

# HARPER CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

EDUCATE • EMPOWER • EQUIP

Students for Life

## BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA

Monday, April 8, 2024

6:00 PM - Regular Meeting

Harper Creek Administration Building

7454 B Drive North, Battle Creek, MI 49014

<https://youtube.com/live/ZgJpbMGf9gI?feature=share>

- I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Bess.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance- Mr. Bess led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.
- III. Roll Call- Mrs. Alwardt called the roll. Members Present: Mrs. Allwardt, Mr. Bess, Dr. Borders, Mr. Halverson, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Waterson. Student Board Members: Cameron Winsor and Brynn Mackey
- IV. Review and Approval of Agenda – The agenda stands.
- V. Communications
  - A. President's Remarks – Mr. Bess welcomed all attending the meeting tonight. Mr. Bess mentioned that the schools are busy this spring with sports, field trips, and classroom activities. Another item Mr. Bess mentioned is the Spring Production of Annie this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. It is a great show for the whole family and the students have put so much time and talent into the production. Lastly, Mr. Bess mentioned the Jr. and Sr. prom which is a fun and exciting time for students.
  - B. Administration Mr. Ridgeway discussed next Monday's Board workshop to define committee roles and structures. The Board will meet at 5:30 PM with Mike Rochholz from MASB. Mr. Ridgeway also discussed the Grace Health collaboration. The district is obtaining a clinician who will work with all elementary schools starting with Beadle Lake Elementary. The cost is \$75,000.00 which will be funded using the mental health/safety grant. Another item Mr. Ridgeway discussed is the upcoming CASB Awards Ceremony that will be held at Homer Community Schools on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 PM. Next, Mr. Ridgeway discussed the Distinguished Alumni and Citizen Awards for Harper Creek Community Schools. This year's Distinguished Alumni is Mr. Sean Etheridge from the Class of 1996 and the Distinguished Citizen Award will go to Deb Look and Norma Krutch. There will be a reception to celebrate these winners on May 31, 2024, at the Harper Creek Administration Building at 3:00 PM. Lastly, Mr. Ridgeway called for a Building Committee Meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 AM.
  - C. Board Secretary – Mrs. Allwardt had nothing to report at this time.
  - D. Student Board Member – Cameron mentioned that he had met with Mr. Maynard to discuss the WIFI at the high school. Brynn discussed the possibility of an athlete's study hall to support student-athletes and academics.
- VI. District Updates

- A. Curriculum: Mrs. Williams submitted a report to the Board. Mrs. Williams mentioned the continued work of Hatching Results providing our DK-12 counselors and support specialists with information and support around best practices in counseling departments. Another item Mrs. Williams discussed is the District's work with Janis a consultant from Bridges Math supporting our principals and staff with math implementation. Mrs. Williams also discussed the pilot program and training for our ELA teachers across grades. Next, Mrs. Williams discussed that testing season has begun district-wide. Also, Mrs. Williams mentioned the continued work in scope and sequence. Lastly, Mrs. Williams reported on the upcoming summer school stating that this year's focus will be around career pathways.
  - B. Facility: Mr. Robinson submitted a report to the Board. Mr. Robinson gave an overview of the current and upcoming projects in the facilities department. He highlighted the softball press box which continues to move forward. Crews are moving to the inside of the structure. Mr. Robinson also discussed the crosswalk project that is slated to begin this summer providing students a crosswalk from campus to the business across the street. Next, Mr. Robinson discussed the summer turf project. Lastly, Mr. Robinson discussed the Food Service Box Truck that the Board has received the recommendation to move forward utilizing the food service spend-down plan money.
  - C. Finance: Mrs. Obermyer submitted the monthly financial reports and discussed the items reported. Ms. Obermyer provided the Board with the monthly financial reports. Next, Ms. Obermyer discussed the RFP for Food Service which is required every four years by the state. A pre-bid meeting will be on April 30, 2024. Ms. Obermyer is working on the rough draft of the budget for next year. Lastly, Ms. Obermyer discussed meeting with Mr. Ridgeway to allocate the PILT money for next year.
  - D. Technology: Mr. Maynard submitted a report to the Board. Mr. Maynard discussed the Classroom Notification system RFP. Four bids were received and it is recommended that an action item before the Board be passed at tonight's meeting to approve the bid from Sentinel of \$471,432.80. The system will integrate a clock, stove, and announcement system. The first stage of the project will be the middle school and Beadle Lake Elementary which have been prioritized. The safety grant funds will be used for this project. Lastly, Mr. Maynard discussed the E-Rate Approval. Mr. Ridgeway recommends that the Board approve matching funds to support this year's E-Rate proposal up to \$10,000.00.
- VII. Comments Related to Agenda Items - none
- VIII. Consent Agenda - All items on this consent agenda were previously considered by the Harper Creek Board of Education and are recommended by the Central Office, and will be acted upon in a single roll call vote of the Board. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a board member so requests, in which event the matter shall be removed from the consent agenda and considered as a separate item.
- A. Approve the General Fund checks, School Services Fund checks (Food Service), and Student/School Activities Fund Checks, in accordance with the list discussed
  - B. March 11, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
  - C. April 4, 2024, Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by Dr. Borders, supported by Mr. Smith.

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the consent agenda as follows:  
Approve the General Fund Checks, School Services Fund checks, (School Lunch), and Student/School Activities Fund Checks, in accordance with the list discussed.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Bess \_\_Y \_\_, Dr. Borders \_\_ Y\_\_, Mrs. Waterson\_ \_Y\_, Mr.

Halverson \_\_Y \_\_, Mrs. Allwardt \_\_Y \_\_, Mrs. Wallace \_\_Y \_\_, Mr. Smith \_\_ Y\_\_.

Motion carried \_\_\_\_7-0\_\_\_\_.

IX. Information and Discussion

- A. School Safety – Mr. Ridgeway discussed the 911 radio tower partnership. A lease has been negotiated. A meeting at Leroy Township Hall for their Board to pass the proposal will be on April 10, 2024, at 6:00 PM. If the proposal passes the site of the proposed tower is on Harper Creek Community Schools Sonoma site. Also, Mr. Ridgeway discussed that the District will be doing drills using the RAVE Panic Alert System. Lastly, Mr. Ridgeway discussed a professional development opportunity for School Resource Officers. Mr. Ridgeway will be discussing this with Mr. Brady Keys.
- B. Line of Credit – Mr. Ridgeway discussed the Line of Credit which is \$500,000.00 just to cover a cashflow deficit. This line of credit will match the state aid interest rate. Mr. Ridgeway recommends approving this line of credit.
- C. CISD Preliminary Proposed Budget 24/25- Mr. Ridgeway discussed the CISD General Fund Budget that the Board is being asked to approve. All twelve public schools in Calhoun County review and vote to accept or reject the budget.
- D. Bond Proposal Update -Mr. Ridgeway discussed the election that is coming up for the May Bond Proposal Project. Information is being added to social media, and he is attending meetings to make presentations at groups within the district. A mailer will go out to all residents this week.

X. Comments From the Audience - None

XI. ACTION

A. Line of Credit

Reason for Board Consideration

Legal Requirement

Recommendation

Motion by Mrs. Wallace, supported by Mr. Smith,

That the Harper Creek Board of Education authorizes the renewal of a revolving line of credit of \$500,000 from Southern Michigan Bank & Trust matching the State interest rate for the time period of May 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024, and authorizes the Superintendent and/or the Director of Finance to make with-drawls and repayments.

Roll call vote: Mr. Halverson \_\_Y \_\_, Mr. Bess \_\_ Y\_\_ Mrs. Allwardt \_\_Y \_\_,  
Dr. Borders \_\_Y \_\_, Mrs. Wallace \_\_Y \_\_, Mr. Smith \_\_Y \_\_, Mrs. Waterson \_\_ Y\_\_.

Motion carried 7-0.

B. CISD Preliminary Proposed Budget 24/25  
Motion by Dr. Borders, supported by Mr. Smith,

That the Harper Creek Board of Education has reviewed the information provided by the Administration of the Calhoun Intermediate School district relating to their projected 2024-2025 General Fund Budget and, following our careful review the Board (supports, disapproves, with suggested changes) supports the 2024-2025 CISD General Fund Operating Budget with suggested changes or recommendations as discussed and reviewed.

1. Spend down the General Fund Balance based on district needs and priorities.
2. Communicate an updated plan of progress in 6 months.

Roll call vote: Mr. Halverson \_\_Y \_\_, Mr. Bess \_\_Y \_\_, Mrs. Wallace \_\_ Y\_\_, Mrs.

Waterson \_\_Y \_\_ Mrs. Allwardt \_\_ Y\_\_, Mr. Smith \_\_Y \_\_, Dr. Borders \_\_Y \_\_.

Motion carried 7-0.

C. Food Service Box Truck Approval  
Motion by Mrs. Wallace, supported by Mr. Halverson,

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves Bob Maxey Ford's bid to purchase a Box Truck using the food service fund balance with a not-to-exceed \$69,100.00 as discussed and reviewed.

Roll call vote: Mr. Halverson \_\_ Y\_\_, Mr. Bess \_\_Y \_\_, Mrs. Waterson \_\_Y \_\_ Mrs. Allwardt \_\_Y \_\_,  
Dr. Borders \_\_ Y\_\_, Mrs. Wallace \_\_Y \_\_, Mr. Smith \_\_Y \_\_.

Motion carried 7-0.

D. Classroom Notification Project

Motion by Mr. Smith, supported by Mrs. Wallace,

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the bid of \$471,432.80 from Sentinel for the classroom notification project with \$331,240.00 from the 2023/2024 safety grant funds and the remaining cost in the 2024/2025 safety grant funds as discussed and reviewed.

Roll call vote: Mr. Halverson \_\_Y \_\_, Mr. Bess \_\_ Y\_\_, Mrs. Wallace \_\_ Y\_\_, Mrs.

Waterson \_\_ Y\_\_ Mrs. Allwardt \_\_Y \_\_, Mr. Smith \_\_ Y\_\_, Dr. Borders \_\_ Y\_\_.

Motion carried \_\_\_\_\_7-o.

E. E-Rate Approval

Motion by Mrs. Wallace, supported by Mr. Halverson.

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the E-Rate projects with a not-to-exceed district share of \$10,000.00 as discussed and reviewed.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Bess Y, Mrs. Allwardt Y, Mr. Halverson Y, Dr. Borders Y, Mrs. Waterson Y, Mr. Smith Y, Mrs. Wallace Y.

Motion Carries: 7-0.

XII. Items for the Next Meeting -none

XIII. Adjournment – 7:03 PM

This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated on the agenda.