

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
HINCKLEY-BIG ROCK COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #429**



**Regular Meeting
January 15, 2025**

The meeting begins at 6:30 PM in the Hinckley-Big Rock High School Library.
This meeting is also live-streamed for public
viewing: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcNJ6ijnqwe0nF8UpSCsB8A>.

- 1) **Call to Order - Regular Meeting of the Hinckley-Big Rock Board of Education**
The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Tim Badal
- 2) **Roll Call**
Policy 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure
Present: Abigail Barrett, Deb Winkle, Tim Badal, Greg Pritchard, Darrin Gengler and Jack Haines
Also Present: Dr. Jessica Sonntag and Student Representatives: Savannah McMurtrie, Matthew Badal & Alex Casanas
Absent: Debi White
- 3) **Approval of the Agenda**
Policy 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure
Motion to approve the agenda was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Deb Winkle, passed 6-0
Abigail Barrett: Yea, Deb Winkle: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Greg Pritchard: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea
- 4) **Consent Agenda**
 - A. **Minutes** - Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes
 - B. **Semi-Annual Review** -Closed Session Minutes & Recordings
 - C. **Treasurer's Report**
 - D. **Bills and Payroll**
 - E. **Personnel Report**Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Greg Pritchard, passed 6-0
Abigail Barrett: Yea, Deb Winkle: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Greg Pritchard: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea
- 5) **Royal Shout Out**
HBR Nurses, Abby Christensen and Emily Cerney provide great support to our HBR students and families. We have students who have kidney stones, type 1 diabetes, severe allergies, and seizure disorders among the daily headaches, cuts, and falls that they are constantly monitoring and supporting throughout the day among the 3 schools.
They both consistently keep up with the needs of our district. Abby is becoming a CPR trainer who will be able to certify our staff going forward. Emily received her hearing and vision screening license since we needed one on staff. Thank you, Abby and Emily!
- 6) **Citizens Request to Address the Board**
None
- 7) **Presentation**
 - A. **Health Office**
Abby and Emily presented to the board how starting January 1st, 2025 Illinois Schools are required to have a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CER). The district will develop a response plan that addresses the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing a sudden cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening emergency while at school or school sports. Emily and Abby in our health office are working to be a heart-safe school with Project Adam requirements. This program is based on a student in

Wisconsin who collapsed and passed away while playing sports at school. Emily and Abby will provide all 3 schools with the necessary training and drills. The emergency response team is in place at each school as well as all PE teachers and coaches being CPR certified. They have AEDs at all 3 schools. They have made sure all staff within HBR are CPR certified and keep track of expiration dates. In the future, Abby would like to start doing CPR classes with students. Emily is looking into the Young Hearts for Life Screening program to start screening high school students.

B. High School

1. New Course Proposals

Topics in Advanced Health (Health 2) Dr. Ben Mueller presented the proposal for this course. This would be a 1-semester elective course that would count as a PE course. The curriculum will cover advanced topics like nutrition, disease prevention, substance abuse, smartphone usage, and the importance of sleep, among other current topics. This course would require research, writing, public speaking,, and planning and leading physical fitness. This course would be for JR's and SRs.

Dr. Mueller also presented on behalf of the Math Department. Honors Algebra 2 will be offered in the upcoming year as a continuation for the group of students who have taken Algebra and Geometry at an accelerated level.

Ms. Therese Magden presented proposals for two 1 semester English courses that students can take in lieu of the traditional year-long English 4 course–Creative Writing and Composition & Communication. Composition & communication would cover topics to prepare students for the real world, including working on cover letters and resumes as well as applications and interviews. Creative Writing would be aimed for those who are interested in writing. Students would look at fiction and the writing process. They would be able to write stories and learn to edit their work. While these courses could replace English 4 for Seniors, they could be taken as elective courses by both JRs and SRs.

Ms. Magden also presented a proposal for a 1-semester elective course for Drama and Literature through Science Fiction course.

Dr. Sonntag presented a CTE internship on behalf of Mrs. Rich. This class would be a work-based learning experience for seniors. Due to the nature of the course and the supervision needed, it would only accommodate 8-10 students to enter this course.

Dr. Sonntag noted that all the above courses align with required ISBE content standards and are included in the ISBE allowable courses for high school students.

8) **Committee Updates**

A. IBCC

Abigail Barrett updated the board on IBCC. The Interest-Based Communication Committee met on January 8th. The committee discussed the negative impact of chronic absenteeism on student learning and social/emotional development. The committee brainstormed solutions to support ongoing attendance concerns for students. This topic will be discussed further at the February 12th meeting.

B. IVVC

Dr. Sonntag said there was a short meeting on December 4th, 2024. IVVC hosted sophomore visits for its 10 partner districts. Over 680 sophomores registered for IVCC for the 25/26 school year, with culinary arts being the top pick.

C. Buildings, Grounds & Transportation

Next meeting will be February 5th in the District Conference Room.

9) **Student Representative Update**

Student representatives Badal, McMurtrie, and Casanas presented information on Sports, the Renaissance Rally, the Royal Rumble, and the Vaping & Vandalism Assembly.

Royal Rumble: The first of many to come. This was a friendly competition between classes that brought many laughs and memories. The students participated in games including tug-of-war, family feud, and relay races. Currently, the Seniors and Juniors are tied at 14, the freshman at 9, and the sophomores at 5 points.

Renaissance Rally: The theme was Tim Burton movies. All classes participated in skits, and games and truly enjoyed the show before Thanksgiving break! It was great to see so much participation again.

Awareness Assembly: There has been an issue with vaping and vandalism at HBRHS. Students planned this awareness assembly which was held on January 7th, 2025. The assembly focused on health risks (physical and mental) associated with vaping and possible school-wide practices to decrease vaping, vandalism, and loitering in bathrooms. Presenters for the assembly included members from the Hinckley PD and HBR Staff & Students.

10) **Administrative Update**

A. Mid-year update

Dr. Sonntag updated the board with upcoming events. We had 4 mid-year graduates at the high school who will come back to walk in graduation in May. Middle school career day is February 27th. The Early Childhood Application for 25/26 school year is opening up and she is applying for a grant to provide more opportunities for our HBR families.

Mrs. Zill is kicking off the Special Olympics for HBR.

Dr. Sonntag discussed starting an intramural softball club this year for 7th grade and up. We do not have enough high school girls to field a team, so this would help build our program.

HBR will have 19 teachers eligible to retire within the next five years. $\frac{1}{3}$ of our licensed teaching staff.

Board elections are coming up in April. 5 seats are available. The 2-year term is still vacant and if someone wants to be a write-in candidate they can by the end of the month. They must be from Pierce or Big Rock. If no one is elected, then the board can begin the process of appointing someone for the seat.

B. 2nd Quarter Financial Review

Dr. Sonntag updated the board on the FY25 midyear budget review. She is having meetings with our department heads and administrators and planning ahead for what we will need. The single Audit is complete. We have used the same Wipfli auditor for the last 10 years and Dr. Sonntag is asking the board to put out a request for proposal for a new auditor. Best practice is to change auditors every 5-6 years.

CPI was set at 2.9, slightly higher than the 2.5 that was projected. Looking at the January board report we have received 46% of our revenue which is on track based on when property taxes come in. We are at 65% of our expenditures. Dr. Sonntag stated that a budget amendment will be needed in the spring due to the land purchase.

11) **Discussion**

A. PRESS ISSUE 117

The board reviewed Press Plus Issue 117 with proposed policy changes. The board will conduct a 2nd review and take action regarding any policy updates related to this Issue at the February 19th regular meeting.

B. Triple I Review

Tim Badal, Abigail Barrett, Jack Haines, and Dr. Sonntag went to the Triple I conference in Downtown Chicago in November 2024. This is an annual conference with school districts from all around Illinois. Various workshops and discussions take place. They discussed their experience at the conference and expressed gratitude to the District and community for supporting their professional development through attending this conference each year.

C. Vision 2030

Dr. Sonntag spoke about Vision 2023, which was introduced at the Triple I conference. It was created with the input of over 1000 stakeholders in IL, ranging from the southernmost part of the state to the northernmost. Statewide organizations included in the development of the Vision 2023 include: Illinois Association of School Administrators, Illinois Principals Association and Illinois Association of School Board just to name a few. The ideas encapsulated in Vision 2023 represent priorities from the practitioners who work inside and outside of school buildings to improve the education outcomes of children from all backgrounds.

12) **Action**

A. Motion to approve the FFA National Convention overnight field trip in Fall 2025

Motion to approve the FFA National Convention overnight field trip in fall 2025 was made by Darrin Gengler and seconded by Greg Pritchard, passed 6-0

Abigail Barrett: Yea, Deb Winkle: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Greg Pritchard: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea

B. Motion to approve the high school course requests as presented

Motion to approve the high school course requests as presented was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Abigail Barrett, passed 6-0

Abigail Barrett: Yea, Deb Winkle: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Greg Pritchard: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea

C. Motion to approve the contract addendum allowing for \$25/month reimbursement for using personal cell phones for school district business for Principals Lauer, Hervey, and Torman and Directors Osborne and Kriesch.

Motion to approve the contract addendum for Principals Lauer, Hervey, and Torman and Directors Osborne and Kriesch was made by Deb Winkle and seconded by Abigail Barrett, passed 6-0

Abigail Barrett: Yea, Deb Winkle: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Greg Pritchard: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea

13) **FOIA**

A. Smart Procure

14) **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

A. Discussion on the easement for the land purchase

B. Follow up on Vision 2030

C. Follow up on Press Plus Issue 117

15) **Adjournment**

The Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 8:35pm

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Abigail Barrett, passed 6-0

Abigail Barrett: Yea, Deb Winkle: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Greg Pritchard: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea

The next Committee of the Whole Meeting will be on January 29th, 2025 at 5 PM in the Big Rock Park District Conference Room.

The next regular meeting of the Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 Board of Education will be February 19th, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the Hinckley-Big Rock High School Library.

