



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

**DATE OF MEETING:**

July 8, 2025

**LOCATION OF MEETING:**

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

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;  
Closed Session to Discuss the Written Opinion of Legal Counsel

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

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

Treasurer Cassandra Walker

Trustee Doris Harris

Trustee Linda Wheeler

Trustee Janet Spight-White

Isaiah Pettway, Chief Educational  
Officer

Joseph Urban, Esq., Board  
Attorney

- **Call to Order**
- **Roll Call**
- **Communications**
  - (1) HP Journal Periodical
- **Approve Meeting Agenda**
- **Public Comments (Agenda Items Only 3 minutes)**
- **Approved Meeting Minutes**
  - (1) June 10<sup>th</sup> 2025 Regular Board Meeting
  - (2) June 10<sup>th</sup> 2025 Budget Hearing Minutes
- **President Comments**
- **District Department Reports and Information**
  - (1) Edge Partnership-Lorri Rishar, CEO (5-7 mins)

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

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

(Presenter: Luska German, FCCA)

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

(4) Board Governance/Oversight Report (7-10 mins)

- Vanessa Gulley, Provision

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

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

(1.) Executive Committee Report (5 mins)

(2.) Finance Committee Report (5 mins)

(3.) Educational Expansion Committee Report (5 mins)

(4.) Fundraising Committee Report (5 mins)

▪ **Unfinished Business**

None

▪ **New Business**

(1.) Agenda Item Request Form-NEW

(2.) Board Development Training Presentations-Ms. Sanford; Ms. Roberts; Ms. Walker; Ms. Harrison; Mr. Pettway

(3.) Policy Recommendation Process-NEW

- **Extended Public Comments (3 minutes only)**
- **Board of Education Affairs & Comments**
  - (1.) Board Professional Development Series
    - a. Strengths Deployment Inventory-August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025
    - b. Sexual Harassment Training-August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 (tentative)
- **Confirmation of the Next Scheduled Meeting**

Regular Meeting: September 9<sup>th</sup> 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, July 8, 2025  
6:00PM

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**Call to Order** –

Meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Sanford @ 6:08PM.

**Roll Call** –

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

**QUORUM**

**Communications**

HP Journal Periodical

**Approve Meeting Agenda**

**Motion to Approve the Agenda**

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve the agenda, so moved by Member Harris, seconded by Member Walker.

**Discussion:** Board members discussed agenda items.

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

**MOTION PASSES: 5-2**

**Public Comments (Agenda Items Only – 3 Minutes)** - None

**Motion to Approve June 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes**

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve the June 10, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes, so moved by Member Harris, seconded by Member Walker.

**Discussion:** None

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

**MOTION PASSES: 7-0**

**Motion to Approve June 10, 2025, Budget Hearing Minutes**

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve the June 10, 2025, Budget Hearing minutes, so moved by Member Harris, seconded by Member Walker.

**Discussion:** None

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

**MOTION PASSES: 7-0**

**President Comments** - None

**District Department Reports and Information**

**Edge Partnership-** Lorri Rishar, CEO

Lorri Rishar presented the June report highlighting PR efforts, social media growth, and upcoming website updates.

**Accel Schools-** Dr. Pam Farris, Vice-President

Dr. Farris will report at the next meeting.

**Finance** - Alan Young, PC., Presenter: Luska German, FCCA

CEO Isaish Pettway reported that the district received a grant to offset the cost of the Digitization Project and provided updates on the district's recent receipt of a significant surplus of \$355,000 in spring taxes reducing their projected deficit from \$700,000 to \$426,000 and putting them ahead of schedule for deficit elimination by years.

*For the record, Mr. Pettway thanked the citizens of Highland Park.*

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

**Motion to Approve the June 2025 Financials**

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve the June 2025 financials, so moved by Member Harris, seconded by Vice-President Roberts.

**Discussion:** Board members discussed the motion.

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

**MOTION PASSES: 6-1**

**Board Governance/ Oversight Report-** Vanessa Gulley, Provision

Vanessa Gulley emphasized the importance of governance, collaboration, and adherence to Robert’s Rules of Order. A new agenda item request form to improve board meeting transparency and process was presented for the board to consider implementing.

**CEO Report**

HPSD CEO Isaiah Pettway provided updates on several key issues and upcoming events. The district was working on parking lot repairs at Barber Prep. and the installation of a fire suppression system at the district office, the centennial celebration at Barber Prep on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and reviewed fundraising efforts including a recent \$500 donation toward a sound system.

**Board of Education Sub-Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee Report** – Vice President Famika Roberts, Chairperson

**Finance Committee Report** – Treasurer Cassandra Walker, Chairperson

**Educational Expansion Committee Report** – President Cheryl Sanford, Chairperson

**Fundraising Committee Report** – Secretary Yolanda Harrison, Chairperson

*For the Record, Yolanda Harrison stated that when she mentioned a car wash to raise monies, that was an analogy.*

**Unfinished Business** – None

**New Business**

**Agenda Item Request Form – NEW**

Vanessa Gulley, Provision

**Board Development Training Presentations – NCSC 25**

President Cheryl Sanford

Vice President Famika Roberts

Treasurer Cassandra Walker

Secretary Yolanda Harrison

CEO Isaiah Pettway

*For the Record CEO Isaiah Pettway stated that he was able to specifically identify what track of classes for Highland Park as an authorizer of charters.*

*8:09PM - Yolanda Harrison Exited*

*8:15PM - Yolanda Harrison Returned*

**Policy Recommendation Process – NEW**

Vanessa Gulley, Provision

*8:38PM - Famika Roberts Exited*

*8:44PM -Famika Roberts Returned*

**Extended Public Comments (3 Minutes Only)**

**Runae Ford, HPPSAS BPA BOD President** - Thanked CEO Isaiah Pettway and the BOE members who attended the NCSC Conference in Orlando for looking out for the BOD, expressed concerns about the elevator and commented on Ms. Gully's board governance expertise.

**Mark Ashley Price, former HPSD BOE Member** - Praying for the children of the school district; volunteering in the future.

**Alexis Ramsey, former HPSD BOE Member** – Board governance

**Board of Education Affairs & Comments**

Board Professional Development Series – August 13, 2025

Sexual Harassment Training – August 23, 2025 (tentative)

**Confirmation of the Next Scheduled Meeting**

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Adjournment** -

**Motion to Adjourn 9:07 PM**

President Sanford entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m., so moved by Member Harris, seconded by Member Wheeler.

**Discussion:** None

**All in Favor Say "I":** Cheryl Sanford - "I", Famika Roberts - "I", Cassandra Walker - "I", Yolanda Harrison - "I", Doris Harris - "I", Linda Wheeler - "I", Janet Spight-White - "I"

**MOTION PASSES: 7-0**

*Respectfully submitted by:* Yolanda Harrison, Board Secretary