

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

**Tuesday, August 11, 2026
6:00 PM**

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Sanford at 6:09PM.

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

QUORUM

COMMUNICATIONS

(1) HP Journal Periodical

APPROVE MEETING AGENDA

**MOTION: MEMBER HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 11, 2026 MEETING AGENDA
SUPPORT: SECRETARY HARRISON SECONDED.**

DISCUSSION:

- ☒ AS PRESENTED.
- ☐ WITH MODIFICATION, MOVING THE PRESENTATION OF THE AUDIT PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC COMMENTS.

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 JULY 14, 2026, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: MEMBER HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JULY 14, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

SUPPORT: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS SECONDED.

DISCUSSION:

☒ 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 mentioned that Coffee and Conversation will be held on August 27th in the evening at 5:30pm. She shared that Mr. Pettway has shared the links to the podcast and asked that all the Board members share the podcast information with their network. The intent is to educate the public on all the things regarding the district.

DISTRICT DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND INFORMATION

- (1) FINANCE-ALAN C. YOUNG, PC. PRESENTED BY MR. PETTWAY (LUSKA GERMAN HAD ANOTHER ENGAGEMENT)-** Ms. Harris asked why there were no debt payments in July and Luska explains that there are certain months that the payments are to be made.

MOTION TO APPROVE JULY 2026 FINANCIALS

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

SUPPORT: TREASURER WALKER 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 6-1.

(2) **BOARD GOVERNANCE/OVERSIGHT REPORT VANESSA GULLEY, PROVISION-** Ms. Gulley gave the title and synopsis for tomorrow's podcast. She thanked the board for letting her be a part of the podcast and how it is giving her life. Ms. Roberts asked for the length of the series for the podcast. Ms. Gulley explains there are 2 left but the board can discuss going further. Ms. Harris asked who would be attending the next podcast. Ms. Gulley answered it would be Ms. Farris, President Sanford and Mr. Pettway.

- (3) **HPSD REPORT- MR. ISAIAH PETTWAY, CEO MR. PETTWAY- BOARD OF EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS-** Mr. Pettway addressed that in the last couple weeks misinformation was said regarding Barber Academy. He mentioned that the Board has put out a statement addressing the misinformation. The comments were about the staff and teachers leaving. Mr. Pettway explained that Barber is in a very good position and Ms. Farris' update is included in the board's packet. The new positions that were created were to help keep special education in house to save on cost as this was in the corrective action plan. They have been able to bring the deficit down by hiring in house. Principle Arnold has reassigned and Dr. Farris's is currently looking to fill that position and is committed to step in if someone isn't found.
- Ms. Wheeler asked if Ms. Arnold was with the company and Mr. Pettway explained no she has taken on a curriculum director role.
- ADA compliance is still being worked on and the work currently being done is the city not us. He is still working on getting the work done by the winter.
- Mr. Pettway gives the good news that we were given the grant this year to help offset the digitization project. He explained that the overall grant was given less money therefore we were given less money.
- Mr. Pettway explains that we have received a charter application from Dream Academy with more questions and that information was not provided and that group will have to wait 6 months before they can apply. Ms. Harris asked if the Dream Academy changed their offer and Mr. Pettway answered no they have not changed their offer for the purchase of Ford School. We have received another charter application for the Rosa J Young High School and Virtual Academy. It was just received and will go through the process, using the matrix that we went through with Dream to determine whether or not it is something to be brought to the board for full consideration. Ms. White asked if they were also looking at Ford School and Mr. Pettway explained they did inquire but are also looking at various locations around Highland Park. Ms. Harris asked if there was an address for the Rosa J Young School and Mr. Pettway explained no not at this time.

Board of Education Sub-Committee Reports

1. **Executive Committee Report-** VP Roberts gave the committee purpose.
2. **Finance Committee Report-** Ms. Walker gives the purpose of the finance committee, and then explained that there's a positive fund balance for the year. Mr. Pettway explains that we knew we were going to be coming out of the deficit early, Ms. Harris explained that there has been an increase in the population.
3. **Educational Expansion Committee Report- Did not meet**
4. **Fundraising Committee Report- Did not meet**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-

- 1.) Approved/Deny NCSI Policy Updates

MOTION: MEMBER HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO Approved/Deny NCSI Policy Updates:

SUPPORT: SECRETARY HARRISON SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Roberts asked when will they be implemented and Mr. Pettway answered as soon as he sends back the signed form they will be moved from draft to actual process.

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.

NEW BUSINESS

(1.) **Approve/Deny Support for Barber Prep's Back to School Open House:**

MOTION: MEMBER HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE Approve/Deny Support for Barber Prep's Back to School Open House up to \$10,000:

SUPPORT: SECRETARY HARRISON SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Pettway asked the board to consider this in leu of the Jazzy Jam and wanted to offer support to Baber as they are doing their open house and enrollment. Ms. White asked about an event last week and Mr. Pettway explained that he was not aware. Ms. Harris asked if we know the cost and Mr. Pettway explains no that he is asking for half of what we would send on the Jazzy Jam.

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.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes only)

Runae Ford- Address Ms. White question regarding the event at Barber last week was the end of the summer enrichment program that was hosted by for the end of the summer that was sponsored by Pal and blue Cart and it wasn't for the public, only for the students that attended the summer enrichment program.

BOARD OF EDUCATION AFFAIRS & COMMENTS

VP Roberts- Asked for the update on the staffing for Barber and Mr. Pettway explained that it is in the board packet but some numbers have changed and then he gives the current status and mentions how Ms. Farris has not missed a beat even with Ms. Arnolds leaving.

Ms. Roberts then thanked the viewers and asked all to join them for Coffee and Conversation on August 27th at the district office.

CONFIRMATION OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, September 8th, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 6:54 PM

MOTION: MEMBER HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:54 PM
SUPPORT: VICE PRESIDENT ROBERTS SECONDED.
MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

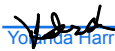
Respectfully submitted by:

Yolanda Harrison

Yolanda Harrison, HPBOE Secretary

Date

Signature:


Yolanda Harrison (Sep 10, 2026 15:33:41 EDT)

Email: harrisony@hipark.org

School District of the City of Highland Park

Final Audit Report

2026-09-10

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