



Board Briefs

Hickman Mills C-1 School District
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

The HMC-1 Board of Education met for a Work Session on October 1 to hear updates on district finances, operations, academics, student support, and opportunities for students across Hickman Mills.

Supporting Our Schools and Students

The District received two new donations that will directly support staff and students:

- **CSD Credit Union** donated \$100 to recognize an outstanding first-year certified teacher. Principals will nominate teachers, and eligible nominees will be entered into a drawing for the award.
- **Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation** will provide 25 musical instruments and accessories valued at \$31,625** to Hickman Mills Middle School through its Adopt A School campaign, supported by the Van Halen Family and other donors. The instruments will expand music education opportunities for HMMS students.

Financial Update:

The District continues to closely monitor revenue and spending as it manages the 2026-27 budget. Through September 30, HMC-1 has received approximately **\$9.1 million**, or 9.6% of the \$94.3 million annual revenue budget. Revenue is currently about \$2.3 million below this point last year, mainly because the District has received less state revenue so far.

The District has spent approximately \$17.4 million, or 19.2% of its \$90.5 million annual expenditure budget. Spending is about \$3.8 million lower than at this point last year. The District is also monitoring the impact of a \$37 million decrease in assessed property value, which is projected to reduce property tax revenue by approximately \$2.3 million.

Investing in Our Schools

The District provided an update on projects supported by the General Obligation Bond.

Summer projects, including the new lights at the Ruskin football field, have been completed. Work related to school reconfiguration and moving services is also complete.

Looking ahead, HMC-1 will seek bids for deferred maintenance projects at other school buildings and continue developing preliminary costs for additional planned projects. The Phase I portion of the Warford Elementary project is expected to begin the bidding process in January 2027.

The District will continue sharing updates through the Superintendent's weekly update, monthly financial reports, and Operations reports. HMC-1 is also developing a dedicated webpage so families and community members can follow the progress of bond projects.

Every Child a Reader Moves Into Action

HMC-1's Every Child a Reader: Literacy for Their Lives initiative is moving from planning into implementation. District teams are working to create consistent literacy practices and clear expectations across schools. This includes strengthening writing instruction, conducting classroom walkthroughs, setting educator goals, and recognizing effective literacy practices. The goal is simple: 100% of HMC-1 students becoming proficient readers.

Board members and Superintendent Dr. Dennis L. Carpenter also emphasized the importance of literacy and the role reading and writing play in helping students prepare for their futures.

Expanding Real-World Opportunities

HMC-1 received full approval from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for its PLTW Engineering, PLTW Computer Science, and Industrial Technology Career and Technical Education programs.

These programs give students opportunities to build skills, pursue industry credentials, prepare for postsecondary education, and explore skilled careers. The approval may also provide access to additional state and federal CTE funding opportunities.

Supporting the Whole Child

Several updates highlighted how HMC-1 is supporting students and families beyond the classroom:

- **Special Education:** Twenty-five teachers completed MAP-A training to strengthen support for students with significant cognitive disabilities. New staffing partnerships are also helping the District fill special education positions.
- **Health Services:** HMC-1 nursing is fully staffed, with nurses serving every school building. Students also have access to expanded health resources, including vision screenings and glasses, wellness screenings, and upcoming Cardiac Emergency Response Team training.

- **Student and Family Support:** Through a new partnership with University Health, more than 75 families at Ingels and Warford will receive fresh fruits and vegetables each week.
- **Parents as Teachers:** During 2025-26, the program served 77 families and 99 children, providing 465 personal family visits and 128 developmental screenings. The program helps families with early literacy, child development, school readiness, parenting support, and connections to community resources.

Supporting Staff and District Operations

The Board also reviewed several contracts and services that support daily operations, student learning, technology, athletics, and staff development. These include professional development resources for speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists; personalized learning tools for Ruskin High School students; data and mapping technology to support district planning; data backup and cybersecurity services; Hudl athletic technology; mailing equipment; and Infinite Campus, the District's student information system.

Board and Superintendent Reflections

Board members highlighted the importance of literacy and preparing students for life beyond high school. Board members also recognized district staff for their continued work to improve schools, serve students, and manage district resources responsibly.

Superintendent Dr. Dennis L. Carpenter shared upcoming community events and emphasized the early progress being seen through the District's literacy work. He described literacy as an important tool that can help protect and improve students' opportunities and their futures.

Upcoming Events/Points of Note:

- October 10: South KC Block Party
- October 15: HMC-1 Board of Education Regular Meeting
- October 17: South KC Alliance Awards Breakfast
- October 24: Hickman Mills Community Days at Ruskin High School
- October 28-29: Parent-Teacher Conferences
- October 30: No School, Professional Development Day

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>