

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
6:00 PM - June 10, 2024, Meeting
Harper Creek Administration Building
7454 B Drive North, Battle Creek, MI 49014

<https://youtube.com/live/oq3UhJewDQA?feature=share>

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance: President Bess led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.
- III. Roll Call: Mrs. Allwardt called the Roll. Present members – Mrs. Allwardt, Mr. Bess, Dr. Borders, Mr. Halverson, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Waterson. Absent: Student Board Member Brynn Mackey.
- IV. Review and Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved.
- V. Reproductive Health Revised Curriculum Public Hearing (Audience may ask questions during the hearing): Mrs. Williams presented the SEAB's work with the reproductive health curriculum. Mrs. Williams provided the Board with the lessons for full transparency. The curriculum follows scope and sequence and is abstinence-based. Mrs. Williams stated that the Board will make no decisions at this meeting. During the July Board of Education meeting the Board will take action. Mrs. Williams discussed that the lessons were thoughtful and intentional. Also, Mrs. Williams discussed the opt. out option that families can choose for their student. Lastly, Mrs. Williams discussed the importance of students having trusted adults with whom they can receive information to stay safe. Board members can ask clarifying questions directly to Mrs. Williams when reading the curriculum.
- VI. Communications
 - A. President's Remarks: Mr. Bess welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Bess stated that our spring sports teams finished their seasons

off with many honors. Lastly, Mr. Bess stated that summer school began for students.

B. Administration: Mr. Ridgeway discussed summer school and the summer meal services that have begun. Summer school is taking place in the high school so that students have access to the mental health provider. Students will have greater access to the summer meals program as well. Another item Mr. Ridgeway discussed is the turf project that will begin on June 17, 2024. Mr. Ridgeway stated that on Monday, June 24, 2024, the Board will be meeting to have a superintendent's evaluation training from 5:30-8:30 PM. This training will be reimbursable. Also, Mr. Ridgeway stated that if the Board voted the Budget Hearing could be set for Monday, June 24, 2024, at 5:00 PM. The Budget Committee will also need to meet on July 8th at 5:00 PM because the regularly scheduled day is the Fourth of July. In addition, Mr. Ridgeway discussed teacher openings for this year as well as the potential for retirements during the 2024/2025 school year. Lastly, Mr. Ridgeway directed the Board to the committee definition draft that he created and asked for Board input and a vote at the July meeting to use definitions to help future Board members understand the committees more clearly.

C. Board Secretary: Mrs. Allwardt thanked the Kindness Mission and Vinnie Leatherman for the \$500.00 donation to Mr. Smart's classroom.

VII. District Updates

A. Curriculum: Mrs. Williams discussed that summer school would focus on career pathways. The supervisors will host a showcase on the second to last day of each session to allow students to present their findings based on the research on solving workplace problems. Another item Mrs. Williams discussed was the Adaptive Schools training that six staff members attended. This training provides training and practical tools and collaboration on complex issues around student learning. Lastly, Mrs. Williams highlighted the results of the NWEA testing. Mrs. Williams celebrated that the students tested showed growth.

- B. Facility: Mr. Robinson submitted a report to the Board. In addition, Mr. Robinson highlighted the grounds, maintenance crews, and Mrs. Peet on Graduation. The facility looked great, and the evening was a huge success. Lastly, Mr. Robinson discussed that the turf project start day was changed because of weather issues. The contractor stated that it will begin on Monday, June 17, 2024, and be complete in time for athletics.
- C. Finance: Ms. Obermyer discussed the nonunion pay scale. The Office of Retirement service law change prodded the scale to protect our employees. In addition, Ms. Obermyer discussed the 2023/2024 Budget revision and the 2024/2025 Budget. The Budget meeting date will be set at today's meeting. Ms. Obermyer also discussed the Tax Levy Request which will be an action item at today's meeting. This allows taxes to be collected.
- D. Technology: Mr. Maynard discussed the projector being delivered and ready for installation. Mr. Maynard discussed the student device purchases for the 2024/2025 school year. He provided an itemized list based on student numbers from the Data Coordinator. The student devices will be purchased with PILT money.

VIII. Comments Related to Agenda Items: None

IX. 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 Service Fund Checks (Food Service), and Student/School Activities Fund Checks, in accordance with the list discussed.

1. May 13, 2024, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
2. June 4, 2024, Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Smith, supported by Mrs. Wallace.
That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the consent agenda as follows:

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

1. May 13, 2024, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
2. June 4, 2024, Policy 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: Mr. Ridgeway stated that the committee reviewed the Emergency Operations Plan. The plans were also reviewed by Chris Youngs. The District plans on updating the plan as it is needed every few years. Mr. Young recommended that the District use a company Coidentity as other schools in our area use them, so the formatting is consistent. Mr. Ridgeway stated that the plan will update the folders teachers use and the codes to be uniform and consistent from building to building. Another item Mr. Ridgeway discussed is the crosswalk project and the county camera grant.
- B. Tax Levy Request: Mr. Ridgeway stated that annually our bond finance vendor PFM determines the necessary millage rate for the repayment of bonds. The recommendation is to continue the same milage rate as last year, 7.12 mills. The district also has a voted Operational Non-homestead millage of 18.0 mills. Mr. Ridgeway recommends the Board approve the L-4029 to set the Harper Creek millage for the 2024 tax collection.
- C. Food Service Contract – Chartwells: Mr. Ridgeway discussed the request for proposal process is complete and with the state-approved four-year contract to retain Chartwells as our food

service vendor. The total projected annual operating cost is \$1,675,356.77. Also, Mr. Ridgeway recommended that the Board approve the four-year contract with Chartwells as our food service vendor.

- D. Set Budget Hearing Date: Mr. Ridgeway discussed the budget hearing date and time for June 24th at 5:00 PM. The final 2023/2024 budget revision will be approved at this meeting and the 2024/2025 preliminary budget will be set. This meeting will be connected with the Superintendent Evaluation Training from 5:30-8:30 PM.
- E. MHSAA Membership Resolution: Yearly the Board must pass the Michigan High School Athletic Association Resolution. The resolution states that Harper Creek Community Schools will follow rules, and in return will be able to participate in MHSAA-sponsored state tournaments. It is recommended to pass the 2024/2025 MHSAA Resolution.
- F. Math and Science Trip to London and Paris 2025: The high school math and science team presented at a previous Board meeting the plan and desire to provide students with the opportunity to travel to London and Paris. The group has submitted their formal request for approval. Mr. Ridgeway recommends approval. Trip insurance was mentioned as a valuable asset in case of the need to cancel for unforeseen reasons.
- G. New Hires: Mr. Ridgeway recommends the following new hires for approval – Meghan McCardell -3rd-grade teacher – BLE- MA9, Lacey Wilkins – 4th-grade teacher- BLE – BA15, Summer Baker – 7th-grade math teacher- MS – BA6, Rachel Dempsey – 7th-grade social studies teacher – MS – BA1, Lori Halder – MS Spanish teacher – MA6, Jeremy Cronk – HS Science Teacher – MA11, Kate Port – Integrated Arts teacher – BLE – BA8, Alex Decker – 5th-grade teacher – MS – Long-term sub rate - \$200.00/day until graduation in December 2024; then MA1

XI. Comments from the Audience: None

XII. Action

A. Tax Levy Request:

Reason for Board Consideration

The Harper Creek Board of Education must approve the tax levy for the district.

Analysis and Conclusion

That the Harper Creek Board of Education set the school district's tax levy at 18 mils for operating purposes on non-homestead properties, 7.12 mils for debt retirement purposes on both homestead and non-homestead properties for the 2024 tax collection year.

Recommendation

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education set the school district's tax levy at 18 mils for operating purposes on non-homestead properties, 7.12 mills for debt retirement purposes on both homestead and non-homestead properties for the 2024 tax collection year in the taxiing units of the City of Battle Creek and the Townships of Emmett, Fredonia, Leroy, Marshall, Newton, Pennfield.

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

Motion Carried: 7-0.

B. Food Service Contract – Chartwells

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the contract with Chartwells as the food service vendor for four years beginning on July 1, 2024, and ending on June 30, 2025, with up to four one-year renewals with a total projected annual operating cost of \$1,675,356.77 as discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carried: 7-0.

C. Set Budget Hearing Date:

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the recommended Budget Hearing date of June 24, 2024, at 5:00 PM as discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carried: 7-0.

D. MHSAA Membership Resolution:

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the 2024-2025 MHSAA Resolution as discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carried: 7-0.

E. Math and Science Trip to London and Paris 2025

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the math and science trip to London and Paris with Exploria by Worldstrides travel group in June 2025 as discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carried: 7-0.

F. New Hires

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the following New Hires:

- Meghan McCardell, Beadle Lake 3rd Grade Teacher, MA9, master's degree (6th year certificate) Central Connecticut State University
- Lacey Wilkins, Beadle Lake 4th Grade Teacher, BA15, bachelor's degree Western Michigan University
- Kate Port, Beadle Lake Integrated Arts Teacher, BA8, bachelor's degree from Michigan State University
- Alex Decker, 5th Grade Teacher, Long-Term sub rate \$200/day until graduation in December 2024: Then MA1, master's degree from Western Michigan University

- Summer Baker, Middle School 7th Grade Math Teacher. BA6, bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University
- Rachel Dempsey, Middle School 7th Grade Social Studies, BA1, bachelor's degree from University of Michigan.
- Lori Halder, Middle School 5th-8th Spanish Teacher, MA6, master's degree from Western Michigan University
- Jeremy Cronk, High School Science Teacher, MA11, master's degree Western Michigan University

As discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carried:7-0.

G. Senior Social Studies/Personal Finance Course

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the revised Senior Social Studies course to meet the state personal finance requirements as discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carried: 7-0.

H. ELA Curriculum Approval

Motion by Mrs. Wallace, supported by Dr. Borders.

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves Amplify as the DK-5th grade ELA resource and EL Education as the 6th – 8th-grade resource with a one-year cost of \$436,587.00 with approximately \$349,167.00 from grant funds and \$87,420.00 from the general fund as discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carries: 7-0.

I. Student Devices

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves purchasing student devices with a total cost of \$208,563.52 using Payment in Lieu of Taxes funds (PILT) as discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carried: 7-0.

XIII. Closed Session 8(c)– Negotiations entered in at 7:03 PM

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education meets in closed session under section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of negotiation.

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

Motion Carried: 7-0

XIV. Open session: The Board of Education resumed into open session at 7:25 PM.

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education will resume into open session.

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

Motion carried: 7-0.

XV. Items for the Next Meeting: None

XVI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM by President Bess.