

**HARPER CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
EDUCATE • EMPOWER • EQUIP  
**Students for Life**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA**

Monday, March 11, 2024

7:00 PM - Regular Meeting

Harper Creek Administration Building

7454 B Drive North, Battle Creek, MI 49014

<https://youtube.com/live/D3Um8ZYZBJg?feature=share>

- I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by President Bess at 7:00 PM.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were led by President Bess.
- III. Roll Call – Secretary Allwardt called Roll. Present: Mrs. Allwardt, Mr. Bess, Dr. Borders, Mr. Halverson, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Waterson.  
Student Members: Cameron Winsor Absent: Brynn Mackey
- IV. Review and Approval of Agenda - None
- V. Communications
  - A. President's Remarks – Mr. Bess welcomed the audience. Mr. Bess stated that the activities around the school are increasing with the spring weather. Mr. Bess mentioned the Middle School musical partnership with What A Do Theatre. The students worked hard and put on an extremely well-done and fun show. In addition, Mr. Bess congratulated the four high school wrestlers who took their talents to Ford Field for the state wrestling championships. All four wrestlers placed. Ricky Johnson 7<sup>th</sup> place, Cameron Brock 6<sup>th</sup> place, Alexandra Stiltner 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and Devan Garcia won 1<sup>st</sup> place and the title of state champion. Also, Mr. Bess mentioned the many activities around the district regarding *March is Reading Month*. Another item Mr. Bess announced is the upcoming high school production of Annie. The performance dates are April 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, Mr. Bess congratulated the middle school and high school bands on their fantastic representation of Harper Creek Community Schools at the band festival.
  - B. Administration Mr. Ridgeway updated the Board about the Board Tours starting at Wattles Park Elementary. Mr. Ridgeway also discussed that the Calhoun County Health Department released the guidelines for COVID-19 stating that there is no longer a period of isolation. Another item that

Mr. Ridgeway discussed with the Board is the current slots for schools of choice outlining that the slots are very limited. In addition, Mr. Ridgeway discussed the inappropriate link that was found on the school's website stating that it was an old domain name that went to a warning link when pressed. The District will do regular monthly checks to ensure that the links posted are current and valid links to school-approved sites. Also, Mr. Ridgeway discussed the collaboration with Grace Health which will utilize 2 FTE with a maximum cost of \$180,000.00. This will be grant-funded. Another item Mr. Ridgeway discussed is the Countdown to Kindergarten which will take place on March 18 in all three elementary buildings. Mr. Ridgeway also stated that an SRO will be at the Harper Creek Summer School program to assist this year. Lastly, Mr. Ridgeway mentioned the Spring Break holiday for students and staff that will start on March 22nd and school will resume on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

- C. Board Secretary Board School Visits 3/12/2024 – Mrs. Allwardt reiterated the Board Tour schedule as a reminder to the Board. The Board will be touring each building to see the operations and the world of teaching and learning from the student and staff perspective. In addition, Mrs. Allwardt thanked Straight Arrow Construction and Mike Govier for the generous donation of \$10,000.00 to the baseball program and \$10,000.00 to the softball program. Lastly, Mrs. Allwardt shared that the Board had received a thank you from staff members who attended a MidMath National Conference in Santa Fe, NM. All Board members received a copy of the letter.
  - D. Student Board Member- Student member Cameron Winsor discussed that he will be discussing WIFI issues with Mr. Maynard to work together for solutions.
- VI. STEM Trip Presentation – Mrs. Alday and Ms. Hawkins gave a presentation to the Board regarding the desire to provide students with an opportunity to travel to England and Paris to become immersed in STEM activities, culture, and exploration. The itinerary, experiences, cost, and safety were all addressed in the presentation. The trip will be open to all students in the high school.
- VII. Behavioral Data Presentation - Staff members Mr. Swan, Mrs. Thayer, Mr. Faraci, and Mrs. Gardner from the elementary, middle school, and high school presented on the work being done with behavioral health. Positive Behavior Support Teams (PBIS) are using data to become proactive and not reactionary. The team discussed the need for interventions that provide tools and strategies for students. The Social Emotional Learning culture creates stronger classrooms, implements instruction around behavior, and provides

students with better problem-solving skills. The team discussed student support structures, community partners, and the ability to recognize behavior trends within the data. The Hatching Results collaboration helps build a capacity for all students to lead. Lastly, the team discussed career and college readiness which uses a common curriculum across the district.

VIII. District Updates

- A. Curriculum – Mrs. Williams submitted her report to the Board. Mrs. Williams discussed the great work that the team is doing in the area of behavioral interventions, PBIS, and the use of PLC learning times.
- B. Facility – Mr. Robinson submitted a report. Currently, Mr. Robinson is working on the pre-construction aspects of the turf project. In addition, Mr. Robinson stated that the Softball Pressbox project is underway with underground electrical and plumbing completed and framing is to begin this week. Lastly, Mr. Robinson discussed the Kingscott’s Beadle Lake Road Crosswalk project that is recommended to the Board. The project had two bids with Hoffman Brothers being the low bidder at a cost of \$188,907.00. Harper Creek Community Schools has worked with Hoffman Brothers on previous projects. It is recommended that the Board approve the crosswalk project.
- C. Finance – Ms. Obermyer submitted monthly financials and reported to the Budget Committee on Thursday, March 7, 2024. In addition, Ms. Obermyer discussed the 2023/2024 Food Service Budget Revision. Ms. Obermyer stated that the state requires a Food Service RFP every four years. Ms. Obermyer will move forward with the spend-down plan for food service.
- D. Technology – Mr. Maynard submitted a report to the Board. Mr. Maynard highlighted the report including the clocks RFP and the HS Library Screen. The Technology Department hopes that the system will be up and running by the end of the school year.

IX. Comments Related to Agenda Items - None

X. Consent Agenda

- A. Approve the General Fund checks, School Services Fund checks (Food Service), and Student/School Activities Fund Checks, in accordance with the list discussed.  
Approves the following list of Meeting Minutes.
  - 1. Approves February 12, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
  - 2. Approves March 7, 2024, Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Smith, supported by Mr. Halverson.

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. Approve the following minutes as reviewed:

- Approves February 12, 2024, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- Approves March 7, 2024, Budget Committee Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Bess Y, Dr. Borders Y, Mrs. Waterson Y, Mr. Halverson Y, Mrs. Alwardt Y, Mrs. Wallace Y, Mr. Smith Y.

Motion carried: 7-0

#### XI. Information and Discussion

- A. School Safety Update – Mr. Ridgeway stated that the students for Open Lunch presented an Open Lunch idea to the safety committee. The students had taken suggestions and developed the plan they had presented last month to the whole board. At the safety committee, the students presented a PBIS model of earned privileges model of Open Lunch to the committee. If the Board decides to move forward it will be a trial period for senior students only with parent permission and strict guidelines.
- B. Employee Speech Policy 4221 – Mr. Ridgeway directed the Board at the request of Mr. Smith to review the Employee Speech Policy 4221. With the divisiveness of an election year, the Board decided that a review by the Board and employees is prudent.
- C. Board Bylaws – Mr. Ridgeway stated that because of the request to review the Board Bylaws at the last meeting, the Board will need to look at several items within the scope of the bylaws including start time, committee descriptions, onboarding, and building representative expectations. The Board has decided to call another meeting to discuss these items. The Board also discussed the start time of the meetings and decided that an earlier start time would benefit the Board as well as possibly getting more community members to come to the meetings.
- D. Bond Project Update – Mr. Ridgeway gave an update on the Bond Proposal. Mr. Ridgeway discussed the fact sheet, FAQ document, and the potential mailer for the Bond Proposal. The mailer will include the fact sheet. In addition, Mr. Ridgeway stated that the FAQ is a working document to add questions as they become aware of them for the voters. Lastly, Mr. Ridgeway addressed the question regarding why a May election instead of an August ballot. Mr. Ridgeway stated that the May

date allows the project to begin sooner and space is needed currently, and because it will allow the summer tax collection the district can receive 8 months of investment earnings which will make up for the added tax cost.

- E. New Hire Correction – Mrs. Chapman in Human Resources noticed an error in the hiring of Karen DeLand. Mrs. DeLand had a Master’s Degree when she was hired it incorrectly said she had a bachelor’s degree. The Board will correct the error.
- F. 911 Dispatch Tower Lease Agreement – Mr. Ridgeway discussed the 911 Dispatch Tower Lease Agreement between Harper Creek Community Schools and Calhoun County Dispatch Authority. The agreement would allow Mr. Ridgeway to negotiate and modify the lease agreement in the best interest of the District with legal advisement.

XII. Comments From the Audience - None

XIII. ACTION

- A. New Hire Correction Motion

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the New Hire, Karen DeLand, High School Special Education Teacher, long-term sub teacher - \$200.00/per day – MA1 once certification is obtained – Bachelor’s and master's from Spring Arbor University.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Bess Y, Mrs. Waterson Y, Mr. Halverson Y, Mrs. Allwardt Y, Mrs. Wallace Y, Mr. Smith Y, Dr. Borders Y.

Motion Carries: 7-0

- B. 911 Dispatch Tower Lease Agreement

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the 911 Tower Lease Agreement between Harper Creek Community Schools and Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Authority in substantially the form presented and also approves the superintendent to negotiate and modify the lease agreement in the best interest of the district, subject to legal review, and to execute the modified lease agreement on behalf of the Board of Education as discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carried: 7-0

- C. Crosswalk Project Approval

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves Kingscott's Beadle Lake Road Crosswalk Project recommendation for Hoffman Brothers at a total cost of \$180,907 as discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carried: 7-0

D. Change of Regular Meeting Time

Motion by Mr. Smith, supported by Dr. Borders

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the Change of Regular Board of Education Meeting Time from 7:00 PM to 6:00 PM as discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carried: 7-0

E. Food Service Budget Revision Approval

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the 23-24 Food Service R1 Budget Resolution and accepts Finance Director Ginger Obermyer's revised 2023-2024 Food Service Budget as discussed and reviewed.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Smith Y, Mrs. Waterson Y, Mr. Bess Y, Mrs. Allwardt Y, Mrs. Wallace Y, Dr. Borders Y, Mr. Halverson Y.

Motion Carries: 7-0

F. Open Lunch (retract Policy 5801 Closed Campus)

Motion by Mr. Halverson, supported by Mr. Smith.

That the Harper Creek Board of Education retracts policy 5801, Closed Campus Policy as discussed and reviewed.

Roll Call Vote:

Dr. Borders Y, Mr. Smith Y, Mrs. Waterson Y, Mr. Bess Y, Mrs. Allwardt Y, Mrs. Wallace Y, Mr. Halverson Y.

Motion Carried: 7-0

XIV. Items for the Next Meeting – Mr. Ridgeway stated that both of the Board's nominations to the CASB Awards were chosen. The 2024 CASB Awards Dinner will be on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 5:45 PM at Homer Community Schools.

The Board called for a second meeting to be on Monday, April 15, 2024, at 6:00 PM to discuss the Board Bylaws.

XV. Adjournment – Mr. Bess adjourned the meeting at 8:59 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.