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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
Monday, October 12, 2026
6:00 PM – Regular Board of Education Meeting
Harper Creek Administration Building
7454 B Drive North, Battle Creek, MI 49014

https://www.youtube.com/live/j4Y0f-WHiTU

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.
II. Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Bess led the Pledge and a moment of silence.
III. Roll Call: Present members – Mrs. Allwardt, Mr. Bess, Mr. Halverson, Mrs. Risner, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Waterson
IV. Review and Approval of Agenda: No modifications to the agenda.
V. Communications
   A. President's Remarks: Mr. Bess welcomed attendees, noted that Fall conferences and book fairs are scheduled for this week, and looked forward to a successful meeting.welcomed the audience.
   B. Administration: Mr. Ridgeway discussed Count Day, stating that HCCS is up approximately thirty-two students from last year's fall count. In addition, Mr. Ridgeway mentioned upcoming important dates, including October 13, 2026, and October 14, 2026, for Fall Conferences around the district, and October 16th -October 19th are the dates for Fall Break. Mr. Ridgeway also updated the Board on the countywide Professional Development day on November 6, 2026, at Harper Creek Community Schools. Next, Mr. Ridgeway reviewed the District policy regarding visitors and volunteers. Lastly, Mr. Ridgeway shared updates from the Counselor's Round Table meeting, highlighting the counseling team's recent efforts and progress toward the District's goal of better communication.
   C. Board Secretary: There were no reports or communications.
VI. District Updates
   A. Curriculum: Mr. Abraham reported using the data from Early Warning Indicators, NWEA beginning-of-the-year diagnostics, and EWIMS (Early Warning, Intervention, and Monitoring System). Mr. Abraham also discussed holding grade-level parent meetings to help families understand how best to support their children through each stage of their education. Mr. Abraham discussed the roles and responsibilities document in Boardbook for high school administration. Lastly, Mr. Abraham called for an Academic Achievement Committee Meeting.

B. Facility: Mr. Robinson discussed that the Wattles Park parking lot plans are in the design phase with the engineers at this time. Mr. Robinson will update the Board when they are complete. In addition, Mr. Robinson praised the Middle School staff for organizing an excellent carnival, noting that the grounds were left in fantastic condition afterward.
C. Finance: Mrs. Obermyer reviewed the monthly finance reports. Mrs. Obermyer reminded the Board that there is no state aid in September. In addition, Mrs. Obermyer discussed that the Auditor will be at the November meeting to report to the Board. Also, Mrs. Obermyer stated that $35,000 was earned interest. Next, Mrs. Obermyer discussed that the Grow Your Own Grant is closed. This grant provided 2.5 million dollars to district staff choosing to add endorsements or become certified. Sixty-three Harper Creek Community Schools staff members benefited from the grant. Lastly, Mrs. Obermyer reported that the Educational Benefits Form push has helped the district by better representing our free and reduced population. This year will be at approximately forty-two percent. This allows Harper Creek to apply for more need-based grants.
D. Technology: Mr. Maynard discussed classroom AV and microphones, stating this is a high-priority need. In addition, Mr. Maynard discussed that the District continues to be diligent on email security. Email systems for the District will move to a more secure login method of passkeys starting in February.

VII. Comments Related to Agenda Items: There were no comments.

VIII. 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. Approve September 14, 2026, Special Closed Meeting Minutes
    2. Approve September 14, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
    3. Approve September 28, 2026, Joint Board of Education Meeting Minutes
    4. Approve October 7, 2026, Building Committee Meeting Minutes
    5. Approve October 8, 2026, Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Halverson, supported by Mrs. Risner,
That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the consent agenda as follows:

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

B. Approve the following minutes as reviewed:

- Approve September 14, 2026, Special Closed Meeting minutes
- Approve September 14, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approve September 28, Joint Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- Approve October 7, 2026, Building Committee Meeting Minutes
- Approve October 8, 2026, Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Motion Carried: 7-0.

IX. Information and Discussion

A. School Safety: The safety committee met and discussed drill procedures, pick-up and drop-off, large event protocol, Homecoming, and vape detectors at the high school. The safety committee discussed window film, facial recognition, metal detectors, gun detection software, and additional hallway clocks as enhanced security,

B. Strategic Plan Update: Mr. Ridgeway discussed the dyslexia training that teachers are undergoing at the current time to better teach students reading using the science of teaching. Mr. Ridgeway added that the administration is monitoring the market to decide if refinancing a bond is favorable. Lastly, Mr. Ridgeway discussed the volunteer network system and expectations for District volunteers.

C. Facility Planning: Mr. Ridgeway discussed the potential to go out for a Bond Proposal in November of 2027. Mr. Ridgeway stated that HCCS will work on telling their story through marketing, making sure information is simple, accurate, consistent, and delivered in multiple ways. Maintaining strong academics, finances, and facilities is essential for Harper Creek Community Schools. It is important to nurture opportunities to foster relationships with townships and municipalities within our community. Mr. Ridgeway continues to stay aware of developments within the District, including the Blue Oval plant and any new housing developments.

D. Summer Tax Levy Resolution: The Board of Education collects taxes only during the summer levy. Historically, Harper Creek Community Schools has chosen summer tax collection only to ensure enough cash flow, so we don't have to borrow any money. School of Choice 2nd Semester: For the past several years, Harper Creek Community Schools has not participated in 2nd semester School of Choice. Our student numbers are stable, and it is recommended that we do not open the 2nd semester window for School of Choice.

E. DECA Overnight Trip: The high school chapter of DECA requested an overnight and out-of-state trip to the Ultimate DECA Power Trip in Louisville, Kentucky, November 20 through 22, 2026. Representing Harper Creek Community Schools would be four boys and four girls. It is recommended to approve this trip by the HC DECA executive board.

X. ACTION

A. Summer Tax Levy Resolution

A regular meeting of the board of education of the District (the "Board") was held in the Harper Creek Administration Building within the boundaries of the District, on the 12th day of October 2026, at 6 o'clock in the PM. (the "Meeting").

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bess, President.

Present Members: Mr. Halverson, Mrs. Risner, Mrs. Waterson, Mrsr. Allwardt, Mrs. Wallace, Mr. Smith, Mr. Bess.

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

WHEREAS, this Board previously adopted a resolution to impose a summer tax levy to collect 100% of annual school property taxes, including debt service, upon property located within the District and continuing from year-toyear until specifically revoked by the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Pursuant to the Revised School Code, MCL 380.1 et seq., the Board invokes for 2027 its previously adopted ongoing resolution imposing a summer tax levy of 100% of annual school property taxes, including debt service, upon property located within the District and continuing from year to year until specifically revoked by the Board and requests that each city and/or township in which the District is located collect those summer taxes.
2. The Superintendent or designee is authorized and directed to forward to the governing body of each city and/or township in which the District is located a copy of this Board's resolution requesting that each such city and/or township agree to collect the summer tax levy for 2027 in the amount specified in this resolution. Such forwarding of the resolutions and the request to collect the summer tax levy shall be performed so that they are received by the appropriate governing bodies on or before December 31, 2026.

3. Pursuant to and in accordance with Revised School Code Section 1613()), the Superintendent or designee is authorized and directed to negotiate on behalf of the District with the governing body of each city and/or township in which the District is located for the reasonable expenses for collection of the District's summer tax levy that the city and/or township may bill under Revised School Code Sections 1611 or 1612. Any such proposed agreement shall be brought before this Board for its approval or disapproval.
4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.
   Ayes: Mr. Halverson, Mrs. Risner, Mrs. Waterson, Mrs. Allwardt, Mrs. Wallace, Mr. Smith, Mr. Bess
   Nays: None

   Resolution declared adopted.

   The undersigned, duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Harper Creek Community Schools, hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at the Meeting, the original of which is part of the Board's minutes. The undersigned further certifies that notice of the Meeting was given to the public pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act (Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended).

B. School of Choice 2nd Semester
   Motion by Mr. Smith, supported by Mrs. Risner,
   That the Harper Creek Board of Education declines participation in Schools of Choice, Section 105, for the second semester of the 2026-27 school year.
   Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Risner Y, Mrs. Wallace Y, Mr. Halverson Y, Mr. Smith Y, Mrs. Waterson Y, Mrs. Allwardt Y, Mr. Bess Y.
   Motion Carried: 7-0.

C. DECA Overnight Trip
   Motion by Mrs. Wallace, supported by Mr. Halverson,
   That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the DECA Executive Board trip to attend the Ultimate DECA Power Trip in Louisville, Kentucky, November 20 through November 22, 2026, as discussed and reviewed.
   Roll Call Vote: Mr. Bess Y, Mrs. Allwardt Y, Mrs. Wallace Y, Mrs. Waterson Y, Mr. Smith Y, Mr. Halverson Y, Mrs. Risner Y.
   Motion carried: 7-0.

XI. Items for the Next Meeting: Mrs. Waterson discussed the MASB's legislative priorities. New and substituted resolutions include nonpartisan school boards, assessments and competency testing, safe and secure schools, and school buses. Other items for the delegate vote include amended resolutions, continuing resolutions, and deleted resolutions. The delegate assembly shall establish and follow rules as recommended by the board or as amended and adopted by the delegates. The delegate assembly is on Thursday, October 15, 2026, with registration at 6:00 PM and the Assembly at 7:00 PM.

XII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 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.