



MAY 2026

NEWSLETTER

Featuring
BARBER
PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Greetings from Chief Education Officer Isaiah Pettway

It's May, and the School District of the City of Highland Park continues to make moves!

If there's one word I would use to characterize HPSD's year to date, it would be "momentum." Some of the progress we're making flies under the radar. But, like the Earth spinning on its axis at over 1,000 miles per hour without most of us noticing, the fact is real advancements are happening in key areas. The end result is better facilities, expanded services and improved outcomes for our scholars.

I am pleased to report that our financial position continues to strengthen. The steps we have taken over the past year to build fiscal stability are yielding real results. By June 30, we estimate the District will have a fund surplus of approximately \$365,000. We are on a clear and confident path forward with a financial foundation that will allow for greater flexibility to invest in the people, programs and places that matter most to our community.

One of our most significant investments our improved financial picture has allowed is safety upgrades at Barber Preparatory Academy. Renovations to the main entryway help school staff better handle outside visitors. Keeping our scholars safe is, and will always be, our number one priority. We are making meaningful improvements to ensure that Barber Prep is a place where students feel secure, supported and ready to thrive.

As we move forward, we do so with our community beside us. Transparency is not a talking point for us; it is a practice. We remain deeply committed to open, honest dialogue with the residents, parents and partners who strengthen Highland Park. District bulletins hosted on our website and social media platforms (hipark.org) keep residents up to date on significant issues.

I encourage everyone to take advantage of our ongoing Coffee & Conversations community dialogue events. It's a great opportunity to hear directly from District leadership about where we are headed and what we are working on. You also are always welcome to schedule a personal appointment with District administrators to ask questions, share feedback or simply connect.

This community built something special here. Together, we are protecting it, improving it, and growing it. Thank you, as always, for your trust, your voice, and your partnership in putting Children First.

With gratitude and determination,

Isaiah Pettway



District Wins

HPSD is dedicated to building our scholars into successful students of life. Often, this effort means putting tender love and care into our actual buildings.

The District is committed to improving our infrastructure. So far in 2026, this has included efforts to modernize the elevator at Barber Preparatory Academy, overhauling the school's main entrance for enhanced security and upgrading its hot water heater to ensure students have safe, sanitary water.

Through the HPSD Fundraising Committee, we also have secured funds for a state-of-the-art sound system for Barber Prep's gymnasium.

Our district office has gotten a facelift, too. We want it to serve as a welcoming space that can comfortably host community members for events like Coffee & Conversations.



More Coffee, More Conversations

Coffee & Conversations continues to be a hit. The dialogue series is a visible component of our commitment to open communication and giving community members an active voice in the District's future.

To date, we have hosted three events with steadily increasing attendance numbers. Topics have included the potential of a district high school, partnership with community organizations, and further communication improvements.

Thanks to input received at one of the sessions, the District is developing a Frequently Asked Questions page on the HPSD website that will help clarify our district structure and Authorizer's role, among other things. We also are developing a glossary of commonly used educational terms.

Stay tuned for future Coffee & Conversations dates. Times and locations are posted on hipark.org and the District's Facebook page.



Join us for
**COFFEE &
CONVERSATION**
with HPSD



Get the latest updates
on district activities
with President
Cheryl Sanford

Use your voice to help shape the future of education in our community!

Times and locations are posted on hipark.org
and the District's Facebook page.

Highland Park Happenings

There's never a dull moment at HPSD. Enriching activities that light the fires of creativity in our scholars and set them on a path to success have filled the school year.

We have enjoyed watching our scholar-athletes grow through winter and spring sports. Our middle school students plotted their next steps at Barber Prep's High School Fair. Science and math enthusiasts participated in the STEAM Slam. Top academic performers enjoyed a showing of *The Lion King* at the Detroit Opera House, and we saw tremendous energy in numerous activities during March is Reading Month.





School Board Shoutout



Educational excellence is an evergreen objective at HPSD. We further its growth by championing a culture of internal improvement. Leading by example, our Board of Education has diligently worked to improve its institutional knowledge and streamline processes to better serve Highland Park children and families.

Board members have been active learners, going to significant lengths to identify and implement best practices. Members have attended four national conferences and participated in multiple state and local training sessions.

Lessons learned at these events are reinforced by in-house training focusing on proper governance, oversight and effective operations. A Board-sponsored sexual harassment training module also was attended by the Board of Directors of Barber Preparatory Academy.

We thank our Board members for walking the walk and demonstrating that learning is a lifelong pursuit.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Did you know that regular school attendance is one of the strongest predictors of academic success? Missing even a small amount of school can impact a student's performance. Research shows that frequent absences can significantly affect achievement and long-term outcomes. That's why we work so hard to ensure that our scholars make #SchoolEveryDay a priority.



HPSD CALENDAR

May



Board of Education Regular Meeting



Memorial Day (No School)



Barber Prep Board of Directors Regular Meeting

June



Board of Education Regular Meeting



Last Day of School

July



Board of Education Regular Meeting

ENROLLING NOW FOR PK-8

**CHILDREN
FIRST!**

**Focused on student success through
rebuilding, growing and achieving.**



**High Expectations
for Growth &
Achievement**



**Welcoming,
Safe & Nurturing
Environment**



**Transformative
& Visionary
Leadership**



**Community as
Partners in the
Educational Process**



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