



Newsletter

Featuring

BARBER
PREPARATORY ACADEMY

2022-23
Annual Report &
Summer Newsletter

A letter from the Chief Education Officer

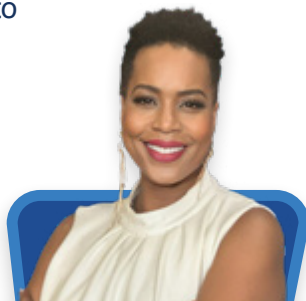
The goal of the School District of the City of Highland Park is to always put Children First. This focus guides the District's educators and leaders. Every decision, every action, every day is based on its dedication to student success.

We have come a long way as a school district and continue to move forward in ways that best align our children for the future. The District's Education Plan details three performance goals: rebuild, grow and achieve. We've accomplished just that!

We've increased enrollment and are offering new educational programs that support high academic achievement. We've improved facilities, restructured, digitized records, improved accountability and transparency, and reduced our debt and deficit. And, our team is proud to have reclaimed some of our District's most valuable memorabilia!

This is just the beginning of many great things to come that help fuel a vibrant community ... a community that puts Children First in every decision.

We are thankful for the opportunity to serve and elevate our children and families in partnership with the city's businesses and community members.



Zakia Gibson, Ed.D.
Chief Education Officer

Board of Education Members



Anthony Askew



Janet Spight-White



Lorne McGee



Cheryl Sanford



Mark Ashley Price



Linda Wheeler



Doris Harris

Barber Prep Highlights

A glimpse on this past year's activities at Barber Preparatory Academy shows scholars engaging in so many ways, including:

- ▶ New volleyball, basketball, Pom Pom and track teams
- ▶ STEM program
- ▶ University of Michigan tour
- ▶ Jazzy Jam
- ▶ Back-to-School Bash
- ▶ Ties & Tiaras Dance and Mother & Son Dance
- ▶ Guest Readers Series
- ▶ Photography Club in Partnership with Wayne State University

Children First!

Annual Report to the Community

2022-23 District Accomplishments

EDUCATING OUR SCHOLARS



National Elementary/Junior Honor Society Inductees
STEM integration Elementary/Middle School
Career College Integration Middle School
Technology & Digital Programming for reading/mathematics

Academic Competitions
Oratorical Competitions
Youth for Global Health/United Nations Partnership
Technovation Artificial Intelligence



PROMOTING OUR DISTRICT

BPA enrollment increases to **300+**

1,517% 
increase in Facebook followers



2 modern, digital signs @ District office & BPA

Strong relationships with state, local & Barber Prep



 **24/7**
professional PR, marketing, web & design services

6 district newsletters delivered to
4,000 businesses & residents w/
12,000+ readers for each edition



PRESERVING OUR RECORDS & TRANSCRIPTS

67,000

Record retention project, scanning **67,000** records into PSIsafe Cabinet (cloud space) that dated from 2012



Reinstated duplicate diplomas for all alumni



Ratification of many damaged records

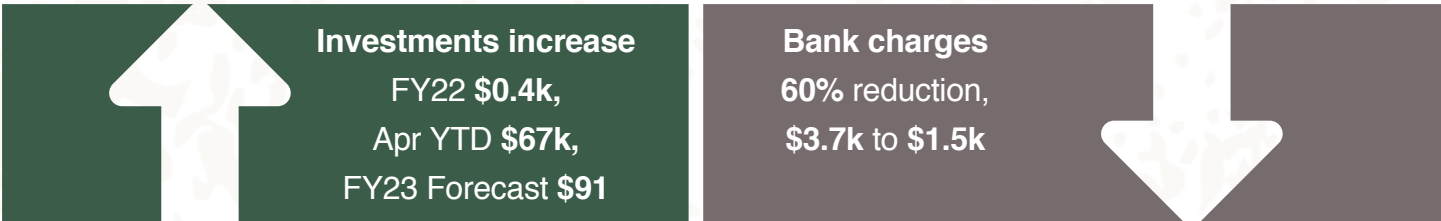
Continued support HPSPD alumni to continue their educations and seek further employment




Annual Report to the Community

Protecting our Finances

BANKING AND INVESTMENTS



DEBT AND DEFICIT

<div>2005 Bond Partial Redemption \$696k</div> <div>2005 Bond Debt Interest Saving \$160k</div> <div>Early redemption of the portion of bonds on July 1, 2022, is estimated to reduce the School District's bond debt tax rate on its taxpayers, while the remaining bonds are outstanding, by at least 50% and result in a net present value savings of not less than 17% in interest cost to taxpayers</div>		<div>Emergency Loan Interest Saving \$683k</div> <div> ORS is paid off ahead of schedule</div>
UIA Repayment ahead of DEP* schedule	Sinking Fund Repayment ahead of DEP* schedule	Deficit Elimination 5 years ahead of DEP* from FY31 from FY26

**Deficit Elimination Plan*

REVENUE

- State Aid increase of 13.5%
- Authorizer fee increase from \$76.3k to \$86.6k
- Academy lease increase from \$101.7k to \$115.5k
- Grant reimbursement of \$133k
- Unclaimed Property Income of \$50k

EXPENDITURES

- 2022 Audit Report Management's Discussion and Analysis Extract
- The School District experienced an increase in net assets of \$1.4 million. The key reason for the change in net assets is the continued maintenance of low operating expenses.

PROCESSES & PROCEDURES

Electronic system for payments delivering on-time payment	Financial reporting packet delivering enhanced and complete information	Financial reporting one month earlier from two months prior to prior month	Audits ready on time and three clean audits
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Barber Prep: The



Year in a Snapshot



Polar bear spotted in Highland Park!

Chief education officer safeguards former mascot

As summer nears, thoughts of snow and cold become a distant memory. In Highland Park, however, the appearance of a beloved polar bear – the longtime high school mascot – is welcomed and overdue.

“It’s an incredible discovery,” said Zakia Gibson, chief education officer for the Highland Park School District. “For years, many area residents and high school alumni have frantically searched for their long-lost mascot. Our polar bear has finally come back home.”

The solid-rock, brilliant white bear weighs in at a hefty 600 pounds. Presented by the classes of 1931-1932, every graduating class of Highland Park Community High School added their signatures to it only to be sandblasted annually to make way for the next grads. Sculptor Samuel Cashwan, who created the polar masterpiece, was renowned for his work, serving as head of the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts and, later, with the Works Progress Administration.

The bear went into hibernation (and was not seen) since the high school’s closure in 2012. For over 90 years, the high school had served as the heart of the district before its demolition.

In addition to the infamous polar bear, Gibson secured a litany of other high school memorabilia, including a time capsule, trophies, yearbooks and other historical archives. The time capsule dates back to 1977 when the city of Highland Park and



the Highland Park Community High School buried it under the theme, “Striving for Excellence; Learning for Life.”

“The polar bear’s return, along with all this wonderful history, marks a fantastic comeback for the Highland Park School District,” said Gibson. “Our scholars are pursuing academic excellence, the district is financially sound and tomorrow has never looked brighter for our community.”

The HPSD Board of Education welcomed back the beloved mascot with great gratitude June 16. The district plans to preserve the historic items for the enjoyment of school alumni and the community.



Highland Park School District Calendar



**June 6 -
Aug 2**

BPA Summer Academy

July

5

BOE Business Meeting @ 6PM

July

11

**Organizational Meeting @ 5PM
Regular Meeting @ 6PM**

**1st & 2nd
Tuesday**

**Business meeting @ 6PM
Regular meeting @ 6PM**

BOE dates for 2023-24 to be approved at organizational meeting.
Generally, no meetings in August.

July

22

**The Jazzy Jam
1PM - 4PM at BPA**

**July 31 -
Aug 11**

District office closed for summer recess

BARBER
PREPARATORY ACADEMY

barberprep.com



Become a BPA Scholar!

Enroll Now

Quality, local
PK-8 education for
Highland Park families

**Highland Park School District • 313-957-3005
www.hipark.org**

Leadership in Action

From the steps of the state Capitol to the stage for jammin' events, the Board of Education, BPA Board of Directors and Leadership, Chief Education Officer Zakia Gibson, faculty and staff and the entire HPSPD team get it done for our academies and scholars. Thank you for all you do!



**Connect with us
on Facebook**

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@highlandparkschooldistrict



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PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Enroll Now for Fall



Barber Preparatory Academy
(313) 957-3005 • www.barberprep.org

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