

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA

Monday, May 13, 2024

6:00 PM - Regular Meeting

Harper Creek Administration Building

7454 B Drive North, Battle Creek, MI 49014

<https://youtube.com/live/tSK2UfvNUi4?feature=share>

- I. Call to Order -The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Bess led the Pledge followed by a moment of silence.
- III. Roll Call – Mrs. Allwardt called Roll. Present members – Mrs. Allwardt, Mr. Bess, Dr. Borders, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Wallace, and Mrs. Waterson. Absent members – Mr. Halverson
- IV. Review and Approval of Agenda – Mr. Ridgeway requested the addition of the Summer School STEM materials approval to Action as item E.
Motion by Mr. Smith, supported by Dr. Borders.

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the addition of the Summer School STEM materials to Action as item E.

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

Motion Carried: 6-o.

- V. Choir Solo Presentation – Mr. Port had students wishing to sing a solo present their pieces to the Board. Three 8th-grade students showcased their vocal talents and sang solos for the Board to enjoy.

VI. Communications

- A. President's Remarks – Mr. Bess welcomed those in attendance and those watching from home to the meeting. He congratulated the Trap Team, the Varsity baseball team, and the students whose woodworking pieces were recognized at the regional competition. Mr. Bess mentioned the extremely busy field trip and concert schedules as well. Next, Mr. Bess discussed that this is the seniors' last week as students. President Bess wished Cameron Winsor well from the Board on all his future plans. Cameron has served on the Harper Creek Board of Education as a student representative for two years. Lastly, Mr. Bess stated that the Board is waiting for a State Legislative update.
- B. Administration – Mr. Ridgeway discussed upcoming important events including the graduation on May 31st, and the Distinguished Alumni and Citizen Awards also on the 31st at 3:00 PM in the Administration Building. Another item Mr. Ridgeway discussed is the GROW YOUR OWN Grant which Harper Creek Community Schools received to help staff return to college for advanced degrees or to obtain their bachelor's in education. Also, Mr. Ridgeway discussed the Superintendent Evaluation training needed as the training tool has changed. In addition, Mr. Ridgeway discussed the upcoming choir concert, Girls on the Run, and Jazz Band dinner. Lastly, Mr. Ridgeway called for a Policy committee meeting.
- C. Board Secretary – Mrs. Allwardt stated that Harper Creek Community Schools was randomly selected to receive a \$500.00 grant on behalf of Capital Fuel and More and US Petroleum Products. Thank you to Capital Fuel and More and US Petroleum Products. Board members have the letter in their folders.
- D. Student Board Members – Cameron Winsor has served on the Board for two years and this meeting is his last as he will

graduate at the end of the month. Brynn Mackey discussed study halls for athletes. She is looking into a “Cocoa and Cram” for student-athletes before major testing periods. Ms. Mackey also discussed looking into a sports captain training program.

VII. District Updates

- A. Curriculum – Mrs. Williams submitted a report to the Board. Mrs. Williams was not in attendance due to illness. Mr. Ridgeway reviewed the report. Next, Mr. Bilger discussed the Personal Finance Course. This course will be broken into five units. The units focus on financial literacy and follow power standards. Students will learn skills like home buying, insurance, managing credit, car purchasing, tax preparation, investing, and more. The units will also have a hands-on learning project requirement. Lastly, Mr. Ridgeway discussed the addition of the summer school STEM materials. The units of study include real-life applications and will be used with over four hundred students this summer. The materials will be purchased from NextWave using 11t and Title IV grant funds.
- B. Facility – Mr. Robinson submitted a report to the Board and asked if there were any questions. Mr. Robinson stated that the turf project will start the 1st week in June. Mr. Robinson has met with the designer and the project will last approximately two months. During the project, there will be no access to the track. In addition, the crosswalk project is expected to begin in early July with Hoffman Brothers.
- C. Finance – Mrs. Obermyer submitted the monthly financial reports. In addition, Ms. Obermeyer discussed the RFP for food service. One bid was submitted by Chartwells. Ms. Obermyer is waiting to hear from the State. Lastly, Ms. Obermyed stated that she is working on the end-of-year budget as well as the budget for 2025.
- D. Technology – Mr. Maynard submitted the monthly technology report. Mr. Maynard discussed the notification of the

reduction in the E-Rate discount. Lastly, Mr. Maynard discussed the student device purchases for the 2024/2025 school year.

VIII. Bridge Building Presentation – Ms. Jenkins and three 8th-grade students presented on the bridges they made for the MDOT Bridge Building Conference in Grand Rapids. The students stated that Bridge Building is a fun, creative way to engage students. Students appreciated the science, art, and leadership aspects of the club. Ms. Jenkins stated that it was fun to see her students speaking with confidence with professionals in civil engineering.

IX. Counseling/Student Support Presentation-

Mrs. Terri Tchorzynski and the Harper Creek Counselors and Student Support Service professionals presented the collaborative work using the Hatching Results. Mrs. Tchorzynski discussed the partnership's intended outcomes, including aligning services to improve equity and access for all students, using data to impact outcomes, cultivating relationships, and developing systems and fine-tuning best practices. Hatching Results uses a multi-tiered system of support model. Elementary student support specialists and MTSS coaches discussed their goals including setting a strong tier 1 foundation. The goals include the implementation of TRAILS in the elementary buildings, introducing Xello to teachers and supporting the implementation, and the implementation of a universal screener. Middle School student support and counseling goals include implementing tier-one scope and sequence, social-emotional lessons, college readiness, implementation of TRAILS during morning meetings, and using data to drive decision-making. The high school counseling and student support team focused their goals on a tier one action plan, data collection, and tier two interventions to reduce referrals.

X. Comments Related to Agenda Items – Nina Mathews discussed the engagement of her students using the Amlify ELA resource pilot. She shared that the students enjoyed the lessons.

XI. 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.

Approve the following list of Meeting Minutes.

1. Approves April 8, 2024, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
2. Approves April 15, 2024, Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes
3. Approves April 18, 2024, Building Committee Meeting Minutes
4. Approves May 9, 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 Service Fund checks, in accordance with the list discussed.

Approve the following meeting minutes as reviewed:

- Approves April 8, 2024, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- Approves April 15, 2024, Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes.
- Approves April 18, 2024, Building Committee Meeting Minutes.
- Approves May 9, 2024, Budget Committee Meeting Minutes.

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

Motion Carried: 6-0.

XII. Information and Discussion

- A. School Safety – Mr. Ridgeway gave the Board an update from the safety committee meeting. Mr. Ridgeway stated that the crosswalk project was discussed. In addition, the committee will be working on After-School Safety Plans to have procedures in place during after-school events. Along with the

plans will be opportunities to practice what to do in the event of an emergency.

- B. Grace Health – Behavioral Health Consultant Agreement – Mr. Ridgeway discussed the Grace Health Behavior Consultant Agreement. This provides a clinician for our elementary students. The program will be at Beadle Lake in the fall, with the expectation of expanding into all three elementary schools. The cost is \$85,000.00 and will be paid using the state safety/mental health grant 31aa. The agreement mirrors our school nurse agreement.
- C. ELA Resource Discussion -Harper Creek DK-8th grade teachers have been reviewing and piloting English Language Art resources. DK-5th grade teachers recommend Amplify and 6th - 8th recommend EL Education. Several teachers discussed their use of the materials and why students would benefit. The teachers discussed that the programs are research-based, include diverse texts, and are engaging and accessible to students at different levels. During the piloted period teachers have already noticed vocabulary growth.
- D. New Hires – Mr. Ridgeway stated that new hire Brad Polnasek was in the audience and being recommended to the Board to fill the position of High School Physical Education/Health Teacher. Mr. Polnasek also did his student teaching at Harper Creek.
- E. Food Service Contract (Tentative) – no discussion
- F. Bus Purchase – Transportation Director Stacy Hendon recommended the purchase of two 2022 77-passenger buses. Mr. Ridgeway stated that the purchase would replace two existing buses. The camera and radio systems currently in use will be installed in the newly purchased buses.
- G. Committee Definition and Assignments - Mr. Bess provided the Board members with a list of current Board committees.

He will adjust the committees to reflect the conversation. All committees will be defined by the July Board meeting.

XIII. Comments From the Audience – Student Abbigail Cook addressed the Board with concerns over not offering Spanish 1 in her 8th grade year 2024/2025. She desires the opportunity to take Spanish 1 as a middle school student.

XIV. ACTION

A. Grace Health – Behavioral Health Consultant Agreement
Motion by Mr. Smith, supported by Mrs. Wallace.

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the one-year contract for a behavior health consultant with Grace Health, which will cost an annual cost of \$85,000.00 using 31aa mental health grant money as discussed and reviewed.

Roll Call Vote: Dr. Borders _Y, Mrs. Waterson Y_, Mr. Halverson _A, Mrs. Allwardt Y_, Mrs. Wallace _Y, Mr. Smith _Y, Mr. Bess _Y.
Motion carried: 6-o.

B. New Hires

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the following new hire:

Brad Polnasek, High School Physical Education/Health Teacher, MA12, Master's Degree from American College of Education as discussed and reviewed.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Allwardt Y_, Mrs. Waterson _Y, Mrs. Wallace _Y, Mr. Bess _Y, Dr. Borders _Y, Mr. Smith _Y, Mr. Halverson _A.
Motion Carried: 6-o.

C. Food Service Contract (Tentative) – no action

D. Bus Purchase

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the purchase of two used 2022 77-passenger buses from Midwest Transit at \$209,210.00 as discussed and reviewed.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Waterson Y_, Mrs. Wallace _Y, Mr. Bess _Y _,
Dr. Borders Y_, Mr. Smith _Y, Mr. Halverson _A.

Motion Carried: 6-o.

E. Additon: Summer School STEM Materials

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the Summer
School STEM materials from NextWaveStem using grant funds -11t
for \$16,000.00 and Title IV for \$20,000.00 as discussed and
reviewed.

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

Motion Carried: 6-o.

XV. Items for the Next Meeting

XVI. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 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.