

**BUDGET HEARING AGENDA
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

**Tuesday, July 14, 2026
6:00 PM**

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Sanford at 6:21 PM.

ROLL CALL –

Ms. Cheryl Sanford, President, Board of Education	☒ Present	☐ Absent
Ms. Famika Roberts, Vice President, Board of Education	☒ Present	☐ Absent
Ms. Yolanda Harrison, Secretary & Sergeant-at-Arms, Board of Education	☒ Present	☐ Absent
Ms. Cassandra Walker, Treasurer, Board of Education	☒ Present	☐ Absent
Ms. Doris Harris, Member, Board of Education	☒ Present	☐ Absent
Ms. Linda Wheeler, Member, Board of Education	☒ Present	☐ Absent
Ms. Janet Spight-White, Member, Board of Education	☒ Present	☐ Absent

COMMUNICATIONS

- (1) HP Journal- Copies provided for the BOE and public

APPROVE MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JULY 14, 2026 MEETING AGENDA REMOVING THE CLOSED SESSION.

SUPPORT: SECRETARY HARRISON SECONDED.

DISCUSSION:

☐ AS PRESENTED.

☒ WITH MODIFICATION, REMOVING THE CLOSED SESSION

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 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only – 3 minutes only)

- None

MOTION TO APPROVE JUNE 17, 2026, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 17, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

SUPPORT: SECRETARY HARRISON SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: Corrections on the special meeting minute.

☐ 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 7-0

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

President Sanford Thanked Ms. Gulley, Vice President Roberts and Mr. Pettway for participating in the first podcast and, mentioned that we have posted it to the Hipark website. She also stated that information on the Highland Park Promise was also posted and she asked that everyone share the information

Ms. White asked why she wasn't told about the podcast and, Ms. Sanford explained that Ms. Gulley informed all at the board meeting. Ms. Gulley then further explained that there was info given at the last 2 board meeting. President Sanford explained that they made a decision to start with the President and VP Roberts. President Sanford asked Ms. Gulley to share again about the different sessions. Ms. Wheeler asked if they are once a month, President Sanford confirms they are twice a month for the summer series. Ms. White commented that there is a webinar under MASB on topics of school board. President Sanford explains that the BOE they wanted something developed specifically to Highland Park

DISTRICT DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Mr. Pettway has explained that every area in the budget has come in under budget and that the fund balance has increased. We are no longer in a deficit.

(1) FINANCE-ALLEN C. YOUNG, PC.-BUDGET PRESENTATION

PRESENTER: LUSKA GERMAN, PCCA

Discussion: Board Members asked questions regarding the budget.

**Yoland Harrison walks out at 6:37pm*

**Yoland Harrison Returns at 6:40pm*

MOTION TO APPROVE JUNE 2026 FINANCIALS

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

SUPPORT: SECRETARY HARRISON SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Walker commented "Show me your budget and I'll show you your priorities."

VP Famika thanked Luska.

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.

Mr. Pettway thanked the Highland Park citizens for paying their taxes. He stated that the district is making progress because the citizens are doing their civic duty.

- (2) BOARD GOVERNANCE/OVERSIGHT REPORT VANESSA GULLEY, PROVISION-** Asked for forgiveness in her absences, she mentioned the board podcast series is going well. The next podcast will address the uniqueness of the Highland Park School district. She and Isaiah have met with the National Charter Schools Institute and have taken a look at the policies. She gave the updates on policies and what the board should review. Mr. Pettway explained that we just received the report from the National Charter School Institute and will it be available for the August board meeting agenda.

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

HP Promise Update:

Mr. Pettway reported that Edge is developing a media campaign to promote the Highland Park Promise Scholarship. The goal is to increase public awareness and ensure the community is informed about the program.

As the next step, the district will work with the Michigan College Access Network to establish the application process and procedures for the Highland Park Promise. The first planning meeting is scheduled for the end of August. The objective is to have the application available on the district's website by November or early December.

Ms. White asked a question regarding the Highland Park Promise. Mr. Pettway responded that information about the program is currently available on the district's website and Facebook page, and reiterated that the goal is for the application to be available in November.

ADA Project Update:

Mr. Pettway provided an update on the ADA project, stating that the district is currently working with the city regarding contractors. He anticipates having proposals available for the Board's review at the next meeting.

Elevator Modernization Project:

Mr. Pettway informed the Board that the current quote for the elevator modernization project is \$123,000. He stated that he is working with the contractor to reduce the overall cost. If the cost cannot be lowered, Mr. Pettway will present the funding difference to the Board for consideration and approval.

Records Digitization Update:

Mr. Pettway addressed questions regarding the two employees working in the administrative office. He explained that he was initially informed by Ms. Martin that the digitization project would require approximately one additional year to complete. Approximately four months later, he was advised by Ms. Martin that the project had been completed. However, Mr. Pettway stated that the digitization process is, in fact, still ongoing.

BOARD OF EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee Report- Vice President Roberts reiterated the purpose of the Executive Committee and provided an overview of the topics discussed during the committee meeting.

She reported that Facilities and Operations were reviewed, including an update on the installation of the security detectors. Mr. Pettway stated that the installations are currently in progress.

Vice President Roberts also discussed marketing and social media initiatives, including the District podcast and the Highland Park Promise campaign. She noted that July 20 was established as the deadline for submitting headshots.

Regarding the Coffee and Conversation series, Vice President Roberts announced that an additional evening session will be added in August to increase community engagement.

Vice President Roberts concluded her report by thanking Mr. Pettway for his efforts in keeping the District under budget and thanks the board as well.

President Sanford then congratulated Edge on the quality of its graphic design work and commended the organization for its efforts in promoting the Highland Park Promise initiative.

Finance Committee Report-Ms. Walker gives the purpose of the committee. “Show me your budget and I will show you your priorities, and children is our priority first”

Educational Expansion Committee Report- President Sanford stated the committee did not meet but has a meeting scheduled before the next board meeting. She did provide an update about a planned work session with Wayne County Community College in August. They are continued conversations with Wayne County community college and we plan to have another work session with them at the beginning of August.

Fundraising Committee Report- Ms. Harrison explained the committee did not meet and due to the current situation with the budget and we rescheduled for next month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-

(1) Approve/Deny the Barber Prep Charter Contract Amendment

Discussion: Mr. Pettway explains that this was provided in the June meeting packet and explains that the math program curriculum is now obsolete. The new one is a cost saving.

Motion to Approve THE BARBER PREP CHARTER CONTRACT AMENDMENT

MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BARBER PREP CHARTER CONTRACT AMENDMENT SUPPORT: TREASURER WALKER SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: NONE

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 6-1

(2) Approve/Deny The offer to purchase Ford School

Discussion: Mr. Pettway explains that this was provided to the board previously to purchase Ford school for the amount of \$15,000 the board held voting on the offer as they awaited the receipt of the appraisal. President Sanford asked if there is a motion to move forward and there was not.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve the Fall 2025/Spring 2026 NCSI Policy Updates until the next meeting

1. Motion to table Approve the Fall 2025/Spring 2026 NCSI Policy Updates until the next meeting.

MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THE FALL 2025/SPRING 2026 NCSI POLICY UPDATES UNTIL NEXT MEETING SUPPORT: MEMBER HARRIS SECONDED.

DISCUSSION:

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

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only – 3 minutes only)

- Ellen Mahoney- Runs REMAX expressed concern about lack of transparency regarding the purchase for Ford She also expressed concern that she was not contacted regarding the appraisal.
- Deblon Jackson- Commented that the Ford School building should not sit for another 20 years.
- Mr. Pettway-Acknowledge Mark Price and his work he is doing for the district under his ambassadorship.

BOARD OF EDUCATION AFFAIRS & COMMENTS

NCSC Confrence Board Presentation by VP Roberts- Good evening, Madam President, fellow Board members, district staff, and members of the Highland Park community. I had the privilege of attending the 2026 National Charter Schools Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, from June 24–26, along with President Sanford, Secretary Harrison, and Mr. Pettway. Hosted annually by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, the conference provides opportunities to learn about innovative educational practices, strengthen governance and leadership, explore policy developments, share successful strategies, build professional partnerships, and discover new educational resources. Beyond the learning sessions, the conference showcased the unique culture of New Orleans while creating countless opportunities to network, collaborate, and exchange ideas with education leaders from across the country.

Throughout the conference, we attended several impactful sessions focused on leadership, governance, finance, communication, innovation, and student success. Speakers emphasized the importance of remaining student-centered, telling our district's story with purpose, understanding evolving funding models, strengthening financial oversight, and embracing data-driven approaches that improve student outcomes. One key takeaway was that effective leadership begins with understanding your community and making informed decisions that support long-term success.

This experience reinforced that professional development is about more than attending conferences—it's about bringing knowledge back to serve our district. The ideas, resources, and relationships we gained will help strengthen governance, improve financial stewardship, enhance communication with our community, and support better decision-making for Highland Park School District. We are grateful for the opportunity to represent the district at the 2026 National Charter Schools Conference and look forward to applying what we've learned in service to our students, staff, and community. Thank you.

Discussion: The BOE members asked questions and made comments.

CONFIRMATION OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, August 11th, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 7:47PM

MOTION: SECRETARY HARRISON MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:47 PM

SUPPORT: MEMBER HARRIS SECONDED.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Respectfully submitted by:

Yolanda Harrison

Yolanda Harrison, HPBOE Secretary

08/20/2026

Date

Signature:

 Yolanda Harrison (Aug 20, 2026 15:10:56 EDT)

Email: harrisony@hipark.org

School District of the City of Highland Park

Final Audit Report

2026-08-20

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