

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

**The School District of the City of Holland
Ottawa County, Michigan
March 17, 2025**

- 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: Trustees Arendshorst, Colburn, Marroquin, Mulder, Veliz, Woltman, and Ybarra

ADMINISTRATION: Superintendent Cassidy, Deputy Superintendent Pennington, Associate Superintendents McCloud, Murphy-DuBay, and Remillard, Director Craner, and Administrative Assistant Archer (recorder)

ADMINISTRATORS: Director Muller and Assistant Principal Rumpsa

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Regular Business Meeting of March 17, 2025
2. Consent Agenda for March 17, 2025

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. February 17, 2025, Regular Business Meeting

Moved by Lois Mulder, supported by Martin Veliz, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda for March 17, 2025. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. HOLLAND HIGH SCHOOL SENATE

Student Senate President Miriam Lopez-Koolhaas provided an update to the Board.

- Gathering donations for Community Action House
- Planning Prom
- Senior Activities

V. HPS CELEBRATES

Holland Middle School MLK Writing Contest.

Rick Harris, Dean of Students, shared an update. The contest's purpose is to encourage all students to share what Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" means to them through various writing styles.

Winners:

6th - Hazel Sterken

7th - Chiquis Ochoa

8th - Eva Schipper

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Emily VanFassen, 755 Myrtle Avenue, Holland, MI 49423 - Athletics
- Tiffany Graham, 248 West 21st Street, Holland, MI 49423 - Athletics

- Ortencia Bos, 30 East 14th Street, Holland, MI 49423 – Athletics
- Patrick Weiss, 4609 Castle Ct., Holland, MI 49423 – Athletics
- Gretchen Ludeman, 1074 Graystone Rd, Holland, MI 49423 – Athletics
- Meridith Fletter, 60 West 38th Street, Holland, MI 49423 – Athletics
- Anna Weiss, 4609 Castle Ct., Holland, MI 49423 – Athletics
- Dustin Price, 647 Azalea Avenue, Holland, MI 49423 – Athletics
- Sofia Gainey, 270 West 33rd Street, Holland, MI 49423 – Athletics

VII. PERSONNEL REPORT AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Associate Superintendent Pennington recommended the following personnel action:

A. Resignations:

- **Cornelia Sowa**, ECSE Teacher, West School, effective February 28, 2025.

Moved by Diane Ybarra, supported by Lois Mulder, that the Board of Education approve, with regret, the resignation of Cornelia Sowa. The motion was unanimously approved

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

- A. TEACHING FOR LEARNING: Chairperson Mulder reported on the March 3, 2025, meeting of the Teaching for Learning Committee.

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

Present:

Board: Trustees Marroquin, Mulder and Veliz

Administration: Superintendent Cassidy, Associate Superintendents McCloud and Remillard

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

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

- Data presentation March 10
- A board member is needed at our On-Site Review

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

- Update for Grants (GVSU & Hope)
- Report out on first Special Education Family Night

Superintendent Updates: Superintendent Cassidy provided updates on the following:

- Communities in Schools

Other:

- Facility Master Plan Meeting Schedule
- Inclusion Week

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:22 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 March 7, 2025 meeting of the Finance and Property Committee.

Agenda Review and Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Board: Trustees Arendshorst and Woltman

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

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

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

- Financial Reports for February 2025: Associate Superintendent Murphy-DuBay reviewed the general fund budget to actual report and the capital project listing report for the month of February.
- Ratifying Resolution for Bond Series III, Dated March 20, 2025. Approval will be requested at the regular board.

Moved by Mark Woltman, supported by Diane Ybarra, that the Board of Education approve The Ratifying Resolution: School District of the City of Holland, \$7,230,000 2025 School Building and Site Bonds, Series III, Dated March 17, 2025, as presented. [Attachment A]

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Trustees Arendshorst, Colburn, Marroquin. Mulder, Veliz, Woltman, and Ybarra

Nays: None

The motion was unanimously approved.

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

- Vacancies, Postings, Resignations, Hires
- Check-In Meetings w/ Staff Members
- Contract Negotiations Update
- Retirement Update
- Job Fairs

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

- Communities in Schools
- Facility Plan Meetings
- Staff Reductions
- Bond Updates

Other:

- DHHS Funds

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

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- C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: President Colburn reported on the March 7, 2025, meeting of the Executive Committee.

Agenda Review and Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m.

Present:

Board: Trustees Colburn, Woltman, and Ybarra

Administration: Superintendent Cassidy

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Superintendent Updates:

- Communities in Schools
- Board Listening Sessions

- Bond Updates
- Staff Reductions

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

Other:

- Athletics

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOCUS AREAS

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D. BOARD STUDY SESSION: President Colburn reported on the March 10, 2025, 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:

BOARD: Trustees Arendshorst, Colburn, Marroquin, Mulder, Veliz, Woltman, and Ybarra
ADMINISTRATION: Superintendent Cassidy, Deputy Superintendent Pennington, Associate Superintendents McCloud, Murphy-DuBay, Remillard, and Coordinator Souter

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

High School Band: Principal Mehall provided an update.

District Data Report: Associate Superintendent Remillard and Coordinator Souter provided an update.

Committee Reports:

a. Teaching for Learning Committee: Chairperson Mulder provided updates with

items discussed at the Teaching for Learning Committee meeting on March 3, 2025. The committee recommended approval of the following:

Moved by Lois Mulder, supported by Chris Arendshorst, that the Board of Education approve The Partnership between Holland Public Schools and Communities in Schools of Michigan. This includes Holland Language Academy, Holland Heights, Holland High School, Jefferson, and Holland Middle School. The motion was unanimously approved.

- b. Finance & Property Committee: Chairperson Woltman provided updates with items discussed at the Finance & Property Committee meeting on March 7, 2025.
- c. Executive Committee: President Colburn provided updates with items discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on March 7, 2025.
- d. Holland Educational Foundation Report: Trustee Mulder provided an update.
- e. HEA Communications Update: The February meeting was cancelled.

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

Superintendent Updates:

- Facility Feedback Sessions
- 2025 Bond Update
- RFP for Custodial Services
- 2025/26 Contracts

Board Meeting Agenda Construction: Board Members planned the agenda for the March 17, 2025, Board Meeting.

Other

- Review of public comment expectations

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

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

- A. Superintendent Open Office Hours: Superintendent Cassidy has open office hours scheduled For Thursday, April 3, at 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 shared Information on recent district initiatives and legislative action.

Legislative Updates

Teaching Certification Bills – The House made quick work and passed a package of bills to eliminate fees associated with obtaining and renewing teaching certificates, allow teachers to have additional certificate endorsements for any subject area passed on the MTTC, and allow local districts to issue a “local teaching certificate.” This local teaching certificate would only be valid in the district, PSA, or ISD where it was issued. The issuance of a local certificate would be subject to processes established by the state superintendent, is not available for special education certification, and could not exceed five years. Any certificate holders must have a bachelor’s degree. These bills now move to the Senate where they will likely receive scrutiny, amendments, or inaction.

Layoffs at US Dept of Education – The U.S. Department of Education announced layoffs of 1,300 employees, leaving the department with about 2,100 remaining staff. These layoffs were wide-ranging and affected most departments. Secretary McMahon announced that additional layoffs are likely. The department has continuing obligations under federal law for all current programs and funding levels. The biggest threats to existing funding is likely in the area of federal student loans for post-secondary education. If these cuts materialize, they would come through the budget reconciliation process.

Key funding details included in HB 4162:

- Per-pupil: \$10,025 (increase of \$417 from \$9,608)
- Cyber school per-pupil: \$10,025 (increase of \$875 from \$9,150)
- 31aa mental health and school safety: \$350M (increase of \$50M)
- Special education: \$2.7B (increase of \$127.3M)
- MPSERS: \$2.1B (reduction of \$232.2M from current-year funding levels)

The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration, and we will continue to keep you updated on its status and all state budget negotiations.

Meanwhile, the House Education and Workforce Committee, chaired by Rep. DeBoer (R), reviewed a Republican-led bill package that would impact teaching certificates and endorsements. Committee members heard testimony from the bill sponsors and voted to advance each bill out of committee.

District Updates

This week starts the Spring Vocal Dimension shows.

Thursday- March 20 from 7-9

Friday- March 21 from 7-9

Saturday- March 22 from 4:30-6:30

Facility Master Plan:

HLA Update- Thursday, March 20 from 6-7 pm

District Admin- Wednesday, March 26 from 5-7 pm

2025 Bond Updates

Bond Survey going out soon, and we will be scheduling meetings this spring to go over future projects across the district.

Monday, April 28th, We will host a feedback session and will share community feedback from the survey.

Wednesday, May 28th, from 5-7 p.m., will be a bond review meeting.

Power H Impact Awards

Mr. Craner continues to work on creating videos for our 7 Power H Impact Award winners. These videos are posted, and you can cast your vote by liking, sharing, and commenting on the posts.

These awards are supported by community donors and our Holland Educational Foundation.

X. OTHER: No other items were discussed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: President Colburn adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Approved as presented: _____
Tim Marroquin, Secretary