

MINUTES OF HILLSDALE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR BOARD MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026 HILLSDALE BOARD OFFICE ENTRYWAY 7:00 PM

HILLSDALE LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION — March 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: Deana Gilmore, Alyson Baker, Scott Call, Michael Shenberger, Barrett Duncan, Kyle Wissel, Vella King and Jennifer Seman.

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**
Next meeting is Thursday, March 19th
A \$25,000 cash donation was received from the Ed McGinnis Trust to establish a scholarship endowment with the Ashland County Community Foundation. Mr. McGinnis was a longtime staff member of the District.
3. **FFA Student Update**
FFA students Michael Shenberger and Barrett Duncan provided the monthly update.
 - **Capstone class / trade show (March 6, 2026)**
The Capstone class organized and managed a trade show for local agricultural vendors and served breakfast and lunch.
 - **Ag Power and Diagnostics CDE (March 6, 2026)**
Wyatt Hynek and Reed Twining competed at the state level. The team placed 4th in the state, and each member received a \$5,000 scholarship to the University of Northwestern Ohio.
 - **FFA Alumni Consignment Sale (March 7, 2026)**
FFA students assisted with parking, supporting auctioneers, serving food, and clean-up. The event supports the FFA Alumni in providing funding for National and State FFA Conventions, other student needs, and annual scholarships.

• **State Ag Sales Event (March 10, 2026)**

Cooper Baker, Nick Wiltrout, Jacob Swendeman, and Jillian Cowger competed in Columbus.

• **National FFA Week Activities**

Activities included preparation of a lunch for local community farmers and

guests, with staff invited to attend. Reed Twining organized an activity in which FFA emblems were hidden for students to find and win prizes.

Motivational speaker David Kohout, from Talk Is Cheap, was invited to present to the student body.

• **Replay for Kids service project**

FFA members completed a service project supporting Replay for Kids, an organization that increases access to toys and assistive devices for children with disabilities.

4.

The floor was opened for public comment regarding budgeting of IDEA-B

and Title I-A funds for the 2026-2027 school year. Title I-A grant funds are approximately \$150,642 and provide 68% of salary and benefits for Lori Ayers and Mindy Kalbfill. IDEA-B Special Education grant funds are approximately \$224,719 and support 19 aides, covering approximately 50% of contracted services through Tri-County ESC.

5.

Students - Recognizing Music in our Schools Month and Youth Art Month

ADMINISTRATION DISCUSSION ITEM:

Treasurer – Lesa Deter

• **Auctioneer Service Proposal Discussion**

Discussion to issue a Request for Auction services on a fiscal year cycle with an annual contract. Services would be used to conduct the sale of surplus, obsolete, or unused District property.

• **Northeast County Auditor / School Treasurer Meeting Update**

Update provided regarding a meeting between County Auditors and Northeast Ohio school district treasurers to discuss the impact of recent tax law changes and implications moving forward. Internal processes were also discussed.

• **Cash Balance Policy Discussion**

Discussion regarding the development of a formal cash balance policy. A preliminary recommendation was discussed establishing a 90-day cash balance target, with a 60-day threshold serving as a trigger point for potential levy consideration.

• **Monthly Financial Update for February 2026 was provided**

B. Superintendent – Catherine Trevathan

- **Kindstock Event**

Kindstock returned to Hillsdale, featuring several bands performing on March 21, 2026. Various student activities were provided for participation throughout the event.

- **Basketball Final Four Playoff (March 20, 2026)**

The Final Four playoff game is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on March 20, 2026. Students and staff are encouraged to attend. A spirit bus will transport students in grades 7–12 who wish to attend.

- **Student Services Update (Deana Gilmore)**

Deana Gilmore, Student Services Director, provided an overview of her role and responsibilities within the District's special education department. She reviewed the 13 disability categories and current student identification data, including one Autism Scholarship participant through the State and 22 students identified with Autism within the District. She also reported one English Learner student whose primary language is not English. Deana provided additional information regarding the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process and Section 504 plans.

#26-34 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA AND ANY ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Moved by Burkholder, seconded by Smith to approve the consent agenda and Additions/Deletions for the Regular March 16, 2026 Board of Education Meeting.

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

#26-35 TREASURER'S CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Approval of the February 16, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes as presented.
- B. Approval of the February 2026 Financial Reports as presented.

C. Approve the following donations:

\$1,000.00 from Mansfield Charity & Scholarship Group to Kindstock - 2026 Fund 018.9824

\$250.00 Anonymous Donation to be used for March Staff Social Event

\$32.26 from Ludus Technologies, Inc. to Hillisdale Thespians Fund 200-913A

Dr. Seuss Books - One (1) per kindergarten class valued at a total of \$40.00 from Karen McCready.

Sports Trading Cards donated to PK-6 Treasure Chest at an approximate value of \$100.00 from Jason Sermulis.

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

#26-36 SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A.. Accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Christopher Shenberger as PE teacher, and from all supplemental contracts effective May 29, 2026.
- B. Accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Melissa Dropsey as teacher, effective May 31, 2026.
- C. Approve Thomas Selvage to a one (1) year limited contract as a retired/rehired teacher effective 2026-27 school year - Masters; experience 7.
- D. Approve the transfer of Amber Swisher to the Career Exploration Specials Teacher (K-6) - Take Flight Program, effective 2026-27 school year.
- E. Approve the resignation of Matthew Brownell, effective February 19, 2026.
- F. Approve the transfer of Cassie Filius to second shift hourly custodian, effective March 9, 2026.

- G. Approve a one (1) year contract for Heather Shenberger as hourly custodian effective March 30, 2026 through June 30, 2027, experience 0.
- H. Approve the following to the 2025-26 Classified Substitute List:

Kathern Bray
- I. Approve the following volunteers:

Sharon Croskey - Health Clinic
Patricia Rinehart - Media Center
- J. Approve the following for the 7-8 course description guide as a 7th grade elective:

Fitness for Life

This engaging, hands-on course introduces students to the basics of healthy living, physical fitness, and how the body works. Students will learn how nutrition and physical activity affect the body and support overall wellness while participating in activities such as strength exercises, cardio workouts, stretching, and recreational games. The course also introduces students to careers in health, fitness, and wellness through self-reflection, discussions, and real-world examples. Students will build healthy habits and gain a better understanding of how to care for their bodies now and in the future.

- K. Second Reading and Approval 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~~ - Pulled out of consent agenda to vote separately in new business
 - 9) Coaches Handbook
 - 10) Board Member Handbook

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

Treasurer's New Business

#26-37 CONTRACT WITH TIME CLOCK PLUS

Moved by Turk, seconded by Hoffman, to approve a contract with Powerschool Group LLC for TimeClock Plus integration with eFinancePlus, including the annual license and subscription fees as well as the one-time setup, integration, and training costs, for the contract term of March 17, 2026 through June 30, 2028, at a total cost not to exceed \$16,345.23, in accordance with the terms of the contract.

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

Superintendent's New Business

#26-38 CONTRACT WITH SMARTFIND EXPRESS

Moved by Burkholder, seconded by Hoffman, to approve a contract with Powerschool Group LLC for SmartFind Express Implementation - Comprehensive and eFP SmartFind Express Integration including the annual license and subscription fees as well as the integration, and training costs, for the contract term of May 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029, at a total cost not to exceed \$18,021.81 in accordance with the terms of the contract.

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

#26-39 INTERNET SECURITY

Moved by Smith, seconded by Burkholder, to approve the following Resolution:

Resolution

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT the Center for Internet Security (CIS) Cybersecurity Framework AS THE OFFICIAL CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM FRAMEWORK FOR [SCHOOL DISTRICT] AND TO AUTHORIZE IMPLEMENTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO HOUSE BILL 96

WHEREAS,

the Ohio General Assembly enacted House Bill 96, requiring all political subdivisions, including school districts to establish and maintain a cybersecurity program that is consistent with generally accepted best practices for cybersecurity; and

WHEREAS,

The Center for Internet Security (CIS) Cybersecurity Framework provides a widely recognized, flexible, and risk-based approach for managing cybersecurity risks across critical operations, technology systems, and information assets; and

WHEREAS,

the adoption of CIS Cybersecurity Framework will strengthen protections for sensitive data, improve resilience against cyberattacks and other disruptions, and ensure compliance with Ohio law; and

WHEREAS,

the Board recognizes that the implementation of the CIS Cybersecurity Framework will require adjustments to policies, standards, and operational practices, and that such changes will enhance the overall security posture of the organization and benefit the community it serves;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE HILLSDALE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1. *That the CIS Cybersecurity Framework are hereby formally adopted as the official cybersecurity program framework of Hillsdale Local Schools.*
2. *That the administration is authorized and directed to implement policies, procedures, and operational controls necessary to achieve compliance with the framework in alignment with Ohio House Bill 96.*
3. *That the [Superintendent/IT Director] shall provide the Board with an annual report on implementation progress, compliance status, and recommendations for resource allocation or corrective action.*

That this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption.

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

#26-40 RESOLUTION OPPOSING OHIO HOUSE BILL 42

Moved by Turk seconded by Yeater, to approve the following Resolution Opposing Ohio House Bill 42.

Resolution Opposing Ohio House Bill 42

WHEREAS, Ohio House Bill 42, introduced in the 136th General Assembly, proposes to require the Department of Education and Workforce, among other state agencies, to collect and report data concerning the citizenship or immigration status of individuals they serve; and

WHEREAS, this mandate could lead to the collection of sensitive personal information from students and their families, potentially infringing upon their privacy rights and creating an environment of fear and mistrust within our schools; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of House Bill 42 may place additional administrative burdens on educators and school staff, diverting resources away from educational instruction and student support services; and

WHEREAS, our school district is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment for all students, regardless of their or their families' citizenship or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the proposed data collection requirements could deter families from enrolling their children in school or participating in school programs, thereby hindering educational access and equity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hillsdale Local School District Board of Education formally opposes Ohio House Bill 42 as it pertains to the education sector;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board urges the Ohio General Assembly to reconsider the implications of House Bill 42 on public education and to protect the rights and well-being of all students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Superintendent to communicate this resolution to local legislators, the Ohio Department of Education and

Workforce, and the Governor's office, and to collaborate with other school districts and educational organizations in advocating against the enactment of House Bill 42.

Burkholder, nay; Hoffman, nay; Smith, nay; Turk, nay; Yeater, nay; Motion fails 5-0.

#26-41 ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Moved by Hoffman, seconded by Burkholder, to approve the Athletic Handbook.

Discussion: Fairness to students, changes are needed, would like to see consistency with other awards. After discussion it was approved to continue the handbook as presented with no changes for the upcoming 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 her disappointment in the Board's decision not to pass the resolution opposing Ohio House Bill 42. Vella mentioned that the Musical was wonderful. She also spoke about the Strategic Planning meeting and how helpful the discussion topic was and that the next meeting is in May. She feels it is important that the Board be active in these groups.

Discussion/Information Items from the board:

A. Items from the Board:

Mr. Yeater discussed proposed House Bill legislation aimed at requiring two recess periods per day for students, sponsored by Representative Melanie Miller. He also reported that he is in the process of scheduling a meeting with Representative Miller to review pending legislation.

#26-42 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Hoffman, seconded by Smith to adjourn the Board meeting at 8:10 P.M.

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



BOARD PRESIDENT



TREASURER