



**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:

May 13, 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=QmpGaGM3TIMvOEYwU0pVa3R4N2hYQT09>

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: Discussion of Legal Opinion of 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

June 10th, 2025, 6:00pm-8:30pm

Treasurer Cassandra Walker

- **Call to Order**

Trustee Doris Harris

- **Roll Call**

Trustee Linda Wheeler

- **Communications**

(1) HP Journal Periodical

Trustee Janet Spight-White

- **Approve Meeting Agenda**

- **Public Comments (Agenda Items Only 3 minutes)**

Isaiah Pettway, Chief Educational
Officer

- **Approved Meeting Minutes**

(1) May 13th 2025 Regular Board Meeting

Joseph Urban, Esq., Board
Attorney

- **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 May Financials
- Motion to approve May Financials
- Motion to Approve Final Amended Budget 24-25
- Motion to Approve Proposed Budget 25-26

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

▪ **Unfinished Business**

- (1.) Motion to Renew/Non-Renewal Simple Computers Contract

▪ **New Business**

- (1.) Approval of Annual BOE Calendar
- (2.) Board Member Presentation-Vice President Famika Roberts
- (3.) Board Member Presentation-Secretary Yolanda Harrison
- (4.) Board Member Presentation-President Cheryl Sanford
- (5.) Digitization Project Presentation-Ms. Cheryl Martin

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

• **Closed Session**-Discussion of Legal Opinion of Counsel

• **Board of Education Affairs & Comments**

• **Confirmation of the Next Scheduled Meeting**

Regular Meeting: July 8th, 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, May 13, 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 & 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 Amend the Agenda to Remove the Closed Session

President Sanford entertained a motion to amend the agenda to remove the closed session, so moved by Member Harrison, seconded by Vice President Roberts.

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 the Amended Agenda with the Removal of the Closed Session

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve the amended agenda with the removal of the closed session, so moved by Vice President Roberts, seconded by Member Harrison.

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

Public Comments (Agenda Items Only – 3 Minutes)

Motion to Approve April 8, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve April 8, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes, so moved by Vice President Roberts, seconded by Member Harris.

Discussion: Member Wheeler stated that there was an error on the March 13, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes, and would like all of her for the record comments documented. The correction was acknowledged, and the minutes were updated.

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

President Sanford discussed the recent trip to Lansing for the MASB Behind the Scenes Event, which provided updates on the transportation issues for Highland Park, legislation and opportunities for networking.

District Department Reports and Information

Finance – Alan Young, PC.

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

Discussion: Board members discussed the possibility of revising the debt schedule once the operating deficit is eliminated by June 30, 2026. The board also considered the potential use of additional funds for programming.

Motion to Approve the April 2025 Financials

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve the April 2025 financials, so moved by Member Walker, seconded by Member Harrison.

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 discussed the district’s financial situation, with the operating deficit expected to be eliminated in the proposed 2025-2026 budget. Also discussed was the possibility of the board acquiring land across the street from the school, as discussed in meetings with city officials. The district is also working toward resolving transportation issues with DPSCD, with State Rep. Myers-Phillips and Senator Chang being contacted for assistance.

Unfinished Business

Motion to Approve the Policy Change-Censure Policy From a Requirement of a 2/3 Vote to a Majority Vote

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve the Policy Change-Censure Policy from a requirement of a 2/3 Vote to a majority vote, so moved by Member Harrison, seconded by Member Walker.

Discussion: Members discussed changing the policy and asked questions.

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

Parker Pride Engagement

Motion to Approve Day of Dialogue “They Not Like Us” Event

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve Day of Dialogue “They Not Like Us” event, so moved by Member Harris, seconded by Vice President Roberts.

Discussion: CEO Isaiah Pettway explained the new initiative which aimed to engage the community and gather their input on educational needs and opportunities. Board members discussed the motion and asked questions.

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 Spring Lawn Maintenance – City Works

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve spring lawn maintenance – City Works, so moved by Member Harris, seconded by Vice President Roberts.

Discussion: Members discussed the motion and asked questions.

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 Renew CEO Contract

President Sanford entertained a motion to renew the CEO contract, so moved by Vice President Roberts, seconded by Member Walker.

Discussion: The new contract is for two years. On the record, Mr. Pettway stated that technically because this is an independent contract there is no identification of full-time or part-time, because the district cannot have employees, The contract is for all the roles described in the contract, so yes, that would make the position full-time.

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

Motion to Renew Provision Contract

President Sanford entertained a motion to renew the Provision contract, so moved by Vice President Roberts, seconded by Member Harrison.

Discussion: The contract is for one year.

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

Motion to Approve Simple Computers Contract As-Is

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve Simple Computers contract as-is, so moved by Member Harris, seconded by Member Spight-White.

Discussion: Members discussed amending the contract to outline the scope of services.

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

MOTION FAILS: 3-4

Motion to Approve the Amendment of Simple Computers Contract to Work with the CEO to Change Their Scope of Services

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve the amendment of Simple Computers contract to work with the CEO to change their scope of service, so moved by Vice President Roberts, seconded by Member Harrison.

Discussion: CEO Pettway will negotiate new terms with the Simple Computers contract, bringing it back in June for vote.

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-1

Motion to Amend Edge Partnership Contract to Include Website and Social Media Maintenance

President Sanford entertained a motion to amend Edge Partnership contract to include website and social media maintenance, so moved by Vice President Roberts, seconded by Member Harrison.

Discussion: Members discussed the motion and asked questions. The cost of services is \$4800 per month.

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

Motion to Renew Legal Counsel Contract

President Sanford entertained a motion to renew legal counsel contract, 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 Renew Panther Security Contract

President Sanford entertained a motion to renew Panther Security contract, so moved by Member Harris, seconded by Member Wheeler.

Discussion: Member Harrison had an issue gaining access to the building. CEO Pettway explained that the school's security detail is different and the school district's security, Panther Security, will have their arrival time adjusted.

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 Harassment Policy

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve the harassment policy, so moved by Member Harrison, seconded by

Vice President Roberts.

Discussion: CEO Pettway briefly explained the policy that had been provided to all board members in advance of the meeting for their review. Members discussed the motion and asked questions.

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

Motion to Reconsider the Vote to Approve Harassment Policy

President Sanford entertained a motion to reconsider the vote to approve the harassment policy.

Discussion: Board liaison Vanessa Gulley explained the process of reconsideration.

Action: Motion Fails due to Lack of Support

Motion to Approve Liability Insurance Quote

President Sanford entertained a motion to approve the liability insurance quote, so moved by Member Harrison, seconded by Vice President Roberts.

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

Extended Public Comments (3 Minutes Only)

Sydney Spight – Parker Pride Parade

Mark Ashley Price, former HPSD BOE Trustee – Happy belated Mother’s Day, BOE members applying for MASB Committees, can former Boe members be involved in the parade, peace and love.

Dr. Pam Farris, VP Accel Schools – Thanked the BOE and HPSD for the Teacher Appreciation Day lunch.

Board of Education Affairs & Comments

Janet Spight White - Board member training concerns, board procedures.

Yolanda Harrison – For the record she was falsely accused of meeting up and conducting board business without certain fellow board members and that’s a slanderous statement,

Famika Roberts – For the record she was falsely accused of having a quorum, sexual harassment, clapping in faces and degrading character. Wayne County Election Committee decides the approval of a recall.

8:18 PM – Yolanda Harrison Exited

8:21 PM- Yolanda Harrison Returned

Doris Harris - Resolutions for Mayor Yopp and educator Dr. Donald Wright.

Linda Wheeler – The board accomplished a lot during the meeting although there was a lot of hostility in the air, will be putting a request in writing to President Sanford and CEO Isaih Pettway for agenda items for the June meeting. Wishes everyone a safe evening.

Confirmation of the Next Scheduled Meeting

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment -

Motion to Adjourn @ 8:29 PM

President Sanford entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m., so moved by Member Harris, seconded by Member Harrison.

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