

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

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**The School District of the City of Holland  
Ottawa County, Michigan  
August 17, 2026**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

**BOARD:**

**ADMINISTRATORS:**

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Regular Business Meeting of August 17, 2026
2. Consent Agenda for August 17, 2026

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. July 27, 2026, Regular Business Meeting

**Moved by Chris Arendshorst supported by Diane Ybarra, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda for August 17, 2026.** The motion was unanimously approved.

**IV. HOLLAND HIGH SCHOOL SENATE**

Introduction of this school year's Student Senate President, Harper Schoon-Tanis

**V. HPS CELEBRATES**

Congratulations to four students who competed at the National History Day finals in College Park, MD this summer.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**VII. MEDIA SPECIALISTS**

The district media specialist, Annie Sterken, Amy VanderMeer and Briana Russcher gave a presentation.

**VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS**

Deputy Superintendent Pennington will recommend the following personnel action:

**A. Retirements:**

- **Marc Miller**, Special Education Teacher, Holland Middle School, effective August 5, 2026.

**Moved by Chris Arendshorst, supported by Rebekah Schipper, that the Board of Education approve, with regret, the retirement of Marc Miller.** The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Resignations:

- **Kellie Ruggles**, Special Education (DHH) Teacher, effective July 31, 2026.
- **Lisa Hann**, Special Education Teacher, West School, effective July 29, 2026.
- **Joy Zomer**, Alternative Programs Teacher, District, effective July 23, 2026.
- **LeeAnne Carr**, Instructional Coach, Holland High School, effective July 23, 2026.

**Moved by Martin Veliz, supported by Chris Arendshorst, that the Board of Education approve, with regret, the resignation of: Kellie Ruggles, Lisa Hann, Joy Zomer, and LeeAnne Carr.** The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Hiring:

- **Valerie Edelmann**, ECSE Teacher, West School, effective August 24, 2026.
- **Annika Hillman**, Speech and Language Pathologist, District, effective August 24, 2026.
- **Jaahna Hoegen**, Special Education Teacher, West School, effective August 24, 2026.
- **Roberto Villalobos Pantoja**, 5th Grade Teacher, Holland Language Academy.

**Moved by Rebekah Schipper, supported by Lois Mulder, that the Board of Education approve probationary contracts for the following: Valerie Edelmann, Annika Hillman, Jaahna Hoegen, and Roberto Villalobos Pantoja.** The motion was unanimously approved.

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

A. TEACHING FOR LEARNING: Chairperson Mulder reported on the August 3, 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 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:

- Ron Clark Academy update
- Refocus on the PLC Process for academic and SEL/SEB
- CTE Discussion - Trades vs. College for student's philosophy, logistics, and funding
- 3 Year Plan Draft will be coming

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

- DHH Summer Updates

**2026-2027 Course List Approval:** Superintendent Cassidy presented the recommended classes/courses to be offered at Holland High School, Holland Virtual Tech, and Holland Early College for credit, meeting the requirements for graduation.

**Superintendent Updates:** Superintendent Cassidy provided updates on the following:

- Updates on Heights, West and Stadium Construction
- Bond Project Updates
- 2026/27 Board Meeting Topics
- Back to school events
  - August 5-BBQ & Busses
  - August 11-Taking Care of Business Day
  - August 16-Heights Open House
  - August 25-Open Houses
  - August 26-8:00am Welcome Back
  - August 27-First Day

**Other:** No other items were discussed.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:56 a.m.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN FOCUS AREAS**

**ACADEMICS/PROGRAM GOAL:**

Holland Public Schools will provide educational excellence through relevant and innovative programming that maximizes the potential of each student in safe, supportive, and respectful learning environments.

**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP GOAL:**

Holland Public Schools will unite our community around increasing opportunities and success for ALL students through dialogue, networking, and learning among families and community members.

**FINANCE AND OPERATIONS GOAL:**

Holland Public Schools will maximize resources for student learning, engagement, and safety.

**HUMAN SERVICES GOAL:**

Holland Public Schools will recruit, retain, and invest in highly qualified staff.

B. FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Chairperson Woltman reported on the August 4, 2026, meeting of the Finance and Property Committee.

**Agenda Review and Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 4:16 p.m.

Present:

Board: Trustees Colburn, 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 July 2026: Associate Superintendent Murphy-DuBay will review the general fund budget to actual report and the capital project listing report for the month of July.
- Box Truck Purchase

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

- Remaining Vacancies for 26-27 School Year
- Staffing updates-provided a list of vacancies and hires
- Transportation Updates
  - Driver Recruitment Event on August 5, 2026.
  - Working on routing for the 2026-27 School year.

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

- Facility Updates
- Fundraising Policy Discussion
- Policy 9211 and Form Discussion-Discuss at Study Session

**Other:** Other Items Discussed include:

- Discussion of funding of athletics and performing Arts
- Donation Handling Policy -Student Activity Accounts

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN FOCUS AREAS**

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C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Vice President Woltman reported on the August 4, 2026, meeting of the Executive Committee.

**Agenda Review and Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m.

Present:

Board: Trustees Colburn, Woltman and Mulder

Administrators: Superintendent Cassidy

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

**2026-27 Organizational Chart:** Superintendent Cassidy reviewed the 2026-27 Organization Chart with the committee.

**Annual review of Board Policy 8600 Transportation:** Superintendent Cassidy reviewed the transportation guidelines and established reasonable walking distances for students in the District. PreK-5 remains at 1.25 miles, and 6-12 remains at 1.5 miles.

#### **Superintendent Updates:**

- Bond Project Updates
- Back to school events
- Board Meeting Topics
- Superintendent Contract
- Fall Board Retreat Planning

#### **Reinstatement Committee Planning for 2026-2027**

- Will Bring Recommendations to Study Session.

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

**Other:** Other items discussed include:

- Enrollment Update

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN FOCUS AREAS**

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- D. BOARD STUDY SESSION: Vice President Woltman reported on the August 10, 2026, Study Session. Minutes for said meeting are enclosed.

**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 24<sup>th</sup> Street.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

**BOARD:** Trustees Arendshorst, Colburn, Mulder, Ybarra, Veliz and Woltman

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

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments

**Ron Clark Academy Update:** Associate superintendent Scott Joseph reported on the staff's visit to the Ron Clark Academy with Christa Holland-Anderson and Christy Conway.

**Nueva Tierra Presentation:** Yvette Chiquito presented about Nueva Tierra Counseling.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- a. **Teaching for Learning Committee:** Chairperson Mulder provided updates with items discussed at the Teaching for Learning Committee meeting on August 3, 2026.
- b. **Finance & Property Committee:** Chairperson Woltman provided updates with items discussed at the Finance & Property Committee meeting on August 4, 2026 and brought forward the following motion:

**Moved by Mark Woltman, supported by Martin Veliz, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of a Chevrolet Box Truck for the price of and not to exceed \$67,521.68.** The motion was unanimously approved.

- c. **Executive Committee:** President Colburn provided updates with items discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on August 4, 2026.

**2026-2027 Course List Approval:** Superintendent Cassidy will present the recommended classes/courses to be offered at Holland High School, Holland Virtual Tech, and Holland Early College for credit, meeting the requirements for graduation.

**Moved by Lois Mulder, supported by Chris Arendshorst, that the 2026-2027 Class Lists for credit be approved as presented.** The motion was unanimously approved.

**Reinstatement Committee Membership for 2026-2027:** Superintendent Cassidy brought forward a recommendation of committee membership for consideration of petitions for reinstatement.

**Moved by Martin Veliz, supported by Lois Mulder, that the Reinstatement Committee Membership for 2026-2027 is approved as presented.** The motion was unanimously approved.

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

**Superintendent Updates:**

- Back to School Events
- Fall Board Retreat
  - School Finance
  - Board Self-assessment

**Consideration of Petition for Reinstatement:** Superintendent Cassidy brought forward the recommendation of the Hearing Committee to reinstate student 0803260930.

**Moved by Lois Mulder, supported by Mark Woltman, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to reinstate Student 0803260930, as presented.** The motion was unanimously approved.

**Board Meeting Agenda Construction:** Board Members planned the agenda for the August 17, 2026 Board Meeting. HPS Celebrates, Board Media Specialists, Huntington bank? Orme-NHD? HR Updates.

**Other:** No other items were discussed.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:31p.m.

**STRATEGIC PLAN FOCUS**  
**AREAS**

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

A. Superintendent Open Office Hours: Superintendent Cassidy has open office hours scheduled for

Thursday, September 3, 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](mailto:ncassidy@hollandpublicschools.org).

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

### **Back to School Events**

Tuesday, 8/17- 6:00-8:00- Freshmen Family Night

Thursday, 8/20- 5:00-6:30- 6th Grade Orientation

Monday, 8/24- 8:00am- Welcome Back Talk- HHS Commons (This date changed from what I shared previously)

Tuesday, 8/25- 4:00-6:00- Open Houses

Thursday, 8/27- First Day of School

### **Construction Updates**

#### **West**

It is crunch time at West Elementary. The Fire Safety inspection is scheduled for tomorrow. The Plumbing and Mechanical Inspections are scheduled for 8/20, and the Electrical and Building Inspections are scheduled for 8/24. After the Fire Safety Inspection, teachers will be able to gain access to their rooms. Work will continue up to Opening Day, which is common with phased projects like this.

#### **Heights**

Heights is nearing completion. The open house yesterday gave the community its first glimpse of this amazing facility. There are still a few finishing touches with furniture, but we are in a really good spot for Heights.

#### **Athletic Complex**

Work is going well with our Athletic Complex.

Work accomplished last week:

- Baseball perimeter curb
- Softball staking/curb prep
- Batting tunnels/turf drainage/sports netting/foul pole delivery
- Underground retention installation

#### **Upcoming work:**

- Baseball perimeter curb
- Baseball perimeter curb site grading
- Softball fence posts
- Sanitary/storm tie ins
- Within a few weeks the turf company will start prepping BB and SB for turf.

### **Teachers Live Here**

A new cycle for Teachers Live Here has started. This will be the 4th cycle since it began in January of 2023.

25 staff members have been awarded TLH Grants

-24 have found homes

-19/23 have found homes in our attendance zone

-100% still employed with HPS

\$660,800.00 invested in HPS staff!

For the 2026/27 School Year, the down payment grant will be \$27,500 with an additional \$2,500 towards closing costs if they purchase a home within the HPS attendance zone. The household income limit is \$110,000, based on the previous year's tax return.

### **Enrollment Numbers**

Across the district, our enrollment numbers look like we should gain a few students this year. Today's numbers, compared to this day last year, show us up 17 students. Heights and West are showing the biggest gains.

### **Theme-**

Our theme this year is Committed. We dedicate our best effort to ensure an exceptional educational experience for every student in our community.

### **Legislative Updates**

**Federal Budget** – The U.S. Senate passed a continuing resolution to hold federal funding at current levels through mid-December. The U.S. House also passed a continuing resolution a few weeks ago, but it is different than the Senate resolution. Consequently, the two chambers will need to work out these differences when they return to work in September. I do expect the Congress to come to agreement on a continuing resolution and we will see federal support for K-12 schools hold at FY 2026 levels through December.

**31aa Update** – The Federal Court has now picked up the 31aa case following the conclusion of the legal arguments in the state case. We are at the early stages in the federal case. On August 3, the federal judge accepted the parties' motions for summary disposition. The court has yet to rule on any of these motions. Undoubtedly, the state moved for dismissal of the case and the plaintiffs moved for a summary judgement in their favor. I think it is unlikely that the judge grants either motion and instead moves this case forward with more pleadings and perhaps a formal hearing/trial. Again, the legal argument at the federal level is about the constitutionality of giving up constitutional rights in exchange for money. There are no timelines available at this date. We are awaiting the court's ruling on the summary disposition motions. This is not a complex case and I do think it is feasible to get a ruling prior to the yet-to-be-determined deadline for districts to opt into the 31aa student safety grant. Stay tuned. You do not need to opt into the mental health per pupil funding (the other prong of the two-pronged 31aa funding scheme) – you will automatically receive these mental health funds.

**XI. OTHER:** No other items were discussed.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:** Vice President Woltman adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Approved as presented: \_\_\_\_\_

Lois Mulder, Secretary