

HARPER CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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Students for Life

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

Monday, May 19, 2025

9:00 AM – Building Committee Meeting

Harper Creek Administration Building

7454 B Drive North, Battle Creek, MI 49014

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. Present: Rob Atkins, Kingscott, Becky Timberlake, Clark Construction, Jaime, Clark Construction, Brodie Killian, PFM Financial, Ginger Obermyer, Financial Director, Jim Robinson, Facilities Director, Jim Maynard, Technology Director, Laura Williams, Assistant Superintendent, Rob Ridgeway, Superintendent, HCCS Board of Education Members Present: Beau Bess, President, Barry Smith, Vice President, Sara Wallace, Trustee.
- II. Discussion:
 - A. Introductions and Welcome
 - B. Bond Finance Review
 1. Brodie Killian of PFM presented a summary of proposed bonding alternatives, including assumptions and estimates on interest rates. Actual interest rates will be determined at the time of the bond due to changes in the rate that impact the millage required. Each scenario presented is with a zero increase in mills and School Bond Loan Fund mandatory loan repayment date of 2037.
 2. Treasury Day will be in March of 2026.
 - C. Bond Committee Structure
 1. Review proposed August 2026 Bond Committee Structure
 - a. Board of Education serves as Bond Overseer to receive updates from the Steering Committee (TBD) and to provide oversight on the entire bond issue.
 - 1) Board members will provide key milestone updates at the regular Board of Education meetings. Mr. Smith recommends that a regular Bond Update agenda item be placed on the Board Agenda.
 - b. Core Team - Process Oversight Team (Bi-Weekly)
 - 1) Members will include Mr. Ridgeway, Mr. Robinson, Kingscott, and Clark Construction. The following individuals, as needed, will be Mrs. Obermyer, Mr. Maynard, Mrs. Williams, and the communications team.
 - 2) The Core Team will drive the entire pre-bond effort, developing and maintaining the overall pre-bond schedule and tracking milestones. The Core Team will coordinate between the architect, construction management, and district administration.
 - 3) The Core Team will guide the development of facility options, review cost estimates, as well as oversee the preparation of the Treasury Application and bond language.

- 4) The Core Team will organize logistics for community meetings and presentations.

D. Bond Steering Committee – Bond Decision Maker (Monthly start July 2025)

- 1) Members will include 1-2 Board members, core team members, community leaders, parents, and teachers. Membership will make sure key groups are represented, including seniors.
- 2) The Bond Steering Committee will review and prioritize the district's needs and wants. The committee will attend key meetings, recommend the final bond project scope to the Board of Education, support the campaign formation, and facilitate community engagement.
- 3) Board members will reiterate the correct information regarding the Casino Money (PILT) to community members, as well as the correct information on School of Choice, utilizing K-12 Media and other forms of communication with stakeholders.

E. Bond Timeline

1. Review August 2026 Pre-Bond Timeline, including key dates.
 - a. Kickoff May 2025 – evaluate facility needs and educational assessment updates, recommend updates, develop estimates, and engage stakeholders.
 - b. Shared Vision - August through October 2025 – Gather input and group feedback and present results to the community.
 - c. The Right Project- November 2025 through February 2026 – develop and design options and costs, share options with the community, refine options, develop funding scenarios and Master Plan for facilities, survey community to confirm support, prepare Bond Application, and present the Bond Application at the Treasury Meeting. The application for the Preliminary Qualifications of Bond will be in March of 2026.
 - d. Engage Voters – March 2026 through August 2026. Election Day is on August 4, 2026, and note that the estimated absentee ballot is available June 25, 2026 (estimated date).

F. Election Laws

1. Provide clear messaging to all Board members, Teachers, and Community members on the election laws so that they are able to communicate to stakeholders.

G. Rental House Property

1. The rental house property is currently vacant due to an eviction for nonpayment. Mr. Robinson estimates \$30,000.00 in repairs if Harper Creek Community Schools wishes to rent it out again. To demolish the property, including debris removal, sand fill, and topsoil, as well as any asbestos removal, capping the well, and other expenses, is approximately \$18,470.00. Mr. Robinson is also checking to see if a controlled burn of the property could take place. The building committee recommends demolition based on these two options.

III. Comments from the Audience

- A. There were no comments from the audience.

IV. Adjournment

A. The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 am.

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.