PASE Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2026
Kent ISD Coldwater Room

Members Present: Heather Bright, Jerry Cullum, Quartandraneika Dennis, Amanda Dill, Kara Flowers, Katie Foote, Jenny Gauld, Kirk Gowen, Esmina Hamzagic, Jenn Kamyszek, Kristel Marshall, Tabitha McMurray, Maria Mora-Bowen, Alyssa Richardson-Reyers, Jenni Sewell, Nicole Sparks, Victor Sultana, Ethan Tatum, Tashombi Vines

Virtual Attendance: Marie Adams, Julie Fedewa, Vanessa Gonzalez, Heather Kalafut, Lindsey Kloeckner, Sarah Kugler, Tracy McKenzie

Guests: Betty Acosta, Jennifer Gard, Sheree Harmon, Zena Hirsch, Rukshana Ilahi, Stephanie Malski, Erin Purdy, Anna Trupiano, Emiliana Vrbina

Excused: Melody Behrens, Joe Courtnay, Aryn Manni

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. PASE Purpose and Meeting Norms - Reviewed

III. Approve Minutes from April 20, 2026
   A. Minutes were provided before the meeting
   B. Motion to approve by Esmina Hamzagic & seconded by Jenny Gauld
   C. Minutes were unanimously approved

IV. PASE Representatives & Officers
   A. Chairperson position is vacant. Aryn Manni has been helping after her term ended
   B. Co-chairperson is also vacant
   C. If interested in these positions, contact Jennifer Gard

V. Review of PASE Priorities for 2025-2026
   A. Check in/Check Out (behavior)
   B. Personal Curriculum
   C. Academic Plan
   D. Training/Resources for Staff
   E. Legal help for parents
   F. Peer support/inclusion
   G. LRE, ESY
   H. Updates/how to stay informed in policies
   I. IEP awareness/development/resources to learn
   J. How PASE reps can be the voice for other parents – funnel information
   K. Correlation of Covid – impact on students
   L. Advocate for student involvement in IEP
   M. Confidence building of students – inclusive support

VI. NEW: Meaningful Engagement Brochure – New brochure created for parents. Can be found on Kent ISD website as well as print copies available.

VII. Community Spotlight: Esmina Hamzagic, Michigan Alliance for Families
   A. Statewide resource for families in KISD from birth – 26 (free)
   B. Provide information, training, mentoring and referrals
   C. There are recorded webinars on YouTube channel
   D. Free resources available:
      - Special Education Mediation Services
      - Disability Rights of Michigan
      - The ARC Michigan
   E. Many trainings/webinars done in the month are also included in the Kent ISD Pulse Monthly Newsletter. Contact Jennifer Gard if not receiving the newsletter.

VIII. Kent ISD Plan – Michigan law requires every ISD to have a plan for how special education programs and services will be provided across the county. Kent ISD plan opens October 15th and is due to MDE in April. They will look for input from parents.

IX. Public Comment and Closing – Participated in a Moving from Participation to Partnership activity