

HARPER CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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Students for Life

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

Monday, September 14, 2026

4:45 PM – Special Meeting - Reinstatement

Harper Creek Administration Building

7454 B Drive North, Battle Creek, MI 49014

- I. Call to Order: 4:45
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call: Present Board Members – Mrs. Allwardt, Mr. Bess, Mrs. Risner, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Waterson, Mr. Halverson (arrived at 5:00 PM). Absent – Mr. Smith.
- IV. Motion for Closed Session 8(b) as requested by a parent of a student at 4:47 PM
 - A. Motion by Mrs. Risner, supported by Mrs. Wallace,
That the Board of Education of Harper Creek Community Schools convenes in closed session at the request of the student's parent(s) pursuant to Section 8(b) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(b), to consider the discipline of a Student whose identity is known to the Board of Directors.
Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Wallace Y, Mr. Bess Y, Mrs. Risner Y, Mrs. Waterson Y, Mr. Smith ABSENT, Mr. Halverson Y, Mrs. Allwardt Y.
Motion Carried: 6-0.
- V. Discussion
 - A. Petition for Reinstatement
 1. The student was able to request reinstatement in July 2026. Parents requested reinstatement on August 3, 2026. A reinstatement committee, composed of board members, teachers, administrators, and a parent, met on August 17, 2026. The committee reviewed documents submitted by the parents, the Comforts of Home Counselor, and notes from administrators regarding the expulsion and incidents during tutoring.
 2. The committee considered the following factors:
 - a. Student's Age
 - b. The student's disciplinary history
 - c. Whether the Student has a disability
 - d. The seriousness of the behavior
 - e. Whether the behavior posed a safety risk
 - f. Whether restorative practices are a better option
 - g. Whether lesser interventions would address the behavior
 3. The committee did not recommend reinstatement at this time.
 4. The Board deliberated in closed session.
- VI. Motion for Open Session
Motion by Mrs. Wallace, supported by Mrs. Risner,
That the Harper Creek Board of Education resume in open session.
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Bess Y, Mr. Smith ABSENT, Mrs. Wallace Y, Mrs. Risner Y, Mrs. Allwardt Y, Mr. Halverson Y, Mrs. Waterson Y.
Motion Carried: 6-0.

VII. Motion to deny reinstatement at this time.

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

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the Reinstatement Committee's recommendation to not reinstate the student known to the Board of Education at this time, as discussed and reviewed.

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

Motion Carried: 6-0.

VIII. Adjournment: 5:39 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.