

Board of Education Organizational Meeting (Tuesday, January 7, 2025)*Generated by Kimberly Grilli on Thursday, January 9, 2025***Members present**

LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM**A. Opening Items**

Procedural: 1. Pledge of Allegiance at 7:01 pm

Procedural: 2. Roll Call - All present

B. Agenda Approval

Action 2025-1: 1. Adoption of Meeting Agenda
 Move that the Board of Education approve the agenda.

Motion by Seth Bower, second by Libby Gray.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

C. Call to Order**D. Election of Board of Education Officers**

Action 2025-2: 1. Election of Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education Board President
 Election of Board of Education President. Mr. Bower is President.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by John Kershner.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2025-3: 2. Election of Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education Board Vice President
 Election of Board Vice President of LaToya Dowdell-Burger

Motion by Seth Bower, second by Libby Gray.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower

No: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner

Action 2025-4: 3. Election of Board Vice President of John Kershner

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by John Kershner.

Final Resolution: Motion Fails

Yes: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner

No: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower

E. Administer the Oath of Office.

Procedural: 1. Administer the Oath of Office to the Newly Elected President.

Procedural: 2. Administer the Oath of Office to the Newly Elected Vice President.

F. Ethics Review

Discussion: 1. Discussion of Groveport Madison Local School District's Board of Education Code of Ethics/Code of Conduct for
 Groveport Board members (annual requirement).

Action 2025-5: 2. Board of Education Norms of Operation Pledge John - Has one concern that we leave as 1 voice after a Board
 mtg but that limits free speech. Another is what is confidential of Board members. Kathy does not agree with the 1 voice.
 The Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education adopts the Board of Education Norms of Operation Pledge

Motion by Libby Gray, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower

No: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner

Action 2025-6: 3. The Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education adopts the Board of Education Norms of Operation Pledge
 wants to remove #7 from Board norms.

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by John Kershner.
Final Resolution: Motion Fails
Yes: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner
No: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower

G. Establish Meetings for 2025

Action 2025-7: 1. Move to take a 10 minute recess at 7:26 pm.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Libby Gray.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2025-8: 2. Sample Board of Education Meeting Dates for 2025. John and Kathy would like to have 2 regular meetings per month.

Recommend that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the referenced meeting dates that were discussed during the meeting for calendar year 2025. Discussion was had and Ms. Walsh and Mr. Kershner wanted two dates per month, but the majority of the Board wanted the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. Ms. Walsh can not do Wednesday or Thursday nights in 2025.

Motion by Libby Gray, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner
No: Kathleen Walsh

H. Memberships

Action 2025-9: 1. Membership in the Ohio School Board Association
Renewing Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education membership in OSBA, including subscriptions to the Annual OSBA Briefcase (electronic issues only) and Annual School Management News (electronic issues only).

Motion by Libby Gray, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2025-10: 2. Membership in Legal Assistance Fund
It is recommended that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education join the Ohio School Boards Association Legal Assistance Fund at a cost of \$250. (Resolution language is below).

Motion by Libby Gray, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2025-11: 3. Membership in the OABSE (Ohio Alliance of Black School Educators)
It is recommended that the Groveport Madison School Board renew its membership with the Ohio Alliance of Black School Educators (OABSE) at a cost of \$1000. Mr. Kershner questioned what other educational alliances are we a part of. Mr. Grube stated we are not part of any others and Mr. Kershner asked why are we a part of this one. Mr. Grube explained that this organization supports all education but specifically black educators. They also work with recruitment and employee placement. Mr. Grube stated it has been very beneficial to get African-American educators for our diverse population of students. Ms. Walsh feels that this alliance would be better for GMLEA to be a member of than the school board. Ms. Walsh is questioning why we have seen no reports from this alliance.

Motion by Libby Gray, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

I. Resolution for Waiver of Reading Minutes

Action 2025-12: 1. Reading of Minutes
In accordance with Section 3313.26 O.R.C., waive the reading of minutes from previous meetings

Motion by Libby Gray, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower
No: John Kershner

J. Adopting Standing Authorizations

Action 2025-13: 1. Adopting Standing Authorizations
To enable the Treasurer and Superintendent to carry out necessary duties involving operations, finances, and purchasing. To modify language #8 and #16 according to raise "#8 to \$75,000" and then #16 "legally bring any transfers that need be over 2/3 rds vote"

Motion by Libby Gray, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower
No: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner

Action 2025-14: 2. To enable the Treasurer and Superintendent to carry out necessary duties involving operations, finances, and purchasing. Removing #8 and #16 by Kathy.

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by John Kershner.
Final Resolution: Motion Fails
Yes: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner
No: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower

Action 2025-15: 3. To enable the Treasurer and Superintendent to carry out necessary duties involving operations, finances, and purchasing. To modify language #8 and #16 according to raise #8 to \$75,000 and then #16 legally bring if transfers that need be over 2/3 rds vote. Mr. Kershner and Ms. Walsh questioned if we had a Business Manager and if he was properly licensed.

Motion by Libby Gray, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower
No: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner

K. Annual Appointments

Action 2025-16: 1. Appoint Delegates to the Ohio School Boards Association Capital Conference.
The Treasurer recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education appoint a Delegate for the Annual Business Meeting at the OSBA Capital Conference scheduled November 2025. The annual business meeting is usually held prior to the start of the conference. Nominating Mr. Bower

Motion by Libby Gray, second by John Kershner.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2025-17: 2. The Treasurer recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education appoint an Alternate for the Annual Business Meeting at the OSBA Capital Conference scheduled November 2025. The annual business meeting is usually held prior to the start of the conference. Seth nominates John K.

Motion by Seth Bower, second by Libby Gray.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2025-18: 3. Appoint Legislative Liaison and Student Achievement Liaison to OSBA for 2025.
The Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education appoints the following Board members to serve as the Legislative Liaison to the Ohio Schools Boards Association. Seth nominates John K.

Motion by Seth Bower, second by Libby Gray.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2025-19: 4. The Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education appoints the following Board members to serve as the Student Achievement Liaison to the Ohio Schools Boards Association. LaToya nominates Mr. Bower

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Libby Gray.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2025-20: 5. Appoint Legal Counsel.
A resolution authorizing the Superintendent, the Treasurer, and/or school officials as authorized by the Superintendent, to seek legal advice on matters affecting the day-to-day operations and labor negotiations of the school district

Mr. Kershner questioned why Organ law was added when they have no school law experience and that they are known as a tort law firm. No one responded to my question. I questioned their rate being 495 per hour and you stated we would get a government rate. Kathy questioned why no fee schedules or agreements were included. I also stated that one firm we currently use has led us down expensive paths.

Motion by Libby Gray, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower
No: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner

Action 2025-21: 6. A resolution authorizing the Superintendent, the Treasurer, and/or school officials as authorized by the Superintendent, to seek legal advice on matters affecting the day-to-day operations and labor negotiations of the school district.
Add Organ Law LLP

Motion by Libby Gray, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower
No: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner

Action 2025-22: 7. A resolution authorizing the Superintendent, the Treasurer, and/or school officials as authorized by the Superintendent, to seek legal advice on matters affecting the day-to-day operations and labor negotiations of the school district. To remove Kegler, Brown and postpone adding Organ Law LLP.

Motion by John Kershner, second by Kathleen Walsh.
Final Resolution: Motion Fails
Yes: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner
No: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower

Action 2025-23: 8. A resolution authorizing the Superintendent, the Treasurer, and/or school officials as authorized by the Superintendent, to seek legal advice on matters affecting the day-to-day operations and labor negotiations of the school district. Kathy 1sts to postpone until Feb 11th.

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by John Kershner.
Final Resolution: Motion Fails
Yes: Kathleen Walsh
No: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

L. Adjournment

Action 2025-24: 1. Adjournment
Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 8:21 pm.

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Libby Gray.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner