



**Kenowa Hills Public Schools**  
 VALUE. SUPPORT. EMPOWER.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, March 23, 2026 at 6:00 pm**  
**Central Elementary School**  
**4252 3 Mile Road NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534**

**I. Routine and Organizational Business**

- A. President LaBotz called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm at Central Elementary School, 4252 3 Mile Road NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534.
- B. President LaBotz opened the meeting with a moment of silence.
- C. Members Present: Courtade, Gustinis, Hart, LaBotz, Roberts, Robinson, and Turner (arrived at 6:08 pm) are present. Superintendent Hopkins, Director Long and Student Representatives Chay'ce Smith and Jaime Beke are also present.
- D. Motion by Member Hart supported by Member Courtade to approve the agenda. **Motion passes 6-0.**

	Y	N	A		Y	N	A		Y	N	A		Y	N	A
Courtade	Y	___		Hart	Y	___		Roberts	Y	___		Turner	___	___	___
Gustinis	Y	___		LaBotz	Y	___		Robinson	Y	___					

CALL TO ORDER

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ROLL CALL

APPROVE AGENDA

**II. Recognition and Correspondence**

- A. Recognition
  - 1. Contributions to the District - Superintendent Hopkins expressed gratitude to the businesses and that made donations. A complete list of donors is provided in the board packet.
  - 2. High School Wrestling Coach Jeff Mucha and the Board of Education recognized Karen Bishop for her 5th place finish in MHSAA Girls Wrestling State Finals.
  - 3. Director Horner celebrated the hard work of the instructional coaches, interventionists, and the Kindergarten teachers at Central Elementary for closing the learning gaps as evidenced by fall and winter benchmarking results.
- B. Correspondence - None
- C. Board Communication - Members reported on various district events in which they participated.

RECOGNITION

CORRESPONDENCE  
 BOE  
 COMMUNICATION

**III. Discussion/Information Items**

- A. Central Elementary Principal Wiseman provided an overview of Regional Special Education Programming. Principal Wiseman sang the praises of the teachers of our Regional ASD and MICI programs. She highlighted their unconditional empathy and positive regard for every learner every day. Principal Wiseman also reviewed the IEP Process, the Least Restrictive Environment, and the needs for documentation to ensure proper placements.
- B. Student Representatives Report - Jaimey Beke was introduced as the new Student Representative from Pathways High School. Chay'ce shared that his experiences on the Kent ISD Leadership Council, the African American Male Achievement Conference, and the Mayor's Youth Council were all positive and beneficial. He noted it is bittersweet that such extracurriculars are winding down, with only 9 weeks left in his high school experience.
- C. Office of Teaching & Learning
  - 1. Student Handbook Updates for the 2026-27 School Year (2nd Reading) - Director Dinkelmann reviewed the requested changes provided through the first reading of the student handbooks.
- D. Finance
  - 1. March Budget Amendment- Director Long went through the line items affecting the projected budget and the resulting amendment.

SPOTLIGHT ON  
 CENTREL ELEMNTARY

STUDENT  
 REPRESENTATIVES  
 REPORT

OFFICE OF TEACHING  
 AND LEARNING

FINANCE

2. Student Device Purchases - The recommendation from Director Webb to purchase student devices was reviewed. It was noted approval prior to April 1st would result in a savings of over \$50,000.

**IV. Public Comment:** No audience member addressed the Board.

*The purpose of this meeting is to conduct Board of Education business. There will typically be no attempt to comment or give answers at this meeting. Audience members who wish to make comments are invited to complete the appropriate form located at the entrance. Each speaker has a maximum of three (3) minutes to address the board. Inquiries requiring a response will be referred to the superintendent in the cases where contact information is provided. We ask all individuals making public comments to follow our board policy.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

**V. Action Items**

- A. Motion by Member Hart supported by Member Robinson to approve the Consent Agenda. **Motion carries 7-0.**
  1. March 9, 2026 Committee of the Whole Workshop Minutes
- B. Motion by Member Hart supported by Member Roberts to approve the Student Handbooks and materials to be included in the handbooks for the 2026-27 School Year. Report #26-030. **Motion carries 7-0.**
- C. Motion by Member Hart supported by Member Turner to approve the amendment to the FY2026 Budget as presented. Report #26-031. **Motion carries 7-0.**
- D. Motion by Member Hart supported by Member Roberts to approve the purchase of Chromebooks and iPads using REMC Save pricing in the amount of \$209,100 utilizing 2026 Series III bond funds. Report #26-032 **Motion carries 7-0.**

CONSENT AGENDA

2026-27 STUDENT  
HANDBOOK  
UPDATES  
REPORT #26-030  
FY2026 BUDGET  
AMENDMENT  
REPORT #26-031  
  
PURCHASE OF  
STUDENT DEVICES  
REPORT #26-032

**VI. Future Items for Consideration**

- A. Future Meetings
  1. 04/16/2026 5:00 pm Special Meeting @ Middle School LGI; Selection of Superintendent Candidates
  2. 04/20/2026 6:00 pm Regular Meeting @ Administration Building
  3. 04/28/2026 5:00 pm Special Meeting @ Middle School LGI; First Round Superintendent Interviews
  4. 04/30/2026 5:00 pm Special Meeting @ Middle School LGI; First Round Superintendent Interviews
- B. Go Around

FUTURE MEETINGS

GO AROUND

**VII. Adjournment**

- A. Seeing no additional agenda items, President LaBotz adjourned the meeting at 7:31 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_, Secretary