

**MINUTES OF HILLSDALE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT****BOARD OF EDUCATION****REGULAR BOARD MEETING****MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025****HILLSDALE BOARD OFFICE ENTRYWAY****7:00 PM**

HILLSDALE LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION — March 17, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. The Hillsdale Local Board of Education Regular Board Meeting was called to order by President Vella King at 7:00 P.M. in the Hillsdale Board Office Entryway. Roll call was taken by Treasurer Lesa Deter with the following Board members present: Jon Burkholder, Vella King, Steve Smith, and Melinda Turk. Keith Yeater was absent.

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Mrs. King recognized the visitors: Chris Schwan, Allen Terwilliger, Blake Schwan, Morgan Nally, Alyssa Clevidence, Tina Clevidence, Alyson Baker, Kyle Wissel, Reed Twining, Jerilyn Huff, Lindsay Bowen, Jennifer Seman.

**A. Falcon Spotlight**

1. Recognition of Fabulous Falcons and Students of the Month
2. Student Achievement Update - Ms. Turk
3. Report - Ashland County-West Holmes Career Center - Mr. Smith

The Building Project is progressing.

Over half of the students had perfect attendance and was rewarded with Donut day

**4. FFA:**

- February 19: We kicked off National FFA Week with our annual Farmer Appreciation Luncheon, expressing gratitude to our local farmers and building staff. This event was followed by a community service project in partnership with Replay for Kids, where members adapted toys for children with special needs. This activity took place on Give FFA Day, adding extra meaning to our service.
- February 21: Our chapter held its monthly meeting, during which business was conducted, and members participated in Ag Olympics to celebrate the conclusion of FFA Week with fun and fellowship.
- February 25: Our Nursery and Landscape Team completed the second part of their State CDE (Career Development Event) exam, placing 2nd in the state.
- Our Ag Sales Team also had a successful month, placing 1st at their District Contest.

**March Activities:**

- March 1: Our chapter supported the FFA Alumni Consignment Sale with over 60 student volunteers. The sale grossed over \$5 million, a portion of which benefits the FFA Alumni group.

- March 10: Our Ag Sales Team competed at the State Ag Sales CDE, placing 4th overall — a strong performance that brings another banner home to display in our hallway.
- Later that evening, we held our monthly chapter meeting, followed by a lively game of bingo as a social activity. Students continue to bond through both structured meetings and recreational activities.

#### SAE Highlights:

We continue to emphasize the importance of Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs) in our program. As a whole, members of the chapter have earned \$188,227 from projects. Students use the AET online tracking system to document their hours, income, and participation in FFA and community service. To date, our chapter has logged 867 hours of volunteer work in 317 community service projects. These experiences instill life skills, promote responsibility, and give students real-world opportunities to make a difference in our county and beyond.

#### Additional Notes:

- Graduation Seals & Recognition: Discussion is ongoing regarding the recognition of FFA project work as qualifying for graduation seals under state guidelines. More clarification will be sought in coordination with administration.
- Lastly, a reminder that strawberries and BBQ sauce orders will be available for pickup this Wednesday. We appreciate the continued support from our staff and community.

#### 5. Recognizing Music in our Schools Month and Youth Art Month

- The Hillsdale Falcons Marching Band accompanied the football team to the State Championship game, showing continued dedication and school spirit.
- Throughout the season, the band performed at:
  - 16 halftime shows
  - 3 festival performances
  - 2 pep rallies
- Despite challenging weather conditions—ranging from extreme heat to snow, sleet, and wind—the band remained committed and enthusiastic.
- Looking ahead, the Marching Band is proud to announce it will perform with over 60 members next school year.
- The band and choir both participated in the school's Veterans Day assembly. The band delivered a patriotic performance of the Star-Spangled Banner and closed the ceremony with "Taps."



- Primary Use: Support services and classroom aides.
- Includes a portion of non-public funds, which are allocated for use by non-public entities and cannot be spent directly by the district.

## 2. Title I Funds

- Current Fiscal Year Amount: \$152,612
- Supports the salaries and partial benefits of two Title I teachers.
- A portion is allocated to Family and Community Engagement supplies which are take-home books for families.

- Alyson was also available to provide additional input or clarification, if needed.

### Public Input:

"No public input was received."

## 7. Any Additional Public Participation related to agenda items.

"No public input was received."

### ADMINISTRATION DISCUSSION ITEM:

- A. Lesa Deter -Under the Superintendent's Consent Agenda, it was noted that Rachel Kelly is resigning from the Falcon Singers effective March 31, 2025.

### Treasurer's Financial Report – February 2025

- The district closed the books for February with a total fund balance of \$13,746,000 across all funds, including: General Fund, Building Project Fund, Cafeteria Fund, and other designated funds
- Food Service Federal Funds:
  - Federal reimbursement for February food service was delayed.
  - Payments for both February and March were received on March 10.
  - All available food service funds have now been received.
- General Fund Outstanding Purchase Orders (POs):
  - Currently, \$1,272,000 remains open in POs.
  - February expenditures totaled \$992,988, reflecting normal operating expenses including fuel, transportation, and other general costs—not special or one-time purchases.

### March Revenue Note – Ashland County Advance

The district received an unexpected advance of \$1,000,000 from Ashland County marked as an advance on real estate tax collections.

- Over 200 choir students contributed to this meaningful event.
- In December, the Music Department held two separate winter concerts:
  - One concert featured students in grades 5–8
  - The second concert showcased grades 9–12

- Honors Band Participation

Hillsdale Band proudly sent 2 high school students and 4 middle school students to the District 10 Honors Band, which includes schools such as Mount Vernon, Granville, Ashland, and Big Walnut. Students earned their spots through auditions and demonstrated musical excellence. Additionally, 6 students represented Hillsdale in the Tri-County Honors Band held at Ashland University.

The band and choir traveled to Dale Roy in Ashland, performing for individuals with special needs. A similar concert was presented for students in kindergarten through fourth grade, fostering music appreciation at an early age.

- Tri-County Solo and Ensemble Contest, students were evaluated by experienced adjudicators.

Hillsdale performers received the following ratings:

- Band/Choir Students: 1 Superior and 2 Excellent ratings
- Choir Groups: 2 Superior ratings

#### End-of-Year Trip

- The Music Department will wrap up the school year with a trip to Cedar Point, where students will perform.

#### Acknowledgements

- The Hillsdale Music Department extends heartfelt thanks to the Board of Education for their unwavering support. Over 250 students participate in the department each week, and their success is a direct result of the board's continued commitment to music education.

## 6. Public Input Federal Grants FY2026

The floor was opened for public input on federal grants, as required.

#### Federal Grants Overview:

### 1. IDEA-B (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act - Part B)

- Current Fiscal Year Amount: \$211,830



- After thorough evaluation using rubrics, school visits, and feedback, the district selected Amplify due to its strong differentiation tools.

#### K–5 ELA Curriculum

- This decision was more difficult, with two strong programs in close consideration.
- Site visits to schools using each curriculum were conducted.
- Ultimately, the chosen program aligned better with teacher comfort and effectiveness.
- Importantly, the selected K–5 program incorporates the Science of Reading, aligning with the new state mandate.
- Without the state mandate, K–5 curriculum review would have occurred in two years and likely would not have resulted in a change.

#### Community Involvement

A community curriculum input committee was formed in January, consisting of eight parents representing a diverse range of backgrounds:

- Parents of preschool, middle, and high school students
- Stay-at-home parents, a speech-language pathologist, and college professors
- All materials provided to teachers were also shared with the committee.
- Some members contributed detailed feedback via email, and one member attended the vendor presentations for deeper understanding.
- Alyson shared that originally only three participants were expected, but due to high interest, all eight volunteers were welcomed.

#### Board Member Questions:

- Jon inquired about the number of parents involved in the committee. Alyson confirmed there were eight members. She emphasized the value of their diverse perspectives in helping to inform a well-rounded decision.

### **#25-35 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA AND ANY ADDITIONS/DELETIONS**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Burkholder to approve the consent agenda and Additions/Deletions for the Regular March 17, 2025 Board of Education Meeting.

Burkholder, Aye; King, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, absent. Motion passes 4-0.

### **#25-36 TREASURER'S CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Burkholder, seconded by Turk to approve the Treasurer Consent Agenda.

- A. Approval of the February 17, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented.
- B. Approval of the February 2025 Financial Reports as presented.

- The funds have been credited, but this will impact monthly financial reports:  
March revenues will appear inflated and April revenues will be underreported compared to prior years

#### Income Tax Revenue Schedule

- School district income tax is received quarterly, but not on a standard calendar quarter. The approximate schedule is: January 31, April 30, July 31 and October 31.
- The February and April payments tend to be lower, while July and October distributions are typically the largest of the year.
- Overall, income tax revenue remains relatively even throughout the fiscal year.

#### B. Catherine Trevathan - 1. Senator Romanchuk's Visit

- Superintendent reported that Senator Mark Romanchuk visited Hillsdale Schools last Friday.
- His visit included stops throughout the district, beginning in the middle school gym with Mr. Keib and students in grades 5–8.
- The Senator also visited the FFA program, which was one of the first stops.
- He toured multiple classrooms and was reportedly very impressed with both the students and the variety of programs offered at the district.
- Superintendent Cathy noted that the visit provided valuable insight into how small districts like Hillsdale operate and the real challenges they face, helping to bridge the gap between state lawmakers and local education.

- 
- Alan Kessie submitted his resignation, having accepted a superintendent position.
  - Mr. Parrot also submitted his resignation, which was just received today.
    - Thanks were extended to Lindsay, Allyson, and Allen for working together on the search for his replacement, which is currently in progress.

### 3. ELA Curriculum Review and Adoption

Presenter: Alyson Baker

The district has been undergoing a review and selection process for K–5 and 6–8 English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum following a new state mandate.

- The process began in October, with groups of teachers reviewing multiple curriculum options.
- 6–8 ELA Curriculum
- Teachers piloted several programs.



MARCH 17, 2025

C. Approve the following donations:

David & Amanda Phillips - Miscellaneous books, microscope, building blocks for Hillsdale PK-4 Library at an approximate value of \$ 200.00.

Micah & Korrie Schwan \$200.00 to Hillsdale Theatre Department.

Kokosing - \$200.00 to STEAM Program - 3D Printer.

Dan Raubenolt - \$50 to FFA 200-933A in lieu of strawberry purchase.

Burkholder, Aye; King, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, absent. Motion passes 4-0.

**#25-37 SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Turk, seconded by Burkholder, to approve the Superintendent's Consent Agenda

- A. Accept the resignation of Alan Keesee as principal effective end of day, July 31, 2025.
- B. Accept the resignation of Ken Parrott as Agriculture Education Instructor and any supplementals effective June 30, 2025.
- C. Accept the resignation of Rachel Kelly as Falcon Singers Advisor effective March 31, 2025.
- D. Second Reading and approval of the following 2025-26 Hillsdale Handbooks:
  - 1) Little Falcons Preschool Handbook
  - 2) Hillsdale K-6 Student Handbook
  - 3) Hillsdale 7-12 Student/Parent Handbook
  - 3) Faculty Handbook
  - 4) Food Service Handbook
  - 5) Transportation Handbook
  - 6) Custodial/Maintenance Handbook
  - 7) Athletic Handbook
- E. Approve Michael Mack as Bob Valentine Track Invitational Volunteer - May 9, 2025.
- F. Approve the following to Pupil Activity Contracts effective 2025-26 School Year/Season:
  - Tom Strine - 7 & 8 Girls' Basketball Coach - Classification G; Experience 9
- G. Approve the following to Supplemental Contracts effective 2025-26 School Year/Season:

Chris Shenberger - Head Girls' Basketball Coach - Classification B; Experience 14  
 Trevor Cline - Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach - Classification D; Experience 5  
 Lindsay Witmer - Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach - Classification D ; Experience 9  
 Kent Hostetler - 7 & 8 Girls' Basketball Coach - Classification G; Experience 11

- H. Approve the following Sports Volunteers- 2024-25 School Year/Season:  
 Timothy (Lee) Slarb - Volunteer 7 & 8 Track  
 Daniel Painter - Volunteer Baseball
- I. Approve the following Volunteers:  
 Keayla Harr
- J. Approve the following to the Hillsdale Classified Substitute List for 2024-25 school year:  
 Dan Mager, Ken Parrott

Burkholder, Aye; King, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, absent. Motion passes 4-0.

### **Treasurer's New Business**

#### **#25-38 APPROVE PURCHASE OF CHROMEBOOKS**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Turk to approve the purchase of the following from Bluum USA, Inc:

155 Dell Chromebooks  
 155 Management Console License  
 155 Dell Upgrade from 1 year mail in service to 4 year

Burkholder, Aye; King, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, absent. Motion passes 4-0.

### **Superintendent's New Business**

#### **#25-39 APPROVAL OF 2025-26 BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PRICES**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Burkholder to approve the following 2025-26 School Breakfast and Lunch Prices:

|   |      |         |
|---|------|---------|
| Breakfast                                     | K-6  | \$1.85  |
| Breakfast                                     | 7-12 | \$ 2.10 |
| Breakfast is available from 7:30 AM - 8:00 AM |      |         |
| Lunch   | K-6  | \$ 3.10 |
| Lunch   | 7-12 | \$ 3.35 |
| Extra Milk                                    |      | .75     |
| Adult   |      | \$ 4.35 |

Burkholder, Aye; King, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, absent. Motion passes 4-0.



**#25-40 APPROVAL OF CURRICULUM**

Moved by Turk, seconded by Smith to approve the following:

Gr. K-5 ELA Curriculum - Benchmark Advance  
Gr. 6-8 ELA Curriculum - Amplify

Burkholder, Aye; King, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, absent. Motion passes 4-0.

**#25-41 APPROVE OUT OF STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

Approved by Burkholder, seconded by Smith to approve the high school boys who play basketball, grades 10-12 to a Holiday Basketball Tournament near Tampa, Florida - December 26, 2025 -January 1, 2026. There is no cost to the district, and students will not miss academic time.

Burkholder, Aye; King, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, absent. Motion passes 4-0.

Public Participation for Non-Agenda Items No one participated

Discussion/Information Items No one participated

**#25-42 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Burkholder to go into Executive Session at 7:53 P.M. to consider for the purpose of employment and/or compensation of a public employee.

Burkholder, Aye; King, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, absent. Motion passes 4-0.

**#25-43 REGULAR SESSION**

Moved by Burkholder, seconded by Smith, to resume regular session at 8:44 P.M.

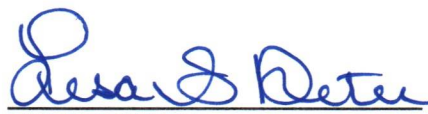
Burkholder, Aye; King, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, absent. Motion passes 4-0.

**#25-44 ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Burkholder, seconded by Turk to adjourn the Board meeting at 8:45 P.M.

Burkholder, Aye; King, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, absent. Motion passes 4-0.

  
BOARD PRESIDENT

  
TREASURER