

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA

Monday, February 12, 2024

7:00 PM –Meeting

Harper Creek Administration Building

7454 B Drive North, Battle Creek, MI 49014

- I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order 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 and Brynn Mackey
- IV. Review and Approval of Agenda - None
- V. Communications
 - A. President’s Remarks – President Bess welcomed everyone. He congratulated the winter sports teams as they finished up their seasons. In addition, Mr. Bess mentioned conferences in all of our buildings.
 - B. Administration – Mr. Ridgeway discussed the upcoming choir festival at K College that students in 6th, 7th, 8th and the High School Honors Choir will be attending. In addition, Mr. Ridgeway mentioned the musicals and the performances that will showcase the students’ hard work. Also, Mr. Ridgeway stated that students will have a half day on February 23rd and no school on February 26th. Another item Mr. Ridgeway discussed was the use of the food truck. He stated that the District could look into hiring a Sous Chef to help with the implementation and manpower of running this truck. Lastly, Mr. Ridgeway added that Harper Creek Schools offers their condolences to the family of staff member Angie Brock. Ms. Brock was a long-time EI paraprofessional at Sonoma.
 - C. Board Secretary – Mrs. Allwardt mentioned a letter from a concerned grandparent. The Board members had a copy of the letter to read. Vice President Smith read a letter to the community in response to Mr. Ridgeway’s evaluation that took place last month.
 - D. Student Board Members – Cameron spoke about the student school spirit at the high school and will be working with the Student Council to boost said spirit among the students. Cameron meets with Principal Greenman to discuss student concerns and possible strategies to support student needs. Brynn Mackey is working with the high school counselors to bring awareness to mental health needs and supports at the high school.
- VI. Open Lunch Presentation – Four students attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of an open lunch. Aubree Newman, Luke Isham, Hailee Taylor, and Chloe Ledbetter presented the desire to have an open lunch at Harper Creek High School. The students provided a list of concerns about the current lunch and then solutions from their perspective. The students have

done research, worked with the administration, and provided some scenarios of criteria for participation in open lunch. The group will be fine-tuning their data and procedures. The Board thanked the students and asked for more information. They will attend a Safety Committee meeting on March 11, 2024, to further discuss open lunch.

VII. District Updates

A. Curriculum/ NWEA Report – Mrs. Williams submitted a report. In addition, Mrs. Williams discussed the NWEA report. Mrs. Williams discussed the NWEA data. Mrs. Williams mentioned the growth and proficiency. Mrs. Williams cited Mid School Math, Bridges, and early release time for teachers to collaborate as drivers in math score improvements. In addition, Mrs. Williams discussed that the ELA department is in the process of vetting a resource for K-8th usage. Teachers are reviewing resources intending to get a District-wide resource by the end of this school year. Lastly, Mrs. Williams discussed the training she attended that focused on the PSAT/SAT.

B. Facility – Mr. Robinson submitted a report. Also, Mr. Robinson discussed the projects that are upcoming as well as those that have begun including the softball press box that began this week since the weather has been mild. In addition, Mr. Robinson discussed the Turf Replacement Project and the bids that were received in conjunction with that project. A recommendation for a contractor is an action item in tonight's meeting.

C. Finance – Ms. Obermyer submitted the monthly financials. In addition, a revised 23-24 budget and revision were submitted. Ms. Obermyer discussed changes in code and the state FTEs are up 66. These are reflected in the budget revision. The revised budget is balanced.

D. Technology – Mr. Maynard submitted a report. In addition, Mr. Maynard discussed the high school auditorium projector being repaired by the manufacturer rather than receiving a refurbished unit. Another item Mr. Maynard discussed is the High School Library Screen project. Mr. Maynard stated that four bids were received for the screen. The vendor with the lowest pricing was selected. The vendor, Moss, and Harper Creek have worked on previous projects. The cost of the screen is \$28,246.24. The project is funded by ESSER funds

VIII. Comments Related to Agenda Item - None

IX. Consent Agenda

A. Approve General Fund Checks, School Services Fund Checks (Food Service), and Student/School Activities Fund Checks, in accordance with the list discussed.

B. Approve the following meeting minutes:

1. January 8, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes
2. January 8, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
3. January 22, 2024, Extracurricular Meeting Minutes
4. January 22, 2024, Superintendent Evaluation Meeting Minutes
5. February 8, 2024, Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

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

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 January 8, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes
- Approves January 8, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- Approves January 22, 2024, Extracurricular Meeting Minutes
- Approves January 22, 2024, Superintendent Evaluation Meeting Minutes
- Approves February 8, 2024, Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

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_____.

X. Information and Discussion

A. School Safety Update _ The committee met.

B. Ballot Proposition Language – Mr. Ridgeway discussed the next step for the proposed building project is to call for an election and approve the ballot language. The ballot language was vetted through the Department of Treasury application, our attorney, and the construction team. Mr. Ridgeway stated that the signed Certification of Ballot Proposition must be turned in to the District’s election coordinator and Calhoun County election clerk by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. Mr. Ridgeway recommends that the Board of Education pass the resolution that calls for an election and approves the ballot language for a May 7, 2024, election.

C. International Travel Club Trip- Mr. Ridgeway communicated the request of the high school Spanish and French teacher, Elliot Brinker’s proposed International trip to France, the Mediterranean, and Spain. The trip will be March 21, 2024, to March 30, 2024. Mr. Ridgeway recommends that the Board approve the International Club Trip.

D. Bridge Building Overnight Trip- Mr. Ridgeway discussed the Bridge Building Overnight trip. Teams from the high school and middle school request an overnight trip to attend the state competition at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids on March 11th and 12th. Mr. Ridgeway recommends that the Board approve the trip.

E. School of Choice – Fall 2024 -The Board of Education decides on whether to participate in the school of choice for the next school year. Mr. Ridgeway recommends a targeted school of choice from 1st through 12th grade and open schools of choice for kindergarten. Mr. Ridgeway stated that the targeted school of choice requires an application window, whereas the open can have a longer window. Currently, Harper Creek has been targeting 28% of school-of-choice students for the past five years. Mr. Ridgeway recommends that the Board approve targeted schools of choice for 1st -12th grade and open schools of choice for kindergarten for the fall of the 2024/2025 school year.

F. Michigan Association of School Boards 2024 Election – Mr. Ridgeway discussed the MASB Board of Directors position available for Region 6. Four candidates are vying for the position: Robert Becker- Barry Intermediate School District, Pamela Dickinson – Comstock Public Schools, Elizabeth O’Dell – St. Joseph ISD, and Andrew Robinson – Berrian RESA.

G. Alma Mater – Mr. Ridgeway recommends that the Board approve the Alma Mater that the choir had performed for the Board in December. The score was composed by high school choir director Alex Port.

H. Maintenance Contract Ratification – Mr. Ridgeway discussed the Harper Creek Facilities Association (HCFA) (maintenance, grounds, mechanics and the Harper Creek Community Schools administration have reached a tentative agreement regarding the contract. The changes put the employees in line with peers and neighboring school districts. Mr. Ridgeway recommends that the Board of Education ratify the HCFA contract.

XI. Comments from the Audience - None

XII. Action

A. Ballot Proposition Language

Harper Creek Community Schools, Calhoun County, Michigan (the District)

A regular meeting of the board of education of the District (the “Board” was held in the Harper Creek Administration Board Room, within the boundaries of the District, on the 12th day of February, 2024, at 7:00 o’clock in the p.m.(the “Meeting).

The Meeting was called to order by Mr. Beau Bess, President.

Present: Members – Mrs. Allwardt, Mr. Bess, Dr. Borders, Mr. Halverson, Mr.

Smith, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Waterson

Absent: Members

The following preamble and resolution were offered by member Dr. Borders and supported by member Mrs. Wallace:

WHEREAS:

1. In the opinion of this Board it is necessary and expedient to ask voters whether to approve a bond project consisting of erecting, remodeling, and equipping and re-equipping school buildings and facilities; and additions to school buildings and facilities; acquiring, installing, equipping and re-equipping school buildings for instructional technology; and preparing, developing, improving and equipping playgrounds, structures, facilities, and sites.

2. This Board estimates the necessary cost of the [project to be Twenty-Four Million Five Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Twenty-Five Dollars (\$24,529,025).

3. It will be necessary for the District to borrow the sum of Twenty-Four Million Dollars (\$24,000,000) and issue the bonds of the District therefor, the remaining funds to be derived from the investment of the bond proceeds.

4. This Bond intends to submit a proposition at a special election to be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

5. On or before 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, the Board shall certify any ballot proposition to be submitted to the voters at such election to the election coordinator or coordinators designated to conduct elections within the District (the “Election Coordinator”).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. A special election of the school electors of the District be called and held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

2. The proposition to be voted on at the special election shall be stated on the ballots in substantially the form as set forth in Exhibit A.

3. The Election Coordinator is requested to:
 - (a) Utilize Battle Creek Shopper, a newspaper published or of general circulation within the District, for publication of notices in accordance with the election law requirements.
 - (b) Utilize ballot proposition summary information, as prepared by legal counsel, in the forms of the notices of last day of registration and election in substantially the form as set forth in Exhibit B attached hereto.
 - (c) Provide a proof copy of the ballot to the District and its legal counsel in sufficient time to allow the ballot to be proofread prior to printing.
4. This Board estimates the period of usefulness of the improvements for which bonds of this District in the amount of Twenty-Four Million Dollars (\$24,000,000) are issued to be not less than thirty (30) years.
5. The Secretary of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to file a copy of this resolution with the Election Coordinator and with any Election Clerk or clerks designated to conduct elections within the District by 4:00 p.m., on Tuesday, February 13, 2024.
6. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Ayes: Members Mrs. Allwardt, Mr. Bess, Dr. Borders, Mr. Halverson, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Waterson.

Nays: Members

Resolution declared adopted.

____Mrs. Allwardt
Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Harper Creek Community Schools, Calhoun County, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at the Meeting, the original of which is part of the Board's minutes. The undersigned further certifies that notice of the Meeting was given to the public pursuant to the provisions of the "Open Meetings Act" (Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended).

Mrs. Allwardt
Secretary, Board of Education

EXHIBIT A

HARPER CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BOND PROPOSAL

Shall Harper Creek Community Schools, Calhoun County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Twenty-Four Million Dollars (\$24,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

Erecting, remodeling, and equipping and re-equipping school buildings and facilities, and additions to school buildings and facilities; furnishing and refurbishing school buildings and facilities; acquiring, installing, equipping and re-equipping school buildings for instructional technology; and preparing, developing, improving and equipping playgrounds, structures, facilities, and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2024, under current law, is 0.60 mill (\$0.60 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a 0.60 mill net increase over the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is twenty (20) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond is 2.96 mills (\$2.96 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district expects to borrow from the State School Bond Qualification and Loan Program to pay debt service on these bonds. The estimated total principal amount of that borrowing is \$3,938,495 and the estimated total interest to be paid thereon is \$3,069,633. The estimated duration of the millage levy associated with that borrowing is 12 years and the estimated computed millage rate for such levy is 7.72 mills. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$33,230,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is approximately \$14,229,702.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

EXHIBIT B

SUMMARY OF BALLOT PROPOSITION TO BE INSERTED IN THE NOTICES OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTION:

**HARPER CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL
FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF
NOT TO EXCEED \$24,000,000**

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administration offices of Harper Creek Community Schools, 7454 B. Drive North, Battle Creek, Michigan 49014-9565, telephone (269)441-6550.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE BONDS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IF APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ELECTORS AT THIS ELECTION, WILL BE GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BONDS PAYABLE FROM GENREAL AD VALOREM TAXES.

- B. International Travel Club Trip
Motion by Mrs. Wallace, supported by Mr. Smith.

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the International Travel Club Trip to France, the Mediterranean, and Spain as discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carried: _7-o_____

- C. Bridge Building Overnight Trip
Motion by Dr. Borders, supported by Mr. Halverson.

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the Bridge Building Competition overnight trip as discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carried: ___7-o_____.

- D. School of Choice – Fall 2024
Motion by Mr. Halverson, supported by Mr. Smith.

That the Harper Creek Board of Education authorizes the District to participate in School of Choice, Section 105, for the first semester of the 2024/2025 school year, conditionally, allowing targeted numbers of openings in grades first through twelfth and unlimited in kindergarten, with a limited enrollment window, as determined by the administration.

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

Motion Carries: __7-o__.

- E. Revised 2023-2024 Budget
Motion by Dr. Borders, supported by Mrs. Wallace.

That the Harper Creek Board of Education adopts the 2023-2024 budget update amendment as discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carries: ___7-o_____

- F. Michigan Association of School Boards 2024 Election
Motion by Dr. Borders, supported by Mrs. Wallace.

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the following as the vote for a Representative for the Region 6 Board of Directors as discussed and reviewed.

X Pamela Dickinson, Comstock Public Schools, Kalamazoo
County

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

Motion Carries: 7-0

- G. Alma Mater
Motion by Mr. Smith, supported by Mr. Halverson.

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the Alma Mater as composed by Choir Director Alex Port with the original lyrics as discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carried: 7-0

- H. Turf Project
Motion by Mrs. Wallace, supported by Mr. Smith.

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the Stadium Turf Project with Sprinturf, LLC as work identified in Proposal A Synthetic Turf for the contract sum of \$464,590.00 and a recommended construction contingency amount of \$50,000.00 earmarked for unforeseen conditions for a total of \$514,590.00 as discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carried: 7-0.

- I. Maintenance Contract Ratification
Motion by Mr. Halverson, supported by Dr. Borders.

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the Harper Creek Facilities Association Contract as discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carried: __7-0____.

XIII. Items for the Next Meeting – Review the controversial topics policies, Board member onboarding, summer school, and open lunch.

XIV. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:51.

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.