

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 11, 2024

6:00 PM –Meeting

Harper Creek Administration Building

7454 B Drive North, Battle Creek, MI 49014

<https://www.youtube.com/live/sRy4Bkg9Nq8>

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance: President Bess led the Pledge followed by a moment of silence.
- III. Roll Call: Members Present – Mrs. Allwardt, Mr. Bess, Dr. Borders, Mr. Halverson, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Waterson. Student Board Members Present: Sam Cook, Alex Stiltner, Arabella Stanley
- IV. Review and Approval of Agenda: No additions or modifications to the agenda.
- V. Communications
 - A. President's Remarks: Mr. Bess welcomed the audience and congratulated the newly elected Board Members. Mrs. Allwardt and Mrs. Waterson will continue to serve on the Board and Mrs. Risner will join and be sworn in January. In addition, Mr. Bess congratulated the Middle School on the completion of their production of Honk in partnership with What a Do Theatre.
 - B. Administration: Mr. Ridgeway discussed Michigan Public Health Bill 316 which amends the Public Health Code to require dental oral assessments for children registering for the first time in kindergarten or 1st grade. Mr. Ridgeway stated that the Calhoun County Health Department and Grace Health will contract to provide these assessments during normal Kindergarten registrations planned through the district. Another item Mr. Ridgeway discussed was the completion of the bus inspections. Twenty-seven buses received a green, two received a yellow and were able to be fixed, and two received a red. One will be retiring and one is being repaired and then will be inspected. Next, Mr. Ridgeway discussed the high school band trip to New Orleans. The students performed in New Orleans under the direction of band director, Bryan Borders. In addition, Mr. Ridgeway stated some upcoming events for the Board and community to be aware of including Harper Creek Follies on Saturday, November 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., the Harper Creek Optimist Parade on Saturday, November 23, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., The Harper Creek Community Connections Fall Luncheon on Thursday, November 21, at 11:30 a.m. in the Administration Building. Also, Mr. Ridgeway mentioned the upcoming Thanksgiving Break for students and staff beginning with a half day on Wednesday, November 27, 2024. School will resume on Monday, December 2, 2024. In

addition, Mr. Ridgeway called for a Building Committee meeting to be scheduled. The Building Committee members are Mr. Bess, Mr. Smith, and Mrs. Wallace. Lastly, Mr. Ridgeway thanked Veterans for their service. Mr. Ridgeway stated that veterans from the branches of the Armed Services spoke to the Middle School this week and Wattles Park celebrated veterans with an event. Thank you to all who have served.

C. Board Secretary: Mrs. Allwardt stated that donations have been received and recognized by the Board. R and B Electric, Inc. donated \$400.00 to the National Honor Society. The Beaver Boosters donated \$5000.00 to Athletics to be used at the discretion of the Athletic Director. Thank you for your support and continuing to be champions for students.

D. Student Board Member Report: Sam Cook and Axel Stiltner prepared a survey for students and staff at the high school to inquire about open lunch and how it is going. The survey asked about participation, support of open lunches, and rating school lunches. The overall opinion of students is positive in favor of open lunch. The overall opinion of staff is also positive.

VI. Presentations

A. Multi-Lingual Presentation: Mrs. Karen Strombeck, the Multilingual Teacher, presented the District Programming for Multilingual Learners. Mrs. Strombeck discussed how students are identified, screened, and supported through the work that she does. Mrs. Strombeck discussed the home languages that are represented at Harper Creek. Students in the program represent eleven languages. In addition, Mrs. Strombeck discussed the WiDA test that is given yearly to MLL students to measure reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Mrs. Strombeck discussed the strategies to support student growth and achievement as well as the family and school connection strategies. Lastly, Mrs. Strombeck discussed the successes of students in the program including test growth and the Title III grant that helps provide books and games for students in English and their home language. Mrs. Strombeck discussed the second person on the team allows more adequate support to students.

VII. District Updates

A. Curriculum: Mrs. Williams was unable to attend. Mr. Ridgeway reviewed the Board reports submitted by Mrs. Williams. First, Mr. Ridgeway discussed the Senior Social Studies Teachers invited Emmett Township team members to provide a presentation on the voting process. Students reviewed the ballot, discussed the process and eligible students could register to vote. In addition, Mr. Ridgeway discussed the implementation and support for Bridges, Amplify, and EL Education. Also, Mr. Ridgeway discussed the HS math Review currently in the process of reviewing mathematics curriculum resources. Next, Mr. Ridgeway discussed the HIL Summit that our Middle School Leadership Team attended at Western Michigan University. In addition, Mr. Ridgeway discussed the Hatching Results providing ongoing learning with district counselors, and student support specialists. This year's focus is the implementation of Tier One support. Lastly, Mr. Ridgeway

celebrated our instructional and PBIS district MTSS team who recently earned NiNTSS Bronze Awards for Data Utilization and Implementation and Impact.

B. Facility: Mr. Robinson submitted a report to the Board. Mr. Robinson highlighted the Filtere First Water requirements. Legislation requires every District to have a drinking water plan by January 26, 2025. In addition, Mr. Robinson discussed the secured vestibule at the administration building. Fobs will be used to enter the building. Lastly, Mr. Robinson discussed the custodial manager for DM Burr, Derryck is doing a good job in the buildings.

C. Finance: Mrs. Obermyer submitted reports to the Board. Mrs. Obermyer highlighted the MILAF+ account interest earned. Lastly, Mrs. Obermyer and Mr. Ridgeway need to build back up stating that money will need to be put aside to do that.

D. Technology: Mr. Maynard submitted his report. Mr. Maynard discussed the Classroom Notification Project. Hardware for Beadle Lake Elementary and the remainder of the Middle School project have been ordered and installation should begin in a few weeks. In addition, Mr. Maynard discussed the County Camera Project with news that the county had misidentified something in the original proposal and now all three elementaries will get cameras purchased and installed by the county's grant. Lastly, Mr. Maynard reported that the auditorium lighting had failed, however, the controller was replaced through a donation of equipment from Devos Place. The system will still need replacement in the future. The Technology department is in the process of identifying the needs and wants of the next system.

VIII. Comments Related to Agenda Items: No Comments

IX. Consent Agenda - All items on this consent agenda were previously considered by the Harper Creek Board of Education, 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 Services Fund checks (Food Service), and Student/School Activities Fund Checks, in accordance with the list discussed.

1. Approves October 14, 2024, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
2. Approves November 7, 2024, Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the consent agenda as follows:

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

Approve the following minutes as reviewed:

- Approves October 14, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
 - Approves November 7, 2024, Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
- Roll Call Vote: Dr. Borders Y, Mrs. Wallace Y, Mr. Smith Y, Mr. Bess Y, Mrs. Allwardt Y, Mrs. Waterson Y, Mr. Halverson Y.
Motion Carried 7-0.

X. Information and Discussion

A. School Safety: Mr. Ridgeway stated that the Safety Committee met and discussed the following items. The camera project and the Classroom Notification Project were discussed in the report from Mr. Maynard. The committee also discussed the Crosswalk project and the replacement of a part that was not working correctly. More signage is also needed to create the safest crossing of the road. The Safety committee also discussed projects for the future including bulletproof film, license plate readers, and weapon detection cameras. Lastly, the committee discussed the recent threats at the middle school and the rumors and false statements.

B. 2024 Fall Count: Mr. Ridgeway discussed the total FTE K-12 of 2,738.01 students which is fifteen less than the budget. This is better than the original estimate but still will reduce revenue by \$147,00.00. Some factors include the 2021-2022 live birth rate drop of 150 and the lack of inventory in housing within the district. Mr. Ridgeway spoke to area schools and within our county, the general kindergarten enrollment is down by approximately sixty students.

C. Grow Your Own Update: Mr. Ridgeway discussed the Grow Your Own Program and anticipated graduation dates for staff. There are currently thirty staff members attending college through the Grow Your Own program. The grant for this program was written by Human Resource Director, Tammy Chapman. Three grant recipients are slated for graduation in December 2024. The Board will recognize these students at the December Board meeting.

D. Student Mental Health Discussion: Mr. Ridgeway met with the cabinet of the CISD to discuss the supports available to assist with behavior issues in the classroom. The ISD has an Intensive Support Team to help buildings with specific student needs in terms of challenging behaviors. In addition, Mr. Ridgeway discussed MTSS academic and behavior support for students. Also, Mr. Ridgeway discussed having Thrun Law present to the board what a Least Restrictive Environment is and what that looks like for students. Another item Mr. Ridgeway discussed is a Culture/Climate Team connecting families to resources to be proactive. Mr. Ridgeway discussed the Beadle Lake Elementary Grace Health provider who will provide support and connect families to these resources. Lastly, Mr. Ridgeway stated that the middle school and high school have seen a drop in referrals.

E. Appointing a Reinstatement Committee: Mr. Ridgeway stated that a student who was expelled has applied for reinstatement. Board policy dictates that a reinstatement committee consisting of two board members, one administrator, one teacher, and one parent will be appointed by the Board. Mr. Ridgeway recommends

using a similar committee that was used last year and each individual agreed to participate – Erin Allwardt, Sara Wallace, Ed Greenman, Shayne Elwell, and Nicole Bilger. Mr. Greenman will replace Mr. Swan as administrative representative as Mr. Swan was unavailable.

F. New Hire: Mr. Ridgeway recommends that Amy Leasure, Wattles Park Elementary Spanish Teacher – BA4 be hired after a brief stint at another district.

XI. Comments From the Audience: Kyleigh Arnold – Kyleigh discussed wanting to continue senior band night during the half-time show for the marching band. She stated that some concerns arose this year because of timing during halftime. Kyleigh stated that the band would like to be recognized in this way. The Board thanked Kyleigh for her comment.

XII. ACTION

A. Appointing a Reinstatement Committee:

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the following reinstatement committee by statute and Board Policy 5206C Student Discipline Reinstatement following expulsion:

Board Member 1: Erin Allwardt

Board Member 2: Sara Wallace

School Administrator: Ed Greenman

Teacher: Shayne Elwell

Parent: Nicole Bilger

Chairperson: Sara Wallace

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

Motion Carried: 7-0.

B. New Hire

Motion by Mrs. Waterson, supported by Dr. Borders

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the following new hire: Amy Leasure, Wattles Park Elementary Spanish Teacher, BA4 (Prorated for 122 days), Bachelors – Olivet Nazarene University-Teaching Certificate through #T.E.A.C.H. as discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carries: 7-0.

XIII. Items for the Next Meeting

XIV. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

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.