Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3 Board of Education

Regular Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2025

1) A regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Secretary Kassie Greenwood, at the Hillsboro Unit Office at 7:00 p.m. The following board members were present: Brian Patton, Blake Furness, Kassie Greenwood, Mike Cerutti, and Bill Christian. Matt Lentz and Nathan Kirby were absent.

   Appointment of President Pro Tem

   Motion by Mike Cerutti, seconded by Blake Furness to nominate Brian Patton as President Pro Tem. No other nominations. Voice vote. Motion carried.

2) Agenda Item 2.0 Moment of Silence

   Moment of silence was observed in honor of Veterans Day.

3) Agenda Item 3.0. Good News Reports

   Mr. Lipe shared multiple band and choir students will be representing the district at the ILMEA festival at Eastern Illinois University on November 23rd. HHS Music Department also received a $20,000 grant from the IL Arts Council that will be used toward sound equipment. Milla Anderson won the National Public Radio Essay Contest and will be reading her essay live on the radio. Ms. Anderson was present to read her wonderful essay "This I Believe: Kitchen Counters".

   Mr. Haston shared the Junior High Kindness Club has joined staff in the mornings as door greeters and it's been awesome to see. Student Council is collecting can goods for Harvest for Hope. Each donation enters the student into a chance to be Principal for the day. He also thanked the community for the great turnout on the fundraiser held October 30th for Brody Haston and Isabel McLaughlin.

   Superintendent McBrain stated the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association is recognizing the South-Central Conference as 1 of 3 Organizations of the Year. The SCC is celebrating its 100th year. Mrs. McBrain praised Band Director Mr. Drake for the great brass ensemble this morning at the Veterans Day Ceremony.

4) Agenda Item 4.0 Consent Agenda

   4.1 Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from October 14, 2025

   President Pro Tem Patton asked for additions or corrections to the October 14, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. There were none.

   4.2 Approval of Executive Meeting Minutes from October 14, 2025

   President Pro Tem Patton asked for additions or corrections to the October 14, 2025 Executive Meeting Minutes. There were none.

   4.3 Review and Approval of Payables

   President Pro Tem Patton asked for questions or comments.

4.4 Financial Report

President Pro Tem Patton asked for questions or comments. There were none.

4.5 Consideration of Resolution Certifying Pedestrian Safety Hazard Areas Establishing Bus Transport Eligibility

Superintendent McBrain reported there have been no changes from the previous resolution, annual approval is required.

Consent Agenda Vote.

Motion made by Kassie Greenwood, seconded by Blake Furness to approve the consent agenda as presented. On roll call the following voted yes:. Brian Patton, Blake Furness, Kassie Greenwood, Mike Cerutti, and Bill Christian. Motion carried 5-0.

5) Agenda Item 5.0 Recognition of Audience

No cards submitted.

6) Agenda Item 6.0 Presentation of Preliminary 2025 Tax Levy

Superintendent McBrain presented three options to the board using strong estimates as the final EAV numbers have not been received. Option one (using a 7.5 percent EAV increase) would levy the full rate in the unrestricted funds. Which would result in the tax rate increasing from $4.40 to $4.71. Any increase of over 5 percent requires a Truth in Taxation hearing.

The second option (using a 5 percent EAV increase) would be to under levy in Tort, IMRF and Social Security. This would result in the tax rate dropping from $4.40 to $4.37.

The third option (using a 7.5 percent EAV increase) would again under levy in Tort, IMRF and Social Security resulting in the tax rate dropping from $4.40 to $4.27.

Option 2 and 3 would both require budgeting/moving funds from the Ed Fund to IMRF and Social Security. The board will take action at the regular meeting in December.

7) Agenda Item 7.0 Old Business

7.1 Consideration of Discontinuing Athletic Participation in Dual Sports in a Single Season

Discussion continued from last month's board meeting. Superintendent presented a detailed calendar of the upcoming winter and springs seasons. While comparing schedules there are multiple conflicts making it almost impossible for an athlete to do both.

Motion made by Mike Cerutti, seconded by Blake Furness to discontinue athletic participation in dual sports in a single season. On roll call the following voted yes:. Brian Patton, Blake Furness, Kassie Greenwood, Mike Cerutti, and Bill Christian. Motion carried 5-0.

8) Agenda Item 8.0 New Business

8.1 Consideration of Change Order(s) on High School Construction Project

Superintendent McBrain met with the Building and Grounds Committee and there is a proposal to replace the curbs and gutters along the west side of the new roadway.

Motion made by Blake Furness, seconded by Mike Cerutti to approve the change order to replace curbs and gutters at the high school. On roll call the following voted yes:.

Brian Patton, Blake Furness, Kassie Greenwood, Mike Cerutti, and Bill Christian. Motion carried 5-0.

9) Agenda Item 9.0 Communication

There was none.

10) Agenda Item 10.0 Executive Session

Motion made by Mike Cerutti and seconded by Kassie Greenwood to move into Executive Session at 7:43 p.m. for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Motion made by Blake Furness and seconded by Mike Cerutti to move out of Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Motion made by Kassie Greenwood and seconded by Mike Cerutti to appoint Brian Patton to preside over an employee discipline hearing. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Motion made by Kassie Greenwood and seconded by Blake Furness to return to Executive Session at 8:17 p.m. for the purpose of appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of a specific employee and to hear testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mike Cerutti and seconded by Blake Furness to move out of Executive Session at 9:13 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

11) Agenda Item 11.0 Action Items Resulting from Executive Session

11.1 Resignation, Discipline, and/or Dismissal of a Non-Certified Employee

Motion by Kassie Greenwood, seconded by Mike Cerutti that Julie Waters has been found to have failed to meet the performance responsibilities set forth in her job description and Board Policy, as previously described to her, and that based on those findings, the employee shall be dismissed as an employee of Hillsboro Community Unit School District No. 3 effective immediately. On roll call the following voted yes:. Brian Patton, Blake Furness, Kassie Greenwood, Mike Cerutti, and Bill Christian. Motion carried 5-0.

12) Agenda Item 12.0 Adjournment.

Motion by Mike Cerutti, seconded by Kassie Greenwood to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Matt Lentz, President
Board of Education

Kassie Greenwood, Secretary
Board of Education

December 9, 2025
Date