs. The Committee will seek Board general fund support only after sponsorship opportunities have been exhausted. The Committee will meet in the coming weeks to review fundraising progress and finalize event details.

VI.B.7. Student Achievement Committee
The Student Achievement Committee is scheduled to meet Monday, September 14 at 3:00 pm.

VI.C. Superintendent

The following report was shared by Superintendent Benavides:

- Sexton Football: Superintendent Benavides recognized the undefeated Sexton football team, which will play Portland tonight
- Eastern Soccer: Superintendent Benavides also recognized the Eastern soccer team, which remains undefeated with a record of 6 wins, 0 losses, and 2 ties. The team is currently ranked #5 in the State of Michigan for Division 2

Upcoming Events and Initiatives:

- Ditch the Vape: The District will host a "Ditch the Vape" event at Everett High School on Tuesday, September 8, at 1:00 p.m.
- MI-ALMA: Superintendent Benavides will speak at the MI-ALMA (Michigan Alliance of Latinos Moving Towards Advancement) event on Wednesday, September 16. Her presentation will focus on "Educational Challenges Facing the Lansing School District - A Vision Moving Forward"
- High 5 for Parents: The District will launch a new partnership with families, High 5 for Parents, next week. The initiative is designed to strengthen family engagement with students' schools, improve attendance, and promote greater connection and camaraderie between families and the District

VII. **New Business**

VII.A. Presence Learning
Deputy Superintendent Sergio Keck discussed the Presence Learning contract, which was previously held by the ISD and has been in place for the past two years to provide Special Education services to the District.
'that the Board of Education approve Presence Learning Contract as presented'. This motion, made by Ms. Aurora Lemieux-McKissic and seconded by Dr. Nino Rodriguez, Passed.

Dr. Caitlin Cavanagh: Absent, Mrs. Robin Moore: Absent, Dr. LaVonte Heard: Yea, Ms. Aurora Lemieux-McKissic: Yea, Mr. Guillermo Lopez: Yea, Mr. Dan Nowiski: Yea, Dr. Nino Rodriguez: Yea, Mrs. Cirea Strode: Yea, Ms. Rosalyn Williams: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

VIII. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**
There was 1 public comment on non-agenda items; promoting the Ditch The Vape event

IX. **Comments from the Board**
Comments were shared by Board Members

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm by President Lopez