

HARPER CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
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BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
6:00 PM – August 12, 2024, Meeting
Harper Creek Administration Building
7454 B Drive North, Battle Creek, MI 49014

https://youtube.com/live/jgj_v_ToFEg?feature=share

- I. Call to Order – Mr. Smith, acting President, called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.
- III. Appoint Board Secretary – A motion to appoint a secretary was called. Motion by Mrs. Wallace, supported by Mr. Halverson That the Harper Creek Board of Education appoints Dr. Borders as secretary for the August 12, 2024, Board of Education meeting. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Smith Y, Mr. Halverson Y, Mrs. Allwardt A, Mrs. Wallace Y, Mrs. Waterson Y, Dr. Borders Y, Mr. Bess A. Motion Carried: 5-0.
- IV. Roll Call: Dr. Borders called the Roll. Present members – Dr. Borders, Mr. Halverson, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Waterson. Absent members – Mrs. Alwardt, Mr. Bess.
- V. Welcome Student Board Representatives: The Board welcomed student representatives Alexandra Stiltner and Sam Cook to the Board.
- VI. Review and Approval of Agenda – The agenda stands. Mr. Ridgeway will add a new hire under the new hires' information and action.
- VII. Communications
 - A. President's Remarks – Mr. Smith welcomed the audience and those viewing at home. He stated that Mr. Bess was on a well-deserved break after nine years on the Board without missing a meeting. In his absence, Mr. Smith will be the acting president. In addition, Mr. Smith stated that the summer has gone by quickly and the schools are busy in preparation to begin again. Lastly, Mr. Smith gave condolences to the Greenman Family.
 - B. Administration – Mr. Ridgeway discussed that the licensing for the middle school aftercare has arrived and the program will serve our

families who need after-school care for their students. In addition, Mr. Ridgeway discussed the signing day for new teachers. Also, Mr. Ridgeway discussed upcoming events including High School and Middle School Meet the Teacher on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, and Elementary Meet the Teacher on Thursday, August 15, 2024. The all-staff breakfast is on Thursday, August 15, 2024, at 7:30. This event celebrates the Years of Service, retirees, and new hires to the district. The first day of school for the 2024/2025 school year is August 19, 2024. Next, Mr. Ridgeway mentioned the turf project and a video about the project. He stated that he would be doing short informational videos to improve communications with our community members. Next, Mr. Ridgeway discussed the bridge openings to allow for better travel throughout our district. Also, Mr. Ridgeway stated that there will be a joint board meeting with boards from the surrounding area to discuss the legislative updates. Lastly, Mr. Ridgeway stated that the 6th graders will attend Clear Lake Camp this year. Students will attend for three days in one of two sessions – September 23-25 or November 11-13. The cost is \$325.00 per student. Fundraising will be done to offset the cost. Clear Lake Camp offers an on-site nurse.

C. Board Secretary

1. MASB Delegate Assembly Representative - Dr. Bordes reported the MASB Delate to the October 24, 2024, meeting in Lansing. The Board will vote on delegates during the action section in tonight's meeting.

VIII. District Updates

- A. Curriculum – Mrs. Williams submitted a report to the Board. In addition, Mrs. Williams highlighted summer school and student engagement. Also, Mrs. Williams discussed the Restorative Practices training that new teachers attended on August 8 and 9, as well as the New Teacher Orientation on August 13, 2024. The whole district will attend a professional development training on August 14, 2024. Lastly, Mrs. Williams discussed the successful administrators' retreat.
- B. Facility – Mr. Robinson discussed turf project completion stating that sports teams are practicing on it. Also, Mr. Robinson stated that the crosswalk project is in its final stages and facilities are working hard to ensure it is completed and ready for families on Monday, August 19, 2024. Next, Mr. Robinson discussed the well pipe project at the middle school that will replace outdated pipes. Lastly,

Mr. Robinson stated that a custodial manager change will happen with DM Burr.

- C. Finance – Mrs. Obermyer reviewed the Board Breakdown showing an actual year-to-date through June 30, 2024, of revenue of \$442,628.00 in line with the fifteen percent fund balance. Next, Mrs. Obermyer discussed the 2023-2024 school year information fun facts. Mrs. Obermyer highlighted childcare, interest earned, and athletic information.
 - D. Technology – Mr. Maynard submitted a report. Mr. Maynard highlighted the Clock/Notification Systems. Installation has begun at the middle school. The software and configuration of the system are still in process before the system is operational. Next, Mr. Maynard stated that the 2024-2025 student devices are prepared and delivered to the schools. Lastly, Mr. Maynard discussed new servers and storage appliances have been ordered.
- IX. Comments Related to Agenda Items – Elizabeth Insley spoke regarding the importance of mental health resources. Elizabeth stated that she looked at the website that included both the 988 number for suicide prevention and crisis aid. The number is a national number where resources can be found to support students. Ms. Insley finished by stating that it is important to keep mental health at the forefront even with the state mental health budget cuts.
- X. Consent Agenda - All items on this consent agenda were previously considered by the Harper Creek Board of Education and are recommended by 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.
 - 1. Approve July 8, 2024, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
 - 2. Approve July 29, 2024, Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
 - 3. Approve August 8, 2024, Budget Committee Meeting MinutesMotion by Mrs. Wallace, 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.

- Approves July 8, 2024, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- Approves July 29, 2024, Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
- Approves August 8, 2024, Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Motion Carried: 5-0.

XI. Information and Discussion

A. School Safety – Mr. Ridgeway discussed the Classroom Notification project. He stated that the installation had begun at the middle school. Mr. Ridgeway also discussed the Emergency Operation Plan and the district's need to create an updated plan that improves safety plans throughout the district. Mr. Ridgeway recommends that the Emergency Operation Plan be contracted with the Lockout Company at a cost not to exceed \$41,500. The plan will include the following:

1. EOP Proposal Revisions
2. Emergency Management Guides Revision
3. Emergency Response Guides

Mr. Ridgeway also discussed the crosswalk project. The project is slated to be open for families on August 19, 2024. In addition, Mr. Ridgeway discussed the secured vestibules and improved doors at the administration building. The doors will add security and ease of use for the administration building. Next, Mr. Ridgeway discussed the new Harper Creek School Resource Officer, Mr. Jacob Williams. Welcome Officer Williams. Lastly, Mr. Ridgeway discussed after-school safety. He stated that it is important to have a plan during events as well as normal school days.

B. New Hires – Mr. Ridgeway recommends the new hires who will be on the action portion of the agenda. Kristel Green, High School Math Teacher, master's degree Western Michigan University, MA10, Christina Fletcher-Wert, Beadle Lake Student Support Specialist, master's degree in Family Studies Spring Arbor, and Dar Smith, Harper Creek High School Special Education Teacher, MA 20.

C. Thrun Policy Updates – Mr. Ridgeway discussed that the Policy Committee met and reviewed the July 2024 Thrun Law Firm Policy Update. One hundred fifty-five policies were updated. Most of the policies were minor technical changes, legal reference updates, or grammar/word use changes. Mr. Ridgeway added that the policies were changed to define a Parent as a student’s natural or adoptive parent or legal guardian and removed the word “guardian”, which affected thirty-eight policies alone. Mr. Ridgeway discussed the policies of note:

3115 through 3115 H – Legal updates on non-discrimination, anti-harassment, and retaliation, specifically related to Title IX and the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act.

4105A Pregnant Workers Fairness Act – New policy regarding legal changes for employees.

4201 and 4202 adding compliance with reporting of abuse of vulnerable adults to Adult Protective Services.

4213 The Superintendent can make exceptions for Nepotism with Prompt notice to the Board.

5209 updated the cell phone policy to match the student handbook change at the high school.

5807 Flag Display and Pledge of Allegiance Policy. Thrun suggests removing the flag display portion. The Policy Committee disagrees and would like to keep it in our policy book.

XII. Comments From the Audience – No Comments

XIII. ACTION

A. Emergency Operations Plan Consultant

Motion by Mr. Halverson, supported by Mrs. Wallace,
That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the Lockout Company to consult, write, and deliver the district emergency operation plan, building operation plan, and classroom emergency plan at a cost not to exceed \$41,500.00 as discussed and reviewed.
Roll Call Vote: Dr. Borders Y, Mrs. Waterson Y, Mrs. Wallace Y, Mr. Bess A, Mr. Smith Y, Mr. Halverson Y, Mrs. Allwardt A.
Motion Carried: 5-0.

B. New Hires

Motion by Mr. Halverson, supported by Mrs. Waterson,
That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the following New Hires:

Kristel Green, High School Math Teacher, Master’s Degree Western Michigan University, MA 10.

Christina Fletcher–Wert, Beadle Lake Student Support Specialist, master’s degree in Family Studies Spring Arbor.

Dar Smith, Harper Creek High School Special Education Teacher, MA 20.

As discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carried: 5-0

C. MASB Delegate Assembly Representative

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education assign Dr. Borders as Region 6 Delegate Representative and Mr. Barry Smith as Delegate Alternative in the MASB 2024 Delegate Assembly on October 24, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

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

Motion Carried: 5-0

D. Thrun Policy Updates

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the Thrun Policy Updates reviewed by the Policy Committee.

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

Motion Carried: 5-0.

XIV. Items for the Next Meeting

XV. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 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.