Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3 Board of Education

Regular Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2025

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

2) Agenda Item 2.0. Good News Reports

Junior high student council members Dahlia Maass, Alexis Young and Adaley Wessell greeted and updated the board on the events they have been working on.

Mr. VanGiesen announced 1 junior high student and 7 high school students were selected for ILMEA All-State Choir. Special recognition to Kamdyn Putnam for being selected as the winner of the ILMEA District 5 Star Spangled Banner competition and Jaxon Wittenmeyer was named honorable mention for the All-State composition contest. He also reported that the building trades and DIY classes received Milwaukee tools compliments of a $5,000 donation from O'Shea Builders.

Mr. Haston reported Casen Wilkinson won the principal for a day contest at the junior high. November students of the month were Keaton Pachesa (6th), Grayson Brewer (7th) and Kendall Markezich (8th). The 7th grade girls' basketball team has advanced and will play for the state championship on Thursday, December 11th in Auburn. They will be taking a student fan bus and the sports boosters has generously offered to cover all the student entry fees.

Board member Christian received some feedback from the public recently praising teachers Erin Hammann and Coral Christian.

3) Agenda Item 3.0 FY25 Audit Presentation

Andrea Suhre of Scheffel Boyle gave the preliminary audit presentation with a clean opinion. All fund balances ended the year in the positive. The final report will be approved at the regular scheduled meeting next month.

4) Agenda Item 4.0 Consent Agenda

4.1 Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from November 11, 2025

President Lentz asked for additions or corrections to the November 11, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. There were none.

4.2 Approval of Executive Session Meeting Minutes from November 11, 2025

President Lentz asked for additions or corrections to the November 11, 2025 Executive Meeting Minutes. There were none.

4.3 Approval of Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes from November 25, 2025

President Lentz asked for additions or corrections to the November 25, 2025 Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes. There were none.

4.4 Approval of Building and Grounds Committee Minutes from December 2, 2025

President Lentz asked for additions or corrections to the December 2, 2025 Building and Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes. There were none.

4.5 Review and Approval of Payables

President Lentz asked for questions or comments. Superintendent McBrain stated O'Shea bill this month was $211,235, approximately 97% currently.

4.6 Financial Report

President Lentz asked for questions or comments. There were none.

Consent Agenda Vote.

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by Brian Patton to approve the consent agenda as presented. On roll call the following voted yes: Matt Lentz, Brian Patton, Bill Christian, Blake Furness, Mike Cerutti and Nathan Kirby. Motion carried 6-0.

5) Agenda Item 5.0 Presentation and Adoption of the 2025 Tax Levy

Superintendent McBrain is recommending the board adopt Option 2 as presented last month. Option 2 is a 5 percent EAV increase, under levying in Tort, IMRF and Social Security. This would result in the tax rate dropping from $4.40 to $4.37.

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by Brian Patton to approve the 2025 Tax Levy. On roll call the following voted yes: Matt Lentz, Brian Patton, Bill Christian, Blake Furness, Mike Cerutti and Nathan Kirby. Motion carried 6-0.

6) Agenda Item 6.0 Recognition of Audience

President Lentz read a letter received from Junior High Girls Basketball Coach Dyke Buerkett. He has been a coach in the community for 35 years and would like to see the responsibility of considering volunteer coaches be up to the head coach.

7) Agenda Item 7.0 Old Business

7.1 Consideration of Honorary Distinctions at High School Graduation

Discussion continued from the October board meeting. Principal Lipe gave a recap on the proposal to change to a Latin Honors System. In addition, he is also suggesting an increase to the GPA requirements for students graduating with honors. Increasing from a 3.0 to a 3.5 GPA requirement would better align with the Latin Honors System. The final request is to adjust the grading scale using a ten-point scale.

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by Mike Cerutti to approve the Latin Honor System as proposed effective in three years, GPA requirements will increase to a 3.5 beginning this school year and the grading scale will be set at a ten-point scale effective next school year. On roll call the following voted yes: Matt Lentz, Brian Patton, Bill Christian, Blake Furness, Mike Cerutti and Nathan Kirby. Motion carried 6-0.

7.2 Consideration of Changes to Coaching Handbook Regarding Volunteer Coaches

Superintendent McBrain reported the Policy Committee came up with some proposed language to add to the coaching handbook. "To prevent potential conflicts of interest and reduce coaching turnover, parents of current students participating in the program may not serve as

volunteer coaches. However, parents who have volunteered for at least three consecutive years prior to their child's participation may continue in their volunteer role. Additionally, volunteer coaches approved prior to December 9, 2025, are permitted to continue serving until they resign or are removed from the program.

Motion made by Mike Cerutti, seconded by Nathan Kirby to approve the changes to the coaching handbook as presented. On roll call the following voted yes: Brian Patton, Blake Furness, Mike Cerutti and Nathan Kirby. Matt Lentz and Bill Christian voted no. Motion carried 4-2.

8) Agenda Item 8.0 New Business

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

Superintendent McBrain met with the Building and Grounds Committee and there is a proposal to add two additional storm sewer outlets in the North parking lot.

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by Brian Patton to approve the change order to add two additional storm sewers in the North parking lot at HHS. On roll call the following voted yes: Matt Lentz, Brian Patton, Bill Christian, Blake Furness, Mike Cerutti and Nathan Kirby. Motion carried 6-0.

8.2 Consideration of Resolution Abating the Tax Levy to Pay Debt Service on General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2023, Dated 4/10/2023

Superintendent McBrain stated this resolution is a procedural matter which instructs the County Clerks not to levy property tax to make payments on our Alternate Revenue Bonds.

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by Brian Patton to approve the Resolution Abating the Tax Levy to Pay Debt Service on General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2023, Dated 4/10/2023. On roll call the following voted yes: Matt Lentz, Brian Patton, Bill Christian, Blake Furness, Mike Cerutti and Nathan Kirby. Motion carried 6-0.

8.3 Discussion of Proposed Use of Energy Transition Community Grant Funds

Superintendent McBrain announced the district is being awarded approximately $2,850,000 in Energy Transition Grant Funds. The Building and Grounds Committee have begun compiling a list of potential projects at all buildings. Possible projects include: landscaping, fencing, student parking lot at HHS and sidewalks, new bleachers at the junior high, replacing the bridge from the junior high to high school, scoreboards, shot clocks, roofing project at Beckemeyer and an additional parking lot.

8.4 Consideration of Technical Consulting Services Agreement with Hurst Rosche for Beckemeyer Roof Project

Superintendent McBrain presented the TCSA in the amount of $60,000 with Hurst-Rosche. The firm will prepare the drawing, specs and bid package as well as provide constructional administration services throughout the project.

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by Brian Patton to approve the Technical Consulting Services Agreement with Hurst Rosche for the Beckemeyer Roof Project. On roll call the following voted yes: Matt Lentz, Brian Patton, Bill Christian, Blake Furness and Nathan Kirby. Mike Cerutti voted no. Motion carried 5-1.

8.5 Consideration of Course Offerings at Hillsboro High School

Principal Lipe proposed 3 new courses to be added to the course offerings at HHS. First is an AP Government course which would be taught by Mr. Lunz. AP Government is a rigorous college-level course that examines the foundations, institutions and processes of the United States government. Second is a guitar elective that would be taught by Mr. Drake. Course objectives are familiarization with the instrument, basic techniques, music theory fundamentals, song repertoire and performance skills. The third addition is a sculpture course taught by Miss Kumlin. The course will be hands-on and designed to give students opportunities to develop skills in the realm of three-dimensional arts.

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by Brian Patton to add AP Government, Guitar and Sculpture to the course offerings at HHS. On roll call the following voted yes: Matt Lentz, Brian Patton, Bill Christian, Blake Furness, Mike Cerutti and Nathan Kirby. Motion carried 6-0.

8.6 Presentation of District and School Report Cards

Curriculum Director Autumn Amling presented the highlights and lowlights of the School Report Card. All buildings received a commendable performance rating. Overall chronic absenteeism is still an issue, there is an improvement in Math, ELA remains consistent and the graduation rate is high at 94.5%.

8.7 Discussion of Vape Deterrents

Superintendent McBrain stated vaping is a top concern at the junior high and high school. Mrs. McBrain shared some measures they are beginning to implement to combat the issue including: vape detectors, restricting E-Hall pass system, staff monitoring during transitions, metal detecting wands, education courses on vaping and tiered consequences for repeat offenders. Next step would be to schedule a large meeting inviting parents, law enforcement and the health department.

9) Agenda Item 9.0 Communication

There was none.

10) Agenda Item 10.0 Executive Session

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by Brian Patton to move into Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees and litigation. Voice vote. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Nathan Kirby, seconded by Brian Patton to move out of Executive session at 9:45 p.m. Voice Vote. Motion carried 6-0.

11) Agenda Item 11.0 Action Items Resulting from Executive Session

8.1 Resignation of High School Girls Track Coach

Motion by Nathan Kirby, seconded by Brian Patton to accept the resignation of High School Girls Track Coach Katie Homa. Voice Vote. Motion carried 6-0.

8.2 Approval of Volunteer Softball Coach

Motion by Nathan Kirby and seconded by Brian Patton to approve Carly Boden as High School Volunteer Softball Coach. Voice Vote. Motion carried 6-0.

8.3 Resignation of Food Service Worker

Motion by Nathan Kirby, seconded by Brian Patton to accept the resignation of Food Service Worker Tina Horn. Voice Vote. Motion carried 6-0.

12) Agenda Item 12.0 Adjournment.

Motion by Nathan Kirby, seconded by Brian Patton to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried 6-0.

Matt Lentz, President
Board of Education

Kassie Greenwood, Secretary
Board of Education

January 13, 2026
Date