

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

**Tuesday, December 9, 2025
6:00 PM**

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Sanford at 6:17 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 room at 7:39pm, returned at 7:43pm</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 room at 7:35pm, returned at 7:39pm</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) Mr. Pettway explains that we are waiting on HP Journal

APPROVE MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: SECRETARY HARRISON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 9, 2025 MEETING AGENDA

SUPPORT: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: Board asked questions that were addressed

AS PRESENTED.

WITH MODIFICATION FOR SPELLING AND GRAMMER

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
 Ms. Janet Spight-White, Member, Board of Education

Yes No
 Yes No

MOTION CARRIED 4-3

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only – 3 minutes only)

- Mark Ashley Price- Commented that he couldn't see the agenda
- Karla Oliver- Karla asked, is there a place where the agenda is published ahead of the BOE meetings

MOTION TO APPROVE NOVEMBER 12, 2025, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: SECRETARY HARRISON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 12, 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 6-1

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

- President Sanford thanked Mark Price and Ms. Roberts for the coffee meeting and announced that beginning in January there will be "Coffee with the President and Vice President," inviting the community to visit the office
- Public comments or requests should be directed to info@hipark.org. She also shared that she met with the state representative and new candidates running for state and local office
- Board members were reminded that sexual harassment training must be completed within 60 days if not already done.
- Ms. Sanford noted that the district has paid off its operational deficit due to higher-than-expected tax payments, highlighting the importance of teamwork, while acknowledging that long-term debt to the State of Michigan remains
- Lastly, she thanked everyone
- Presentation Jennifer Reinhardt, General Insurance- Is unable to attend but ask to be added to the agenda for next month

DISTRICT DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND INFORMATION

(1) ACCEL SCHOOLS-DR. FARRIS, VICE PRESIDENT

- Not able to attend, Mr. Pettway ask that if there are any questions they are to be directed to info@hipark.org

(2) EDGE PARTNERSHIP-EMMA BERRY

- Ms. Berry reviewed her report noting that they are going to start highlighting the board of education so public can get more acquainted with the board

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

a. LUSKA GERMAN

Ms. German reviewed her report, noting:

- She is very happy to report on the Surplus fund and general fund balance
- The revenue and expense balances
- Review of debt payments

MOTION TO APPROVE NOVEMBER 2025 FINANCIALS

MOTION: SECRETARY HARRISON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 2025 FINANCIALS.

SUPPORT: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS 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 6-1.

(4) PROVISION-VANESSA GULLEY, BOARD GOVERNANCE/OVERSIGHT

Mrs. Gulley noted:

- Explained how Ms. Sanford wants to equip the board with sessions for governance and she will be providing development opportunities for the BOE and the public

(5) HPSD REPORT- MR. ISAIAH PETTWAY, CEO

Mr. Pettway reported:

- He explained that Luska is only a vendor for the district and he will address transportation finances. He noted that the district currently uses Checker, which is costly, and is exploring Ever Driven as a new option. Estimated costs were shared, and the board will vote on the new vendor in January. Additional options will be presented at that time
- Mr. Pettway noted a service gap for 3-year-olds and high school students. Barber Prep plans to amend its charter to serve ages 3 through high school, pending board approval
- Mr. Pettway reviewed planned board and technology upgrades, including computers, noting the district is on a four-year replacement cycle and all technology is tagged and tracked
- Mr. Pettway mentioned that the Barber Prep retreat was well received

- The district is working with Dr. Farris on elevator modernization, and Mr. Bolden has completed ceiling repairs
- The Holiday Gathering was mentioned, with a reminder to RSVP for final headcount.

BOARD OF EDUCATION AFFAIRS & COMMENTS

(1) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

VP Roberts noted:

- Ms. Roberts mentioned Camille Wright and how she was transitioning and receiving a lot of support
- Mr. Pettway chimed in and mentioned that in January he will present to the Board for them to vote on a BOE ambassador program

(2) FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Mr. Pettway mentioned their discussion on the need for walkie talkies for the Security staff and it was approved

(3) EDUCATIONAL EXPANSION COMMITTEE

- Mr. Pettway mentioned they discussed the expansion of the charter of Barber

(4) FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

- Mr. Pettway discussed the fundraising policy that was passed
- In January the board will receive a list of proposed fund raisers to vote on for the remainder of the year and vendor request letter that we would submit and ask for donations
- Avalon Village made the donation \$250 for the sound system for the school we currently have \$1500 and we are looking into the options

UNFINISHED /OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

(1) FOIA Policy Updates

MOTION TO ADOPT THE NEW FOIA POLICY

MOTION: SECRETARY HARRISON

SUPPORT: TREASURER WALKER SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Gulley gave explanation and the board followed with 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	<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

Yes No

MOTION CARRIED 6-1.

(2) Community Engagement Policy

MOTION TO ADOPT THE NEW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

MOTION: SECRETARY HARRISON

SUPPORT: TREASURER WALKER SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Gulley gave explanation and the board followed with questions that were addressed

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 5-2.

(3) Censure Policy Update (1st Read)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Pettway explains that the BOE will vote on this in January for the 2nd read and Mr. Joe Urban will be in attendance, BOE asked questions that were addressed

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes only)

- Runae Ford invited the board to attend the Barber Winter Concert on December 18 at 1:30pm
- Karla Oliver expressed appreciation for the budget surplus and asked for clarification on plans for developing a high school, including its location, structure, scope, and whether it would operate as a charter or Highland Park school, She also acknowledged the recent loss of a student after school and asked what steps are being taken, in collaboration with other programs, to support youth development
- Mark Ashley Price shared positive feedback on the Coffee Hour with the President and Vice President and expressed interest in making it a regular event, He agreed with the President’s comments but did not elaborate due to time constraints, He stated that if appointed as an ambassador, he would serve to the best of his ability, regardless of election outcomes, He also mentioned receiving a voicemail from the Deputy State Superintendent and requested that the President share details of her discussion with the State Superintendent
- Vanessa Gully thanked Ms. Harris for the information regarding the statement “for the record” and noted she will be sending references related to Robert’s Rules, specifically regarding records and committee reports
- Mr. Bolden made a \$500 donation to the School Board in honor of his parents.

BOARD OF EDUCATION AFFAIRS & COMMENTS

• **Janet Spight-White**

Expressed appreciation for recent progress, acknowledged the time and effort invested, and reminded the board of past challenges.

• **Cassandra Walker**

Asked about best practices and whether students are tracked after leaving the Baber, and she made a \$50 donation to the

fundraising committee.

• **Linda Wheeler**

Expressed satisfaction with the elimination of the deficit, recalling that the district was once \$11 million in debt and noting the resilience required to reach this point.

• **Cheryl Sanford**

Thanked everyone who has supported the district, congratulated the board on current progress, and emphasized that continued effort is needed to achieve long-term goals. She stressed the importance of board training, encouraged members to begin the training series, and urged increased engagement and involvement.

• **Famika Roberts**

Thanked attendees for their participation, asked whether the Barber Food Pantry is still accepting donations, and commended the district on paying down the deficit.

• **Doris Harris**

Recommended Ms. Oliver for appointment as a district ambassador.

• **Isaiah Pettway**

Addressed Ms. Oliver and requested that she submit her questions via email.

CONFIRMATION OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:39 PM

MOTION: PRESIDENT SANFORD MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:39PM

SUPPORT: SECRETARY HARRISON SECONDED.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.

Respectfully submitted by:


Yolanda Harrison

Yolanda Harrison, HPBOE Secretary

14/01/2026

Date

Signature:


Yolanda Harrison (Jan 14, 2026 13:04:12 EST)

Email: harrisony@hipark.org






School District of the City of Highland Park

Final Audit Report

2026-01-14

Created:	2026-01-14
By:	Camille Wright (wrightc@hipark.org)
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