



REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 6:00 PM

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Sanford at 6:05 PM.

ROLL CALL –

Table with 3 columns: Name/Title, Present (checkbox), Absent (checkbox). Lists Ms. Cheryl Sanford, Ms. Famika Roberts, Ms. Yolanda Harrison, Ms. Cassandra Walker, Ms. Doris Harris, Ms. Linda Wheeler, Ms. Janet Spight-White.

QUORUM

COMMUNICATIONS

None

APPROVE MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: MEMBER HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 14, 2025 MEETING AGENDA SUPPORT: SECRETARY HARRISON SECONDED.

DISCUSSION:

- AS PRESENTED. WITH MODIFICATION,

ROLL CALL:

Table with 3 columns: Name/Title, Yes (checkbox), No (checkbox). Lists Ms. Cheryl Sanford, Ms. Famika Roberts, Ms. Yolanda Harrison, Ms. Cassandra Walker.

- Ms. Doris Harris, Member, Board of Education Yes No
- Ms. Linda Wheeler, Member, Board of Education Yes No
- Ms. Janet Spight-White, Member, Board of Education Yes No

MOTION CARRIED 5-2.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only – 3 minutes only)

None

MOTION TO APPROVE SEPTEMBER 24, 2025, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: SECRETARY HARRISON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

SUPPORT: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: None

- AS PRESENTED.
- WITH CORRECTIONS,

ROLL CALL:

- Ms. Cheryl Sanford, President, Board of Education Yes No
- Ms. Famika Roberts, Vice President, Board of Education Yes No
- Ms. Yolanda Harrison, Secretary & Sergeant-at-Arms, Board of Education Yes No
- Ms. Cassandra Walker, Treasurer, Board of Education Yes No
- Ms. Doris Harris, Member, Board of Education Yes No
- Ms. Linda Wheeler, Member, Board of Education Yes No
- Ms. Janet Spight-White, Member, Board of Education Yes No

MOTION CARRIED 6 -0; Member Wheeler absent 9/24/25 Board Meeting and abstained from vote.

PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Remember children are the focus of the work at hand and everyone should be respectful in addressing board business.

DISTRICT DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND INFORMATION

1. Edge Partnerships– Lorri Rishar, CEO

a. Public Relations/PR/Design Report

Ms. Richar reviewed her report, noting:

- Increase in hours but no additional cost for September
- Promoting board meetings for transparency and involvement
- Civil case settlement; congrats on commitment to transparency via PR statement
- Social media results and content for September
- Looking toward robust October activity due to website improvements

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

a. Barber Report

Dr. Farris was unable to attend, but the Barber report in packet.

3. Alan C. Young, PC- Luska German, FCCA

a. September Financial Review

Ms. German reviewed her report, noting:

- Review of Fund Balance
- Review of General Fund Balance
 - Deficit increased in the 3-month period, as the primary revenue source of tax collection has not been received for current year
- Review of Month End Revenue/Expenses
- Review of Cash Position
- Review of Debt Position

b. Approval of September Financials

MOTION: MEMBER HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 2025 FINANCIALS

SUPPORT: SECRETARY HARRISON SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: Board questions and responses.

ROLL CALL:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Ms. Cheryl Sanford, President, Board of Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
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| Ms. Janet Spight-White, Member, Board of Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

MOTION CARRIED 6-1.

4. Provision-Vanessa Gulley, CEO

a. Governance/Oversight Report

Mrs. Gulley items, noting:

- Policies for consideration on the agenda
- Temporary support with compilation of board meeting minutes

5. Highland Park SD- Isaiah Pettway, CEO

a. District Report

Mr. Pettway reviewed her report, noting:

- Approval of State Budget with increase of pupil funding
 - \$1060 per pupil
 - Funding for student meals enshrined in budget
- Barber exceeded enrollment goal; 384 students
- Federal update
 - Government shutdown: DOE laid off 80% of Spec Ed Dept
- Barber has launched its own news podcast
- DPSCD cooperative agreement may not occur
 - may incur interim costs for transportation of students to school
 - may have to contract 3rd party to transport students in the future
- Update on City Treasurer and outstanding funds due to the HPSD from the city

- Office coverage
- Board PD and Travel allotment report distributed via email

BOARD OF EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Executive Committee Report

Committee Chair Roberts presented report, noting:

- Discussion of Fundraising

2. Finance Committee Report

Committee Chair Walker presented report, noting:

- No report outside of Finances presented

3. Education Expansion Committee Report

Committee Chair Sanford presented report, noting:

- Status of Partnership with Wayne County and K-14 discussion
- Potential of extending Barber Charter for additional grades

4. Fundraising Committee Report

Committee Chair Harrison presented report, noting:

- Fundraising Policy review/recommendation
- Discussion of slate of fundraisers to present to the BOE
- Donor list and letter to be provided for BOE review
- Donations for October given in the amount of \$300
 - total raised for Barber sound system to date \$1100.00

BOARD DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATIONS (CUBE CONFERENCE)

1. VP Famika Roberts

- Highlights
 - Culture
 - Student Participation
 - Networking
 - Location
 - Panelist & Keynote

2. Pres Cheryl Sanford

- a. Focus on attendance strategies (Kalamazoo Schools)
- b. Books for Board Members
- c. Connection with Board President for ORA/Links Program

3. Member Janet Spight-White

- a. Technology/Lumi
- b. School City of East Chicago, Indiana/Opportunity Hub
- c. School Yard Rap

4. Treasurer Cassandra Walker

- a. New Members Class
- b. Networking
- c. Sessions

5. CEO Isaiah Pettway

- a. Like minded, challenged, and like goal-oriented people
- b. Superintendent's gathering -the importance of the Mantra
- c. Trauma Session: Students as well as Educators (Secondary Trauma)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Approve PD Training Policy (2nd Read/Vote)

MOTION: SECRETARY HARRISON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PD TRAINING POLICY.

SUPPORT: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: None

ROLL CALL:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
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| Ms. Janet Spight-White, Member, Board of Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

MOTION CARRIED 4-3.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve Fundraising Policy

MOTION: MEMBER HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FUNDRAISING POLICY.

SUPPORT: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: None

ROLL CALL:

- | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
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| Ms. Janet Spight-White, Member, Board of Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.

2. Approve MG Development & Construction Invoice – Barber Prep

MOTION: MEMBER HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MG DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION INVOICE FOR BARBER PREP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7000.00.

SUPPORT: SECRETARY HARRISON SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: Question regarding leak from roof and damage of ceiling tiles. Does not appear that any other areas should have a problem with future water damage.

ROLL CALL:

- | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
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MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.

3. Approve Lease Agreement – 7300 Woodward Ave (File Storage)

MOTION: SECRETARY HARRISON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE AGREEMENT AT 7300 WOODWARD AVE FOR FILE STORAGE.

SUPPORT: TREASURER WALKER SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: Questions regarding staffing and security. Desire for Board Attorney opinion regarding need for Closed Session to consider lease. Question regarding operating expense language. Location of facility.

ROLL CALL:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
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MOTION CARRIED 4-3.

4. Approve New Food Choices for Board Meeting

MOTION: MEMBER HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO TABLE VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF FOOD CHOICES.

SUPPORT: MEMBER SPIGHT-WHITE SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: Possible vendors - Detroit Soul Food, Holiday Market, Cakes & Shakes, Westborn Market, Mr. Chicken, Rosco’s Soul Food.

ROLL CALL:

- | | | |
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MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.

5. Request for Special Tribute by Member Doris Harris

Member Harris communicated her appreciation for consideration and withdrew request.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes only)

- **Ms. Harris – Mama Shu**
 - 9th Annual Apple Picking in the Hood
 - Trick/Treat at Homework House on Halloween
 - Free monthly community resources each 1st/3rd Saturday
 - Invitation for Adults – Wine and Wangs
 - Avalon Village making \$250 donation to Barber PA system

- *Her Concerns*
 - Negative comments from Trustee Janet Spight-White against Avalon Village
 - Would like a healthy conversation to address this matter, to protect the valued relationship
- **Mr. Mark Ashley Price**
 - Wonderful presentation regarding CUBE Conference
 - Michigan BOE virtual meeting held today; called to advocate for HPSD
 - Will remain an activist for the HP School District

BOARD OF EDUCATION AFFAIRS & COMMENTS

- **Janet Spight-White**
 - Previous Support of Homework House
 - Comments only made when matters impact the community, and were not a representation of the Board of Education
 - Reminder of MASB Conference
- **Cheryl Sanford**
 - Apologized to Ms. Harris and noted that her service to HP is valued
 - Reminded that there is never a time when HPSD Board of Education members are not perceived to represent the Board of Education in what they say and do – we must be careful with our representation at HP and all other meetings.
- **Yolanda Harrison**
 - Supported the great appreciation of what Avalon Village is investing in Highland Park
 - Appreciate the partnership
- **Linda Wheeler**
 - Appreciate the transparency of Ms. Harris’ statements and the opportunity to address it directly with board members
- **Cassandra Walker**
 - Encouraged with words from Maya Angelou
- **Famika Roberts**
 - Reminder that Board members must be very careful about what is being said and where it is being said
 - Reiterated appreciation for the ongoing partnership with Avalon Village
 - Inquiry about the date of the next Board of Education retreat

CONFIRMATION OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 9:08 PM

MOTION: MEMBER HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:52 PM
SUPPORT: MEMBER WHEELER SECONDED.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.


Respectfully submitted by:

Yolanda Harrison

Yolanda Harrison, Board Secretary

11/03/2025

Date

Signature: 
Yolanda Harrison (Nov 3, 2025 08:55:45 EST)
Email: harrisony@hipark.org






School District of the City of Highland Park

Final Audit Report

2025-11-03

Created:	2025-10-30
By:	Isaiah Pettway (Pettwayl@HiPark.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAA7mj3R7LLB2-75jooegWk2sRloJ7OJ9UX

"School District of the City of Highland Park" History

-  Document created by Isaiah Pettway (Pettwayl@HiPark.org)
2025-10-30 - 2:17:10 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Yolanda Harrison (harrisony@hipark.org) for signature
2025-10-30 - 2:17:16 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Yolanda Harrison (harrisony@hipark.org)
2025-11-03 - 1:54:16 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Yolanda Harrison (harrisony@hipark.org)
Signature Date: 2025-11-03 - 1:55:45 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2025-11-03 - 1:55:45 PM GMT