



# 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 25, 2024, 6:00 p.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 21, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes
- **Unfinished Business** – None
- **New Business**
  - (1) BOD Affairs
  - (2) Juan Shannon Contract
  - (3) Update on Accel's contract; and
  - (4) Board members issue.
- **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:** 25 Gerald Street  
Highland Park, MI 48203-3322

Monday, March 25, 2024  
6:00 PM

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**Call to Order** –

Meeting was called to order by Janet Spight-White @ 6:13 PM

**Roll Call** –

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

Absent: Lorne McGee, Treasurer/ Anthony Askew, Member

**QUORUM**

**Communications** - None

**Approve Meeting Agenda**

**Motion to Amend the Agenda Adding the Revised District Calendar Submitted by HPSD BOE Secretary Linda Wheeler as Item 1 (One) Under New Business**

President Spight-White entertained a motion to amend the meeting agenda adding the revised district calendar submitted by HPSD BOE Secretary Linda Wheeler as Item 1 (one) under New Business, so moved by Member Wheeler, seconded by Member Price.

**Discussion:** None

**Roll call vote:** Janet Spight-White - Yes, Doris Harris - Yes, Linda Wheeler - Yes, Mark Price - Yes, Cheryl Sanford – Yes

**MOTION PASSES: 5-0**

**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:** None

**Roll call vote:** Janet Spight-White - Yes, Doris Harris - Yes, Linda Wheeler - Yes, Mark Price - Yes, Cheryl Sanford – Yes

**MOTION PASSES: 5-0**

**Public Comments and Questions (Agenda Items 3 Minutes Only)**

None

**Approve Meeting Minutes**

**Motion to Approve the March 21, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes**

President Spight-White entertained a motion to approve the March 21, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes, 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, Cheryl Sanford -Yes

**MOTION PASSES: 5-0**

**Motion to Amend the Agenda to Add Tammy Stafford to be Interviewed for HPPSAS BPA BOD Candidate as Item 2 (Two) Under New Business**

President Spight-White entertained a motion to amend the agenda to add Tammy Stafford to be interviewed for HPPSAS BPA BOD candidate as Item 2 (two) under New Business, so moved by Vice-President Harris, seconded by Member Price.

**Discussion:** Member Sanford asked if there is an application for Tammy Stafford and would like to review it.

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

**MOTION PASSES: 4-1**

**Unfinished Business** - None

**New Business**

**Motion to Approve the Revised District Calendar Submitted by HPSD BOE Secretary Linda Wheeler**

President Spight-White entertained a motion to approve the revised district calendar submitted by HPSD BOE Secretary Linda Wheeler, so moved by Vice-President Harris, seconded by Member Price.

**Discussion:** Vice-President Harris asked questions. CAO Gibson commented on the District calendar being in alignment with BPA, which was modified, approved and adopted by the BOE. CAO Gibson stated the inconsideration for changing the District calendar to affect the District staff being off in the midst of spring break, if there wasn't a special meeting the calendar would not have changed. For the Record: Member Wheeler and President Spight-White did not know the district office would be closed with the school. Member Wheeler changed her motion to make the calendar effective April 1, 2024.

**Action: Motion Rescinded by Member Wheeler**

**Motion to Approve the Revised District Calendar Submitted by HPSD BOE Secretary Linda Wheeler, Effective April 1, 2024**

President Spight-White entertained a motion to approve the revised district calendar submitted by HPSD BOE Secretary Linda Wheeler, effective April 1, 2024, so moved by Member Wheeler, 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, Cheryl Sanford - No

***MOTION PASSES: 4-1***

**Tammy Stafford Interview for HPPSAS BPA BOD Candidate**

**Discussion:** HPSD BOE members interviewed HPPSAS BPA BOD candidate Tammy Stafford.

**Motion to Strike Juan Shannon’s Contract from the Special Meeting Agenda**

President Spight-White entertained a motion to strike Juan Shannon’s contract from the Special Meeting Agenda, so moved by Member Wheeler, seconded by Member Price.

**Discussion:** Members discussed the motion; CAO Gibson provided clarity on the status of Juan Shannon’s contract; Attorney Urban advised.

**Roll call vote:** Janet Spight-White - Yes, Doris Harris - Yes, Linda Wheeler - Yes, Mark Price - Yes, Cheryl Sanford -Yes

***MOTION PASSES: 5-0***

**Motion to Strike Update on Accel School’s Contract**

President Spight-White entertained a motion to strike update on Accel School’s contract, 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, Cheryl Sanford -Yes

***MOTION PASSES: 5-0***

**Board Member Issue**

Attorney Joe Urban read the Resolution of Censure and Admonishment into the Record, so moved by Vice-President Harris, seconded by Member Price.

**Discussion:** Vice-President Harris stated that sexual harassment is not being read into the record. Attorney Joe Urban re-read the Resolution. Member Sanford asked about the last Resolution and what were the differences between the two.

**Roll call vote:** Janet Spight-White - Yes, Doris Harris - Yes, Linda Wheeler - Yes, Mark Price - Yes, Cheryl Sanford -Yes

***MOTION PASSES: 5-0***

**Board of Education Affairs & Comments**

**Mark Price** – Thanked the public, Chris Woodward, and the HPPSAS BPA BOD members for attending; peace and love.

**Linda Wheeler-** Thanked public for their attendance; Read a speech about community commitments, goals, student excellence, accountability and open to change.

**Public Comments and Questions (3 Minutes Only)**

**Alexis Ramsey, Community Member** - A survivor of sexual abuse, upset to hear that the BOE will give someone a slap on the wrist for sexual harassment within the school district that are around children. There is a zero-tolerance policy. She likes Lorne, but what is the BOE going to do outside of a slap on the wrist? What other action is the BOE going to take besides sensitivity training and censure? Are they allowed to be around children?

**Runae Ford, Community Member** - Has attended meetings in person and listened online and never hears BOE talk about the children, Inconsiderate of the BOE to want the district staff to go back to work while on vacation, the HPSD flyer says

Children First but the BOE does not acknowledge children; would not recommend her niece sending children to BPA.  
**Cassandra Walker, President, HPPSAS BPA BOD** - The way the BOE members treat others is vicious and evil; People on the BOE should be questioned. BPA bathroom renovations issue.

**Famika Jackson-Roberts, Vice-President, HPPSAS BPA BOD** - It is hurtful that the community cannot get school updates at BOE meetings; BOE will make decisions and go back and change it, using their power and authority over people and children; the BOE sweeping the sexual harassment allegations against Mr. McGee under the rug; will the BOE protect children and staff against sexual harassment, today BOE had to ask Attorney Urban to add sexual harassment when he read the Resolution, the BOE knew that Mr. McGee had committed sexual misconduct. What is the BOE going to do about it?

**Chris Woodard, Highland Park Journal** - Ms. Harris represented that BOE has a purview over the BOD; asked about the Modern Tribe Communications, Inc. contract struck from the agenda.

**Kallela Martin, Highland Park City Council Member** – Sympathized with Alexis Ramsey, also a victor of sexual assault; spoke on Member Wheeler’s poem; agreed with putting children first; has anyone asked the children at BPA what they want? Holes in the fence at BPA, a safety issue; What does teamwork look like to the BOE? Does not see it. Bringing back the District Reports on the agenda; Who is responsible for the harassment that happened? Change is inevitable.

**Annette, Community Member** – Appalled by the things she has seen at the BOE meeting, children went to BPA; all the combativeness.

**Loretta Stafford, Community Member** – Put God First; do something better for yourself and the world; acting worse than children; get it together between the leaders in each group, stop bickering.

**Alexis Ramsey, Community Member** – Questions about the Resolution; when will the report be released to the public?

#### 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 7:39PM, so moved by Vice-President Harris, seconded by Member Price.

**Discussion:** All in Favor Say “I”

**Roll call vote:** Janet Spight-White - I, Doris Harris - I, Linda Wheeler - I, Mark Price - I, Cheryl Sanford - I,

**MOTION PASSES: 5-0**

*Respectfully submitted: Linda Wheeler, Board Secretary.*

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

**RESOLUTION OF CENSURE AND ADMONISHMENT**

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 Highland Park Fire Department on March 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT: Members:** Janet Spight-White, Doris Harris, Linda Wheeler, Mark Ashley Price,  
Cheryl Sanford

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**ABSENT: Members:** Lorne McGee, Anthony Askew

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The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Doris Harris and supported by Member Mark Ashley Price

1. The Board of Education re-affirms its commitment of zero tolerance for any harassment for any protected characteristic, including sexual harassment and/or retaliation.
2. The Board of Education hereby censures Member Lorne McGee for his conduct toward Ms. Gibson at the March 21, 2024 meeting of the Board of Education in light of the resolution regarding training for harassment, which would include sexual harassment. This conduct will not be tolerated.
3. The Board of Education hereby admonishes those board member participants in the disruption of the March 21, 2024. This conduct cannot be tolerated.
4. All other resolutions, to the extent they conflict with this resolution, be and the same are hereby rescinded.

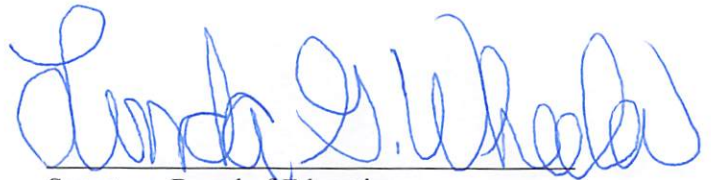
**Ayes:** Janet Spight-White, Doris Harris, Linda Wheeler, Mark Ashley Price, Cheryl Sanford

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**Nays:** None

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RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

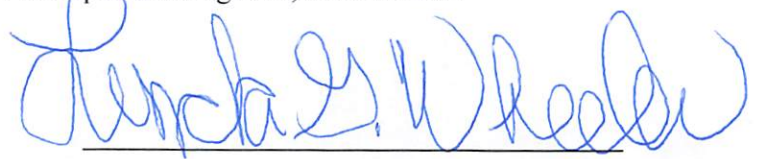


Secretary, Board of Education  
School District of the City of Highland Park

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**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 25, 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