



Board Briefs

Hickman Mills C-1 School District
BOARD OF EDUCATION

HMC-1 Board of Directors Working Session Meeting Summary Thursday, July 23, 2026

The Hickman Mills C-1 Board of Education met on July 23 for its regular monthly meeting. Below are highlights from the meeting.

Board Sets Goals and Norms for the New Year

The Board approved four goals for the 2026-2027 school year, built during its summer board institute:

- **Literacy.** Develop and implement a comprehensive, evidence-based literacy plan with clear milestones so every student reads proficiently.
- **Facilities and finance.** Manage the district's \$20 million bond program with fiscal responsibility and transparent community engagement.
- **Customer service.** Complete a districtwide customer service audit and make measurable improvements in how students, families, staff, and community members are treated.
- **Workforce.** Build a year-round recruitment, hiring, and retention strategy that reduces vacancies and puts a qualified teacher in front of every student.

The Board also adopted four operating norms: student-centered decision-making, preparedness and inquiry, respect for discourse and presumption of good faith, and mission-driven collaboration. Superintendent Dr. Dennis Carpenter said the norms will appear on future agendas to keep them front of mind. The Board also approved its 2026-2027 meeting calendar.

Getting Ready for August 24

District staff reported that reconfiguration work, classroom moves, and building projects are on schedule for the first day of school. Updates include:

- New cafeteria tables for Hickman Mills Middle School and Brooks Sharp Sixth-Grade Center have arrived.
- Stadium lighting for Ruskin's football field was delivered, with installation set to finish before athletic programming begins.
- Emergency HVAC repairs are underway at two elementary schools.

- Technology is standardizing phone extensions across district buildings. Families will get the new information before the change takes effect.
- Stop the Bleed kits are being installed districtwide to meet Missouri Senate Bill 68.

The Assistant Superintendent of Operations thanked the district's custodial teams for their work to get schools ready for students.

Hiring Momentum

The district's third hiring event of the summer drew more than 60 candidates, double the turnout of the previous event. Eight new teachers have been placed through alternative certification partnerships with Educator Academy, Teachers Like Me, and Teach for America. New Teacher Orientation begins the week of August 10 with a four-day program covering curriculum resources, instructional practices, and district expectations.

Summer Programs and Student Support

The Assistant Superintendent of Academics reported that summer school and the Extended School Year program ran June 4 through June 30 and finished successfully, helping students hold onto academic and behavioral progress heading into fall. Principals and district leaders spent July 14 through 16 at the Systems Leaders Institute, where they reviewed data, planned for the opening of school, and got a first look at the district's new literacy framework, Every Child a Reader.

Other highlights:

- The annual Christmas in July resource fair was held July 18 at Hickman Mills Middle School, the same day as the hiring event, and drew a strong turnout of families.
- The AcruxKC Health Education Committee awarded the district a \$13,600 grant to support nursing, speech-language pathology, counseling, and student services.
- Nutrition Services served 11,590 breakfasts and 13,555 lunches during June summer school and is now fully staffed for the school year.

Supporting Students and Schools

The Board approved and ratified a number of agreements that support students, families, and daily operations, including:

- Therapeutic and specialized placements for students with IEPs through Nova Center, Cornerstones of Care, and Behavioral Health Allies.
- A renewed partnership with PREP-KC for college and career readiness, real-world learning, and industry credentials. PREP-KC covers more than half the cost, with the district's share at \$104,086.50.
- An agreement with Teach For America to place certified teachers in classrooms. The district pays only when a candidate is placed.
- Literacy and learning tools, including MindPlay reading intervention at Ingels Elementary (covered by the Literacy for All Students grant), Reading Eggs for K-

6 English language learners, and the Everway suite for students with significant learning needs.

- Conscious Discipline training for staff who work with the district's youngest learners.
- Continued funding through the Children's Services Fund of Jackson County for the district's restorative practices coaches.
- A Cardiac Emergency Response Plan for every building, now required by state law. Each school will have a trained response team, and the district has 18 AEDs in place.
- Stop the Bleed kits for district buildings, a one-time purchase of \$19,763.
- Operations renewals: Infinite Campus student information system (\$64,623.50), ParentSquare family communication (\$9,894), Informed K12 paperless workflow (\$15,450), and CMS Solutions phone system support (\$30,177).
- A point-of-sale system for a classroom program at Ruskin High School, at a total cost of \$50 over three years.
- The 2026-2027 salary schedules and extra-duty compensation rates. The only change moves school psychologists onto a dedicated schedule alongside occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech-language pathologists.

Financial Update

The Executive Director of Business & Finance presented a preliminary year-end financial update for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2026. The figures are not final. The district is still completing closing entries and reconciliations, and the numbers go to an external auditor before they are considered final.

The preliminary results show meaningful improvement over where the district started the year, reflecting the spending controls and reductions put in place during 2025-2026. Ms. Cox noted that revenue also came in lower than anticipated, and that continued attention to spending will matter as the district moves into the new school year. A final, audited picture will be shared once the audit is complete.

Board and Superintendent Comments

Board members used their comments to set a positive tone for the year ahead, emphasizing respect, professionalism, open communication, and a commitment to first-class service. Members also recognized the strong turnout and staff efforts at recent district events and thanked the security team for supporting district activities.

Superintendent Dr. Dennis Carpenter reviewed upcoming district dates and shared plans for district leaders to participate in the state's back-to-school conference for cooperating school districts. He also discussed Missouri's new A-F school grading system, noting that the first release is expected in late fall and that questions remain about how the system will be implemented. He said he would bring the district's questions and concerns to state leaders.

Upcoming Events/Points of Note:

- Work Session Board Meeting: August 6, 2026

- Convocation: August 17, 2026, at 2:00 pm, Hickman Mills Middle School gym
- Back to School Nights, Pre-K, Elementary, Middle School: August 20, 2026
- Board of Education Regular Session: August 20, 2026
- First Day of School, 2026-2027 School Year: August 24, 2026

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>