

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

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

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Sanford at 6:05 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 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- Copies provided for the BOE and public
- (2) Letter to B.O.D. (Fiscal Distress)

Discussion:

Mr. Pettway clarified that the letter from the state to the BOD is a warning notice and explained that the associated financial calculations reflect a three-year period.

Ms. Harris inquired about the use of the term “we” and requested access to the letter. Mr. Pettway responded and confirmed that he would share the letter with the BOE.

Ms. White questioned why the Board had not been informed about the authorized letter. Mr. Pettway stated that this meeting served as the first formal opportunity to present the information to the Board. He further noted that the Board of Education has been engaged in ongoing discussions for several months regarding the district’s financial distress. He emphasized that suggesting the BOE was unaware is misleading and may lead to unnecessary public concern.

Mr. Pettway confirmed that he will provide the Board with official correspondence from the state. He also explained that significant expenditures related to special education outsourcing have been a major factor contributing to the depletion of funds.

Ms. Harris and Ms. Wheeler posed additional questions, all of which were addressed by Mr. Pettway.

APPROVE MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 10, 2026 MEETING

AGENDA AND TO TABLE OUR REPORTS EXCEPT THE CEO REPORT AND FINANCE REPORT
SUPPORT: MEMBER WHEELER SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: Ms. White would like to add to the agenda increasing the dinner allowance. Ms. Roberts would like to provide dinner for the vendors that help with the board meetings dinner and for this to be discussed during new business.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only – 3 minutes only)

- Runae Ford- Is very happy that Mr. Pettway clarified the reason for the BOD distress letter as she has been told the other thinks the new BOD has been spending the funds.

MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 10, 2026, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 10, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

SUPPORT: MEMBER HARRIS SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Wheeler asked how she should vote due to her absence during last meeting, Ms. Gulley explained she can vote to approve the meeting minutes even with her absence during the last meeting

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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 7-0

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

Ms. Sanford thanked all attendees who participated in the Coffee and Conversation held on February 26 and extended special thanks to Ms. Ford for attending. She announced that the next session is scheduled for March 26, tentatively at the District Office; however, if the office is unavailable, it will be held at Dunkin’ Donuts.

Ms. Sanford clarified that the Board of Directors’ (BOD) fiscal distress notice did not originate with the current board. She explained that rising special education costs, combined with unbudgeted bathroom renovations at Barber, significantly impacted the district’s finances. These renovations resulted in an unexpected expense of approximately \$350,000, which created a ripple effect throughout the district’s budget.

Ms. White stated that all renovations for Barber are expected to be covered by the BOD. In response, Ms. Sanford clarified that the Board of Education (BOE) had initially approved funding for the bathroom renovations but later reversed that decision. She emphasized the importance of the BOE honoring its commitments and continuing to invest in the building.

Ms. Harris requested documentation confirming that the BOE withdrew its support for the renovations.

Ms. Roberts provided clarification on the timeline of events.

Ms. Harrison requested that Ms. Sanford include information about fundraiser ticket availability at the next Coffee and Conversation. Ms. Roberts expressed her appreciation for the Coffee and Conversation event and noted the value of increased public engagement and participation.

DISTRICT DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND INFORMATION

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

a. LUSKA GERMAN

Ms. German reviewed her report.

Ms. White inquired about the Board of Education (BOE) expense totaling \$6,163. Luska clarified that this amount covers stipends and board consultation fees.

Ms. White also asked for clarification regarding recent budget amendments, and Luska provided an explanation.

Ms. White noted that no finance committee meetings had been held.

MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 2026 FINANCIALS

MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBURARY 2026 FINANCIALS.

SUPPORT: MEMBER HARRIS SECONDED.

DISCUSSION:

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.

(2) BOARD GOVERNANCE/OVERSIGHT REPORT

a. VANESSA GULLEY, PROVISION- SPEAKS OF WORKSHOP AND GIVES A HANDOUT

Ms. Gulley discussed the SDI assessments previously completed by the board during the last development workshop and provided an update on the Board Development Workshop currently being planned.

Ms. Roberts thanked Ms. Vanessa for the handout.

Ms. White inquired about potential dates for the Board Development Workshop.

Ms. Harris asked whether Ms. Gulley is registered with the Department of Education; Ms. Gulley responded that she is not and that registration is not required.

Ms. Wheeler asked about addressing corrections identified in her assessment, and Ms. Gulley explained that the report includes resources to support improvements based on the findings.

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

Mr. Pettway reported that the elevator parts have arrived and repairs are currently underway. The estimated cost to fix the motor is approximately \$44,000.

Ms. Wheeler asked who would have access to the elevator key, and Mr. Pettway explained that Camille will have the key, as she is onsite prior to meetings.

Mr. Pettway also reported that renovations in the HPSD office are underway, files have been relocated, and the projected timeline is two weeks. He noted that all expenses have been accounted for and the budget was approved in June.

Ms. Harris requested photos of the renovations.

Mr. Pettway introduced additional renovation plans for Barber, including a proposal to redesign the lobby area for safety purposes. He stated that a rendering has been requested and will be shared with the board.

Ms. Harris asked if this proposal was the same as a previous idea from Ms. Gibson, and Ms. Sanford clarified that it is different.

Ms. Harris inquired about metal detectors.

Ms. Roberts asked whether security staff would receive training, and Mr. Pettway confirmed they will be trained on proper use.

Ms. Sanford asked if there is a panic button in place, and Mr. Pettway stated he would follow up to check.

Ms. Wheeler asked about an evacuation plan, and Mr. Pettway explained that multiple drills are conducted throughout the year as required.

Mr. Pettway also shared that March is Reading Month at Barber, with guest readers scheduled, and invited members of the BOE to participate.

He then discussed upcoming window renovations, noting that Mr. Bolden will be submitting a bid.

Mr. Pettway emphasized that the BOE will need to vote on the project and remain actively engaged in the process.

Mr. Pettway addressed a potential music program mentioned by Ms. White, clarifying that it is not affiliated with the BOE and that participation would be separate.

Regarding the budget amendment, Luska indicated it will take place in June. Mr. Pettway explained that several line items have increased and wanted to ensure the BOE is informed in advance of the upcoming vote.

BOARD OF EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Executive Committee Report-** Ms. Roberts provided an update on the Coffee and Conversation initiative and the District Office renovations. She shared that the discussion included the recent professional development day and transportation services with Mr. Shannon, highlighting opportunities for partnership. The committee also discussed the importance of safety at the District Office. Ms. Roberts noted that Camille is transitioning well into her role, and Mr. Mark Anthony Price is also adjusting successfully.

Mr. Pettway asked to add that there was an incident involving a member of the public and Camille at out district office and that the District Office will return to an appointment-only model. Moving forward, members of the public must call to schedule an appointment, with same-day appointments available.

Ms. White asked Mr. Pettway to clarify his office hours.

Ms. Harris asked if there was an incident report made, Mr. Pettway explained that the issue was handled and that he feels the need to address that the CAO is in place to manage the district and the board needs to be

Careful about micromanaging. The CAO will report to the BOE when necessary.

2. Finance Committee Report- No meeting

3. Educational Expansion Committee Report- Met and had a presentation from the Detroit promise, looking to start a highland park promise as the Detroit promise does not serve highland park. Ms. Wheeler asked if there is a timeline Ms. Sandford explained there is not at this time. We are partnering with Wayne County to find out about the college closure, and we have reached out to the state for answers, we are very excited to have a satellite office here. We will proceed until apprehended have had several meetings with Senator Chang to get this resolved, hoping by next month we will have answers.

4. Fundraising Committee Report- No meeting

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-NONE

NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to Approve Resolution to appropriate Sinking Funds to build out the lobby of Barber Prep. (Acts Construction):

MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE SINKING FUNDS TO BUILD OUT THE LOBBY OF BARBER PREP. (ACTS CONSTRUCTIONS) SUPPORT: MEMBER WHEELER SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Harris asks if it's a permanent wall, Mr. Pettway explains that it is not
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 UNANIMOUSLY 7-0

2. Motion to Approve Fred's Key Shop Invoice (Locks for Files)

MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE FRED'S KEY SHOP INVOICE (LOCKS FOR FILES) SUPPORT: SECRETARY HARRISON SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Wheeler asked if each cabinet needs a lock, Mr. Pettway answered yes, Ms. White asked if it was a state rule and Mr. Pettway says this is a RESA requirement, Ms. Harris inquiries about the cost and Mr. Pettway clarifies.

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
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0

Yes No

3. To increase the food allowance to \$35 and include our vendors

4. Motion to Approve MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE SUPPORT: SECRETARY HARRISON SECONDED.

DISCUSSION:

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 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 7-0

7:54 Ms. Harrison exits the room

7:55pm Ms. Harrison reenters the room

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes only)

Mark Price- Wished everyone a Happy Women’s History month

BOARD OF EDUCATION AFFAIRS & COMMENTS

Ms. Wheeler thanks the BOE for the beautiful followers she received.

Ms. White reminds the board about Michigan week and the parade and she has been asked to get people to sign up to volunteer May 16th, the parade will not be on Woodward.

Ms. Harris thanks the board for supporting the \$35 food allowance increase and for including the vendors.

Ms. Harrison thanks the board and Ms. Sanford for setting up coffee and conversation.

Ms. Roberts thanks the board and thanks Ms. Sanford and thanks the district office and she is excited about March reading month and thanks the vendors for all they do to assist the district.

Ms. Sanford thanks all who came out for coffee and conversation.

CONFIRMATION OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:02 PM

**MOTION: SECRETARY HARRISON MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:02PM
SUPPORT: MEMBER HARRIS SECONDED.
MOTION CARRIED 6-0.**

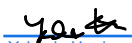
Respectfully submitted by:

Yolanda Harrison

Yolanda Harrison, HPBOE Secretary

20/04/2026

Date

Signature: 
[Yolanda Harrison \(Apr 20, 2026 09:10:56 EDT\)](mailto:harrisony@hipark.org)
Email: harrisony@hipark.org






School District of the City of Highland Park

Final Audit Report

2026-04-20

Created:	2026-04-15
By:	Camille Wright (wrightc@hipark.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAvcCjBEyF3PY-hdeykCpS8mhD4k5-GtH-

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-  Document created by Camille Wright (wrightc@hipark.org)
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-  Email viewed by Yolanda Harrison (harrisony@hipark.org)
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-  Document e-signed by Yolanda Harrison (harrisony@hipark.org)
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-  Agreement completed.
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