



## HIGHLAND PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

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April 14, 2026

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# Highland Park School District clarifies Board governance actions, reaffirms commitment to *Children First*

The Highland Park School District and Board Chair Cheryl Sanford today issued the following statement to address a recent media inquiry regarding a lawsuit reportedly filed by Board Member Janet Spight White and clarify the District's actions related to Board governance and student safety:

*"The District has not been served with any formal notice of an alleged lawsuit filed by Ms. White. The District first became aware of the filing only after a news reporter contacted the District requesting comment.*

*"In October 2025, the Board of Education formally censured Ms. White and Ms. Harris in accordance with the Board's Censure Policy then in effect. That policy was developed during Ms. White's tenure as chair of the Board's Policy Committee and had been used previously to censure other Board members, including Ms. Harris, during a period when Ms. White served as Board president.*

*"Following the censures, and based on feedback and recommendations from Board members, the Board engaged its external governance consultant to review and revise the censure policy to ensure a more robust, structured and transparent process for addressing Board conduct matters. The revised policy was adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board and has since guided all deliberations related to Board member conduct, including the current consideration of whether to extend the censures of Ms. White and Ms. Harris.*

*"The Board's consideration of extending the censures is based on formal notice and findings following an investigation into member conduct while present at a District school facility. That review raised significant concerns related to failure to comply with District policies,*

*(more)*

*alleged harassment of staff, security protocol breaches, and unauthorized engagement with students. These issues elevated concerns regarding compliance with established safety procedures.*

*“In the current educational climate, student safety remains the District’s highest priority. Ensuring safe learning environments requires that all individuals — employees, volunteers, visitors and Board members alike — adhere strictly to District policies and procedures. The District has recently invested approximately \$25,000 in facility upgrades designed to strengthen security and safety measures across school buildings. Those efforts, however, can only be effective if all stakeholders align their conduct with established protocols.*

*“The Highland Park School District and its Board of Education remain fully committed to raising and maintaining the highest standards of conduct, accountability and governance. The Board will continue to apply its policies consistently and fairly to ensure the District operates effectively, transparently and in a manner that supports student success and avoids challenges experienced in the past. We remain steadfast in our shared belief in Children First as it relates to all matters before us.*

*“Additional information will be shared as appropriate and in accordance with legal and governance processes.”*

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**About Highland Park School District**

The Highland Park School District provides 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. All students achieve their maximum potential through a rigorous and engaging curriculum with the support of a caring and prepared faculty, and a safe and secure learning environment that cultivates success for life.