

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

**Wednesday, November 12, 2025
6:00 PM**

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Sanford at 6:04 PM.

ROLL CALL –

Ms. Cheryl Sanford, President, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Ms. Famika Roberts, Vice President, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
<i>Ms. Roberts exited the meeting @ 6:59 pm, returned at 7:03 pm</i>		
Ms. Yolanda Harrison, Secretary & Sergeant-at-Arms, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
<i>Ms. Harrison exited the meeting @ 7:50 pm, returned at 7:53 pm</i>		
Ms. Cassandra Walker, Treasurer, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Ms. Doris Harris, Member, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Ms. Linda Wheeler, Member, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Ms. Janet Spight-White, Member, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent

QUORUM

COMMUNICATIONS

- (1) HP Journal Periodical will be distributed when delivered to the district office.
- (2) B.O.D. Letter-Elevator Update has been received.

APPROVE MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 12, 2025 MEETING AGENDA

SUPPORT: TREASURER WALKER SECONDED.

DISCUSSION:

AS PRESENTED.

WITH MODIFICATION, MOVING THE PRESENTATION OF THE AUDIT PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC COMMENTS.

ROLL CALL:

Ms. Cheryl Sanford, President, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Ms. Famika Roberts, Vice President, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Ms. Yolanda Harrison, Secretary & Sergeant-at-Arms, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Ms. Cassandra Walker, Treasurer, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Ms. Doris Harris, Member, Board of Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-1.

PRESENTATION OF THE AUDIT BY MS. L. THOMAS, CLAIRMONT GROUP

Ms. Thomas noted that the district received an unmodified opinion, which is the highest opinion that an organization can receive. She also noted that there were no disagreements with management and no adjusting entries.

a. VOTE TO RECEIVE AUDIT

MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO RECEIVE THE **24/25 AUDIT.**

SUPPORT: TREASURER WALKER SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: Questions were asked and responses received.

ROLL CALL:

Ms. Cheryl Sanford, President, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Ms. Famika Roberts, Vice President, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Ms. Yolanda Harrison, Secretary & Sergeant-at-Arms, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Ms. Cassandra Walker, Treasurer, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Ms. Doris Harris, Member, Board of Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Ms. Linda Wheeler, Member, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Ms. Janet Spight-White, Member, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-1.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only – 3 minutes only)

- Mr. Mark Ashley Price noted that he is looking forward to the MASB presentation.
- Ms. Alexis Ramsey inquired regarding agenda availability.

MOTION TO APPROVE OCTOBER 29, 2025, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE **OCTOBER 29, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

SUPPORT: SECRETARY HARRISON SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: None

AS PRESENTED.

WITH CORRECTIONS,

ROLL CALL:

Ms. Cheryl Sanford, President, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Ms. Famika Roberts, Vice President, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Ms. Yolanda Harrison, Secretary & Sergeant-at-Arms, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Ms. Cassandra Walker, Treasurer, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Ms. Doris Harris, Member, Board of Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Ms. Linda Wheeler, Member, Board of Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Ms. Janet Spight-White, Member, Board of Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

MOTION CARRIED 4-3

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

President Sanford disclosed that there are copies of the Open Meetings Act available for the public in the back of the room.

DISTRICT DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND INFORMATION

- (1) **EDGE PARTNERSHIP-LORRI RISHAR, CEO**
 Ms. Rishar reported:
- the website transition has hit some snags regarding access but is being addressed
 - the team is working on capturing Barber specific photos for future use
 - noted the PR activities that are taking place and the social media results

- (2) **ACCEL SCHOOLS-DR. FARRIS, VICE PRESIDENT**
 Ms. Farris had technical issues and was not able to comment on the Barber report.

- (3) **FINANCE-ALAN C. YOUNG, PC.**

a. LUSKA GERMAN

- Ms. German reviewed her report, noting:
- The fund balance amount
 - Delay of receipt of the tax revenue and its impact on the deficit
 - The revenue and expense balances
 - Review of debt payments

MOTION TO APPROVE OCTOBER 2025 FINANCIALS

MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE **OCTOBER 2025 FINANCIALS.**

SUPPORT: SECRETARY HARRISON SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: None

ROLL CALL:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Ms. Cheryl Sanford, President, Board of Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Ms. Famika Roberts, Vice President, Board of Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Ms. Yolanda Harrison, Secretary & Sergeant-at-Arms, Board of Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Ms. Cassandra Walker, Treasurer, Board of Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Ms. Doris Harris, Member, Board of Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Ms. Linda Wheeler, Member, Board of Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Ms. Janet Spight-White, Member, Board of Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-1.

- (4) **PROVISION-VANESSA GULLEY, BOARD GOVERNANCE/OVERSIGHT**
 Mrs. Gulley noted:
- Governance and policy work that has been completed
 - Read the MASB OMA booklet, page 21 regarding the items that are mandated to be included in the meeting minutes

- (5) **HPSD REPORT- MR. ISAIAH PETTWAY, CEO**
MR. PETTWAY REPORTED:
- Appreciation for the addition of the new Office Executive assistant, and welcomed Ms. Camille Wright
 - State has approved the final budget with the per pupil allocation
 - The government shut down impacts the receipt of federal funds
 - Transport of 4 students is occurring successfully
 - Disclosed that Mr. Young’s mother passed away

BOARD OF EDUCATION AFFAIRS & COMMENTS

(1) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

VP Roberts noted:

- Discussed soliciting Mrs. Gulley’s assistance with review and update of the district’s FOIA policy and its fee structure

(2) FINANCE COMMITTEE

Treasurer Walker noted:

- Completion of the audit and the success of the internal controls in the district office
- The desire to find funding support for the elevator
- Discussed the secure of walkie-talkies for use by school security

(3) EDUCATIONAL EXPANSION COMMITTEE

- No meeting

(4) FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

- No meeting

BOARD DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION

(1) FAMIKA ROBERTS

VP Roberts discussed her attendance and participation in the NACSA CON (National Association of Charter School Authorizers) and MASB (Michigan Association of School Boards) conference/ sessions.

(2) YOLAND HARRISON

Secretary Harrison spoke specifically to a class she attended regarding the creation and use of various plans.

UNFINISHED /OLD BUSINESS

(1) DESIGNATION OF FOOD VENDOR FOR THIS QUARTER

The board discussed the options and designated Holiday Market, Detroit Soul, and Three Sisters as the food vendors for next quarters board meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

(1) BOD Letter – Elevator Updates

MOTION TO EMPOWER CEO TO NEGOTIATE

MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO EMPOWER MR. PETTWAY TO NEGOTIATE THE REPAIR OF THE ELEVATOR REPAIR DISCUSSION.

SUPPORT: SECRETARY HARRISON SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: Board asked questions that were addressed.

ROLL CALL:

- | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Ms. Cheryl Sanford, President, Board of Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Ms. Famika Roberts, Vice President, Board of Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Ms. Yolanda Harrison, Secretary & Sergeant-at-Arms, Board of Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Ms. Cassandra Walker, Treasurer, Board of Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 UNANIMOUSLY 6-1.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes only)

- Ms. Runae Ford came to represent Barber Academy as a parent and to discuss the food pantry that is occurring at the academy. She also invited the BOE and public to assist in stocking the food pantry and supporting by donating cold weather clothing.
- Mr. Ashley Price extended various appreciations, reminded of the State Board of Education meeting and his continued advocacy for Highland Park, and noted his desire to have coffee with Pres. Sanford.
- Mrs. Gulley notified the board of the very successful board retreat of the Barber BOD.

BOARD OF EDUCATION AFFAIRS & COMMENTS

- **Janet Spight-White**
Member White requested a motion to overturn the censorship vote that occurred at the last board of education meeting. She also noted her dedication to the board and community.
- **Cassandra Walker**
Treasurer Walker has been attending sessions for board members and reiterated the importance of the board's need for strategic planning, self-evaluation, and aligning the budget with the strategic plan.
- **Linda Wheeler**
Member Wheeler noted her appreciation of the new members participation in the board training sessions.
- **Cheryl Sanford**
President Sanford noted her disagreement with the statements made by Member White during her comments regarding censorship and her requests to speak with various vendors.
- **Famika Roberts**
VP Roberts thanked the community for the opportunity to be on the BOE and asked the public to participate in and listen to the board meetings and understand the value of their voices.
- **Yolanda Harrison**
Secretary Harrison noted that it is a privilege to serve on this board and wanted to make sure the public understands that they are accountable and should also step up to serve also.
- **Doris Harris**
Noted that she disagrees with the document distributed regarding censorship and the decision board's decision regarding her censorship.
- **Isaiah Pettway**
Noted the importance of the board following its policies. He also noted the importance that everyone, including the public, is to follow the existing policies.

CONFIRMATION OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:37 PM

MOTION: MEMBER WHEELER MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:37 PM
SUPPORT: SECRETARY HARRISON SECONDED.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.

Respectfully submitted by:

Yolanda Harrison

Yolanda Harrison, HPBOE Secretary

12/12/2025

Date

Signature: 
Yolanda Harrison (Dec 12, 2025 12:56:44 EST)

Email: harrisony@hipark.org