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

The School District of the City of Holland
Ottawa County, Michigan
October 19, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - WELCOME – President Colburn welcomed the audience and called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

BOARD: Arendshorst, Colburn, Schipper, Ybarra, Mulder, Veliz

ADMINISTRATORS: Superintendent Cassidy, Deputy Superintendent Pennington and Associate Superintendents Murphy-Dubay and Joseph.

Guest: Via Google meet, Jon Ringlein

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Agenda
   1. Regular Business Meeting of October 19, 2026
   2. Consent Agenda for October 19, 2026

B. Approval of Minutes
   1. September 21, 2026, Regular Business Meeting
   2. September 25, 2026, Special Meeting

Moved by Martin Veliz, supported by Diane Ybarra, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda for October 19, 2026. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. HOLLAND HIGH SCHOOL SENATE

Student Senate President Harper Schoon-Tanis provided an update to the Board.

- Homecoming week Assembly included several fun competitions. The Senior class had the overall win.
- Homecoming Parade was a success
- Looking forward to and starting to plan a new route for the new stadium next year
- The Homecoming dance was a lot of fun
- Trunk or treat will be Sunday, October 25 from 5:00-6:30pm in the back-parking lot. All Community event with fun games and treats.
- Thinking about new ideas that include “fun Friday’s” and a possible anti-vape initiative.

V. HPS CELEBRATES

HHS Students Recognized by National Merit Scholarship Program: Each year, 1.5 million students enter the National Merit Scholarship Program, by taking the PSAT/NMSQT.

Congratulations to Sam Huizinga for being named a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Sam’s performance on the PSAT/NMSQT placed him among the top 50,000

students nationwide—roughly the top 4%. This recognition reflects Sam's academic ability, dedication, and hard work. HPS is incredibly proud of him and grateful to have him represent Holland High School so positively.

- Sam and his parents were present to be celebrated and shake hands with the board members.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Albert McGeehan 66 W. 40th -Spoke on the importance of teaching American History.
- Katie Meyer 626 W. 29th St -HEA celebrations: after school clubs, Maestra Denia Rodriguez recognized as WZZM 13's Teacher of the Week and thank you to HEF for the many grants given in the Fall Grant cycle.
- Megan Herzog 74 E. 23rd St. -Spoke on the Importance of extended play.

VII. ANNUAL AUDIT PRESENTATION

Jon Ringlein, CPA, Senior Manager with Maner Costerisan Audit Firm, presented the results of the June 30, 2026, annual financial audit. The full presentation is available in the board folder. [ATTACHMENT A]

VIII. WEST SCHOOL BUILDING PRESENTATION

Principal Tolsen presented celebrations, Challenges, and Data for West Elementary. The full presentation is available in the board folder. [ATTACHMENT B]

Celebrations:

- Beautiful new spaces, Dudes and Donuts, 11 Students exited the ML Program, Academic Growth, Added 18 students this year, Numerous community partners.
- Enrollment trending up over the past 5 years.
- 90% attendance on count day.

Challenges:

- Various construction challenges, Substitutes for PD's, Academic proficiency, Playground busyness and transition time, Lack of a media center

Building Goals By spring of 2027:

- Closing achievement gaps between Student groups
- Decrease in Chronic absenteeism
- Decrease in behavior referral data for Physical aggression

MWEA MAP

- Reading-Growth
- Math-Growth
- Looking to support by grade needs

M-STEP

- Focus on Bubble groups
- Shifting to focus on K-2

Data Meetings

- Using classroom data to drive what areas teachers will get coaching in. Every teacher will work with a support coach this year.

Behavior Support

- 2 fulltime salaried employees added as behavioral specialists.
- PBIS teaching POWER expectations through fun videos.

Questions:

Chairperson Veliz asked, what does Chad think contributes to a decrease in referrals?

Answer: Having experienced teachers, PBIS practice with expectations in the physical

locations they are reviewing.

Chairperson Mulder asked about plans for welcoming Jefferson Students

Answer: Will be working on ideas for welcoming students as well as welcoming the Jefferson staff.

Chairperson Schipper asked if teachers had a favorable reception to the idea of receiving support coaches.

Answer: Teachers were able to see the places that needed support themselves and welcomed it.

IX. PERSONNEL REPORT AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS

There were no new recommendations to be brought forward.

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

A. TEACHING FOR LEARNING: Chairperson Mulder reported on the October 5, 2026, meeting of the Teaching for Learning Committee.

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:

- PLC Process Progress and the questions being asked in each meeting.
  - Discussed assessments and how data is being used to guide instructional strategies and interventions.
  - Interventions and enrichment are being built into the school day.
  - An update was provided regarding Reveal Math implementation. Elementary is going well. Secondary implementation has been a little clunky.

- Media Center Vision Support
  - Associate Superintendent Joseph met with Media Specialists and shared a vision of Media Centers could look like in the future.
  - Goal of having a place for literacy, but also an area where creativity comes to life through Maker Space type activities.
- DIT shift to SIT/MICIP Goals -School Improvement is working to align goals and reduce them to three main goals.
  - Literacy
    - PA 146, Literacy, and Dyslexia Law (Curriculum Council with potential add of HS ELA
  - Math - More training, intervention, and support
    - Intervention of tier 2
    - Explaining the difference of tier 1-3 and math vs. reading
    - K-5 Report Cards with new curriculum
  - Social Emotional Learning -SEL/SEB Advanced Tiers
  - Sub goals will be added between each of the goals.

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

- BTAM overview and updates
    - Presentation on Behavioral Threat Assessments and Management. [ATTACHMENT C]

Superintendent Updates: Superintendent Cassidy provided updates on the following:

- Enrollment Update
    - The latest attendance data showed that enrollment is up slightly (+6) from last year on the same date. Count day is on Wednesday, October 7th. Superintendent Cassidy explained the enrollment target in the last HEA contract, which could have resulted in a wage increases if the growth was shown over the two-year period.
- PATH Update and Middle School enrichment discussion
    - Superintendent Cassidy shared that the Path program which provided enrichment opportunities for Holland Middle School students is being discontinued after this school year. The district will be exploring options to provide continued enrichment and advanced course offerings at the Middle School.
- Elementary Attendance Zone Discussion and update
    - Attendance data has been reviewed and Mr. Cassidy is recommending that Washington/Michigan Ave be the dividing line between Heights and West starting in 2027.
    - An informational meeting has been scheduled at Jefferson Elementary on Tuesday, October 27th at 5:30pm.

Other: No other Items were discussed.

Adjournment: The meeting Adjourned at 9:06 am

B. FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Chairperson Ybarra reported on the October 6, 2026 meeting of the Finance and Property Committee.

Agenda Review and Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
Present:
Board: Trustees Woltman, Ybarra and Arendshorst
Administration: Superintendent Cassidy, Deputy Superintendent Pennington and Associate Superintendent Murphy-Dubay

Public Comments: There were no Public comments

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

- **Financial Reports for September 2026**: Associate Superintendent Murphy-DuBay reviewed the general fund budget to actual report and the capital project listing report for the month of September.
    - Associate Superintendent Murphy-DuBay reported that the budget is on track compared to previous years and projections.
    - Associate Superintendent Murphy-DuBay discussed activity and trust accounts that have not been accessed recently.
    - Food Service has started to make a profit after two years of being supported by general funds.
    - Holland should add close to $1 Million to fund balance.
    - Associate Superintendent Murphy-DuBay explained a document that the business office is preparing regarding a potential sinking fund usage schedule over the next 10 years.
- FY26 Audit Presentation at the Board of Education meeting on October 19, 2026.

- John Reinglin from Manor Costarison will be presenting audit findings.

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

- Personnel updates
  - Staffing: there have not been many new hires. Staff attendance issues has been an area of focus.
  - Transportation training and meetings that are being offered to drivers and IAs.
- Bargaining updates
  - Deputy Superintendent Pennington informed the board that the district had their initial contract negotiation meeting with the HEA on 10/5/26. The district is compiling a list of suggested contract language changes that will be presented to the HEA.

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

- Enrollment Update
  - Holland is currently up 16 K-12 students compared to the same date from last year. This number does not include shared time.
- Discussion regarding sale of paintings and donated items
  - Carl Hoerman Paintings from the Class of 1941. The Finance and Property Committee will do more research on the paintings and if there are any stipulations regarding the donations.
- Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) Discussion
  - The committee discussed SGOs
- Student Support Organization Policy Discussion
  - The Committee discussed NEOLA policy 9215. Some members of the committee will be joining the policy review with NEOLA on 10/22/26
- Internal Fundraising Policies Discussion
  - Administrative Guideline 6610A (Student Activity Funds) was discussed.
  - The Committee discussed desired processes and procedures regarding internal fundraising
  - Finance and Property will plan on meeting at 3:00pm on November 3rd to allow for more time for discussion on this policy.

Other: There were no other items discussed

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:21p.m.

C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: President Colburn reported on the October 6, 2026, meeting of the Executive Committee.

Agenda Review and Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m.
Present:
Board: Trustees Woltman, Colburn and Ybarra
Administrators: Superintendent Cassidy

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

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

- Enrollment Update

- Holland is currently up 16 K-12 students compared to the same date from last year. This number does not include shared time.
- Elementary Attendance Lines Discussion and Timeline
  - The proposed attendance line would use Washington Ave. with students in the Jefferson attendance zone West of Washington Ave attending West Elementary. Students to the East of Washington Ave would then attend Heights Elementary. An informational meeting is being scheduled for Tuesday, October 27th at 5:30pm at Jefferson Elementary. Superintendent Cassidy would like to bring a motion to the board in November for the adoption of new Elementary attendance lines.
- Boys Volleyball co-op
  - a recommendation for a Co-op between Holland and Saugatuck for boys' volleyball will be brought to the Board Study Session. This would allow for a JV and Varsity team. This would be a 2-year agreement.
- Superintendent Evidence and Evaluation Discussion

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

- HMS building presentation
- Boys Volleyball Co-op
- Discussion of Elementary Attendance Zones
- Maplewood update and discussion- Preparing for an RFP
- October 23rd Board Retreat Discussion and Preparation

Other: Items discussed include:

- HLA Enrollment concerns along with ideas to boost enrollment and programming moving forward**.**

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:11p.m.

D. BOARD STUDY SESSION: President Colburn reported on the October 12, 2026, Study Session.

Agenda Review and Roll Call: President Colburn welcomed all participants and called 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 by Lois Mulder
BOARD: Trustees Colburn, Ybarra, veliz, woltman, Mulder, Schipper
EXCUSED: Arendshorst
ADMINISTRATION: Superintendent Cassidy, Deputy Superintendent Pennington and Associate Superintendents McCloud, Murphy-Dubay and Joseph.

Public Comments: There were no public comments

Holland Middle School Building Presentation: Principal Bair and Assistant Principal Kreps provided an update on Middle School celebrations, challenges and data.

- Presentation is uploaded in the Board Folder. [ATTACHMENT D]. Principal Bair and Assistant Principal Kreps answered questions regarding their presentation. The presentation lasted from 5:05-5:50.

Committee Reports:

a. **Teaching for Learning Committee:** Chairperson Mulder provided updates with items discussed at the Teaching for Learning Committee meeting on October 5, 2026.
    - There were no questions

b. **Finance & Property Committee:** Chairperson Woltman provided updates with items discussed at the Finance & Property Committee meeting on October 6, 2026.
    - There was some discussion of Student Support Organizations and internal fundraising. Trustee Ybarra and/or Trustee Arrendshorst are planning on attending the NEOLA Fall update with questions regarding Student Support Organizations and administrative guidelines related to fundraising.
    - Discussion about a donation from the Holland High School class of 1941 and next steps for making sure that donation has an impact on Holland Public Schools.

c. **Executive Committee** President Colburn provided updates with items discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on October 6, 2026.
    - A timeline was given for Superintendent Cassidy to provide evaluation evidence in November. His evaluation will be scheduled in December.

Superintendent Cassidy made the recommendation for a co-op between Holland Public Schools and Saugatuck public Schools for boys' volleyball.

Moved by Martin Veliz, supported by Diane Ybarra, that the Board of Education approve a two-year boys' volleyball co-op between Holland Public schools and Saugatuck Public Schools. The motion was unanimously approved.

d. **Holland Educational Foundation Report:** Trustee Mulder provided updates.
    - Trustee Mulder provided an update on the Holland Educational Foundation. Fall grants were awarded to over 90 HPS staff members, totaling over $90,000. HEF is now preparing for the Red Tie Gala which will be held on November 6th.

e. **HEA Communications Update:** Trustee Arendshorst provided an update on the HEA Communications meeting from September 24, 2026.
    - Trustee Arendshorst was absent, so the update will be provided at the regular board meeting.

Personnel Report: Deputy Superintendent Pennington updated the committee on personnel items.
- Updates including recent hires, contract negotiations, and a healthcare cost update.

Superintendent Updates:
- Enrollment Update
    - Superintendent Cassidy provided an update on Fall Count with preliminary numbers showing a 22 FTE increase in K-12 students. A final count will be determined in a few weeks. Superintendent Cassidy shared enrollment trends since 2000.
        - 2000-2009- Average loss of 150 fte/year
        - 2010-2022- Average loss of 100 fte/year
        - 2023-2026- Average gain of 2 fte/year (assuming a 22 fte increase this year)
            - Projected average loss of 440 (110 fte/year)

- Discussion of Elementary Attendance Zones

- Superintendent Cassidy provided his recommendation for revised elementary attendance zones for the 2027/2028 school year as Elementary Schools are consolidated. The Jefferson attendance zone would be split down Michigan/Washington Avenue, with students West of that line zoned for West. Students East of that line would be zoned for Heights. An informational meeting will be held on 10/27/26 at 5:30 in the Jefferson cafeteria. This will be open to all community members. This meeting will share the reasoning behind the consolidation, the timeline for implementation, an explanation of programming, and will allow Superintendent Cassidy to answer questions from the community. Superintendent Cassidy plans on bringing a recommendation for new attendance lines to the board in November.



- Maplewood update and discussion- Preparing for an RFP
  - Superintendent Cassidy provided an update on the Maplewood property. The facilities department is working with GDK to secure bids for the demolition of this property this winter. Child Development Services are currently renting space through 10/16/26 as they wait to gain occupancy of their new facility on the north side of Holland. Superintendent Cassidy is working to schedule a Farewell Open House in November for community members to visit the building prior to demolition. Superintendent Cassidy is also working with Clark Hill to draft a targeted RFP for Jubilee Ministries that will focus on providing attainable housing for potential HPS families, reserve a number of properties for HPS staff, protect greenspace and athletic fields, and meet zoning requirements for the community.

Board Meeting Agenda Construction: Board Members planned the agenda for the October 19, 2026 Board Meeting. (Harper Schoon-Tanis), Student Senate president, will provide an update,
HPS Celebrates: National Merit Scholar- Sam Huizenga was suggested by the board.
Other ideas: West Elementary Presentation, Annual Audit Presentation

Board Retreat Agenda Construction: Board members will Discuss and plan the agenda for the October 23,
2026 Board Retreat.

Discussion:

- Reminders were given to board members to complete CBA 103 and complete the Self-Assessment (Due 10/20/26)

Agenda Items:

- Board Self-Assessment Workshop
- School Finances
- Board Governance
- Other

Other: No other items were discussed.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

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

A. Superintendent Open Office Hours: Superintendent Cassidy has open office hours scheduled for Thursday, November 6, 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. National Principals Month: Superintendent Cassidy announced October is National Principals Month, and thanked our principals for their dedication.

C. Current Legislative and District Initiatives: Superintendent Cassidy shared information on recent district initiatives and legislative action.

District Updates

Events

Grades PreK-5 Conference Schedule |

- Wednesday, October 21 | 3:30-6:30pm
- Thursday, October 22 | 12:30-3:30pm

Grades 6-12 Schedule | *Conferences at HMS and HHS are un-scheduled/walk-in.*

- Tuesday, October 20 | 3:30-6:30pm

Friday, October 23rd- No School for staff and students. The Board of Education will be taking part in a Self-Assessment Workshop as well as a School Finance Course.

Tuesday, October 27th, 5:30-6:30 in the Jefferson Cafeteria- Superintendent Cassidy will host a Parent Information Meeting on New Neighborhood School Zones and programming.

Enrollment- On count day or student enrollment for K-12 and Special Education students was up 22 students from last year. HPS has increased enrollment 3 of the last 4 years after averaging a loss of nearly 125 students per year since 2000.

Bond Projects

Athletic Complex-Work continues on our Athletic Complex. Softball Turf is down. Foundations are starting this week for the Entry and Concessions buildings.

HHS- HVAC planning continues with anticipated work taking place during the summer of 2027.

West- Phase 3 of West continues, which includes the Media Center and K/1 pods.

HLA at Jefferson- Planning and design has continued with the HLA at Jefferson project.

- Owner Page Turn: Thursday, October 29
- CD Issuance: Thursday, November 5
- Out to Bid: Thursday, November 12
- Bids Due: Thursday, December 10
- Post Bid Interviews: 12/14-12/15
- Board approval: December 21
- Construction starts June of 2027 and finishes August of 2028.

Legislative Updates

There are two legislative updates that I want to share with the board today. The first is regarding the Dear Colleague Letter from the US Department of Education that was sent to the State Attorney General. The letter has been uploaded into the board folder.
The letter focuses on protecting parental rights and ensuring school districts comply with federal requirements under FERPA and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA). The letter specifically warns that schools **must obtain prior written parental consent** before requiring students to participate in mental health screenings, surveys, evaluations, or similar activities that address protected topics such as mental health, sexual behavior, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or family income; an opt-out process is not sufficient. The Department urges state attorneys general to ensure districts understand and comply with these requirements and warns that continued violations may result in federal enforcement actions.

Holland Public will continue to work collaboratively with parents regarding any surveys and evaluations of students.

Federal Scholarship Tax Credits:
The Federal Scholarship Tax Credit (FSTC) presentation outlined proposed federal rules under Section 25F of the Internal Revenue Code that would provide individuals with a **nonrefundable federal tax credit of up to 1,700(3,400 for married couples filing jointly)** for qualified contributions to approved Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs). The program would require participating states to opt in, with SGOs meeting specific eligibility, scholarship distribution, recordkeeping, and audit requirements, while eligible students generally must meet defined income or other qualifying criteria. The presentation also discussed potential mechanisms such as payroll deductions and digital wallets to facilitate contributions and scholarship payments, while noting that the IRS and Treasury are still developing additional rules regarding eligible expenses. Michigan's participation and the specific impact on local school districts remain dependent on the final federal regulations and state decisions.

A question that keeps coming up with school leaders, is how this could be organized and if it would be a benefit to public schools. 90% of funds must go to student programs with 10% can be used for administrative costs. There are still many questions regarding allowable expenses, if Michigan will opt in, and what process will be needed to connect students with funds.

XIII. OTHER:
Review of Board Retreat Agenda. Draft Agenda available in Board Folder.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: President Colburn adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

Approved as presented: _____
Lois Mulder, Secretary