

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

**Tuesday, February 10, 2026
6:00 PM**

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Sanford at 6:08 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
Ms. Yolanda Harrison, Secretary & Sergeant-at-Arms, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
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 type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" 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- Copies provided for the BOE and public

APPROVE MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 10, 2026 MEETING AGENDA AND TO TABLE OUR REPORTS EXCEPT THE CEO REPORT AND FINANCE REPORT SUPPORT: SECRETARY HARRISON SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: None

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	<input 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 5-1

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only – 3 minutes only)

- NONE

MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY 13, 2026, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 13, 2026 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 type="checkbox"/> No
Ms. Janet Spight-White, Member, Board of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

MOTION CARRIED 5-1

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

- Ms. Sanford announced that “Coffee and Conversation” will begin on February 26 at 10:00 a.m. at Dunkin’ Donuts. She encouraged everyone to attend and bring any suggestions, questions, or concerns.
- Ms. White asked whether Barber parents would be welcome to attend. Ms. Sanford expressed confidence that the team would be able to address any questions that arise and share any necessary information with Pamela or Ms. Howard as needed.
- Ms. Harris commented that the meeting should be brief.
- Ms. Sanford also shared that at the CUBE Conference she met a board president who is also a member of the Links and is interested in partnering with Highland Park School District to reestablish a relationship. Dr. Farris compiled a list of priorities for the school, which was presented to the Links. Ms. Sanford expressed hope that this will mark the beginning of a strong and productive partnership.
- Ms. Sanford thanked Mrs. Gulley for the introduction.

DISTRICT DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND INFORMATION

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

a. LUSKA GERMAN

Ms. German reviewed her report, noting:

- Ms. White emphasized the importance of recognizing that the previous board began investing strategically, which resulted in additional revenue for the organization.
- Ms. Harris inquired about the errors noted in the memorandum and asked for clarification regarding the specific debt that was paid off. Luska explained the shift from a deficit in the general fund balance to a surplus.

- Ms. Walker reminded the group of the importance of maintaining adequate cash reserves to ensure a strong cash position over the next three years under the current presidential leadership.

MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY 2026 FINANCIALS

MOTION: SECRETARY HARRISON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 2026 FINANCIALS.

SUPPORT: TREASURER WALKER 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 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 5-1.

(2) BOARD GOVERNANCE/OVERSIGHT REPORT

a. VANESSA GULLEY, PROVISION

Ms. Gulley reported on the electronic donations gift acceptance policy. She also provided a memo with all policy updates for the last year

- Ms. Harris requested an update regarding the solicitation application.
- Mr. Pettway explained that the application has been completed. Ms. Harris inquired about the submission date, and Ms. Harrison clarified that it was submitted during the last Fundraising Committee meeting on January 28. She further stated that certification was granted that same day and that the organization is currently in good standing.
- Ms. Gulley commended the Board of Education on the progress made in communication efforts. She expressed her appreciation for the investment and work that have gone into strengthening the policies, offered kudos to the team, and encouraged everyone to continue moving forward.
- Ms. Sanford also commended and thanked Ms. Gulley for her work in developing and organizing the policies.

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

Mr. Pettway reported:

- We have launched the new website. It is more user-friendly, and for the most part, all updated information has been uploaded. All links are working properly. Mr. Pettway shared that he is especially excited about the Board Portal section and asked that everyone take time to review it. All policies have been updated within Board Docs. He also explained that there is a public link available so the community can access the most up-to-date versions of district policies.
- Ms. Roberts asked what the process is if there are questions regarding the website. Mr. Pettway requested that any questions or concerns be emailed directly to him and Camille Wright.
- EverDriven is now in use for student transportation. There is an app that allows the district to monitor rides, and parents can track them as well. Two additional students will begin receiving transportation services, including one student identified under the McKinney-Vento Act.
- Ms. Harris asked about prior years' Board minutes. Mr. Pettway explained that the district is required to maintain three years of minutes electronically. If records beyond that timeframe are needed, a formal request must be submitted.
- Mr. Pettway stated that updated uniform photos are needed and that the district is currently

working on this. He requested one week to provide uniform options.

- Mr. Pettway also stated that the district office refresh project is beginning and stated that he will continue to keep everyone informed as updates become available.
- Mr. Pettway discussed Barber and the BOD, specifically regarding support for special education services. He noted that special education services are very costly and that approximately 45% of Barber students utilize special education services. He expressed the need to develop a plan for the BOD to manage and reduce special education costs while continuing to meet student needs.

BOARD OF EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Executive Committee Report

Ms. Roberts reported that the committee discussed Barber Preparatory Academy, Coffee Hour, the district office renovation, and Mr. Price's appointment. They also discussed mentorship for the Board of Directors (BOD) and the upcoming retreat.

Mr. Pettway shared that Mr. Price has been officially onboarded. He has been provided with his talking points and is on assignment this evening. Mr. Pettway also noted that the elevator is currently undergoing repairs. He mentioned the window replacement project and suggested that the Board begin preparing for it, as the process may take additional time due to tariffs impacting pricing and materials.

Ms. Harris asked whether there is a per diem for the ambassador. Mr. Pettway clarified there is no per diem for the position. She also stated that window replacement pricing had previously been obtained. Ms. Sanford explained that the matter will need to be revisited and new pricing secured, as the prior proposal was voted down.

2. Finance Committee Report

Ms. Walker stated that the Board of Education should maintain sufficient cash reserves in the event funds are needed and emphasize the importance of being cautious and strategic with district finances.

3. Educational Expansion Committee Report

The committee did not meet. Ms. Sanford shared that the committee will meet next month.

4. Fundraising Committee Report

Ms. Harrison reported that \$2,200 has been raised toward the sound system for Barber Preparatory Academy. Mr. Pettway is currently working with an engineer regarding the project.

The Board of Education has received its Solicitation Certificate.

The committee discussed hosting a gala and partnering with Highland Park Promise for an event to take place within the next six months.

Mr. Pettway explained the concept of Highland Park Promise and how it could be funded. He noted that Detroit Promise currently does not recognize our students. The district plans to meet with Detroit Promise to learn how their program was established so that a similar initiative can potentially be developed locally.

Ms. Walker asked about student picture day at Barber Preparatory Academy. Mr. Pettway explained that funds will need to be raised to support picture day for students.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to Approve District Donations & Gift Acceptance Policy:

MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE DISTRICT DONATIONS & GIFT ACCEPTANCE POLICY 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 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 5-1.

2. Motion to Approve Martin Records, LLC Contract Renewal:

MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE MARTIN RECORDS LLC CONTRACT RENEWAL SUPPORT: TREASURER WALKER SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Harris asked a series of questions and Mr. Pettway asked Ms. Harris to please send a email with all questions.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Ms. Linda Wheeler, Member, Board of Education	<input 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 6-0

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes only)

Runae Ford- raised questions regarding student picture day for Barber students and explains that they do have a designated picture. She also addressed concerns about student records, stating that as a parent, records are not released directly to parents but are instead sent to the receiving school. She thanked the Board for consistently considering the BOD and Barber Preparatory Academy in its discussions and expressed her desire for the BOE to reach out to the BOD regarding mentorship opportunities.

Ms. Harrison- stated that she would like the Board of Education to take the financial responsibility of picture day so that students and families have access to school photographs.

Mark Anthony Price- shared several updates. First, he noted as an FYI that the State of the County address is scheduled for tomorrow. Second, he mentioned that he is looking forward to the upcoming Coffee Hour. His main point was to clarify that State Board of Education meetings are often lengthy and that many individuals may not have the time to attend in full. He shared that he called into a recent meeting and informed them of his appointment for the

year. Mr. Price also stated that he does not intend to request any financial support from the BOE until the new fiscal year begins, including for attendance at the MASB meeting, as he would prefer to attend in person.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS NONE

BOARD OF EDUCATION AFFAIRS & COMMENTS

- **Famika Roberts-** Thanks everyone for attendance and thanks Ms. Gulley for the memo and is appreciative for the retreat. Thanks all for her appointment.
- **Cheryl Sanford-** Mentioned Ms. Wheeler is under the weather and to send love and prayer

CONFIRMATION OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 7:41 PM

MOTION: SECRETARY HARRISON MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:41PM

SUPPORT: MEMBER HARRIS SECONDED.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Respectfully submitted by:

Yolanda Harrison, HPBOE Secretary

Date

Signature:  (Mar 12, 2026 11:11:23 EDT)

Email: harrisony@hipark.org