



# Kenowa Hills Public Schools

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**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting Preliminary Minutes**  
**Monday, February 23, 2026 at 6:00 pm**  
**Alpine Elementary School**  
**2730 Baumhoff NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49544**

**I. Routine and Organizational Business**

- A. President LaBotz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. at Alpine Elementary School, 2730 Baumhoff NW, Grand Rapids, MI, 49544.
- B. President LaBotz opened the meeting with a moment of silence.
- C. Members Present: Courtade, Gustinis, Hart, LaBotz, Roberts, and Turner are present. Superintendent Hopkins, Director of Finance Ken Long, and Student Representatives Chay'ce Smith and Aaron Coleman are also present. Member Robinson is absent.
- D. Motion by Member Courtade supported by Member Turner to approve the agenda. **Motion carries 6-0.**

CALL TO ORDER

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ROLL CALL

APPROVE AGENDA

**II. Recognition and Correspondence**

- A. Correspondence - None
- B. Recognition
  - 1. Individual Board Awards- Member Turner is recognized for achieving Level 1 and Level 2 Awards from MASB. Member Courtade is recognized for achieving Level 6 MASB Board Certification.
  - 2. Dr. Horner recognized the "ALL IN" enthusiasm of the Alpine staff.
- C. Board Communication - Members reported on various district events in which they participated.

CORRESPONDENCE

RECOGNITION

BOE  
COMMUNICATION

**III. Discussion/Information Items**

- A. FY2025 Audit Presentation - Sheri Blankenship from Maner Costerisan provided an report on the outcome of the FY25 Audit that was completed. The district received an unmodified audit opinion, which is the highest rating an audit can receive. There were two material weaknesses noted, both of which were related to late completion of the audit and FID submission. Corrective action is identified through the audit. The state funding that has been withheld will be sent to the District once FID is submitted.
- B. Alpine Elementary Spotlight - Alpine teachers and Principal Snyder provided an overview of the daily reading and writing instruction that is supported by the Bookworks and UFLI curricula. The teachers shared many celebrations related to improvements in vocabulary, reading fluence, comprehension and writing.
- C. Student Representatives Reports- Chay'ce reported that he will be speaking at the Youth 2 Youth Symposium. He also noted that 40 of our students will be attended the Afrian American Male Achievement Conference. The KHHS Rotary Interact Club will be creating a butterfly garden, and the Student News is working on the senior video.
- D. Superintendent's Report
  - 1. 2026-27 School of Choice Resolutions - Superitnendent Hopkins recommended the District opt out of the State SOC program and opt into both the the Kent County SOC program and the State 105C program. This is consistent with past practice.
  - 2. Proposed 2026-27 School of Choice Openings - Superintendent Hopkins provided an overview of his recommendation to open 140 slots for the the Kent County applications in grades K-11 for the 2026-27 school year. It is also recommended that school of choice openings exist for 105C applications. This will be an action item at the next Board of Education meeting.

FY25 AUDIT

ALPINE SPOTLIGHT

STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT

E. Finance

1. Striking of Delinquent Taxes (First Reading)

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- i. City of Walker
- ii. Alpine Township

2. John Deere Gator & Equipment Purchase - Director Rolon recommends the purchase of a 4x4 GATOR and supplemental equipment that will support the grounds crew with snow removal and salting. This purchase would come from the Capital Projects Fund. This will be an action item at the next Board of Education meeting.

FINANCE

JOHN DEERE/GATOR  
PURCHASE

IV. Public Comment: No audience members 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 Turner to approve the Consent Agenda. **Motion carries 6-0.**

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Preliminary Minutes of the February 9, 2026 Committee of the Whole Workshop
- 2. Certified Staff Personnel Report
  - i. Title/Salary Change

William (Bill) Baxter; Administrative Building (effective February 24, 2026)  
 Title Change: Network Administrator  
 Salary Increase: \$10,000  
 Adjusted Annual Salary: \$78,868

ii. FTE/Salary Change

Cathy Capy; Principal, Pathways High School (effective February 24, 2026)  
 FTE Change: Increase to 1.0 (totaling 32 additional workdays)  
 Salary Increase: \$12,480  
 Adjusted Annual Salary: \$62,790 (+ additional worked days compensated at \$390 per day)

B. Motion by Member Hart supported by Member Turner to approve the 2024-25 Audit Report as prepared and presented by Maner Costerison, PC. Report #26-022. **Motion carries 6-0.**

FY 2025 AUDIT  
Report #26-022

C. Motion by Member Hart supported by Member Turner to approve the resolution to Opt Out of State Schools of Choice Section 105 Program for the 2026-27 school year. Report #26-023. **Motion carries 6-0.**

2026-27 SCHOOLS OF  
CHOICE RESOLUTION  
REPORTS #26-023

D. Motion by Member Hart supported by Member Roberts to approve the resolution to participate in the Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program for the 2026-27 school year. Report #26-024. **Motion carries 6-0.**

2026-27 SCHOOLS OF  
CHOICE RESOLUTION  
REPORTS #26-024

E. Motion by Member Hart supported by Member Turner to approve the resolution to participate in the State 105c Schools of Choice Program for the 2026-27 school year. Report #26-025. **Motion carries 6-0.**

2026-27 SCHOOLS OF  
CHOICE RESOLUTION  
REPORTS #26-025

VI. Future Items for Consideration

A. Future Meetings

FUTURE MEETINGS

- 1. 03/09/26 6:00 pm Committee of the Whole Workshop @ Administration Building
- 2. 03/23/26 6:00 pm Regular Board Meeting @ Central Elementary

B. Go Around

GO AROUND

VII. Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

A. Seeing no additional agenda items, President LaBotz adjourned the meeting at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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