



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK SPECIAL MEETING

Barber Preparatory Academy, Media Center

45 E. Buena Vista

Highland Park, MI 48203

March 21, 2024, 11:00 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS

Janet Spight-White
President

Doris Harris
Vice President

Linda Wheeler
Secretary

Mark Ashley Price
Sergeant-at-Arms

Lorne McGee
Treasurer

Cheryl Sanford
Trustee

Anthony Askew
Trustee

Zakia Gibson, Ed.D.
Chief Education Officer

Joseph Urban, Esq.
Board Attorney

- **Call to Order**
- **Roll Call**
- **Communications** – None
- **Approve Meeting Agenda**
- **Public Comments and Questions (Agenda Items 3 Minutes Only)**
- **Approve Meeting Minutes**
 - (1) Approve March 19, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
- **Unfinished Business** – None
- **New Business**
 - (1) Amend the Budget (Agenda Item 3.19.24, no action taken);
 - (2) All board members must attend all regular meetings to receive a full stipend unless an excuse in writing is provided to the board president and approved. Attendance at meetings is crucial for effective decision-making and collaboration within the board. (Agenda Item 3.19.24, no action taken);
 - (3) Board Members' Training; and
 - (4) Motion regarding Board Member.
- **Board of Education Affairs & Comments**
- **Public Comments and Questions (3 Minutes Only)**
- **Confirmation of the Next Scheduled Meetings**

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 @ 6:00PM
- **Adjournment**

This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in the agenda item.

The proposed minutes of this meeting will be available for public inspection at The School District of the City of Highland Park Central Office, located at 12360 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, MI 48203, eight (8) business days after the meeting. Approved minutes are available on the District website within five (5) business days after the meeting at which at which they are approved.



**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Held at: 45 East Buena Vista Street
Highland Park, MI 48203-3322

Thursday, March 21, 2024
11:00 AM

PROPOSED MINUTES

Call to Order –

Meeting was called to order by Janet Spight-White @ 11:09AM

Roll Call –

Present: Janet Spight-White, President/ Doris Harris, Vice-President/ Linda Wheeler, Secretary / Mark Ashley Price, Sergeant-at-Arms/ Lorne McGee, Treasurer, Cheryl Sanford, Member/
Absent: Anthony Askew, Member

QUORUM

Communications - None

Approve Meeting Agenda

Motion to Approve the Meeting Agenda

President Spight-White entertained a motion to approve the meeting agenda, so moved by Vice-President Harris, seconded by Member Price.

Discussion: Members discussed the motion.

Roll call vote: Janet Spight-White - Yes, Doris Harris - Yes, Linda Wheeler - Yes, Mark Price - Yes, Lorne McGee – Yes,
MOTION PASSES: 5-0

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve the March 19, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

President Spight-White entertained a motion to approve the March 19, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, so moved by Vice-President Harris, seconded by Member Wheeler.

Discussion: Member McGee asked who would be performing the background checks through iChat. He was advised that CEO Gibson would continue to perform that process and procedure.



**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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APPROVED MINUTES

Call to Order –

Meeting was called to order by Janet Spight-White @ 11:09AM

Roll Call –

Present: Janet Spight-White, President/ Doris Harris, Vice-President/ Linda Wheeler, Secretary / Mark Ashley Price, Sergeant-at-Arms/ Lorne McGee, Treasurer, Cheryl Sanford, Member/

Absent: Anthony Askew, Member

QUORUM

Communications - None

Approve Meeting Agenda

Motion to Approve the Meeting Agenda

President Spight-White entertained a motion to approve the meeting agenda, so moved by Vice-President Harris, seconded by Member Price.

Discussion: Members discussed the motion.

Roll call vote: Janet Spight-White - Yes, Doris Harris - Yes, Linda Wheeler - Yes, Mark Price - Yes, Lorne McGee – Yes,

MOTION PASSES: 5-0

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve the March 19, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

President Spight-White entertained a motion to approve the March 19, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, so moved by Vice-President Harris, seconded by Member Wheeler.

Discussion: Member McGee asked who would be performing the background checks through iChat. He was advised that CEO Gibson would continue to perform that process and procedure.

Roll call vote: Janet Spight-White - Yes, Doris Harris - Yes, Linda Wheeler - Yes, Mark Price - Yes, Lorne McGee - Yes

MOTION PASSES: 5-0

Public Comments and Questions (Agenda Items 3 Minutes Only)

None

Unfinished Business - None

11:18AM – Cheryl Sanford Entered Meeting

New Business

Amend the Budget (Agenda Item 3.19.24, no action taken)

Motion to Amend the Budget

President Spight-White entertained a motion to amend the budget, so moved by Vice-President Harris, seconded by Member Price.

Discussion: Members discussed the motion and asked questions. CEO Gibson stated that the estimated New Orleans trip was estimated \$24,500, the board approved a budget of \$30,000. For the Record: Cheryl Sanford stated that President Spight-White ignored her and Vice-President Harris from speaking during the discussion phase. Member Sanford posed a question to Attorney Urban regarding the OMA and Robert's Rule's of Order as it relates to recognizing members to speak during discussion. Attorney Urban advised. For the Record: President Spight-White stated that she was ignored numerous times during the discussion phase when Anthony Askew was president.

Roll call vote: Janet Spight-White - Yes, Doris Harris - Yes, Linda Wheeler - Yes, Mark Price - Yes, Lorne McGee - Yes, Cheryl Sanford - No

MOTION PASSES: 5-1

Motion that all Board Members Must Attend all Regular Meetings to Receive a Full Stipend Unless an Excuse in Writing is Provided to the Board President and Approved. Attendance at Meetings is Crucial for Effective Decision-Making and Collaboration Within the Board. (Agenda Item 3.19.24, No Action Taken)

President Spight-White entertained a motion that all board members must attend all regular meetings to receive a full stipend unless an excuse in writing is provided to the board president and approved to the board president and approved. attendance at meetings is crucial for effective decision-making and collaboration within the board, so moved by Vice-President Harris, seconded by Member Price.

Discussion: Members discussed the motion and asked questions. For the Record: CEO Gibson stated that she is omitting herself from the responsibility of knowing why an elected official will not be attending a meeting. She will not be accepting the liability.

Roll call vote: Janet Spight-White - Yes, Doris Harris - Yes, Linda Wheeler - Yes, Lorne McGee - Yes, Mark Price - Yes, Cheryl Sanford - No

MOTION PASSES: 5-1

Board Member Training Discussion

President Spight-White entertained a discussion about board member training.

Discussion: Members discussed board member training. CEO Gibson provided insight to the discussion. For the Record: Vice-Member Harris stated that this agenda item was for discussion only.

Action: *NO MOTION TAKEN*

Motion Regarding Board Member

Attorney Joe Urban read the Resolution into the record, so moved by Vice-President Harris, seconded by Member Price.
Discussion: Vice-President Harris stated that the action written in the Resolution should be immediate, not within the 30 days. Member Sanford stated that the Resolution should include a censure. Lorne McGee stated he should resign rather than be censured.

Roll call vote: Janet Spight-White - Yes, Doris Harris - Yes, Linda Wheeler - Yes, Mark Price - Yes, Lorne McGee - Rescind, Cheryl Sanford - No

MOTION: *Neither Pass or Fail (Rescind is not a recognized vote)*

12:38PM – Lorne McGee Exited Meeting

Board of Education Affairs & Comments

Mark Price – Thanked the public, Angela Lugo-Thomas, HPPSAS BOD Vice-President Famika Jackson-Roberts great job on the BOD; Thank Dr. Pam Farris for hosting special meeting; State of the City Address on 3.21.2024; Water meeting on 3.22.2024.

Joe Urban - Requested vote count on Resolution motion.

Doris Harris – Asked Attorney the difference between rescind and abstain. Lorne McGee stated “rescind” in his vote on the Resolution motion.

Joe Urban – There is no such thing as rescind. Members need to re-vote.

Motion Regarding Board Member

Attorney Joe Urban re-read the Resolution into the record, so moved by Vice-President Harris, seconded by Member Price.

Discussion: Motion was restated due to Member McGee voting rescind in the previous motion. Member Sanford recommends adding a formal censure to the Resolution, the zero-tolerance policy, and un-comfortability in the workplace.

Action: *MOTION INCOMPLETE*

12:44 PM – Lorne McGee Re-Entered Meeting

Motion Regarding Board Member

Attorney Joe Urban re-read the Resolution into the record for the third time, so moved by Vice-President Harris, seconded by Member Price.

Discussion: Attorney Urban advised board members would violate their fiduciary rights; and not to discuss the motion further. Lorne McGee stated his innocence. CEO Gibson stated OMA violated when details of investigative report released to community and during the meeting.

Roll call vote: Janet Spight-White - Yes, Doris Harris - Yes, Linda Wheeler - Yes, Lorne McGee - Yes, Mark Price - Yes, Cheryl Sanford - No

MOTION PASSES: *5-1*

Board of Education Affairs & Comments

Linda Wheeler – Heart for the District and the children; Not apologizing, things happen in families, corporations, thanked community for coming; State Rep. McFall and the water situation, Faith Tabernacle on 3.22.2024.

Lorne McGee – Apologized to audience.

Public Comments and Questions (3 Minutes Only)

Angela Lugo-Thomas, Community Member – Why name mentioned in investigative report, would like to see documents. Why were virtual meetings stopped? Virtual meetings are convenient for residents who cannot attend in person. Stopping virtual meetings looks suspicious.

Famika Jackson-Roberts, HPPSAS BPA BOD Vice-President – Acknowledged BOE and HPSD Administration; Expressed concerns about a special meeting during a school day during reading month; grateful for Accel Schools and HPSD CEO Gibson, expressed concerns about harassment investigation, spoke about zero tolerance policy, embarrassed by the BOE leadership and misconduct.

Dr. Pam Farris, Accel Schools Leadership – Not aware of board members receiving threats, would like the BOE to refrain from having meetings in the daytime, safety of the children.

Confirmation of the Next Scheduled Meetings

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 @ 6:00PM

Adjournment –

Motion to Adjourn

President Spight-White entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:12PM, so moved by Vice-President Harris, seconded by Member Price.

Discussion: None

Roll call vote: Janet Spight-White - Yes, Doris Harris - Yes, Linda Wheeler - Yes, Mark Price - Yes, Lorne McGee - Yes, Cheryl Sanford - Yes, Anthony Askew - Yes

MOTION PASSES: 6-0

Respectfully submitted: Linda Wheeler, Board Secretary.

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK
COUNTY OF WAYNE
STATE OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION MANDATING SENSITIVITY TRAINING

A special meeting of the Board of Education (the "Board") of the School District of the City of Highland Park (the "School District"), County of Wayne, State of Michigan, was held at the School District on March 21, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Members: White, Harris, Wheeler, Price, McGee, Sanford

ABSENT: Members: Askew

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Harris and supported by Member Price.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has found that Treasurer Lorne McGee is in need of training related to sensitivity and workplace/board member harassment regarding members of protected characteristics under MCL 37.2101 et seq. and all related Federal laws in order to better and more effectively function as a Member of the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Highland Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. To require Board Member Lorne McGee to attend a professionally recognized version of the above-mentioned training, administered by appropriately qualified faculty, within the next thirty days.
2. Mr. McGee will pay for the training himself, if required by the course, and, prior to registering for the training, bring the type of training, the location and curriculum to the Board of Education for approval at a meeting posted under the Open Meetings Act. This will occur within the next 10 days.
3. All other resolutions, to the extent they conflict with this resolution, be and the same are hereby rescinded.

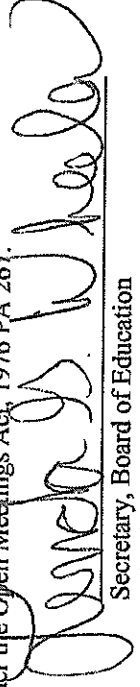
Ayes: White, Harris, Wheeler, Price, McGee

Nays: Sanford

Secretary, Board of Education
School District of the City of Highland Park

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Highland Park, County of Wayne, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education at a regular meeting held on March 21, 2024, the original of which resolution is a part of the Board's minutes and further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public under the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267.



Secretary, Board of Education
School District of the City of Highland Park