

**MINUTES OF HILLSDALE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026**

**HILLSDALE BOARD OFFICE ENTRYWAY**

**7:00 PM**

HILLSDALE LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION — April 20, 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: Trevor Cline, Vella King, Paelyn Wilson, Emma Miller, Shawn Weiler, Becky Hartsel, Robin Beasley, Jennifer Seman, Lindsay Bowen, Dena Campbell, Leslie Rook, Tiffany Barnhart, Kyle Wissel and Scott Call.

The Board President opened the floor for public participation regarding agenda items.

Vella King participated during the public participation portion of the meeting and inquired whether the District has received the renewal rates for Jefferson Health Plan. She expressed concern regarding potential increases, referencing a recent 40% increase in her private supplemental insurance and questioning whether similar increases may impact the District.

A. Falcon Spotlight

1. **Student Achievement Update - Ms. Turk**
2. **Report - Heartland Technical Education Center - Mr. Smith**

An update was provided noting that in March, work included road widening and the relocation of utility poles. A paving project is being handled by McBee. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be scheduled upon completion of the project.

3. **FFA Student Update**

FFA students Paelyn Wilson and Emma Miller provided the monthly update.

- **Floriculture Team (March 26, 2026)**

The Floriculture team competed in the district competition and placed 2nd.

- **Members (March 28, 2026)**  
Members competed in the following Ohio FFA career development: Agronomy, Equine Management, General Livestock, Milk Quality Products, and Poultry.
- **Members (March 31, 2026)**  
Members competed in Nursery & Landscape finals placing 2nd and earned a trip to the Big E in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Reed Twining placed 1st individually.
- **Annual Banquet (April 12, 2026)**  
An update was provided regarding the annual FFA Banquet held on April 12. The banquet serves as an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments, leadership, and contributions of FFA members, as well as to acknowledge the support of community members and volunteers who contribute to the success of the program. The event highlights student achievement, leadership development, scholarship awards, and community involvement associated with the FFA program.

**4. Public Hearing - Thomas Williams Retire/Rehire**

The Board President opened the floor for public comment regarding the Board's consideration of the proposed retire/rehire of Thomas Williams pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 3307.353 and 3309.345. Public notice of the Board's consideration was published in the local newspaper on March 5, 2026.

Trevor Cline spoke in support of Mr. Williams, stating that it would be a disservice not to rehire him. He noted that Mr. Williams has made positive contributions to the community.

Vella King, a former Board member, shared concerns she has heard from the community regarding the handling of student discipline and a perceived fear of retribution. She suggested the District consider additional training in discipline practices and bullying prevention.

Dena Campbell, a parent in the District, expressed concern that bullying incidents should be addressed at the building level by administration when they occur. She also referenced a personal experience involving her child, noting a lack of clear communication from Mr. Williams, which she found concerning.

Kyle Wissel, serving as the teacher representative, provided and distributed a survey completed by teachers under Mr. Williams' direct supervision.

Robin Beasley, a community member and grandparent of an elementary student, expressed concerns regarding the District's handling of bullying. She stated that some parents feel their concerns are not being adequately addressed by Mr. Williams. She indicated opposition to his rehire and suggested the Board consider a change in leadership direction.

## **ADMINISTRATION DISCUSSION ITEM:**

### **Treasurer – Lesa Deter**

Lesla Deter

OASBO Conference April 14-17

Becky Princehorn/Red Tree Investments/Rover update

- The ROVER appeal for tax year 2020 remains in progress.
- An update was provided regarding remaining building project funds and low Certificate of Participation interest rates. It was noted that the earliest opportunity to apply excess funds to principal is 2030.
- It was reported that 2019 delinquent taxes were collected by Ashland County and included in the spring settlement. The total amount received from Ashland County for the public utility back tax payment was lower than anticipated. Wayne County issued a rebill, and the District has not yet received the associated back tax payment as of this meeting.

The audit has concluded and will be published on the Auditor of States website.

### **B. Superintendent – Catherine Trevathan**

Catherine Trevathan

- Agricultural Education Building Update – The project remains in the design phase with the architect. Construction is anticipated to begin in mid-2027, subject to Board approval to proceed.
- Becky Hartsel - Preschool Director gave an overview report on the preschool program.

**#26-46 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA AND ANY ADDITIONS/DELETIONS**

Moved by Burkholder, seconded by Hoffman to approve the consent agenda and Additions/Deletions for the Regular April 20, 2026 Board of Education Meeting.

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

**#26-47 TREASURER'S CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. Approval of the March 16, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes as presented.
- B. Approval of the March 16, 2026 Board Work Session Minutes as presented.
- C. Approval of the March 2026 Financial Reports as presented.
- D. Approve the following donations:
  - Access Ability - \$2,000.00 - Kindstock
  - Andrew & Krystal Raubenolt - \$50.00 - Kindstock
  - The Eldritch Bastion Co. - \$100.00 - Kindstock
  - Hayesville AmVets Post 1969 - \$1,500.00 - to Food Service for student lunch accounts
  - American Legion Auxiliary Unit 749 - \$600.00 to Food Service for student lunch accounts

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

**#26-48 SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. Approval to place the following on the negotiated master salary schedule due to advanced training, effective 2026-27 school year:

Kendal Gable - Masters + 20

- B. Amend the effective date of retirement for Uwe Locher to be May 31, 2026.
- C. Accept the resignation of Nathaniel Thomas as Full-Time Relief Bus/Van Driver effective March 27, 2026.
- D. Accept the resignation of Heather Shenberger as Hourly Custodian effective April 18, 2026.
- E. Approve the following as Summer 2026 Remediation Tutors:
  - Lori Ayers
  - Megan Hottel
- F. Approve the transfer of Erin Licata to a grade 1 teacher, effective 2026-27 school year.
- G. Approve the following volunteers:
  - Courtney LeMaster
- H. Approve the following to Supplemental Contracts effective 2025-26 school year/season:
  - Nichole Blosser - Co - 7 & 8 Girls' Track - Classification G; Experience 0
  - Rebecca Case - Co - 7 & 8 Girls' Track - Classification G; Experience 0
  - Jessica Rosendaul - 7 & 8 Boys' Track - Classification G; Experience 0
- I. Approve the following to Supplemental Contracts effective 2026-27 school year/season:
  - Trevor Cline - Assistant Girls' Basketball - Classification D; Experience 6
  - Lyndsay Witmer - Assistant Girls' Basketball - Classification D; Experience 10
  - Brittany Poling - Assistant Girls' Basketball - Classification D; Experience 4
  - Kent Hostetler - 7 & 8 Girls' Basketball - Classification G; Experience 12
  - Jim Visintine - Co - Assistant Wrestling - Classification E; Experience 23
  - Gary Weisenstein - Co - Assistant Wrestling - Classification E; Experience 26
- J. Approve the following to Pupil Activity Contracts effective 2026-27 school year/season:
  - Tom Strine - 7 & 8 Girls' Basketball Coach - Classification G; Experience 10
  - Dan Mager - Head Wrestling - Classification C; Experience 8

Soren Osicka - 7 & 8 Wrestling - Classification G; Experience 1  
JJ Griffith - 7 & 8 Wrestling - Classification G; Experience 4  
Ben Ferguson - Head Boys' Basketball - Classification B; Experience 4  
Eric Pickering - Assistant Boys' Basketball - Classification D; Experience 4  
Ben Rogers - Assistant Boys' Basketball - Classification D; Experience 6  
Lyra LAWSON - JV & Varsity Basketball Cheerleading Advisor - Classification F; Experience 3  
Jamie Best - Weight Trainer (Winter) Classification E; Experience 8

- K. Approve Angel Stoner, Dally Meek, and Shannon Cunningham to the 2025-26 Classified Substitute List pending receipt of a report from FBI and BCI.
- L. Approve Michael Mack as Tournament Director of the Bob Valentine Invitational Track Meet - May 2026 at a rate of \$200 plus benefits. All wages and benefits to be paid from the Athletic Department Managed Activity Fund 300.950A.
- M. Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Education and Hillsdale Education Association.
- N. Approve the Student Protection Agency to provide voluntary student accident insurance for the 2026-27 school year.
- O. Approve the salary schedule for Educational Aides (ESC), effective 7/1/2026.
- P. Approve the following Service Agreements for the 2026-27 school year:  
River Education Services, Inc.  
Tyler Technologies
- Q. Approve the following graduating seniors for the 2025-26 school year. Such approval is contingent upon the student's satisfactory completion of all school and state requirements and obligations:

Owen Jeffrey Atkinson  
Gage Gregory Ryan Barker  
Parker Kayne Bigley  
Autumn Brooke Bond  
Carter Ryan Booher  
Brock Hayden Bower  
Alan Jamison Brown  
Braxten Walker Burgett  
Tessa Joy Butcher

Aurora Harmony Martin  
Hayden Allan McFadden  
Parker James Moneer  
Wade Michael Moody  
Allyson Marie Morgan  
Camden Michael Morgan  
Colton Lee Mosher  
Ryan Ronald Nalley  
Sara Grace Nebergall

Klarissa Marie Byler  
Hunter Douglas Dalton  
Gabriella Vivian Davis  
Kylee Marie Devault  
Riley Amelia Dewitt  
Carter Allen Erandio  
Kennedy Elise Fickes  
Ava Justine Flory  
Michael Jarod Fuller  
Garrett Laith Furr  
Carmen Ann Gentry  
Hayden Quinn Gerber  
Vanessa Ilene Harned  
Jacob Allen Haven  
Cade Allen Hawley  
Conner Douglas Helbert  
Gretchen Alana Heldenbrand  
Brady Steven Heller  
Hunter Tyler Hickey  
Aiden David Hoffman  
Trenton Micheal Houchin  
Emma Anne Linder  
Macy Lee Mager  
Jordan Alexander Maki

William Connor Nethero  
Lillian Rosemarie Olszewski  
Landen Edward Raines  
Valerie Kate Raubenolt  
Nathan William Ries  
Zoe Faith Ritchie  
Keagen Stanley Schnell  
Blake Allen Schwan  
Mikayla Rose Schwendeman  
Dryden Eli Shoemaker  
Kahlen Aubrey Simmons  
Mikayla Rae-Ann Simmons  
Jacey Leeann Slagle  
Owen Lewis Sloan  
Emma Rose Snyder  
Joseph Ryan Swazey  
Cameron James Sweet  
William Timothy Tate  
Landon Michael Thomas  
Landen Allen Timms  
Jesse David Trevathan  
Reed Timothy Twining  
Alex Caden Tyson  
Riley Sue Wagner  
Kaylee Lynn Wilfong  
Ian Lee Zimmerman

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

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

#### **#26-49 GENERAL FUND TRANSFERS**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Hoffman to approve the following transfers:

General Fund (001) to Lease Payment Fund (003-9020) \$5,950,000.00

General Fund (001) to Severance Fund (035) \$150,000.00

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

#### **#26-50 ADJUSTMENTS**

Moved by Burkholder, seconded by Smith to approve the following adjustments to Estimated Resources and Permanent Appropriations for FY26

(see attached list).

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

**#26-51 MICRO BUS**

Moved by Turk, seconded by Burkholder to approve to purchase a nine (9) passenger MPV Stock Unit 225 Chevrolet/Micro Bird at an estimated base price of \$81,958.00 from Cardinal Bus Sales and Service, Inc., Bids were collected through Ohio School Council.

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

**#26-52 BLUE BIRD BUS**

Moved by Hoffman, seconded by Burkholder to approve the purchase of a 78-passenger Blue Bird Gas School Bus at an estimated cost of \$153,061.00 (META Pricing). Effective July 1, 2026

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

**#26-53 DODGE RAM TRUCK**

Moved by Turk, seconded by Hoffman to approve the purchase of a 2026 Dodge Ram 4x4 Truck at a cost of \$56,420.00. Bids were collected through the Ohio School Council.

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

**#26-54 JEFFERSON HEALTH PLAN**

Moved by Burkholder, seconded by Smith to approve to authorize the Treasurer to pay Jefferson Health Plan a supplemental deposit in the amount of \$350,000, as required to meet the district's reserve account balance requirement for participation in the health plan.

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

**Superintendent's New Business**

**#26-55 POLICIES**

Moved by Turk, seconded by Hoffman, to approve a First Reading of the following policies:

EFD            JEB            JECB  
EBDE        EDEC

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

### Public Participation for Non-Agenda Items

If you wish to address the Board on a non-agenda item, please state your name before speaking. Comments are limited to five minutes per speaker, with a total of 30 minutes allotted for public participation on non-agenda items. Please note that the Board may not be able to respond to comments or concerns at this time, as some matters may require additional review or research. Is there any public participation related to non-agenda items at this time?

Vella King addressed the Board regarding scholastic recognition, stating that it reflects the dedication of both students and staff, particularly given the number of students recognized. She expressed concern that some students may have been inadvertently omitted and suggested consideration be given to restructuring recognition. Vella complimented Mr. Yeater on his speech for that evening.

Robin Beasley addressed concerns regarding bullying, referencing situations in Loudonville and Dalton that are currently subject to litigation. She emphasized the importance of collaboration and timely response to reported issues. She also expressed willingness to serve on a committee related to this topic.

### Discussion/Information Items

Items from the Board

Mr. Yeater reported that he organized a luncheon with Representative Melanie Miller, which was attended by Melinda Turk, Cathy Trevathan, and Lesa Deter. The discussion focused on property tax reform and its potential impact on school districts, with the intent of providing additional context for consideration should such reforms be implemented.

### **#26-56 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Moved by Hoffman, seconded by Turk to go into Executive Session at 8:18 P.M. for the purpose to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official and matters required to be kept confidential by federal law, federal rules or state statutes (ORC 121.22). There will be no action following Executive Session.

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

### **#26-157 REGULAR SESSION**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Turk, to resume Regular Board Meeting at 9:29 P.M.

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

**#26-58 ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Hoffman, seconded by Smith to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:29 P.M.

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



**BOARD PRESIDENT**



**TREASURER**