

September 10, 2026 at 9:45 a.m.

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

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

It was moved by Kathey Phinney and seconded by Nataliya Skeans to adjourn to executive session for to discuss the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, or compensation of a public employee or regulated official.
Roll Call: Phinney, yes; Skeans, yes; Haig, yes; Wermuth, yes.
Motion Passed.

26-32
Executive
Session

The board adjourned to executive session at 9:54 a.m.
Janet Wermuth, Board President, called the meeting back to regular session at 10:07 a.m.

The following field station report was shared:

2026 Kelleys Island Field Station Groups and Volunteer Hours				
School/Group	# of Participants	Volunteers	Total	Volunteer Hours Grant/County
Edison MS	120	Chris Ashley	5	Erie County Community Foundation
Port Clinton MS	108	Chris Ashley, Tom/Paula Bartlett	10	Ottawa County Community Found
Sandusky	100	Chris Ashley	4	Whitman Wieber Charitable Found
Sandusky	108	Chris Ashley	4	Whitman Wieber Charitable Found
Huron HS	30	Chris Ashley	4	Erie County Community Foundation
Norwalk HS	30	Chris Ashley, Tom/Paula Bartlett	8	n/a
Ohio Bird Sanctuary	12	Chris Ashley	6	n/a
Science Saturdays	# of Participants	Volunteers	Total	Volunteer Hours
Plankton	50	Doug Kane, Chris Ashley	6	
Bees	38	David Borling	3	
Fishing	38	Chris Ashley	5	
Fishing	x	Mariah McClain	3	
Tree Cookie and Trees	x	Mark Nemec	10	
Trees	30	Chris Ashley	3	
Marine Debris	56	Chris Ashley	3	
Turtles	32	Chris Ashley	3	
Turtles	x	Pat Hayes	2	
Snakes	82	Mariah McClain	3	
Snakes	x	Chris Ashley	3	
Turtles		Chris Ashley	3	
Geology	226	3 from OGS, Chris Ashley	20	
Pollinators & Pancakes	98	Virginia, Chris Ashley, Mark Nemec	20	
Butterflies and Bees	41	Chris Ashley/Peggy Medina Beekeepers	12	
Monarch Butterfly Tagging	113	Chris Ashley	3	
Nature Camp	# of Participants	Volunteers	Total	Volunteer Hours
Kayaking and Camp Support	59 Campers	Chris Ashley	5	
Kayaking and Camp Support		Mariah McClain	5	
Water Program		Matthew Kennedy	8	
Birds		Mike Hensley	8	
Tree Cookie and Tree for Camp		Mark Nemec	10	
Weather- Fox 8		Alexis Walters	8	
Ohio Division of Forestry		3 Staff 1	5	
School Tours	# of Participants			
28-Jun	43		n/a	
26-Jul	38		n/a	
Grants	Amount Awarded	Purpose		
KILA	\$2,000.00	Nature Camp		
Hancock Wood Community	\$2,500	Nature Camp		
Camp Sponsorships	Amount Awarded	Purpose		
June Cambell	\$100.00	Nature Camp		
Alexi Panehal	\$100.00	Nature Camp		
Carter Family	\$100.00	Nature Camp		
Kyle & Jerry Yoest	\$100.00	Nature Camp		
Tom & Paula Bartlett	\$100.00	Nature Camp		
University of Findly	\$300.00	Nature Camp		
JDM	\$300.00	Nature Camp		
Bad Day Training	\$300.00	Nature Camp		
Hancock Wood Electric	\$300.00	Nature Camp		
PIB Island Transportation	\$300.00	Nature Camp		
WRLC	\$500.00	Nature Camp		
Adohr Corp.	\$500.00	Nature Camp		
Penny Plus Store	\$1,000.00	Nature Camp		
Bobbie Jo Chris Kipfer	\$1,000.00	Nature Camp		
Leonard Advisory Group	\$1,000.00	Nature Camp		
KILA	\$2,000.00	Nature Camp		

Educator Report-September

1. We have had a wonderful start to the new school year, focusing on building our classroom and school communities. We continue to focus on learning, playing, and respecting one another. We are ecstatic to welcome new staff as well as a new student!
2. In accordance with strategic plan item 1B, "Promote and offer best practices in education, through the building of partnerships, that increase the collective understanding of current issues and needs," Mrs. Muster has again organized a fantastic opportunity for our students to engage in swimming lessons this fall. We are so appreciative

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- of the Venture Resort for allowing us to use their facilities. Students will have 4 different days of lessons, Sept. 9, Sept. 11, Sept. 16, and Sept. 17.
3. Highlighting both strategic plan points 1A and 1B, Mrs. Muster is starting a walking club for both adults and students. The hope is to merge the groups once the distance and speeds are comparable. This not only works to nurture a positive and healthy school environment, but also builds community partnerships between school students/personnel and community members.
 4. As aligned with strategic plan points 1A and 1B, the students and staff of KI School will be planning and participating in a fundraiser car wash to support our island safety services. This collaboration serves to nurture a positive school environment and promotes partnerships that extend beyond the classroom. The car wash will take place on Saturday, September 26th from 10:00-2:00 p.m. and we welcome any board members that are available to join us!
 5. We have enjoyed the transition from Pizza Wednesdays to Salad Thursdays, which continues to nurture a positive school culture while focusing on best practices in nutritional education. This includes conversations about appropriate portions, ways to add healthy proteins, and making healthy food more fun! Students fill out salad dressing "order sheets" with Mrs. Muster in the morning and build their own salads with a variety of toppings.

Betty Schwiefert, Treasurer, reviewed the August 2026 financial report.

Ben Ohlemacher, Superintendent, shared the following information:

1. Mission & Vision updates
 - Work Session date: Fall 2026
2. 125th Estes School Celebration (August 9th)
 - New Departure video
 - KILA Partnership
 - T-Shirt Sizes (check to be collected)
 - Key Chains (check to be collected)
3. Field Station renovation update: TBD
 - Denslow Mechanical removal proposal request
 - Timeline: Thanksgiving or Christmas break
4. Kelleys Island Emergency Operations Plan
5. Playground update
 - Demolition
 - Construction
 - Playground
 - Turf
 - Removal & Restoration
 - KI Village
 - KI Biking Club & KI State Park
 - Snider Recreation
6. Enrollment update (KI 5 & Danbury 3)
7. Legal update
8. Field Station Celebration
9. NWOERC
10. KI Facility Plan update
11. KI School: 2026-2027 dates of importance

26-33
Sept
Business

It was moved by Nataliya Skeans and seconded by Deb Haig to approve the following:
-approve the minutes of the August 13, 2026 regular meeting as presented.
-approve the financial reports for August 2026 as presented.
-approve 2026 Millage Letter for posting physically & digitally.
-approve quote #9617 from Walters' Boiler Works Inc. to supply and replace one water feeder. Cost to be \$5,850.00.
Roll Call: Skeans, yes; Haig, yes; Phinney, yes; Wermuth, yes.
Motion Passed.

26-34
Adjourn

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

The board adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Board President

Board Treasurer