



**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

Tuesday, September 9, 2025
6:00 PM

APPROVED MINUTES

Call to Order –

The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Sanford at 6:02 PM.

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 Vice President Roberts.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSES: 4-3

Public Comments (Agenda Items Only – 3 minutes only)

Shamaine Robinson, Highland Park City Council Pro Temp - Raised concerns about the bonding for financial positions in the city of Highland Park. Noting that City Treasurer Lisa Stolarski was approved for a \$1 million bond by the City Council, which was not approved by legal. The Deputy Treasurer, who handles the finances, is not bonded but is covered under a \$5 million insurance policy for theft. *For the record, no one has been bonded since 2019.*

Lisa Stolarski, Highland Park City Treasurer – Specifically attended the meeting to answer questions and stated that a presentation she handed out should explain everything. The court is moving very slowly.

Motion to Approve August 23, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2025, special meeting, so moved by Vice President Roberts, seconded by Member Harrison.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSES: 4-3

President Comments - None

Interviews for Board of Directors Appointments

For the record, CEO Isaiah Pettway stated that all three candidates have been recommended unanimously by Board of Directors.

Board of Education members interviewed the candidates for the Board of Directors. The candidates discussed their backgrounds, budgeting experience, approaches to conflict resolution, and reasons for wanting to serve on the board.

Ms. Tameko Manica
Ms. Valerie Thornton
Ms. Kim Smith

For the record, Ms. Smith's first name is Kim, not Kimberly.

Motion to Nominate All Three (3) Board of Directors Applicants

President Sanford entertained a motion to nominate all three Board of Directors applicants, so moved by Member Harris, seconded by Member Spight White.

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

District Department Reports and Information

Edge Partnership – CEO Lorri Rishar presented highlights for July and August.

Accel Schools – Vice President Dr. Pam Farris presented the monthly report for Barber Preparatory Academy.

Finance – Alan C. Young

Presenter: Luska German, FCCA

Luska German presented the July and August financial reports, explaining the fund balance, cash position, and general Fund and answered questions from the board.

Motion to Approve July & August Financials

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve the July and August financials, so moved by Member Harris and seconded by Vice President Roberts.

Discussion: None

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

CEO Report

CEO Isaiah Pettway provided updates on DPSCD and transportation regarding the 31 students whose education was put on hold due to transportation issues, have been resolved. CEO Pettway also discussed educational services and the Memorandum of Understanding, completed facilities updates, thanked City Works for maintaining the groundskeeping at Ford School, the new state superintendent, the Cube Conference, plans for the next “Day of Dialogue” event, and Count Day. There was discussion on updating the board’s current laptops, the Jazzy Jam event was reviewed, 360 book bags and supplies were distributed, and 17 new student applications were received. *For the record, President Sanford thanked Mama Shu for helping arrange space for the overflow of parking during the Jazzy Jam at the last minute and covering it under her insurance.*

Unfinished Business

Motion to Approve the Resolution / Tribute Policy

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve the Resolution/ Tribute policy, so moved by Member Harris, seconded by Vice President Roberts.

Discussion: Members discussed the motion.

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 the Resolution to Send a Letter Requesting Proof of the Bond for City Treasurer

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve the resolution to send a letter requesting proof of the bond for city treasurer, so moved by Member Harris, seconded by Vice President Roberts.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSES: 4-3

New Business

Motion to Approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between B.O.E. and B.O.D. of Barber Prep for the Purpose of Servicing 3-Year-Old Students Receiving Special Services in Highland Park

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between B.O.E. and B.O.D. of Barber Prep for the purpose of servicing 3-year-old students receiving special services in Highland Park, so moved by Vice

President Roberts, seconded by Member Harris.

Discussion: Members discussed the motion.

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

P.D. Training Policy (1st Reading)

Extended Public Comments (3 minutes only)

Lisa Stolarski, Highland Park City Treasurer – Spoke about transparency and asked about the resolution being read into the record before the board voted.

Dan Stolarski, Highland Park community member – Will the written comments submitted by Lisa Stolarski at the last meeting be read into the record?

Board of Education Affairs & Comments

Cheryl Sanford – Addressed Treasurer Stolarski and Mr. Stolarski’s concerns and will follow up.

Janet Spight White – Spoke up about fairness with all board members.

Confirmation of the Next Scheduled Meeting

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment -

Motion to Adjourn @ 9:08 PM

President Sanford entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m., so moved by Member Harrison, seconded by Vice President Roberts.

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