

The Kent ISD School Board held a regular meeting at the Kent Conference Center on Monday, December 15, 2025. President Haidle called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Hamming, Featherston, Schottke, Drake (arrived at 4:22 p.m.), Haidle.  
Member Absent:

Kent ISD Staff Present: Superintendent Gorman, Assistant Superintendents Finkel, Philipps, Rodgers, Gardner Myers; Directors Arnold, Bray, Behm, Graham, Hissong, Hofstee, Houtman, Karsten, Larkin, Lienesch, Lillis, Maynard, McClintic, Murphy, Sneider, Verwey; Recording Secretary Lovell; Staff Members: Cinnamon Mellema, Rence Hordyk, Kathryn O'Hara Wallis, Lisa Elders, Lori Reuben

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Director Danielle Hendry presented the Leading Learning award to Lisa Elders and Lori Reuben.

Ron Houtman shared a presentation on the progress of the Kent ISD strategic plan. Board Members had the opportunity to ask questions.

Upon motion of Member Hamming, supported by Member Featherston, it was resolved to combine and approve action items D.1-D.10.

Ayes: Featherston, Schottke, Drake, Hamming, Haidle

Nays: None

***Motion declared to have carried.***

Upon motion of Member Hamming, supported by Member Schottke, it was resolved to approve the December Budget Amendments as outlined in the board packet. Mr. Philipps shared the major highlights, including transfers to capital project funds, enhancement millage election costs, health insurance expenses, and state retirement funds and costs. Board Members had the opportunity to ask questions.

Ayes: Schottke, Hamming, Featherston, Drake, Haidle

Nays: None

***Motion declared to have carried.***

President Haidle offered the opportunity for public comment. No comments were given.

President Haidle shared that there is an open seat on the MASB Board of Directors. If any board members are interested, the deadline to submit your application is January 14. President Haidle also provided information about an upcoming K-Connect webinar on December 17 from 12-1:30 p.m., focusing on the impact of state budget cuts.



Superintendent Gorman shared that he attended a press conference this week with Representatives Carol Glanville and Kristian Grant to discuss the recent funding cuts made to the state budget. Currently, \$2 million has been cut from the West Michigan Teacher Collaborative program, along with many other programs that support students and families in Kent County. He will continue to share state budget updates as they become available. Dr. Gorman also thanked Ron Houtman for his strategic plan update and the Communications team for producing a holiday message for staff to be published this Friday.

A motion by Member Featherston, supported by Member Hamming, to move to closed session to conduct the Superintendent's mid-year progress review. (OMA Sec 8a)

Ayes: Schottke, Hamming, Featherston, Drake, Haidle

Nays: None

***Motion declared to have carried.***

The board moved to closed session at 4:52 p.m.

The board moved to open session at 5:41 p.m.

Upon motion by Member Drake, supported by Member Hamming, it was resolved to approve the mid-year progress report and to make no changes to Superintendent Gorman's current goals.

Ayes: Featherston, Schottke, Drake, Hamming, Haidle

Nays: None

***Motion declared to have carried.***

President Haidle adjourned the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

Minutes approved on January 12, 2026



Andrea Haidle, President



David Drake, Secretary

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