



**PUBLIC NOTICE OF A REGULAR MEETING
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE OF A REGULAR MEETING
FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HIGHLAND PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT**

DATE OF MEETING:

April 8, 2025

LOCATION OF MEETING:

The Board of Education Members Meet at
Barber Preparatory Academy (In Person)
45 E. Buena Vista
Highland Park, MI 48203

Public Guests Join via Zoom (Virtual)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84011473307?pwd=QmpGaGM3TlMvOEYwU0pVa3R4N2hYQT09>

Meeting ID: 840 1147 3307

Passcode: 955655

TIME OF MEETING:

6:00 p.m.

**TELEPHONE NUMBER OF
THE PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

313-402-0266

**THE BOARD MINUTES ARE LOCATED AND
AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT THE HPSD
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

12360 Woodward Avenue
Highland Park, MI 48203

PURPOSE:

A Regular Board of Education Meeting

Yolanda Harrison, Secretary
Board of Education

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT NOTICE:

Any individual with a disability who require accommodations for participating or attending this meeting should contact the Board of Education at 313-402-0266 in advance of the meeting to request assistance.

MISSION STATEMENT: *To provide a high-quality public education that assures students will receive a comprehensive learning experience which prepares them to compete in a global 21st century society.*



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK
12360 Woodward Avenue Highland
Park, Michigan
48203-3322

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

President Cheryl Sanford

Vice President Famika Roberts

Barber Preparatory Academy

45 E. Buena Vista Street

Secretary Yolanda Harrison

Highland Park, MI 48203

April 8th, 2025, 6:00pm-8:30pm

Treasurer Cassandra Walker

Trustee Doris Harris

Trustee Linda Wheeler

Trustee Janet Spight-White

- **Call to Order**
- **Roll Call**
- **Communications**
- **Approve Meeting Agenda**
- **Public Comments (Agenda Items Only 3**

minutes)

- **Approved Meeting Minutes**
 - (1) March 21st, 2025 (Special Meeting)
- **President Comments**
- **Parker Pride Presentation-Brenda Mims (5 mins)**
- **District Department Reports and Information**
 - (1) Edge Partnership-Lorri Rishar, CEO (5-7 mins)

Isaiah Pettway, Chief Educational
Officer

Joseph Urban, Esq., Board
Attorney

(2) Vice President, Accel Schools-Dr. Farris (5-7 mins)

(3) Finance-Alan C. Young, PC. (10 mins)

(Presenter: Luska German, FCCA)

- Q&A March Financials
- Motion to approve March Financials

(4) Board Governance/Oversight Report (5-7 mins)

- Vanessa Gulley, Provision

(5) CEO Report-Isaiah Pettway (15 mins)

▪ **Board of Education Sub-Committee Reports**

(1.) Executive Committee Report (2-3 mins)

(2.) Finance Committee Report (2-3 mins)

(3.) Educational Expansion Committee Report (2-3 mins)

(4.) Fundraising Committee Report (2-3 mins)

(5.) Policy Committee Report (2-3 mins)

▪ **Unfinished Business**

(1.) Motion to Approve Resolution appropriating sinking funds for Reimbursement to the Board of Directors of Barber Preparatory Academy for Capital Improvements (**Bathrooms-\$275K**)

(2.) Motion to Approve Board Policy for Reconsideration & Rescission of Actions. (**2nd Reading & Vote**)

▪ **New Business**

- (1.) Motion to Approve Corrective Quit Claim Deed-13321
Hamilton; Parcel #43-011-01-0322-000.
- (2.) Motion to Approve the 3rd Amendment to the District Office
Lease w/ the CEO empowered to execute contracts.
- (3.) Motion to Approve MG Development Quote to Replace 2nd
Floor Windowpane at Barber Preparatory Academy.
- (4.) Policy Change-Censure Policy from a requirement of a 2/3 vote
to a majority vote. (1st Read-Discussion)

• **Extended Public Comments (3 minutes only)**

• **Board of Education Affairs & Comments**

- (1.) Travel & Reimbursement Policy Review

• **Confirmation of the Next Scheduled Meeting**

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 @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's website within five (5) business days after the meeting at which they are approved.



**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

Tuesday, April 8, 2025
6:00PM

APPROVED MINUTES

Call to Order –

Meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Sanford @ 6:06PM.

Roll Call –

Present: Cheryl Sanford, President/ Famika Roberts, Vice President/ Yolanda Harrison, Secretary/
Cassandra Walker, Treasurer/ Doris Harris, Member/ Linda Wheeler, Member/ Janet Spight-White, Member

QUORUM

Communications

CEO Isaiah Pettway presented the HP Journal to the Board.

Approve Meeting Agenda

Motion to Amend Agenda to Add the 3-Minute Rule to the Agenda for Discussion Under New Business

President Sanford entertained a motion to amend agenda to add the 3-Minute Rule to the agenda for discussion under New Business, so moved by Member Wheeler, seconded by Vice President Roberts.

Discussion: Member Wheeler asked for an amendment to be added to the agenda to discuss the 3-Minute Rule as a discussion item under New Business. Member Wheeler asked for clarification on time limits and President Sanford stated that this policy has been discussed and voted on, it just has not been implemented. Member Spight-White asked for additional clarification on where this policy could be found and was told by President Sanford that it could be

found electronically on Board Docs, which all Board members can access.

Roll call vote: Cheryl Sanford - No, Famika Roberts - Yes, Cassandra Walker - No, Yolanda Harrison - No, Doris Harris - Yes, Linda Wheeler - Yes, Janet Spight-White - Yes

MOTION PASSES: 4-3

It was agreed that the discussion for the 3-Minute Rule be placed as Item 5 under New Business

Motion to Approve Meeting Agenda

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve meeting agenda, so moved by Vice President Roberts, seconded by Member Harrison.

Discussion: None

Roll call vote: Cheryl Sanford- Yes, Famika Roberts- Yes, Cassandra Walker - Yes, Yolanda Harrison – Yes, Doris Harris - No, Linda Wheeler - Yes, Janet Spight-White - No

MOTION PASSES: 5-2

Motion to Approve March 21, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve March 21, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes, so moved by Vice President Roberts, seconded by Member Walker.

Discussion: Member Spight-White stated that there was an error in the March 13, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes, and would like all of her for the record comments documented. Member Harris said there was a long moment of silence in the recording on the March 21,2025 Special Meeting Minutes. Member Harrison stated that sometimes there are technical difficulties which may cause a mute and there was no whispering going on and to please stick to the agenda.

Roll call vote: Cheryl Sanford- Yes, Famika Roberts- Yes, Cassandra Walker - Yes, Yolanda Harrison - Yes, Doris Harris - No, Linda Wheeler - Yes, Janet Spight-White - No

MOTION PASSES: 5-2

President Comments

President Sanford had no comments.

Presentation

Parker Pride Foundation – Sydney Spight talked about the Michigan Week Parade, its history, and the need for community involvement. The parade is a significant event for Highland Parkers, and the organizers are seeking donations and volunteers to make it bigger and better.

Public Comments (Agenda Items Only 3 Minutes)

Runae Ford, HPPSAS BPA BOD member – Has a granddaughter that attends BPA; the need for a barrier near the windowpane at BPA to keep them off the grass and protect the children until the window is repaired.

Mark Ashley Price, former BOE member – 3-Minute Rule.

District Department Reports and Information

Edge Partnerships

Lorri Rishar, CEO, highlighted the public relations, social media, communications and activities for the month of March at

Barber Preparatory Academy and the community. She mentioned platforms outside of Facebook and the impact that social media has on keeping the community informed.

Discussion: Member Harris asked questions regarding the HPSD’s Facebook page and the difference between hits and likes. Member. Harrison mentioned Tik Tok as a platform to get more viewers involved and would like Edge Partnerships to provide stats on the effects that Tik Tok has on children.

Accel Schools

Vice President Dr. Pam Farris provided an update on Barber Preparatory Academy’s enrollment and operations The school currently has 335 students enrolled, with 274 returning for the fall and a target of 380-400 students for the next school year. They are actively recruiting for several teaching positions. Dr, Farris also mentioned some facilities updates and thanked Member Janet Spight-White for keeping her updated and CEO Isaiah Pettway and the entire Board for their water donation and continued support. Finally, Dr. Farris highlighted upcoming events like a painting activity with the parents on April 29, 2025.

Finance – Alan Young, PC.

Finance Director, Luska German presented the financial report, noting a decrease in the general fund deficit and provided details on revenues, expenditures, and the district’s debt position.

Discussion: Member Harris asked questions about expenditures on the check registry and Luska German provided answers.

Motion to Approve the March 2025 Financials

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve the March 2025 fianancials, so moved by Vice President Roberts, seconded by Member Walker.

Discussion: None

Roll call vote: Cheryl Sanford- **Yes**, Famika Roberts- **Yes**, Cassandra Walker - **Yes**, Yolanda Harrison – **Yes**, Doris Harris - **No**, Linda Wheeler - **Yes**, Janet Spight-White - **No**

MOTION PASSES: 5-2

Board Governance/ Oversight Report -Provision

Vanessa Gulley provided an update on processes for the Board on policies and efficiencies. She also discussed the monthly observation and recommendation report that will be available to the entire Board beginning in May.

CEO Report

CEO Isaiah Pettway discussed Adult Education grant Section 107A that the District was preparing to submit, but was ineligible due to not receiving categorical funding from the state and will be identifying a partner so the District can apply. He also mentioned buying gift cards for students as incentives for attendance and testing and updated the BOE on training. For the record, it is policy when Board members who attended conferences are expected to report back to the entire Board. Mr. Pettway acknowledged Highland Park City Council Pro Temp Ms. Robinson and solidifying a stronger partnership with George Washington Carver Academy and reporting on a semi-regular basis at the city council workshops. CEO Pettway gave governmental updates and its impact on the school district, mentioning DEI policies and how it will affect federal funds. The Board needed to be aware that at some point it may impact Barber Preparatory Academy. He explained the per pupil increase of \$10,000 per student and if there are cuts in federal funding, the Board needed to do all what they can to ensure programming and asked the Board to be mindful as they continue to support Barber Preparatory Academy.

Discussion: Member Wheeler asked how many gift cards will be ordered for the students. Mr. Pettway informed the Board that 100 gifts cards to start at \$10 each. Member Spight-White stated that in the past, conferences were always discussed at the meetings, explaining details of the conference. President Sanford explained that this year, it was decided that the Board would do something different based on Vanessa Gulley’s recommendation. Each board member had been allocated \$7000

each for training at local and national conferences. Ms. Harris stated that prior to a board member going to a conference, it would be added to the agenda for voting. President Sanford continued to explain the reason for the change with Mr. Pettway adding that there was a cap set to ensure a level of equity and equality among board members. There were members who were receiving a significant amount of more training and more money was being spent. This was done for each member to seek out training with equal opportunity as they deem necessary.

Board of Education Sub-Committee Reports

For the Record: Mr. Pettway stated that no action has been taken during the sub-committees. The sub-committees function as information and gathering to make recommendations and bring back to the board.

Executive Committee Report

Vice President Famika Roberts, Chairperson

Members: Cheryl Sanford, Cassandra Walker

Vice President Famika Roberts read the purpose of the Executive Committee. VP Roberts continued by stating that it's imperative to respect President Sanford's request that if any conversations are started to establish partnerships it's important to gather the information and pass it along to President Sanford and Mr. Pettway so that the vendor can be vetted. She gave an example about a building walkthrough where there was miscommunication. VP Roberts mentioned the sub-committees meeting dates and times, training, comradery with community leaders, events, contracts, vendor quotes, and discussion of expansion and looking forward to moving forward.

Finance Committee Report

Treasurer Cassandra Walker, Chairperson

Members: Yolanda Harrison, Janet Spight- White

Treasurer Cassandra Walker talked about the purpose of Finance Committee. Members go through the finances of the board. The budget will be amended for next year, look at the check registry, and look at what is going on in the country for the next 3 ½ years.

Educational Expansion Committee Report

President Cheryl Sanford, Chairperson

Members: Famika Roberts, Yolanda Harrison

President Cheryl Sanford discussed the need to expand educational services in Highland Park. The committee is looking at a high school adult ed and trade school. There is an application under review for a school. She discussed the meeting date and time. Mr. Pettway stepped in and elaborated on the application that was submitted for a school. There was a significant amount of information missing from the application. He will be sending out a formal letter to the applicant and keeping the board updated.

Fundraising Committee Report

Secretary Yolanda Harrison, Chairperson

Members: Famika Robert, Cassandra Walker

CEO Isaiah Pettway provided insight on the purpose of the Fundraising Committee and the issue a fundraiser to put in a sound system at Barber Prep and asking the BOE to consider matching whatever funds are raised. They will be sending out letters, posting them in local papers asking for donations. A BOE sponsored picture day and a closet for students in need.

Policy Committee Report

Trustee Janet Spight-White, Chairperson

Members: Famika Roberts, Linda Wheeler

Member Spight-White discussed bylaws, policies and using Board Docs. President Sanford asked Ms. Gulley to clarify the BOE use of bylaws and policies. Mr. Pettway stated for the sake of clarity, MASB stated the HPSD is a unicorn and that . are bylaws and policies developed for the board and the district. Designed specifically for HPSD by the NCSI and Neola. HPSD operates by both.

Unfinished Business

Motion to Approve Resolution Appropriating Sinking Funds for Reimbursement to the Board of Directors of Barber Preparatory Academy for Capitol Improvement (Bathrooms - \$275K)

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve resolution appropriating Sinking Funds for reimbursement to the Board of Directors of Barber Preparatory Academy for Capitol Improvement (Bathrooms - \$275K), so moved by Vice President Roberts, seconded by Member Harrison.

Discussion: For the Record: Member Spight-White stated that \$275,000 has already been paid for the bathrooms. The BOE has a contract with the BOD that says they'll be responsible for all renovations and repairs and what have you. Now, this motion was asking the BOE to take \$275,000 and reimburse the BOD and the BOE pay. Barber Prep has an elevator in the building that does not work. Member Spight White stated that she can see taking that money and paying for the elevator, but paying for something that is already paid for, that is not delinquent or anything. She does not understand taking money from the BOE to give to the BOD. That is in violation of Barber Prep's contract. The contract says they would do all of it. So let them do it.

For the Record: Trustee Linda Wheeler rebutted the comments that were made that said to pay attention to the ones who are voting no, they don't love our children. Trustee Wheeler then said that is not true, that is a misnomer, that is not true. She was working with the children long before these comments were made.

For the Record: Vice President Roberts stated that yes there may be a contract and yes typically BPA would but they're doing but we are making good on what the BOE voted to do. It's in the board minutes.

Roll call vote: Cheryl Sanford- Yes, Famika Roberts- Yes, Cassandra Walker - Yes, Yolanda Harrison – Yes, Doris Harris - No, Linda Wheeler - No, Janet Spight-White - No

MOTION PASSES:4-3

Motion to Approve Board Policy for Reconsideration and Rescission of Actions

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve Board policy for Reconsideration and Rescission of Actions, so moved by Vice President Roberts, seconded by Member Harrison.

Discussion: Member Spight-White asked questions about this policy. CEO Pettway spoke about the policy to give guidance to the board regarding voting.

Roll call vote: Cheryl Sanford- Yes, Famika Roberts- Yes, Cassandra Walker - Yes, Yolanda Harrison – Yes, Doris Harris - Yes, Linda Wheeler - No, Janet Spight-White - No

MOTION PASSES: 5-2

New Business

Motion to Approve Corrective Quit Claim Deed – 13321 Hamilton; Parcel #43-011-01-0322-000

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve Corrective Quit Claim Deed – 13321 Hamilton; Parcel #43-011-01-0322-000, so moved by Vice President Roberts, seconded by Member Walker.

Discussion: CEO Isaiah Pettway explained the errors that needed correction on the original deed.

Roll call vote: Cheryl Sanford- Yes, Famika Roberts- Yes, Cassandra Walker - Yes, Yolanda Harrison – Yes,

Doris Harris - Yes, Linda Wheeler - Yes, Janet Spight-White - Yes

MOTION PASSES: 7-0

Motion to Approve the 3rd Amendment to the District Office Lease w/ the CEO Empowered to Execute Contracts

President Sanford entertained a motion approve the 3rd Amendment to the District Office lease w/ the CEO empowered to execute contracts, so moved by Vice President Roberts, seconded by Member Harrison.

Discussion: CEO Isaiah Pettway explained the amended lease agreement and its options.

Roll call vote: Cheryl Sanford- Yes, Famika Roberts- Yes, Cassandra Walker - Yes, Yolanda Harrison – Yes, Doris Harris - Yes, Linda Wheeler - Yes, Janet Spight-White - Yes

MOTION PASSES: 7-0

Motion to Approve MG Development Quote to Replace 2nd Floor Windowpane at Barber Preparatory Academy

President Sanford entertained a motion approve MG Development quote to replace 2nd floor windowpane at Barber Preparatory Academy, so moved by Vice President Roberts, seconded by Member Harrison.

Discussion: CEO Isaiah Pettway explained that the entire pane (6 windows) will be replaced. Derek Bolden, President of MG Development, clarified the work that would be done and Board members asked follow-up questions.

Roll call vote: Cheryl Sanford- Yes, Famika Roberts- Yes, Cassandra Walker - Yes, Yolanda Harrison – Yes, Doris Harris - Yes, Linda Wheeler - Yes, Janet Spight-White - Yes

MOTION PASSES: 7-0

Discussion (1st Read) Policy Change-Censure Policy from a Requirement of a 2/3 Vote to a Majority Vote

CEO Isaiah Pettway read Policy 0144.5 into the record and Board members asked questions and provided feedback.

Discussion – 3 Minute Time Limit

Extended Public Comments (3 Minutes Only)

Sharmaine Robinson, Highland Park City Council Pro Temp, questioned if there was a warranty on the elevator; and pointed out questionable words that were on posted student activity sheets. Ms. Robinson also inquired about the window company.

Tammy Stafford, HPPSAS BPA BOD Vice President, asked for clarity on the state of the of the elevator and if the BOE Was willing to donate money for a new elevator. President Sanford asked that she submit a request. For the Record: Vice President Roberts stated that the BOD has a facilities committee and should have documentation about the elevator to provide to the Board.

Mark Ashley Price, former HPSD BOE Trustee, reminded everyone of the State of the County Address on April 9,2025. He was always there for the school board as an activist and citizen, peace and love.

Board of Education Affairs & Comments

CEO Isaiah Pettway - Travel & Reimbursement Policy Review

Cassandra Walker - Check the District website for errors.

Janet Spight White - Importance of a 3-story building that has a working elevator.

Linda Wheeler - American Disability Act, can be sued for a non-working elevator.

Cheryl Sanford - Has the District received a request by the BOD to fix the elevator?

CEO Isaiah Pettway - Dr. Farris and the BOD facilities committee are gathering information on the cost of replacing the

elevator. He asks that they put everything in writing for consideration.

Yolanda Harrison – Speaking to the community, would like them to be more involved in Board business. Board members needed to come to meetings prepared, and hold one another accountable, and be transparent with the community.

Doris Harris – Considering all the back and forth with the emails, this was a good meeting

Cassandra Walker – Who is responsible for the elevators?

Famika Roberts – Happy to hear that Members Linda Wheeler and Janet Spight-White are willing to go against the contract to have the elevators fixed.

Confirmation of the Next Scheduled Meeting

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 @ 6:00pm

Adjournment -

Motion to Adjourn @ 9:17PM

President Sanford entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:17pm, so moved by Vice President Roberts, seconded by Member Walker.

Discussion: None

Roll call vote: Cheryl Sanford- **Yes**, Famika Roberts- **Yes**, Cassandra Walker - **Yes**, Yolanda Harrison – **Yes**, Doris Harris - **Yes**, Linda Wheeler - **Yes**, Janet Spight-White - **Yes**

MOTION PASSES: 7-0

Respectfully submitted by: Yolanda Harrison, Board Secretary