

MINUTES OF HILLSDALE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026

HILLSDALE BOARD OFFICE ENTRYWAY

7:00 PM

HILLSDALE LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION — February 16, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. The Hillsdale Local Board of Education Regular Board Meeting was called to order by President Keith Yeater 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, Mark Hoffman, Steve Smith, Melinda Turk and Keith Yeater.

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mr. Yeater recognized the visitors: Jennifer Seman, Vella King, Lindsay Bowen, Jacob Schwendeman, and Barrett Duncan.

The Board President opened the floor for public participation regarding agenda items. No one addressed the Board.

- A. Falcon Spotlight
1. Student Achievement Update - Ms. Turk
 2. Report - Heartland Technical Education Center - Mr. Smith
 - Two New Board Members: Rick Brindley and Willard Welch
 - New Board President: Mr. Hartzler
 - Superintendent extended a Thank you to the Associate Schools for
 - Helping with the Bus Transportation during Building Renovation
 3. FFA - Jacob Schwendeman and Barrett Duncan presented to the Board

FFA Chapter Highlights

Ag Power Diagnostics placed 1st in District. Wyatt Hynek and Reed Twining will compete at state on March 6, 2026.

- On February 9, 11 Members attended with other local chapters at Snow Trails and had pizza and networked.
- Green House Class preparing for spring
- January's meeting was Bingo and Tacos - next meeting February 23rd
- National FFA week is February 23, 2026 - February 27, 2026

4. **Public Hearing – Potential Re-employment Following Retirement**

The Treasurer opened the public hearing regarding the potential re-employment of **Tom Selvage** following retirement from Hillsdale Local School District effective **May 31, 2025**, in accordance with Sections **3307.353** or **3309.345** of the Ohio Revised Code. Proper notice of the public hearing was provided.

No members of the public offered comment. The Treasurer closed the public hearing.

The Board will consider action regarding the re-employment of Tom Selvage for the **2026–2027 school year** at the **March 16, 2026 Board of Education meeting**.

5. **Public Awareness – Federal Grants (FY2027):** Opportunity for public input regarding the proposed use of IDEA-B and Title I funds will be provided at the March 16 Board meeting.

ADMINISTRATION DISCUSSION ITEM:

A. Treasurer – Lesa Deter

The Treasurer informed the Board that the concrete and paving work planned near the bus garage will be postponed until a decision is made regarding the Agriculture Education Center, due to potential electric, water, and sewer lines that may need to run through that area.

B. Superintendent – Catherine Trevathan

The Superintendent discussed the Agriculture Education Center. It was suggested that a Board work session be scheduled to address questions related to the project. The District is also exploring the possibility of applying for a Farm to School Grant to assist with project costs.

Jen Seman provided an overview of her communications role. She highlighted the new mass communication application currently being utilized by the District, reviewed the Quality Profile that was completed and distributed to district residents, and discussed ongoing efforts to ensure the District's new website meets ADA accessibility requirements and is properly maintained:

#26-19 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 February 16, 2026 Board of Education Meeting.

Burkholder, aye; Hoffman, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, aye;. Motion passes 5-0.

#26-20 TREASURER'S CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Hoffman, seconded by Smith to approve the Treasurer Consent Agenda.

- A. Approval of the January 12, 2026, Organizational Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

- B. Approval of the January 12, 202,6 Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

- C. Approval of the January 2026 Financial Reports as presented.

- D. Approve the following donations:

Coffee Pot for PK-2 Workroom - from Katie Kamenik - valued at approximately \$100.

- E. Approval to remove from inventory and sell, or dispose of the following:

2017 Blue Bird Bus #10
2011 Chevrolet - (Big Blue Van)
Powermatic Table Saw #00115 or 00053, Model W1010
5 year old Chromebook Bundle (Obsolete)
Laptop/s - over 10 years old
1 Projector
Laptop Carts
Miscellaneous obsolete IT items no longer in service

Burkholder, aye; Hoffman, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, aye;. Motion passes 5-0.

#26-21 SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Approval to place the following on the negotiated master salary schedule due to advanced training effective second semester, 2025-26 school year:

Kendal Gable - Masters +10

- B. Approve the following to 5 days extended time effective 2025-26 school year:

Kendal Gable

- C. Approve Janet Mowery as Hillsdale 7-12 Secretary effective May 4, 2026.

- D. Approve Nathaniel Thomas as Full-Time Relief School Bus /Van Driver Driver effective date to be determined; experience 0.

- E. Approve the following Pupil Activity Resignations:

Kristin Weidrick - 7 & 8 Football Cheerleader Advisor - effective end of 2025-26 school year/season.

Kristin Weidrick - 7 & 8 Basketball Cheerleader Advisor - effective end of 2025-26 school year/season.

- F. Approve the following to supplemental contracts effective 2025-26 school year:

Madelynn Mitchell - 7 & 8 Girls' Track - Classification G; Experience 0

Tim Keib - 7 & 8 Boys' Track - Classification G; Experience 17

- G. Approve the following volunteers:

Mark Abel - Volunteer Baseball

- H. Approve the following volunteers:

Pat Butcher - Ag - Volunteer

Mark Abel - Ag Volunteer

- I. Second Reading and Approval of the FY26 Updated Administrator Handbook.

Administrator Handbook Update

- J. Second Reading and Approval of the following Policies:

EBDE GBQ

DLC GBQ-R

DLC-R

- K. Approval of the 2026-27 Gr. 7 - 8 and Gr. 9-12 Course Description Guides.

- L. Approve continued membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association for 2026-27 school year.
- M. Approval of Local Seals.
- N. Approve the payment by the Board for Senior Banners for Class of 2026.

Burkholder, aye; Hoffman, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, aye;. Motion passes 5-0.

Treasurer's New Business

#26-22 FIVE YEAR FORECAST

- A. Moved by Smith, seconded by Turk, to approve the Forecast as presented

Burkholder, aye; Hoffman, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, aye;. Motion passes 5-0.

#26-23 RESOLUTION FOR BUDGET

- B. Moved by Hoffman, seconded by Turk, to approve the Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and Authorization the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor

Burkholder, aye; Hoffman, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, aye;. Motion passes 5-0.

#26-24 APPROPRIATIONS

- C. Moved by Hoffman, seconded by Smith, to approve to amend the Permanent Appropriations and Estimated Resources (see attached).

Burkholder, aye; Hoffman, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, aye;. Motion passes 5-0.

Superintendent's New Business

#26-25 RETIREMENT OF THOMAS WILLIAMS

Moved by Smith, seconded by Hoffman, to approve the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Thomas Williams, as principal and from all supplemental contracts, effective June 30, 2026, and to approve the following Resolution:

***WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has received notice of the intended retirement of Thomas Williams , effective June 30, 2026; and*

***WHEREAS**, in his notice of retirement Tom Williams expressed an interest in returning to the District in the same position as a principal that he currently holds;*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accepts the resignation / retirement of Thomas Williams, effective June 30, 2026; and*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education directs the Treasurer, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 3307.353 [or 3309.345, to issue a Public Notice stating that Thomas Williams, currently employed with the District as a principal, will be retired and is seeking employment with the District in such position following retirement, and as such the Board, in accordance with state law, will hold a public meeting on the issue of Thomas Williams being employed with the District at 7:00 PM on April 20, 2026, at Hillsdale Local Schools. Said Public Notice should appear at least once in the "Legal Notices" section of a newspaper of general circulation in the County and be included in any general notice of the Board meeting at which the hearing is going to be held.*

Burkholder, aye; Hoffman, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, aye;. Motion passes 5-0.

#26-26 LOVE THE BUS MONTH

Moved by Turk, seconded by Hoffman, to approve LOVE THE BUS MONTH - February 2026

LOVE THE BUS MONTH - February 2026

WHEREAS the yellow school bus is among the most recognized icons of American schools and society, and,

WHEREAS school buses make up the largest mass transit system in the United States, and,

WHEREAS research demonstrates that the yellow school bus is the safest mode of transportation for some 26 million American school children each day, and,

WHEREAS yellow school buses are built to exacting federal and state safety specifications and school bus drivers are provided rigorous training, preparation and testing to ensure the safety of our children, and,

WHEREAS the yellow school bus provides access to education and learning for children who live in rural, suburban, and urban areas, including children who present with special needs, and,

WHEREAS the yellow school bus enhances the educational experience by providing access to extracurricular activities, such as field trips and sporting events, and,

WHEREAS the yellow school bus contributes to improving our environment by reducing the number of vehicles that must be on the road to get our children to school each day, and,

WHEREAS the women and men who manage and operate local school transportation systems are dedicated to the safety of all children and to ensuring efficiency and accountability in the delivery of school transportation services,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Hillsdale Local Schools recognizes the vital role that the yellow school bus plays in our education enterprise and in the life of our district, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hillsdale Local Schools declares the month of February 2026 to be LOVE THE BUS MONTH in Hillsdale Local Schools, and we call upon our students, our families, our faculty and staff, and our community to recognize the work of our school transportation team and all they contribute to the well-being of our students.

Burkholder, aye; Hoffman, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, aye;. Motion passes 5-0.

#26-27 FIRST READING 2026-27 HILLSDALE HANDBOOKS

Moved by Smith seconded by Turk, to approve the First Reading of the following 2026-27 Hillsdale Handbooks:

- 1) Little Falcons Preschool Handbook
- 2) Hillsdale K-6 Student Handbook
- 3) Hillsdale 7-12 Student/Parent Handbook
- 4) Faculty Handbook
- 5) Food Service Handbook
- 6) Transportation Handbook
- 7) Custodial/Maintenance Handbook
- 8) Athletic Handbook
- 9) Coaches Handbook
- 10) Board Member Handbook

Burkholder, aye; Hoffman, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, aye;. Motion passes 5-0.

#26-28 PRESCHOOL FEES

Moved by Turk, seconded by Burkholder, to approve preschool fees to be \$140.00 per month for a yearly total of \$1,269.00 per year for the 2026-27 school year. (same as 2025-26 school year)

Burkholder, aye; Hoffman, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, aye;. Motion passes 5-0.

#26-29 HIRE A SPECIALS TEACHER

Moved by Smith, seconded by Burkholder, to approve the hiring of a Specials Teacher for Career Exploration for K-6

Burkholder, aye; Hoffman, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, aye;. Motion passes 5-0.

#26-30 OPEN ENROLLMENT

Moved by Burkholder, seconded by Turk, to approve continued participation in the statewide Open Enrollment Program for the 2026-27 school year.

Burkholder, aye; Hoffman, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, aye;. Motion passes 5-0.

Public Participation for Non-Agenda Items:

Mrs. Vella King addressed the Board regarding non-agenda items. She encouraged the Board to consider supporting board resolutions in response to certain proposed legislation affecting public schools, including Ohio House Bill 42 and Ohio House Bill 671. Mrs. King expressed concerns regarding potential impacts on school funding, student safety, and student privacy protections under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). She encouraged the Board to use its voice to advocate for public schools.

Discussion/Information Items from the board:

A. Items from the Board:

Mr. Yeater discussed Ohio House Bill 671, also referred to as the "Bully Bill." He stated that the bill could jeopardize school funding by withholding funds from districts that support the lawsuit challenging the voucher system.


#26-31 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Hoffman, seconded by Turk to adjourn the Board meeting at 8:43 P.M.

Burkholder, aye; Hoffman, aye; Smith, aye; Turk, aye; Yeater, aye;. Motion passes 5-0.



BOARD PRESIDENT



TREASURER