

**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Board of Education  
Harbor Springs Public Schools**

**October 9, 2023**

Middle School Cafeteria  
Harbor Springs Middle School  
800 State Road  
Harbor Springs, MI 49740

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Board Members Present: Paul Fairbairn, President  
Gary Morse, Vice President  
Diane Novak, Secretary  
Tina Honeysette, Treasurer  
Mike Vandermus, Trustee  
Brad Backus, Trustee  
Margo Damoose, Trustee

Staff Present: Brad Plackemeier, Superintendent  
Denise Knight, Administrative Assistant  
Rod Fullerton, Chief Financial Officer  
Chris Cerrudo, Technology Director  
Leigh Inglehart, High School Principal  
Heather Keiser, Middle School Principal  
Nathan Fairbanks, Elementary Principal

**Regular Meeting**

**I. Call to Order**

President Fairbairn called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

President Fairbairn asked everyone to take a moment for self reflection.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

*A motion was made by Morse, seconded by Damoose, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

**IV. Mission Excellence - Blackbird Child Care**

Superintendent Plackemeier recognized Sadie Riley and Blackbird Child Care for Mission Excellence as the Petoskey News-Review chose Blackbird Child Care as a 2023 Community's Choice Winner in their Best of Northern Michigan awards.

**V. Board President's Report – none**

**VI. Superintendent's Report**

- Homecoming last week
- Beyond Basics-tutors are being trained with the program starting in HSPS this month for elementary students
- Bond Construction update-HSHS drones class working with the contractors-will be inside with 3d imaging and furniture design meetings are going well
- Phase 2 projects-Turf, HS parking lot and PAC addition

## VII. Committee Reports

### A. Finance

Damoose reported:

- **Review Invoices** – Committee members reviewed and discussed invoices.
- **Personnel Update** – Discussed current staffing throughout the district and projections for the 2024-2025 school year.
- **5G/Cellular Update** – An update and discussion regarding the current AT&T and Verizon lease agreements.
- **Fund Balance** – Follow-up discussion based on information presented during the Board of Education retreat. The discussion looked at the current fund balance, comparison districts, and recommendations from the district’s auditors.
- **Early Childhood** – Follow-up discussion from the Board of Education retreat. Committee members discussed the current structure of the program and potential future options. Items included expansion, the current cost structure, and options for the future including the True Cost Model.
- **Athletic Funding** – An update on the plan to fund the district’s athletic program. Discussion also included exploring the option for the district to contribute more toward field trips in which grade levels and district groups currently fund raise.
- **Purchase of RTV** – The group reviewed the draft bid for the proposed purchase of a RTV. The vehicle is for the district’s maintenance staff as a replacement for the aging black pick-up truck currently in use.

### B. Communications

Novak reported:

- **Athletic Report** – Ms. Rigby provided an update from the athletic department:
  - The boys soccer district brackets were released, and Ms. Rigby shared the potential options for games throughout the post-season.
  - Fall sports update with a preview of the post season.
  - Cross Country hosted their invitational event last week and will be hosting the conference meet this week.
  - Basketball schedules are complete.
- **Personnel Update** – Discussed current staffing throughout the district and projections for the 2024-2025 school year.
- **5G/Cellular Update** – An update and discussion regarding the current AT&T and Verizon lease agreements.
- **Fund Balance** – Follow-up discussion based on information presented during the Board of Education retreat. The discussion looked at the current fund balance, comparison districts, and recommendations from the district’s auditors.
- **Early Childhood** – Follow-up discussion from the Board of Education retreat. Committee members discussed the current structure of the program and potential future options. Items included expansion, the current cost structure, and options for the future including the True Cost Model.
- **Interagency Agreement w/HDNW** – Review and discussion of the agreement, which allows the Ram Wellness Program to operate within the district.
- **Schedule B/Assistant Tennis** – A review of the Schedule B agreement, which would add an assistant coach for the tennis team in each season, boys in the fall and girls in the spring.
- **HumanEx Ventures** – The HumanEx Ventures results were presented and discussed during the

September Steering Committee meeting. Novak was a part of the Steering Committee discussion.

- **Alternative Education Cooperative Agreement** – The agreement with Char-Em ISD for alternative education course offerings was reviewed and discussed.

#### C. Facilities

Backus reported:

- **Facilities Report** – Mr. Ouellette provided an update from the Facilities Department:
  - The thermostat in the middle school walk in cooler had to be replaced. Options were presented that would connect the middle and high school coolers to a system that would send text alerts when they go into an alarm state.
  - Update on items from the MSBO conference including the geothermal system, building safety and security, and energy efficiency information.
  - SA Morman’s work with some of the locks throughout the district.
  - The chiller towers will be turned down as the weather begins to cool outside.
  - Snow melt for the district was ordered and received.
  - The athletic fields will be aerated this fall.
- **Personnel Update** – Discussed current staffing throughout the district and projections for the 2024-2025 school year.
- **5G/Cellular Update** – An update and discussion regarding the current AT&T and Verizon lease agreements.
- **Fund Balance** – Follow-up discussion based on information presented during the Board of Education retreat. The discussion looked at the current fund balance, comparison districts, and recommendations from the district’s auditors.
- **Early Childhood** – Follow-up discussion from the Board of Education retreat. Committee members discussed the current structure of the program and potential future options. Items included expansion, the current cost structure, and options for the future including the True Cost Model.
- **Tennis Courts** – The group reviewed and discussed the options and price quotes for repairing the tennis courts.
- **Construction Update** – Mr. Plackemeier provided an update on the progress of the Phase 1 projects and the plan for Phase 2 projects set to begin in June 2024.

#### VIII. Administrative Reports

High School Principal Inglehart reported:

- Students attended excellent presentations last month with authors from Festival of the Book
- Mrs. Richardson took a small group of student to Char-Em’s MI Career Quest
- Fall sports are entering postseason play
- Homecoming was filled with float building, powderpuff, spirit days and ended with the traditional spirit march, parade football game and dance
- Optional PSAT & National Merit Scholarhsip testing
- Parent/Teacher conferences this Wednesday and Thursday
- School is in full swing and HSHS is a fun place to be

Middle School Principal Keiser reported:

- Thank you to everyone involved with the Festival of the Book events. Authors were engaging and the students loved being able to take a book home with them

- First PBIS event was a success
- Cross country teams are wrapping up their seasons strong. Eighth grader Grant Corlew set a new middle school record for the boys running 2 miles in 11:35
- Parent/Teacher conferences this Wednesday and Thursday
- Fun events planned for October PBIS including downtown Halloween parade and fun activities in the classrooms

Elementary Principal Fairbanks reported:

- Huge thank you to Holy Childhood for donation of supplies, clothing, etc.
- I-Ready testing complete
- Parent/teacher conferences
- Furniture meetings are positive

Principal Inglehart gave a “shout out” to the maintenance/custodial staff for how well the building looks given they’ve been short staffed.

#### **IX. General Announcements**

Novak reiterated how great the High School looks.

Vandermus- great job on homecoming activities.

Damoose-enjoyed homecoming parade and festivities.

#### **X. Public Input - none**

#### **XI. Consent Agenda Items**

##### **A. Approval of Invoices**

1. General Fund - \$873,354.03
2. Community Schools Fund - \$17,900.61
3. Food Service Fund - \$31,731.50
4. Building & Site Fund - \$23,190.00
5. Fiber Build Project Fund - \$905.40
6. 2022 Bond Project Fund - \$59,415.27

##### **B. Approval of Minutes**

1. Special Meeting Retreat - 09.13.23

*A motion was made by Damoose, seconded by Novak, to approve the consent agenda as follows: General Fund - \$873,354.03; Community Schools Fund - \$17,900.61; Food Service Fund - \$31,731.50; Building & Site Fund - \$23,190.00; Fiber Build Project Fund - \$905.40; 2022 Bond Project Fund - \$59,415.27; and the minutes from the Special Meeting – Retreat –September 13, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### **XII. Recommended for Action - New Business**

##### **A. Approval of Schedule B update – Addition of Asst Tennis Coach**

*A motion was made by Morse, seconded by Backus, to approve the Schedule B Update to add an assistant coaching position for tennis set at 3% per season.  
Motion carried unanimously.*

##### **B. Approval of MS Michigan Youth in Government Overnight Trip**

*A motion was made by Honeysette, seconded by Backus, to approve the overnight trip for Middle School Youth in Government from November 19, 2023 through November 21, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.*

**C. Approval of HSHS Band Overnight Trip**

*A motion was made by Backus, seconded by Damoose, to approve the overnight trip for the High School Band to Cleveland, Ohio from April 19, 2024 through April 21, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.*

**D. Approval of Interagency Agreement with HDNM**

*A motion was made by Morse, seconded by Novak, to approve the interagency agreement with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. Motion carried unanimously.*

**E. Approval of Trails Curriculum (6th grade)**

*A motion was made by Honeysette, seconded by Backus, to approve the Trails to Wellness Anxiety Curriculum for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students. Motion carried unanimously.*

**F. Approval of Alternate Education Cooperative Agreement**

*A motion was made by Backus, seconded by Vandermus, to approve the Char-Em Alternative School Courses. Motion carried unanimously.*

**G. Approval of RTV Purchase (Draft Bid)**

*A motion was made by Damoose, seconded by Morse, to approve the purchase of a Kubota RTV. Motion carried unanimously.*

**XIII. Public Input - none**

**XIV. Adjournment**

*A motion was made by Morse, seconded by Honeysette, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:21pm. Motion carried unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Novak  
Secretary