



**Parents for Public Schools  
of  
Greater Kalamazoo**

*When parents and schools work together,  
everybody wins.*

**General Information Packet**

**Membership Information  
By-Laws (available electronically)  
Standards of Operation (available electronically)  
Board Application**

## **Overview of Parents for Public Schools of Greater Kalamazoo**

Founded in August of 2010, our mission is to engage, empower, and mobilize parents to enable them to improve the quality of public schools so that our vision of high quality public education for all children in Kalamazoo County is achieved. PPS-GK is a state and national registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization and is one of over 20 local chapters across the country that is supported by Parents for Public School national office, located in Jackson, Mississippi. We are governed by a board of directors, by-laws, and are guided by our annual work plan. The board consists of up to twelve members who can serve on one of four committees: (1) governance; (2) community outreach; (3) program and evaluation; and (4) fund development. We are funded through gifts from individuals, corporations, and local foundations.

PPS-GK offers Parent Engagement Programs such as the Pathways to Parent Leadership, a program that serves 30 parents over a year through training, coaching, and project development and implementation. We also convene the Parent Engagement Roundtable, made up of local organizations that share our vision and mission. Third, PPS-GK facilitates Parent Forums throughout Kalamazoo County. The forums provide parents with a structured space to discuss topics of interest of them and craft potential solutions to these issues.

### **Membership Guidelines**

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of Parents of Public Schools of Greater Kalamazoo, Inc. (PPS-GK). Parents for Public Schools chapters ask individuals to become members of the organization so that we can better serve our communities. If you are in member, you will receive our regular e-newsletters, our annual report, invitations to Parent Forums and other meetings, and other information we distribute.

If you are interested in joining PPS-GK's team and be part of strengthening our public schools, please complete Membership Application and return it to any PPS-GK board member.

If you are interested in serving on the board, please complete the board application that is included in this packet and return it to any board member. You may contact Meg Blinkiewicz at [blinkiewicz@earthlink.net](mailto:blinkiewicz@earthlink.net) or 269-929-1982 with questions.

## Membership Application

Please complete this membership application if you would like to join us on our mission to strengthen public schools in Kalamazoo County. We ask everyone to complete this form so that we can maintain an accurate record our members. Again, you will receive our newsletters, educational materials, and invitations to trainings and meetings. If you wish to apply for the board or to volunteer, you must complete this form.

Date:
Name:
Address:
Telephone: (home) _____ (cell) _____
e-mail:
School District:
I want to: Join PPS-GK [ ] Apply for the board [ ] Volunteer [ ]

# Board Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why do you want to join the Parents for Public Schools of Greater Kalamazoo's board?

2. Please indicate any areas with which you can assist the board. Check all that apply.

- |                         |     |                      |     |
|-------------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Staffing/Human Resource | [ ] | Fund development     | [ ] |
| Evaluation              | [ ] | Community networking | [ ] |
| Finance                 | [ ] | Training             | [ ] |
| Programming             | [ ] | Marketing            | [ ] |
| Legislative affairs     | [ ] | Volunteer mgmt.      | [ ] |

3. What grade(s) are your children and where do they attend school?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

4. What does authentic parent engagement mean to you?

5. How can PPS-GK improve public education over the next years?