

# April 2025 - Special Called Meeting - Governmental Affairs & Public Policy Committee

**Schedule**

Monday, April 7, 2025 2:00 PM — 3:00 PM CDT

**Organizer**

Colton Cockrum

## Agenda



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1. Call to Order	1
Presented by Doug Edwards	

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For Approval - Presented by Colton Cockrum	

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Presented by Doug Edwards	

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# 1. Call to Order

Presented by Doug Edwards



## 2. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

For Approval

Presented by Colton Cockrum



### 3. Campus School Kimball Approval for 2025-2026

For Approval

Presented by Doug Edwards

# **The University of Memphis Board of Trustees**

## **Recommendation**

### **Presentation of new University School for approval**

**Date:** April 7, 2025

**Committee:** **Governmental Affairs & Public Policy**

**Presentation:** New School Opening

**Presented by:** **Dr. Sally G. Parish, Vice Provost & Director of Schools**

#### **Background:**

A local Independent School seeks a partner to take over their Kimball Avenue elementary school campus, and transition operation of the site as a public school beginning in the Fall 2025 school year. The campus is 1 mile West from UofM's South Campus and currently enrolls 132 students but has capacity for 228. The site is operational and is in very good condition, including a \$3 million facility upgrade that includes the addition of a new gymnasium. In partnership with local philanthropists, they have asked University Schools to take over the site as part of our Innovative School District. The opening of a new University School at this site is aligned with the 10-year Strategic Expansion plan for University Schools as it provides an immediate opportunity for expansion, in the most desired grades, with the least amount of investment required and in an area in close proximity to the University of Memphis.

The student population currently enrolled at the current school site is largely Black/African American (97%) with more than one-third coming from zip codes where the average family income is below the poverty threshold. These students will be offered the opportunity to remain enrolled at this school site, and any additional openings will be offered to students currently on the 2,000-student University Schools waitlist. Moving forward, the school will operate under the University Schools district policies, including all enrollment policies. However, the enrollment proximity for this site will be a 2-mile radius surrounding the school site, instead of the current 2-mile radius that is drawn surrounding the Administration Building.

The school will operate as a K-5 elementary school, and will be the first elementary school opened by the University of Memphis since the opening of the "training school" in 1912. The school is in the Sherwood Forest Neighborhood 1.8 miles South of the Main UofM Campus, and 1 mile West of the South Campus.

Elementary schools that children in the Sherwood Forest are currently zoned to attend include:  
South Park Elementary School (Letter Grade: D; Achievement Level: 1; Achievement Rate: 13%)  
Sherwood Elementary School (Letter Grade: D; Achievement Level: 1; Achievement Rate: 15%)

2025/2026 student enrollment would be approximately 120 students. Maximum enrollment for this school site would grow over time to 228 students:

2 Kindergarten classrooms (34 total students)  
2 1<sup>st</sup> grade classrooms (34 total students)  
2 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms (40 total students)  
2 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms (40 total students)  
3 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> classrooms (40 per grade, 80 total)

As a public school, the school is eligible for all state, local, federal and capital improvement funds. However, in the state's current TISA funding model, public schools are only funded on prior year enrollment numbers. As this school site will not have prior year enrollment data as a public school, there will be no state funds allocated for the students enrolled at this school site for the 2025/2026 school year. The university has secured philanthropic support to subsidize the state funds that are not being provided in the launch year of the school. Moving forward, the students at this school site will be funded on prior year enrollment numbers and philanthropic support will not be necessary to sustain the school operating budget.

The new school site will be named "Campus School Kimball." Campus School Kimball graduates would receive priority enrollment at University Middle School.

The University of Memphis is being gifted the property at 3749 Kimball Avenue for the purpose of utilizing the site as a University School. The property transaction is being presented for approval by the Finance & Audit Committee.

**Motion to be Made:**

Motion to approve the opening of Campus School Kimball in the 2025/2026 school year.

# *New School Opening*

**Governmental Affairs & Public Policy**

**Dr. Sally G. Parish**  
**Vice Provost & Director of Schools**

**March 5, 2025**  
**University Center**



**MARCH 2025**

- The University is being gifted the property at 3749 Kimball Avenue for the purposes of opening a public elementary school
- The property is currently owned & operated as a private school
- If approved, University Schools would operate “Campus School Kimball” as an elementary school serving grades K-5, beginning in the 2025/2026 school year
- Current students would have the opportunity to remain enrolled
- First-Year funding would be provided by private philanthropic support
- Students would matriculate from Campus School Kimball to University Middle School, then to University High School
- *Finance & Audit will introduce a recommendation related to the property transaction – this presentation is specifically regarding the opening of the new school*

- Alignment with Strategic Expansion Team's 10-year enrollment plan
- Increases University Schools footprint in the geographic area most in-demand
- Extends our high-quality public education model to the most sought-after grades
- Increases access to a University Schools education while simultaneously investing in a university-neighboring community
- Provides an additional training and laboratory school site for teacher and practitioner training, UofM student residency and practica experiences, and faculty research partnerships

# School Location

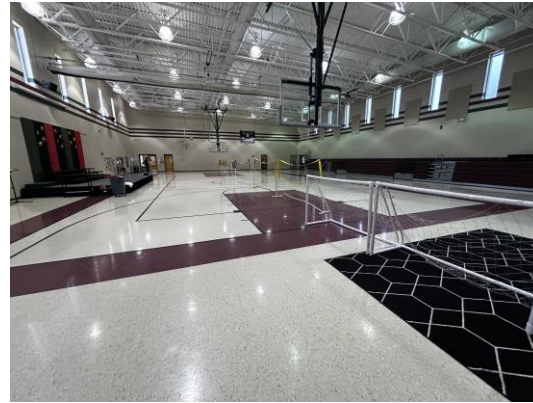


- 1 mile West from UofM's South Campus
- 1.8 miles South from Main Campus
- Sherwood Forest Neighborhood
  - There are 20,043 housing units in Sherwood Forest with approximately half occupied by renters.  
*Data provided by the 2022 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau*
- Nearby public elementary schools include South Park Elementary School & Sherwood Elementary School

# School Location



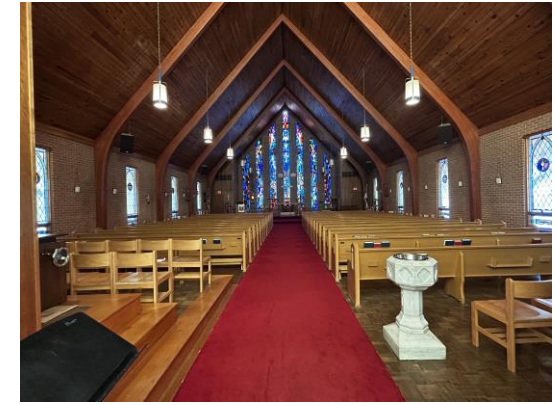
Front Entrance of Main Building



Gymnasium



Standard Classroom Setup



Chapel



April 2025 - Special Called Meeting - Governmental Affairs ...  
STEM Classroom



3. Campus School Kimball Approval for 2025-2026  
The Columns



Library



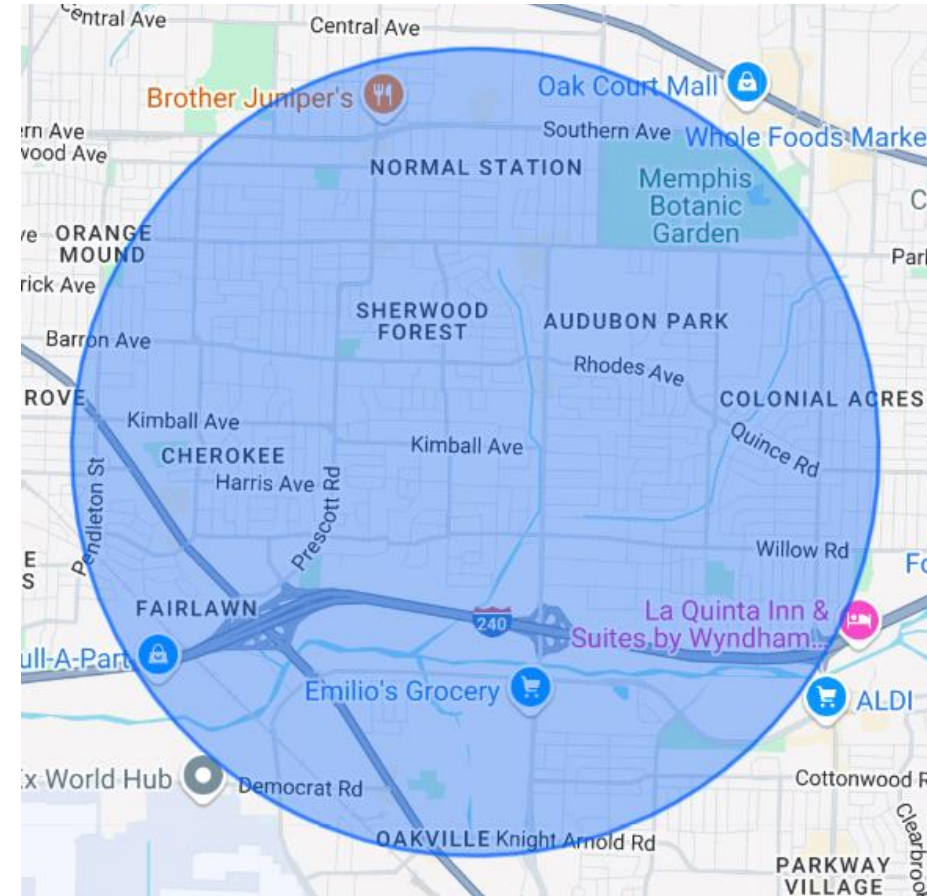
Playground

- Strong focus on personal development, academic proficiency, student growth, and family engagement
- Academic emphasis on literacy and numeracy with exposure to art, music, and physical education that aligns with state standards
- Meaningful engagement with University students & departments
- Signature Campus School programs including Family Gathering, Campus Tiger Pride Life Skills, and developmental athletic programs

- 2025/2026 student enrollment would be approximately 132 students.
- Maximum enrollment for this school site would grow over time, via a slow growth model, to 228 students (each grade will have one classroom in 2025/2026, with exception of Kindergarten):
  - 2 Kindergarten classrooms (34 total students): 2025
  - 2 1<sup>st</sup> grade classrooms (34 total students): 2026
  - 2 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms (40 total students): 2027
  - 2 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms (40 total students): 2028
  - 2 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms (40 total students): 2029
  - 2 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms (40 total students): 2030
- Staffing will increase proportionately with enrollment.



- All current students enrolled at the site will be invited to remain
- All remaining openings will default to our current waitlist of over 2,000 students
  - The zip-code with the highest concentration of waitlisted students is 38111
- Enrollment will follow existing enrollment policy (US 200), but with the priority enrollment radius extending from the school site



- As a public school, the school is eligible for all state, local, federal and capital improvement funds.
- However, in the state's current TISA funding model, public schools are only funded on prior year enrollment numbers. As this school site will not have prior year enrollment data as a public school, there will be no state funds allocated for the students enrolled at this school site for the 2025/2026 school year.
- The university has secured philanthropic support to subsidize the state funds that are not being provided in the launch year of the school.
- Moving forward, the students at this school site will be funded on prior year enrollment numbers and philanthropic support will not be necessary to sustain the school operating budget.
- The Finance & Audit Committee's agenda item will provide further financial and facility information for the Board's consideration.

# Questions & Motion to Approve





## 4. Additional Business

For Discussion

Presented by Doug Edwards



## 5. Adjournment

Presented by Doug Edwards