



Board Briefs

Hickman Mills C-1 School District
BOARD OF EDUCATION

HMC-1 Board of Directors Working Session Meeting Summary Thursday, September 3, 2026

The Hickman Mills C-1 Board of Education met on September 3 for its work session meeting. Below are highlights from the meeting.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: The Mill Café

The Board recognized The Mill Café, HMC-1's student-run coffee shop at the Real-World Learning Center.

Mill Café Manager Brandon Nichols introduced the program, followed by students who shared how the experience is helping them build real-world skills. Students talked about learning to work as a team, serve the community, work in a fast-paced environment, and develop the confidence to step outside their comfort zones.

The Mill Café gives students an opportunity to develop valuable workplace and "soft skills" while gaining hands-on experience in an entrepreneurial setting.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Through August 31, HMC-1 had recorded approximately \$6.1 million in revenue, representing about 6.5% of the annual budget. Expenditures totaled approximately \$9.7 million, or 10.7% of the annual operating budget.

The district also updated the board on Tax Increment Financing (TIF) reimbursements. Approximately \$2.03 million in reimbursement requests have been submitted to date, with approximately \$1.85 million received. About \$184,215 remains outstanding from the most recent request.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Several operational projects and initiatives are supporting students and staff this school year. The District Stadium lighting project is complete, improving the experience for student-athletes, families, and the community during fall activities.

HMC-1 also launched its partnership with All City Management Services (ACMS) to provide crossing guards at key locations near schools. Guards are currently supporting Ingels Elementary at Food Lane and Longview Road and C.A. Burke Elementary at Bennington and Red Bridge Road.

Transportation, Safety, and Technology teams worked throughout the opening of school to support smooth arrivals and dismissals, transportation routes, classroom technology, and student devices. Ruskin High School completed its student device rollout following Freshman Night and subsequent rollouts for sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

HMC-1 coaches also completed required District and MSHSAA training ahead of the fall season. Ruskin hosted the district's first-ever Athletics Media Day, creating new opportunities to celebrate and promote our student-athletes and athletic programs.

HMC-1 welcomed more than 100 new certified and classified employees for the 2026-27 school year. The district is also using new approaches to address remaining vacancies. The district Paraprofessional Academy provides a district-paid pathway for qualified candidates to meet paraprofessional requirements while helping build the district's staffing pipeline.

Because some specialized positions remain difficult to fill, the Board approved agreements with external staffing firms to help recruit Speech-Language Pathologists, Special Education teachers, and paraprofessionals. These efforts focus on ensuring students receive the services outlined in their Individualized Education Programs.

New AI-powered chatbots and AudioEye accessibility tools are now available across HMC-1 district and school websites. These tools provide families, staff, and community members with additional ways to access information and navigate online resources.

ACADEMIC UPDATE

More than 100 new teachers participated in New Teacher Orientation, focusing on building relationships, understanding HMC-1 expectations, and supporting the District's Every Child a Reader literacy initiative.

The district is also expanding opportunities beyond the traditional classroom. More than 260 students are enrolled in off-campus programs this semester, while expanded offerings at the Real-World Learning Center are giving students additional opportunities to explore careers and gain real-world experience.

HMC-1's partnership with Zeta Driving School continues to attract attention beyond the district, with the organization's representatives highlighting HMC-1's Real-World Learning approach and exploring opportunities to connect with other school districts.

HMC-1 continues to work with community partners to address barriers that can affect student success. Nine HMC-1 schools are participating in the Harvesters BackSnack Program, providing additional food resources for students and families.

The Harvesters Mobile Market will also return to Ingels and Warford Elementary Schools during the 2026-27 school year, giving families access to fresh produce, nutritious food, and community resources.

The district is also preparing to expand community partnerships through the Caring for Kids Network, which launches September 17.

BOARD ACTIONS

The Board approved several items during the meeting, including:

- Adoption of the Board's Conflict of Interest Resolution to maintain compliance with Missouri Ethics Commission requirements.
- Agreements with ShowMe Therapy and Emit Learning to expand recruitment options for hard-to-fill special education positions.
- Continued use of SpedTrack (Everway) to support the management, compliance, and progress monitoring of student Individualized Education Programs.
- An agreement with Sherwood Center, a DESE-approved provider, to deliver special education and related services identified in student IEPs.

The Board will address contract ratification at the next meeting on September 20.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Board members expressed appreciation for HMC-1 employees and the work taking place across the district to begin the school year successfully. Board members also recognized the Communications team for bringing Hot 103 Jamz to Ruskin High School and the Brooks-Sharp Sixth-Grade Center for back-to-school celebrations.

Superintendent Dr. Dennis L. Carpenter thanked teachers, administrators, and staff for their efforts in creating a smooth start to the school year and expressed excitement about the opportunities ahead.

UPCOMING EVENTS/POINTS OF NOTE:

- **September 7:** No School - Labor Day
- **September 11:** Coffee and Donuts with a LEO
- **September 11:** Community Assistance Council 50th Birthday Bash
- **September 17:** Caring for Kids Kick-Off
- **September 17:** HMC-1 Board of Education Regular Session

For details on Board meetings, agendas, or documents, visit the Board Agenda Listing: https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB_Meetings/SB_MeetingListing.aspx?S=223.

To watch the Board Meeting, visit the District's YouTube account: <https://www.youtube.com/@HickmanMillsC1SchoolDistrict>

NEXT BOARD MEETING

- September 17, 2026
 - Closed Session – 5:00 pm
 - Tax Levy Hearing – 5:45 pm
 - Open Session Board Meeting – 6:00 pm

HMC-1 continues to focus on building strong schools, supporting our staff, connecting families with resources, and giving students opportunities to learn, grow, and succeed.