

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

**The School District of the City of Holland
Ottawa County, Michigan
April 28, 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, and Administrative Assistant Kooiker (recorder)

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Regular Business Meeting of April 28, 2025
2. Consent Agenda for April 28, 2025

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. March 17, 2025, Regular Business Meeting
2. March 26, 2025, Special Meeting

Moved by Diane Ybarra, supported by Lois Mulder, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda for April 28, 2025. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. HOLLAND HIGH SCHOOL SENATE

Student Senate Co-Secretary Maggie Telgenhof provided an update to the Board.

- Prom at Frederik Meijer Gardens – Lots of great feedback
- Seniors march through buildings
- Senior assembly
- Working on shortening the time in the lunch lines

V. HPS CELEBRATES

DISTRICT ART AWARDS: Ten students, nominated by our District's Art Teachers, have been selected as 2025 District Art Award winners. Art Teachers introduced their students and artwork.

- Eliza Cardenas
- Abbie Cox
- Vik Howard
- Levi King
- Elin Klinge
- Evelyn Lewin

- Jensen Mullennix
- Rebekah Salas
- Clara Ward
- Olivia Weiss

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

VII. PERSONNEL REPORT AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Deputy Superintendent Pennington recommended the following personnel action:

A. Resignations:

- **Amy Kelly**, Science Teacher, currently on leave, effective April 30, 2025.

Moved by Mark Woltman, supported by Martin Veliz, that the Board of Education approve, with regret, the resignation of Amy Kelly. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Hiring:

- **Kevin Eding**, S.T.E.M Teacher, Holland Middle School, effective August 18, 2025.
- **Eileen Maday**, Spanish Teacher, (.40 fte), Holland Middle School, effective August 18, 2025.
- **Jennifer Knittel**, English Language Arts Teacher, Holland Middle School, effective August 18, 2025.
- **Lauren Potter**, School Psychologist, District, effective August 18, 2025.
- **Evan Supplee**, Orchestra Teacher, Holland Middle School and Holland High School, effective August 18, 2025.

Moved by Lois Mulder, supported by Diane Ybarra, that the Board of Education approve a probationary contract for: Kevin Eding, Eileen Maday, Jennifer Knittel, Lauren Potter, and Evan Supplee. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

- A. TEACHING FOR LEARNING: Chairperson Mulder reported on the April 14, 2025, meeting of the Teaching for Learning Committee.

Agenda Review and Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m.

Present:

Board: Trustees Marroquin, Mulder, and Veliz

Administration: Superintendent Cassidy, Associate Superintendents McCloud and Remillard, and Director Beatty.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

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

- Transitional Kindergarten - Patty Beatty Director of Early Childhood
- Summer School Update
- Anne Frank Update
- District Communication Plan – Draft

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

- Processes for IEP programs and services
- TCIS/CPI-District Plan
- DHH Program
 - Joe Roerink Trust
 - Partnership with Access Ability DHH Educational Consulting

Superintendent Updates: Superintendent Cassidy provided updates on the following:

- HEA Calendar
- Bargaining Updates
- Facility Feedback Data
- 2025 Bond Updates
- Staff Reduction Recommendation
- Athletics Discussion

Other: No other items were discussed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:30 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 April 15, 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, Colburn, and Ybarra

Administration: Superintendent Cassidy, Deputy Superintendent Pennington, Associate Superintendent Murphy-DuBay, Chief Technology Officer Thelen, and Supervisor Cossey

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

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

- Financial Reports for March 2025: Associate Superintendent Murphy-DuBay reviewed the general fund budget to actual report and the capital project listing report for the month of March.
- Video Surveillance Upgrade: Chief Technology Officer Thelen requested approval to purchase a new 200TB Network Video Recorder (NVR or server) and 5 years of onsite support from People Driven Technology at a total cost of \$55,532.74. Approval will be requested at the study session on April 21.

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

- Instructional Assistants - General Update on Employee Group
- Contract Negotiations Update
- Staffing for 25-26
- Employee Feedback

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

- Communities in Schools
- Early Elementary Programming
- Facility Plan Meetings
- Build 21 Updates
- 2025 Bond Updates and Survey Results
- 2025 Election Options

Other:

- Assistant Superintendent Murphy-DuBay brought forward a plan for corrections to 403b errors impacting administrators.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

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- C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: President Colburn reported on the April 21, 2025, meeting of the Executive Committee.

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

Present:

Board: Trustees Colburn, Woltman, and Ybarra

Administration: Superintendent Cassidy

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Superintendent Updates:

- Board Listening Session Debrief
- Phase 1 Facility Plan Motion
- Bond 2025 Update
- Public Comment Policy Review
- Field Trip Power of Attorney Form
- Youth Assessment Survey

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

Other:

- Certification /DEI

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

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D. BOARD STUDY SESSION: President Colburn reported on the April 21, 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, Mulder, Veliz, Woltman, and Ybarra

ADMINISTRATION: Superintendent Cassidy, Deputy Superintendent Pennington, Associate Superintendents McCloud, Murphy-DuBay, and Remillard

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Committee Reports:

- a. Teaching for Learning Committee: Chairperson Mulder provided updates with items discussed at the Teaching for Learning Committee meeting on April 14, 2025.
- b. Finance & Property Committee: Chairperson Woltman provided updates with items discussed at the Finance & Property Committee meeting on April 15, 2025. The Committee recommended approval of the following at the study session.
 - Video Surveillance Upgrade

Moved by Diane Ybarra, supported by Chris Arendshorst, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of a new 200TB Network Video Recorder (NVR or server) and 5 years of onsite support from People Drive Technology at a total cost of \$55,532.74. The motion was unanimously approved. [Attachment A]

- c. Executive Committee: President Colburn provided updates with items discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on April 21, 2025.
- d. Holland Educational Foundation Report: Trustee Mulder provided an update.
- e. HEA Communications Update: President Colburn and Trustee Arendshorst provided an update on the HEA Communications meeting from March 19, 2025.

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

Superintendent Updates:

- Custodial Services

Moved by Chris Arendshorst, supported by Lois Mulder, that the Board of Education approve Enviro-Clean Services, Inc. for Custodial Services and authorize the Superintendent and/or Associate Superintendent of Business and Finance to sign the contract on behalf of Holland Public Schools, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

The motion was unanimously approved.

- August 2025 Special Election

Moved by Diane Ybarra, supported by Martin Veliz, that the Board of Education approve the Resolution calling for a Special Election on August 5, 2025. [Attachment B]

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

The motion was unanimously approved.

- Staffing Recommendation

Moved by Liz Colburn, supported by Martin Veliz, that the Board of Education approve the elimination of the Jefferson School Assistant Principal position due to a need for a reduction of staff for economic reasons. The motion was unanimously approved.

- Motion for Board Approval on Phase 1 of the Facility Master Plan

Moved by Diane Ybarra, supported by Tim Marroquin, that the Board of Education approve Phase 1 of the Facility Plan, which will redraw Elementary attendance lines to divide students attending Jefferson Elementary School between Heights Elementary and West Elementary by the 2027/2028 School Year.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

The motion was unanimously approved.

- 2025-2026 Calendar

Moved by Martin Veliz, supported by Mark Woltman, that the Board of Education approve the 2025-2026 Holland Public Schools calendar, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

- Athletics Discussion
- Public Comment Policy Review
- Listening Session Debrief

Board Meeting Agenda Construction: Board Members will plan the agenda for the April 28, 2025, Board Meeting.

Other: Retirement of Beth Kooiker, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

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

- A. Superintendent Open Office Hours: Superintendent Cassidy has open office hours scheduled for Thursday, May 1, 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.

District Updates

Over the last month we have received several public comments and emails about proposed updates to our Athletics policy. The Holland Board of Education will not be adopting the proposed policy. However, we want to affirm our shared commitment to supporting student-athletes and fostering an inclusive, positive, and high-quality athletic experience for all students.

The athletic department is finalizing an Athletics Handbook and Coaches Handbook that will outline the following:

- Program expectations
- Consistent department policies
- Communication expectations for each program
- Consistent hiring procedures
- Feedback opportunities for student athletes and families
- Process for end-of-season evaluations
- Parent engagement opportunities

In addition, we are working with our Facilities Department to increase access to our facilities for youth development.

The updated handbooks will be available at the annual fall parent meeting.

Superintendent Cassidy will be sharing out a similar message to all HPS stakeholders in a district update being sent out in the next few weeks.

Community of Courage - Anne Frank Exhibit

Community of Courage, a student-guided exhibit about the life of Anne Frank, will be at Holland High School April 20-May 7, 2025.

Community partners and the general public are encouraged to experience the exhibit on the following dates:

- Thursday, April 24, 6-8pm
- Tuesday, April 29, 6-8pm
- Monday, May 5, 8am-3pm
- Tuesday, May 6, 8am-3pm
- Wednesday, May 7, 6-8pm

Mackinaw Center

Mackinac Center for Public Policy Report on Michigan Elementary and Middle Schools Performance Report Card: Uses the last 3 years of M-Step Data (2022,2023,2024) and compares Michigan Public Schools relative performance by accounting for the impact student poverty has on achievement. The analysis attempts to neutralize this effect and ranks public schools based on how well they perform given the socioeconomic status of their student population. A score of 100 is baseline, so if you score 100 you are doing exactly what you should be doing based on your student population. A score above 100 means that you are exceeding expectations and under 100 you are performing below expectations.

Heights, West, and Jefferson all scored over 100.

Top 100 in the State - Holland Heights was 36th with a CAP score of 118.79

Top 100 in the State Most Improved from 2019 - 2024 - Holland Heights 93rd with a gain of 9.74 in CAP score.

In Ottawa County when looking at Conventional Elementary Schools (not charters) - Holland Heights #1

West #7

Jefferson #20

Wellness Policy Review

On Wednesday, April 23rd, a committee of teachers, administrators, Health Professionals, students, and parents met to review our district's wellness policy and goals.

Our 3 Goals are focused on Nutrition Promotion, Physical Activity and Sports Participation, and Mental Health and Social Media Education.

Some highlighted areas for improvement, based on feedback from the committee are as follows:

1. Nutrition Promotion - Incorporate more education around healthy eating into health education, increase communication about healthy eating, increase the number of students taking advantage of breakfast and lunch at school.
2. Physical Activity and Sports Participation - Increase opportunities for HS athletes to engage with Elementary School students through assemblies and camps, increase Elementary athletic competitions between elementary schools, include athletic equipment in Power H shop to remove barriers for some of our athletes
3. Student Wellness - Mental Health and Social Media Education
 - a. Integrate digital wellness lesson into health curriculum
 - b. Host assemblies and workshops to educate parents and students
 - c. Emphasize non-tech activities/gather data from students and families around screen time

Teachers Live Here

2 new classroom teachers were just approved for Teachers Live Here Grants – Alec Driscoll- HMS Social Studies and Isabella Smith - K teacher at Jefferson

Promise Scholarships

Holland Public Schools has five recipients who have received the Promise Scholarship:

Javier Carrillo

Trai Leigh Delaney

Alan Juarez Velazquez

Lilizbel Lorenzo Legon

Janetzi Sanchez Marquez

Legislative Updates

As many are aware, the Federal Government had issued a deadline of April 24th to certify that districts are in compliance with Title VI regulations. That request was made to the State, with

the exception that the state would certify for individual districts who were receiving federal funds. The state had replied that that all districts were certified based on State Superintendent Dr. Rice's reply. As the deadline approached, some questioned whether individual districts should send in their own certifications. Thursday morning there was an injunction which, for the time being, has stopped the need for any additional certification.

The Senate Education Committee took up Senate Bill 234, which would require all public school districts to adopt and implement a wireless communication device policy aimed at limiting cell phone use during instructional time and reducing cell phone-related distractions in classrooms

In the coming weeks, we expect that the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Education will release their proposed SAF budgets. The May Revenue Consensus Estimating Conference (CREC) is just a couple of weeks away, where we'll get a clearer picture of the state's revenue picture. We'll keep you updated as information becomes available.

- C. School of Choice Window: Superintendent Cassidy announced the non-resident School of Choice window is from May 1 to May 30, 2025.

X. OTHER: No other items were discussed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: President Colburn adjourned the meeting at 5:46 p.m.

Approved as presented: _____
Tim Marroquin, Secretary