Kent ISD

KENT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Educational Service Center 2930 Knapp St NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
October 19, 2026

The Kent ISD School Board met for its regular meeting at the Kent Conference Center on Monday, October 19, 2026. President Hamming called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Drake, Haidle, Schottke, Hamming
Member Absent: Featherston

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

Staff Members: Cinnamon Mellema, Jacob Bandstra, Abbey Mix, Alex Pasch, Joy Walczak

Guests: Cindy Patin, John Kozal, Vickie Finkler, Karen Mueller, Emma Read, Cyndi Ambrose, Diane Pickel, Kathy Read and Sarah Read

President Hamming welcomed staff and visitors and requested approval of the Kent ISD Regular School Board agenda.

Upon Motion by Member Schottke, supported by Member Hamming, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

Ayes: Haidle, Schottke, Drake, Hamming
Nays: None
Motion declared to have carried.

President Hamming provided the opportunity for public comment. The following individuals shared their concerns about demolishing the five buildings on the Howard Christensen Nature Center property. Karen Mueller, Emma Read, Cindy Ambrose, John Kozal, Sarah Read, Vickie Finkler, Kathy Read, Diane Pickel, and Cindy Patin.

President Hamming turned the meeting over to Director Bryndan Arnold to present the Leading Learning Awards. Director Arnold honored Shannon Mechan from Pine Grove Learning Center and Alex Pasch from Student Services with the Leading Learning Award. Supervisors had the opportunity to share words of appreciation.

Executive Director of West Michigan Teacher Collaborative (WMTC) Mary Kay Murphy presented updates on this multi-county teacher preparation program. WMTC has grown to 288 active members; 33% seek special education certification, roughly 32% are first-generation college students, 17.3% speak a language other than English, and nearly 57% serve schools within Kent ISD. WMTC is currently in the process of selecting the fourth cohort of aspiring educators, with roughly 30 expected to be admitted.

Upon Motion by Member Haidle, supported by Member Drake, it was resolved to combine and approve action items F.1-F.10 and approve the consent agenda as presented.

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Ayes: Schottke, Drake, Haidle, Hamming
Nays: None
Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Haidle, supported by Member Schottke, it was resolved to approve the demolition of the Howard Christensen Nature Center Buildings.

Ayes: Drake, Haidle, Schottke, Hamming
Nays: None
Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Haidle, supported by Member Schottke, it was resolved to approve the bid from Pro Mow Lawncare, LLC for snow removal services at multiple Center Program locations.

Ayes: Haidle, Schottke, Drake, Hamming
Nays: None
Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Haidle, supported by Member Drake, it was resolved to approve the bid from Katerberg Verhage Inc. for snow removal services at the Lincoln Campus.

Ayes: Schottke, Drake, Haidle, Hamming
Nays: None
Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Haidle, supported by Member Schottke, the Council approved the proposed reimbursement to the Kent County Sheriff's Office for school resource officer services for the 2026-2027 school year.

Ayes: Drake, Haidle, Schottke, Hamming
Nays: None
Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Haidle, supported by Member Schottke, it was resolved to approve the contract with Community Care Givers for nursing services for 2026-2027.

Ayes: Haidle, Schottke, Drake, Hamming
Nays: None
Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Drake, supported by Member Schottke, it was resolved to approve the Interagency Cash Transfer Agreements with Michigan Rehabilitation Services for Kent Transitions and Kent ISD Project Search from October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027.

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Ayes: Schottke, Drake, Haidle, Hamming
Nays: None
Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Schottke, supported by Member Hamming, it was resolved to approve the renewal of the agreement with La Fuente Consulting LLC for language translation services for the 26-27 school year.

Ayes: Drake, Haidle, Schottke, Hamming
Nays: None
Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Drake, supported by Member Hamming, it was resolved to approve the distribution of Act 18 Special Education funds.

Ayes: Haidle, Schottke, Drake, Hamming
Nays: None
Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Schottke, supported by Member Drake, it was resolved to approve the annual renewal of Crowdstrike Falcon Complete.

Ayes: Schottke, Drake, Haidle, Hamming
Nays: None
Motion declared to have carried.

Board Member Haidle expressed concerns regarding proposed changes by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that could reduce E-Rate funding. The program provides discounted internet connectivity and technology services to schools and libraries. Dan Behm, Executive Director of Education Advocates of West Michigan, noted that lawmakers are currently challenging the proposed funding reductions.

Dr. Gorman reviewed his goals for the current school year and discussed the superintendent evaluation cycle for the remainder of the school year. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions.

President Hamming adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Minutes approved on October 19, 2026

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Anne Hamming, President

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Jen Schottke, Vice President

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