

# **HARPER CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

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**Students for Life**

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

Monday, April 14, 2025

6:00 PM - Regular Meeting

Harper Creek Administration Building

7454 B Drive North, Battle Creek, MI 49014

<https://youtube.com/live/VMsDXgFzUU0?feature=share>

- I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – President Bess led the Pledge, followed by a moment of silence.
- III. Secretary Allwardt was unable to attend tonight's meeting, therefore, President Bess called for a motion to appoint an acting secretary for the meeting.  
Motion by Mr. Smith, supported by Mrs. Wallace,  
That the Harper Creek Board of Education appoint Brad Halverson to serve as Secretary for the April 14, 2025, Board of Education Meeting.  
Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Waterson Y, Mrs. Allwardt A, Mrs. Wallace Y, Mr. Halverson Y, Mrs. Risner Y, Mr. Smith Y, Mr. Bess Y.  
Motion Carried: 6-o.
- IV. Roll Call – Mr. Halverson called the roll. Present members: Mr. Bess, Mr. Halverson, Mrs. Risner, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Waterson. Absent: Mrs. Allwardt  
Student Members: Present – Sam Cook, Alex Stiltner Absent: Arabella Stanley
- V. BLE Teacher Presentation on Lansing Trip – Beadle Lake Elementary teacher Hope Kahler and four of her students presented on the grant that she received for the App. called Book Creator. Mrs. Kahler and her students attended a Technology Showcase in Lansing. Harper Creek Community Schools was one of thirty schools chosen to attend. As a part of this Showcase, Mrs. Kahler received a grant to purchase Book Creator for her classroom use. Book Creator aids students in project-based learning, writing, authentic engagement, inclusion, and learning across the curriculum for all students. Students shared their projects with the Board.
- VI. Review and Approval of Agenda: Mr. Ridgeway had an addition to the agenda, Action Item G.  
Motion by Mr. Smith, supported by Mrs. Wallace,  
That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the addition of Action Item G. – Construction Management Firm selection motion as discussed and reviewed.  
Roll Call Vote:  
Mr. Bess Y, Mr. Smith Y, Mrs. Waterson Y, Mrs. Allwardt A, Mrs. Wallace Y, Mrs. Risner Y, Mr. Halverson Y.  
Motion Carried: 6-o.
- VII. Communications
  - A. President's Remarks – Mr. Bess welcomed everyone in attendance and those viewing on YouTube. Mr. Bess stated that the rest of the year will fly by, and preparations have already begun for the 2025/2026 school year. Mr. Bess also mentioned that tomorrow was an opportunity to attend Countdown for Kindergarten events at each elementary school.

- B. Administration – Mr. Ridgeway stated that it is wonderful to have students at Board Meetings. In addition, Mr. Ridgeway discussed Countdown to Kindergarten on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, from 6:00-7:00 PM at each elementary building. Next, Mr. Ridgeway stated that the CASB Awards will be on April 30, 2025, at 5:45 PM. Board members should let Ms. Kopp know if they will be attending for RSVP purposes. Mr. Ridgeway will attend the I8 Scholar Athlete event, which will be held on April 30, 2025. Also, Mr. Ridgeway highlighted upcoming events, including Beyond the Cereal Bowl on May 1, 2025, at 7:30 AM at the high school media center, and Community Connections on May 2, 2025, at 11:30 AM at the Administration Building. Community Connections is an event for members to connect to the school district through a luncheon program. Mr. Ridgeway highlighted upcoming choir and band concerts. In addition, Mr. Ridgeway discussed that a naming of facilities committee will meet on April 16, 2025, to discuss the proposal of naming a facility, and since he has received another nomination, he asked the Board to allow the committee to look at both requests. Mr. Ridgeway also discussed Board Tours. Next, Mr. Ridgeway stated that Sam Cook has a student survey for the Board. Lastly, Mr. Ridgeway shared condolences for former Harper Creek employees Louie Walter, Emzee Collins, and Gary Lincoln and for Mrs. Allwardt's parents, and Mr. Ridgeway thanked Mr. Greenman for forty years of exemplary service to Harper Creek Community Schools, as he has decided to retire.
  - C. Board Secretary – Mr. Halverson thanked the following individuals for their generous donations to the Harper Creek Champion Project (weight room renovation): Jennifer Proffitt, Jason Feasel – West Michigan Truck Assessories, Angie Brannen – FAB Face and Body, Nate and Morgan Smith, Becky Wieseler, Brad and Lynn Wilson, Dave Ponscheck, Ed and Beth Greenman, Derek and Terra King, Greg Messenger – Regional Concrete, Brad and Kristen Halverson, and an anonymous donor.
- VIII. Hatching Results, PBIS, Career Pathways Presentation: School Counselors and Student Support Services presented to the Board the impact of their interventions and supports using SWIS data to make intentional comparisons of referrals over time. Each team presented their findings, successes, and celebrations using Hatching Results, PBIS, Trails lessons, SABERS, and Xello. Teams shared what has been implemented and what is working with behavior, attendance, and academics, using the tools to support each child. Teams presented goals and next steps to support students. The data helps the Student Support Specialists and Counselors pinpoint the reason referrals are being made. Their findings help the implementation of interventions. Teams have also included tools for parent engagement, including newsletters, phone calls home, family meetings, and events. Mrs. Williams stated that all supports being used are evidence-based.
- IX. District Updates
- A. Curriculum – Mrs. Williams submitted a report to the Board. She stated that included in her report are links for the High School, Elementary School, and Virtual (Edmentum) Coursebooks. Mrs. Williams provided this so that Board members can review the coursebooks before approval at the May meeting. The middle school coursebook will be available in May for approval in June.
  - B. Facility – Mr. Robinson submitted a report to the Board. Mr. Robinson discussed the recent power outage. Mr. Robinson stated that the generators worked and

kept power to the walk-in cooler and the freezer. In addition, Mr. Robinson discussed that his team is working diligently to keep up with spring sports to make sure spaces are properly prepared for activities. Next, Mr. Robinson discussed the building committee meeting. Mr. Ridgeway, Mrs. Obermyer, and Mr. Robinson interviewed five construction management firms. Mr. Ridgeway recommends Clark Construction, which was a unanimous choice for the team.

- C. Finance – Mrs. Obermyer submitted reports to the Board. Mrs. Obermyer discussed that the Food Service spend down plan has been submitted to the state. In addition, Mrs. Obermyer discussed the School Bond Revolving Fund. Because of diligent financial responsibility, it is estimated that Harper Creek Community Schools will pay it off early. Lastly, Mrs. Obermyer highlighted the 24-25 earned interest.
- D. Technology – Mr. Maynard submitted a report to the Board. Mr. Maynard discussed the WIFI and Internet access at the high school. The technology team performed speed tests. The tests were comprehensive. The tests showed that the speed met or exceeded standards.

X. Comments Related to Agenda Items – There were no comments related to agenda items.

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

B. March 10, 2025 Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes

C. March 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

D. March 19, 2025, Building Committee Meeting Minutes

E. April 10, 2025, Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mrs. Wallace, supported by Mrs. Waterson,

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approve 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.

Approve the following meeting minutes as reviewed:

- Approves March 10, 2025, Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes.
- Approves March 10, 2025, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes.
- Approves March 19, 2025, Building Committee Meeting Minutes.
- Approves April 10, 2025, Budget Committee Meeting Minutes.

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

Motion Carried: 6-o.

XII. Information and Discussion

- A. School Safety – Mr. Ridgeway discussed that the District Emergency Operation Plan has been completed by LOCK OUT USA, and it has been reviewed by Chris Young, Calhoun County Emergency Manager, and Mr. Robinson. The Safety Committee and Mr. Ridgeway have also reviewed the EOP. Mr. Ridgeway recommends the approval of the plan with implementation set for August 2025. Another item discussed at the meeting was the safety money and projects to use it

on, including RAVE Panic Alert renewal, a summer school SRO, air conditioning for the server room, and the classroom notification system. Next, Mr. Ridgeway discussed that the Safety Committee will be on-site at Wattles Park Elementary to review drop-off and pick-up safety procedures.

- B. Budget Scenarios – Mrs. Obermyer and Mr. Ridgeway discussed the budget for 2025-2026 assumptions, including student count, attrition, and adjustments. Mr. Ridgeway stated that the Board will continue to look at the budget, and if needed, adjustments will be made.
- C. Line of Credit – Mrs. Obermyer discussed the line of credit from Southern Michigan Bank and Trust for cash flow purposes. Although Harper Creek Community Schools has not had to use this in recent years, it is good to have. If needed, it costs the District significantly less than borrowing from the State. Mrs. Obermyer recommends the line of credit through Southern Michigan Bank and Trust.
- D. Food Service Ovens – Mr. Ridgeway discussed coming to the Board last month for approval for ovens. After review, Chef Ruemenapp wanted to purchase the same oven for both high school and middle school, therefore, Mr. Ridgeway is recommending the approval to purchase ovens using the spend down plan.
- E. CISD Preliminary Proposed Budget 25/26 – Area school boards are required to vote on the CISD Proposed Budget 25-26. Harper Creek Board of Education reviewed the budget. The Board may approve the budget, disapprove, or approve with suggestions. The Board stated that they would like communication and clarity on the strategies of support for special education.
- F. Algebra 11/Precalculus Course – The District Curriculum Council is requesting the approval of a new course, Honors Algebra/Precalculus. Mr. Ridgeway recommends approving this course.
- G. Harper Creek Community Schools Coursebooks – The coursebooks have been provided to Board members for review, including high school, elementary, and the virtual coursebook for Edmentum. Edmentum is a new program for virtual learning that is rigorous, cohesive, and K-12. The middle school coursebook is undergoing some necessary changes and will not be available for review until the May Board of Education meeting.
- H. New Hires – Mr. Ridgeway recommended the following new hires for the 2025-2026 year.
  - Cassandra Inman – Beadle Lake Elementary Autism Spectrum Disorder Teacher.
  - Owen Miller – Elementary Teacher.
  - Ellie Owsley – High School Science Teacher.
  - Lindsey Cook – Sonoma Elementary Principal.

XIII. Comments From the Audience – No comments

#### XIV. ACTION

##### A. Line of Credit

Reason for Board Consideration

Legal requirement

Recommendation

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education authorizes the renewal of a revolving line of credit of \$500,000 from Southern Michigan Bank and Trust matching the State interest rate for the time period of May 1, 2025, through April 30, 2026, and

authorizes the Superintendent and/or the Director of Finance to make withdrawals and repayments.

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

Motion Carried: 6-o.

B. Food Service Ovens

Motion by Mrs. Waterson, supported by Mrs. Risner,

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the purchase of an oven for the middle school and an oven for the high school using food service funds in the amount not exceeding \$100,000 with a 5% contingency, pending bid results as discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carried: 6-o.

C. CISD Preliminary Proposed Budget 25/26

At the Harper Creek Community School District regular Board of Education Meeting held on April 14, 2025, the following resolution was offered by (member) Mr. Smith and supported by (member) Mrs. Wallace to adopt the following resolution.

Ayes (members): Mr. Halverson, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Risner, Mrs. Wallace, Mr. Bess.

Nays (members): none

Whereas, legislation enacted by the Michigan Legislature is intended to provide more local board of education input into the operation of Intermediate School Districts to be sure they are meeting their local constituent district needs, and Whereas, PA 234 of 2004 in the ISD Accountability Legislation specifically requires Intermediate School Districts to present their estimated general fund budget for the succeeding school year to local school district boards of education representatives and further requires the adoption of a resolution not later than June 1 to “support or disapprove (with suggested changes)” this budget, and Whereas, the Calhoun Intermediate School District has always presented this information annually to the delegate assembly of the Calhoun Area School Board members association in March for input and discussion, and will, therefore, meet the timeline of providing the same required information to CASB prior to April 1 of each year; and

Whereas, Calhoun Intermediate School District is required to “consider” objections or proposed changes as provided by the constituent school district boards;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved: that the Harper Creek Community School District has reviewed the information provided by the Administration of the Calhoun Intermediate School District relating to their projected 2025-2026 General Fund Budget and, following our careful review the Board of Education supports the 2025-2026 Calhoun Intermediate School District General Fund Operating Budget.

D. Algebra II/Precalculus Course

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the Harper Creek High School Algebra II/Precalculus Course as reviewed by the District Curriculum Council.

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

Motion Carried: 6-o

E. New Hires

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

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

- Cassandra Inman, Bachelor's, Central Michigan University – Beadle Lake Elementary Autism Spectrum Disorder Teacher, MA6.
- Ellie Owsley, Bachelor's, Michigan State University (non-teaching) – High School Science, BA1.
- Owen Miller, Bachelor's, Albion College – Beadle Lake Elementary Developmental Kindergarten Teacher, BA2.
- Lindsey Cook, Sonoma Elementary Principal, Start date July 1, 2025.

As discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carried: 6-o.

F. Emergency Operations Plan

Motion by Mrs. Wallace, supported by Mrs. Waterson,

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the Emergency Operations Plan, prepared by the vendor, Lock Out USA, and reviewed by Calhoun County Emergency Manager Chris Young, as discussed and reviewed.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Risner Y, Mr. Halverson Y, Mrs. Allwardt A, Mr. Smith Y, Mrs. Waterson Y, Mrs. Wallace Y.

Motion Carried: 6-o

G. Selection of Construction Management

Motion by Mrs. Risner, supported by Mrs. Wallace,

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the selection of Clark Construction as the District's Construction Management Firm, as discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carried: 6-o

XV. Items for the Next Meeting – No items

XVI. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 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.