

December 11, 2025 at 9:15 a.m.

The Kelleys Island Board of Education met in regular session for the transaction of business. Janet Wermuth, Board President, called the regular meeting to order. The following members responded to roll call: Mrs. Nataliya Makarova-Skeans, Mrs. Debra Haig, Mrs. Kathey Phinney and Mrs. Janet Wermuth.

The Kelleys Island School students led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

25-50
Executive
Session

It was moved by Deb Haig and seconded by Kathey Phinney to adjourn to executive session to conference with attorney concerning disputes involving pending or imminent court action.

Roll Call: Haig, yes; Phinney, yes; Skeans, yes; Wermuth, yes.

Motion Passed.

The board adjourned to executive session at 9:20 a.m.

Kathey Phinney, Board Member, arrived at 1:06 p.m. during executive session.

Janet Wermuth, Board President, called the meeting back to regular session at 9:41 a.m.

25-51
Agenda

It was moved by Kathey Phinney and seconded by Nataliya Skeans to approve the agenda plus noted additions as presented.

Roll Call: Phinney, yes; Skeans, yes; Haig, yes; Wermuth, yes.

Motion Passed.

Field Station Report:

2025 Field Station Groups and Volunteer Hours			
School/Group	# of Participants	Volunteers	Total Volunteer Hours
Berlin Hts Middle School	110	Chris Ashley	5
OSU Cleveland Educators	24	Chris Ashley	6
Project Wet for Educators at Stone Lab/OSU	16	Dennis Clemmins/EPA	6
University of Findlay	13	Chris Ashley	5
ECCF YAC	22	Chris Ashley	7
Clyde HS School Group	14	Chris Ashley	2
Perkin HS	13	Chris Ashley	3
Norwalk School High School	13	Chris Ashley	6
NPESC: Huron City Schools	31	Chris Ashley	3
St John's 8th Grade	15	Chris Ashley	3
Huron City School 7th Grade	24	Chris Ashley	6
KI Kids Bird Banding	4	Tom & Paula Bartlett	2
Science Saturdays	# of Participants	Volunteers	Total Volunteer Hours
Plankton	32	Doug Kane, Chris Ashley	6
Snakes	75	Emily Beal, Chris Ashley, Mariah McClain	9
Salamanders	72	Chris Ashley	3
Turtles & Frogs	160	Chris Ashley	5
Fishing Program	60 Kids	Chris Ashely, Beck Miller	7
Turtles	120	Chris Ashley	3
Turtles	110	Chris Ashley	3
Butterflies	107	Chris Ashley	3
Pollinators	38	Chris Ashley	3
Homecoming	200+	Chris Ashely	5
Geology	300+	Ohio Geological Survey (2people)	10
Pollinators & Pancakes	98	Chris Ashely, Virginia Polofka	12
Monarch Butterfly Tagging	120	Chris Ashley	3
Nature Camp		Volunteers	Total Volunteer Hours
Camp Check-in	33 Campers	Janet Wermuth	4
Geology Program		Chris Ashley	10
Insects		Erie Metro Parks (2 people)	10
Camp Check-in	27 Campers	Janet Wermuth	2

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Geology Program		Chris Ashley	6
Kayaking		Erie Metro Parks	5
School Tours	# of Participants		
June 7 Tour	49		
July 12 Tour	77		
2-Aug	45		
Programs & Events	# of Participants	Volunteers	Total Volunteer Hours
Monarch Fest at PIB	182		
KIFS Field Station Day and Ribbon Cutting	51	Chris Ashley	8
Port Clinton Rotary Club Butterfly Program	20		
Twin Oast Butterfly Program	97		
Owl Fest			
Grants	Amount Awarded	Purpose	
Erie County Community Foundation	4,980	Field Trip Ferry Transportation	
Ottawa County Community Foundation	2,000	Field Trip Ferry Transportation	
Wightman Wieber Foundation	3,154	Field Trip Ferry Transportation	
The ECCF Youth Advisory Council	650	Field Station Supplies- Plankton Net	
KILA	7,261	Outdoor Classroom	
Conservation Club Competitive Partnership Grant Ohio Department of Natural Resources	800	Field Station Supplies- Macro D-Nets	
KIPDA	2,000	Outdoor Classroom	
	20,845		
Camp Sponsorships	Amount Awarded		
Dave Zavagno	100		
Adohr Corp.	500		
Tom & Paula Batlett	100		
Bill & June Campbell	100		
The Greater Cincinnati Foundation	300		
Herndon	500		
Bad Day Training	500		
Western Reserve Land Conservancy	500		
KI Audubon Club	500		
KI VFW	500		
Hancock Wood Community Trust Fund	3,130		
	6730		

Educator report:

- 1 We had a great mainland trip before Thanksgiving break, volunteering at the Sandusky Salvation Army, enjoying a Thanksgiving lunch, and learning about animals at Back to the Wild.
2. Students have been hard at work rehearsing for the upcoming pageant at the Christmas Potluck. We can't wait to share the performance with everyone!
3. Students in technology classes have been working with drones. We have learned about the history of drones, drone related career paths, different control options, and practicing maneuvering. We will begin designing our own obstacle courses to challenge our flying skills moving forward! Our final element of the unit will focus on drone photography.
4. In P.E., 3rd and 6th grade students have been practicing racquet sports including pickleball and badminton and Kindergarten has been working on tumbling skills!
5. In 3rd and 6th grade art, students have been talking about patterns and learned how to create their own unique irregular tessellations inspired by artist M.C. Escher. In Kindergarten, we have been learning about different mediums and learning to create art through unconventional methods!
6. Before leaving for Winter break we plan on partaking in some fun minute-to-win-it challenges, P.E. activities, holiday crafts, and a holiday movie!
7. Quarter 2 ends December 19th. It has been a great first semester!

Betty Schwiefert, Treasurer, reviewed the November 2025 financial report and updated the board regarding legislation affecting taxes.

Ben Ohlemacher, Superintendent, shared the following information:

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1. Mission & Vision updates
 - January Work Session Date: TBD
2. Strategic Plan update: Field Station Meeting TBD
3. 125th Estes School celebration & Erie County Community Foundation Fund
 - New Departure films
4. Sandusky Register Socktober coverage
5. Socktober learning
6. Social media engagement month and school year
7. KI Christmas Pageant: Saturday 6:00 p.m at the Town Hall
8. Roof update
9. Boiler room before and after photos
10. HVAC & boiler updates
11. Attorney General FY26 Formula Based Safety Grant: window application
12. Board of Education holdover process
13. KI Facility Plan update
14. Superintendent and treasurer evaluations

25-52
Dec 2025
Business

It was moved by Nataliya Skeans and seconded by Deb Haig to approve the following:

- approve the minutes of the November 10, 2025 regular meeting as presented.
- approve the financial reports for November 2025 as presented.
- approve an advance of \$6,020.00 from the General Fund (001) to the FY26 ADAMHS Mental Health Grant (019-9026).
- approve the following revenue/appropriations for FY26:

019-5210-9026 ADAMHS Grant Revenue FY26	\$6,020
019-2100-400-9026 Purchased Services	\$6,020
- approve membership in the Ohio School Boards Association for calendar year 2026. Cost to be \$125.00.
- employ Rodney Miller as a substitute teacher, as needed, for the 2025-2026 school year.
- approve the following board of education meeting dates for the calendar year 2026:
 - Thursday, January 8, 2026 Organization Meeting, Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting
 - Wednesday, February 11, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting
 - Thursday March 12, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting
 - Thursday, April 9, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting
 - Thursday May 14, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting
 - Thursday, June 11, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting
 - Thursday, July 9, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting
 - Thursday, August 13, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting
 - Thursday, September 10, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting
 - Thursday, October 8, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting
 - Thursday, November 12, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting
 - Thursday, December 10, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting
- approve Kathey Phinney as President Pro Tempore for the Term of January 1, 2026, until January 8, 2026, organizational meeting.
- approve Kelleys Island School Board organizational meeting/budget meeting date for 2026: January 8, 2025 at 9:45 AM - organization meeting, budget hearing and regular monthly meeting.
- approve Rodney Miller's attendance at the 2025 Midwest International Band and Orchestra conference.

Roll Call: Skeans, yes; Haig, yes; Phinney, yes; Wermuth, yes.
Motion Passed.

25-53
Holdover
board
member

It was moved by Nataliya Skeans and seconded by Janet Wermuth to approve the following holdover resolution of Kathey Phinney as a member of the Kelleys Island Local School Board of Education:

WHEREAS Board Member Deb Haig, Board Member Kathey Phinney, and Board Member Janet Wermuth are currently holding an office of public trust as Board Member Deb Haig, Board Member Kathey Phinney, and Board Member Janet Wermuth were either elected or appointed to serve as members of the Board pursuant to R.C. 3313.01, R.C. 3313.09, R.C. 3313.10, R.C. 3313.11, and all other applicable laws for a four-year term expiring on December 31, 2025.

WHEREAS there were three (3) board member positions open for the November 4, 2025 General Election.

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WHEREAS Board Member Deb Haig and Board Member Janet Wermuth were the only candidates (including write-in candidates) on the ballot for the three (3) board member positions open for the November 4, 2025 General Election.

WHEREAS no other member of the Board stands on an equal basis as Board Member Kathey Phinney.

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.C. 3.01 and all other applicable laws, Board Member Kathey Phinney shall be a hold-over for the one (1) remaining board member position as there was no successor elected nor was there a vacancy created under R.C. 3313.11 and all other applicable laws. WHEREAS Board Member Kathey Phinney shall serve as a hold-over member of the Board for either a four-year term or two-year term beginning on January 1, 2026, as determined by the Erie County Board of Elections.

WHEREAS the notice requirements of R.C. 121.22, R.C. 3313.16, and all other applicable laws were complied with for this board meeting of December 11, 2025. WHEREAS all formal action of the Board concerning and relating to the adoption of the instant resolution was taken in an open meeting of the Board and all deliberations that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board hereby directs the Treasurer to immediately give written notice of this resolution to the Erie County Board of Elections requesting that:

1. The Erie County Board of Elections certify Board Member Kathey Phinney as a hold-over member of the Board for a four-year term beginning on January 1, 2026; or
2. In the alternative, the Erie County Board of Elections instead certify Board Member Kathey Phinney as a hold-over member of the Board for a two-year term beginning on January 1, 2026.

Roll Call: Skeans, yes; Wermuth, yes; Haig, yes; Phinney present.
Motion Passed.

It was moved by Nataliya Skeans to adjourn, seconded by Kathey Phinney.
Roll Call: Skeans, yes; Phinney, yes; Haig, yes; Wermuth, yes.
Motion passed.

25-54
Adjourn

The board adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Board President

Board Treasurer