

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
HOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**The School District of the City of Holland
Ottawa County, Michigan
September 21, 2026**

- I. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - WELCOME** – President Colburn will welcome the audience and call the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

BOARD: Trustees Arendhorst, Schipper, Woltman, Colburn, Ybarra, Mulder and Veliz

ADMINISTRATORS: Superintendent Cassidy, Deputy Superintendent Pennington, Associate Superintendents McCloud, Murphy-Dubay and Principle Iliana Vasquez.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Regular Business Meeting of September 21, 2026
2. Consent Agenda for September 21, 2026

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. August 17, 2026, Regular Business Meeting

Moved by Diane Ybarra, supported by Lois Mulder, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda for September 21, 2026. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. HOLLAND HIGH SCHOOL SENATE

Student President Harper Schoon-Tanis provide the board with an update.

V. HPS CELEBRATES

Huntington Bank and their support to send staff to the Ron Clark Academy.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

VII. BUILDING PRESENTATIONS

Principal Iliana Vasquez presented celebrations, Challenges, and Data for Holland Language Academy.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Deputy Superintendent Pennington recommended the following personnel action:

1. Hiring:
 - **Cara Bowen**, Special Education (Resource) Teacher, Holland Middle School, effective August 24, 2026.
 - **Kirsten Fabiano**, 1st Grade Teacher, Holland Heights School, effective August 24, 2026.
 - **Rebecca Jakubowski**, Alternative Programs Teacher, District, effective August 24, 2026.

- **Aubrey Prutch**, Instructional Coach, Holland High School, effective August 24, 2026.

Moved by Martin Veliz, supported by Mark Woltman that the Board of Education approve probationary contracts for the following: Cara Bowen, Kirsten Fabiano, Rebecca Jakubowski, and Aubrey Prutch. The motion was unanimously approved.

IX. BOARD COMMITTEES and STUDY SESSION REPORTS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. TEACHING FOR LEARNING: Chairperson Mulder will report on the September 8, 2026, meeting of the Teaching for Learning Committee.

The teaching for learning committee will bring forward a recommendation to approve the district representative to the Parent Advisory Committee of the Ottawa Area ISD.

Moved by Rebekah Schipper, supported by Chris Arendshorst, that the board of education approve Daniel Luyk to be the district representative to the Ottawa Area ISD Parent Advisory Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

Agenda Review and Roll Call: Meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

Board: Trustees Mulder, Schipper and Veliz

Administration: Superintendent Cassidy and Associate Superintendents McCloud and Joseph

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Office of School Improvement: Associate Superintendent Joseph provided updates on the following:

- PD Debrief
 - Focus on professional learning process centered around student achievement.
- School Improvement Goals (3 goals)
 - Mathematics & Problem Solving
 - Reveal Math Update
 - Literacy
 - 164K Compliance (Literacy PD Compliance)
 - Work needed on Assessment system for intervention
 - SEL/SEB
 - TCIS Training, Restorative Practices Training, PBIS Continuation, Behavior Definition Alignment, Behavior Process Alignment, Adv. Tiers Training and continuation.
- 164k Compliance update (Literacy PD Compliance)
- Presidential Fitness Testing Mandate Compliance
- Media Centers
 - Working to develop a plan for Media Center use.
- YouScience
 - Implementing Youscience at HMS and HHS this fall in partnership with West Coast Chamber

Office of Student Services: Associate Superintendent McCloud will provide updates on the following:

- Professional Development Kick Off
- Ottawa Area Intermediate School District (OAISD)
 - [Parent Advisory Committee](#)
 - Lori Lepard served the last 3years
 - Daniel Luyk to join upon board approval

Superintendent Updates: Superintendent Cassidy will provide updates on the following:

- Enrollment updates
- STEM Night
 - September 24, 5:00pm-7:00pm
- Technology Committee Update
- Building Presentations

Other: No other items were discussed

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

B. FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Chairperson Woltman will report on the September 9, 2026, meeting of the Finance and Property Committee.

Agenda Review and Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m.

Present:

Board: Trustees Ybarra, Arendshorst, and Woltman

Administration: Superintendent Cassidy, Associate Superintendent Murphy-DuBay, and Deputy Superintendent Pennington.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Finance & Property: Associate Superintendent Murphy-DuBay provided updates on the following:

- Financial Reports for August 2026: Associate Superintendent Murphy-DuBay reviewed the general fund budget to actual report and the capital project listing report for the month of August.
- Sinking Fund Priorities and Planning Discussion.
 - Business office is creating a 10year sinking fund plan.

Human Resources Report: Deputy Superintendent Pennington provided an update on the following:

- Vacancies and Postings Update
- Other Personnel Items

Superintendent Updates: Superintendent Cassidy provided an update on the following:

- Enrollment Numbers
 - Athletics and Performing Arts Budget Discussion-comparison of investments in Athletics vs. Performing Arts.
- Maplewood Update and Timeline
- Bond Project Updates

Other:

- Recommendation of school bus purchases.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: President Colburn will report on the September 9, 2026, meeting of the Executive Committee.

Agenda Review and Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 3:36 p.m.

Present:

Board: Trustees Colburn, Woltman and Ybarra

Administrators: Superintendent Cassidy

Guest: Stan Miller

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Superintendent Updates:

- Enrollment Update
- Staffing Updates
- Review of Counseling Agency MOU's
- Board Retreat Planning (joined by Stan Miller from MASB)
- Jefferson Communication and Restructuring Timeline
- Maplewood Update and Timeline
- Building Presentations

Study Session Agenda Construction: Committee members will plan the agenda for the September Study Session Meeting based upon the discussions at Teaching for Learning, Finance & Property, Executive Committee, and matters arising.

Other: No other items were discussed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

D. BOARD STUDY SESSION: President Colburn will report on the September 14, 2026, Study Session.

Agenda Review and Roll Call: President Colburn will welcome all participants and call the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Training Room of the District Administration Building, 320 West 24th Street.

ROLL CALL:

BOARD: Trustees Arendshorst, Colburn, Mulder, Schipper, Veliz and Woltman

ADMINISTRATION: Superintendent Cassidy (5:10pm), Deputy Superintendent Pennington and Associate Superintendents McCloud, Joseph and Murphy-Dubay.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Introduction to HPS App: Director of Communications and Marketing, Jason Craner, presented the new district app.

Committee Reports:

- Teaching for Learning Committee:** Chairperson Mulder provided updates with items discussed at the Teaching for Learning Committee meeting on September 8, 2026.
- Finance & Property Committee:** Chairperson Woltman provided updates with items discussed at the Finance & Property Committee meeting on September 9, 2026.

Associate Superintendent Murphy-Dubay brought forward a recommendation to approve the purchase of 2 school buses.

Moved by Mark Woltman, supported by Lois Mulder, that the board of education approve the purchase of 2 school buses with lifts from Holland Bus Company for the price of \$340,582.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Arendshorst, Schipper, Woltman, Colburn, Mulder and Veliz

Nays:

- c. **Executive Committee:** President Colburn provided updates with items discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on September 9, 2026.

Superintendent Cassidy brought forward a recommendation to approve MOUs with HPS and Counseling Agencies as presented.

Moved by Mark Woltman, supported by Chris Arendshorst, that the Board of Education approve Memorandums of Understanding with HPS and Counseling Agencies as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

Personnel Report: Deputy Superintendent Pennington updated the committee on personnel items.

Superintendent Updates:

- Enrollment Update
- Board Retreat and Professional Learning
 - Board retreat/CBA 103 Assignment
 - Self-Assessment

Policy Update po9215: Discussion around Neola Policy 9215

Board Meeting Agenda Construction: Board Members will plan the agenda for the September 29, 2025 Board Meeting. (Harper Schoon-Tanis, Student Senate president, will provide an update. Other ideas: Huntington Bank, HLA Presentation)

Other: Other items discussed include:

- Audit Presentation Discussion.
 - Presenting in October.
- Reinstatement Committee for Sept. 22 at 12:00pm.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:22p.m.

X. SUPERINTENDENT'S/CABINET REPORT AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Superintendent Open Office Hours: Superintendent Cassidy has open office hours scheduled for Thursday, October 1, 8:00 a.m., at the District Administration Office, Lincoln Conference Room. Superintendent Cassidy will host open office hours on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00 a.m. If you would like to reach Superintendent Cassidy, please email him:

ncassidy@hollandpublicschools.org.

B. Current Legislative and District Initiatives: Superintendent Cassidy will share information on recent district initiatives and legislative action.

District Updates

Events:

Homecoming Week- Spirit Days all week

Thursday, 9/24 5:00-7:00pm- STEM Night

Friday, 9/25 at 6pm- Homecoming Parade from Centennial Park to Hope College Stadium, featuring HHS Marching Band, Students from Elementary Buildings, and community partners, and Student Organizations.

7pm- Holland vs. Calvin Christian

Saturday, 9/26 at 11:45am- Big "Classico" rivalry match vs. West Ottawa Soccer

Saturday, 9/26- 8-11pm- Homecoming Dance

Thursday, 10/1: School Nurse Run

Facilities Updates

West- The finishing touches are being put on Phase 2. I am extremely grateful for the flexibility and understanding of the West staff as we work through this phased project. There are always extra complications when students are on campus during a construction project. Phase 3 has started, with the Southwest Corner of the building under construction for the remainder of the year. Phase 4 will start in the summer, and that work should be completed by the start of the 27/28 school year. When the project is complete, the school will feature Extended Learning Areas, 4 classrooms per grade, increased light, remodeled common spaces, updated kitchen and an early elementary wing, among other upgrades.

Athletic Complex- Installation of turf will begin on the baseball field this week. Baseball and Softball will be ready by the spring. The track will not be ready by the spring. All meets will be scheduled away in the spring, and the practices will be held at HMS. The football field is scheduled for completion by early August, with the first home game scheduled for August 27, 2027. Summer practices will be at an alternative location.

HLA @ Jefferson- Designs are progressing for the remodel of the Jefferson building with the page turn scheduled for next month. This project will feature increased light, extended learning areas, and improvements to the cafeteria, media center, kitchen, and updated hallways. While we plan to keep HLA a two-section school, this building will allow flexibility in programming. Construction on this project will begin in June of 2027 with a scheduled completion of August of 2028.

Longfellow- Our Longfellow building is currently being leased to Holland Christian's southside elementary school and Head Start. Holland Christian is scheduled to be in there until November of 2027. This is a mutually beneficial partnership that allows them to complete their construction project, while we bring in some revenue for a building that would not be fully operational. We will be exploring options for the use of this facility once their lease is up.

Maplewood- We are currently in the process of getting bids for the demolition of the Maplewood building. This is likely to happen early this winter. There have been several requests about the ability to open the doors to Maplewood prior to demolition. We will schedule a community open house later this fall. I will be bringing a draft RFP to the board for discussion in October. Our previous discussions have focused on a targeted RFP with Jubilee Ministries that will result in housing that will work with our Teachers Live Here Grant, provide attainable housing for HPS families, and also protect some of the greenspace currently shared with Maplewood Park.

Legislative Updates

Legislative activity at both the state and federal levels is non-existent as all lawmakers are home campaigning. Here is an update on the constitutional convention question that will appear on the ballot this November.

Constitutional Convention – Every 16 years, voters in Michigan are automatically asked on the November ballot whether or not they would like to have a constitutional convention where a new draft constitution would be written. Every time this question has appeared on the ballot since the 1970's, voters have said "no" and we carry on with our 1963 Michigan Constitution (complete with

several amendments over the years). Currently, polling suggests that voters may be inclined to approve a new constitutional convention when they are asked on their November ballot in several weeks. When polled earlier this month, a sample of 600 likely voters responded with 47.2% support, 31.1% opposed, and the remaining 22% undecided. This poll has a margin of error of 4%. A constitutional convention would be a wild, risky, and expensive endeavor. Voters would have to elect 148 partisan delegates to the convention through a special statewide election in the spring. These delegates would write a brand new, draft constitution. This new draft would eventually need to go in front of the voters for final approval. The new draft could entirely change tax policy, our system of public education, our system of legislating, eliminate pension guarantees, and a myriad of other items. It is the ultimate blank slate. If voters rejected a new draft, we would stick with the current constitution.

XI. OTHER: No other items were discussed.

XII. ADJOURNMENT: President Colburn adjourned the meeting at 5:49 p.m.

Approved as presented: _____
Lois Mulder, Secretary