

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



## **Regular Meeting**

**May 22, 2024**

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>.

- **Call to Order - Regular Meeting of the Hinckley-Big Rock Board of Education**  
The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM by President Tim Badal.
- **Roll Call**  
Policy 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure  
Present: Jack Haines, Debi White, Darrin Gengler, Abigail Barrett, Deb Winkle, Tim Badal, Greg Pritchard
- **Approval of the Agenda**  
Policy 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure  
President Tim Badal pointed out that item 14C was not on the original agenda. We had this come up after the original agenda was sent out to the board.  
Motion to approve the agenda was made by Deb Winkle and seconded by Greg Pritchard, passed 7-0  
Abigail Barrett: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Deb Winkle: Yea, Greg Pritchard: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea
- **Consent Agenda**  
Policy 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure  
Motion to approve the agenda was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Debi White, passed 7-0  
Abigail Barrett: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Deb Winkle: Yea, Greg Pritchard: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea
  - A. **Minutes - Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes**
  - B. **Treasurer's Report**
  - C. **Bills and Payroll**
  - D. **Personnel Report**
  - E. **Existing purchased service contracts with new or same vendors**
    - Approve Stokes Consulting Contract for budget management and financial forecasting.
    - Approve 3 year contract with Heart technology for managed data services
    - Approve the MOU with Highland Community College for dual credit for Basic Horticulture, Pre-Vet and Ag Business
- **Royal Shout Out**
  - A. **DeKalb County Ag Magazine Cover Mentions**
    - Finley Wassmann
    - Lydia Petritsch
    - Jordan Lynch
    - Mira Wylde

Each year, the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Agricultural Literacy group invites students from grades Kindergarten through 5th grade to create an illustration depicting a facet of agriculture to be displayed on the cover of the CONNECTIONS Agriculture Magazine. This year there were 709 entries, making selections very difficult. We are thrilled to share that Hinckley- Big Rock Elementary has 4 students that were selected as “Honorable Mention” winners for the magazine cover contest. These students were also honored at the Awards Night at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Center for Agriculture.

- **Citizens Request to Address the Board**

None

- **Presentation**

- A. FFA End of Year Report**

Mrs. Sanderson presented an end of year report reflecting on achievements accomplished this year in FFA and in the classroom as well as future programming.

HBR Agriculture Department SAE Statistics for 2023-2024 include:

(Number of students):

- Entrepreneurship SAE (10)
- Placement SAE (16)
- State Degree Recipients (3)
- American Degree Recipients (1)
- Proficiency Award Participants (1)
- Section Winners (1)

A second full time agricultural teacher has been hired for the 2024-2025 school year. Our middle school students will have the opportunity to participate in their own FFA chapter and are looking forward to showing at the Kane County Fair this summer.

Mrs. Sanderson spoke about the FFA Alumni and all that they do for HBR:

- Volunteering for SAE contest judges
- Constructing new agricultural building
- Hosting fundraisers
- Aiding in the production on the agricultural plot
- Awarding Academic Scholarships for FFA Seniors
- Volunteering for any event or activity
- Job partners in classes to show industry examples
- Job shadowing opportunities

- **Committee Updates**

- A. PERA Joint Committee Update**

Board member Deb Winkle is on the PERA committee. PERA stands for Professional Evaluation Review. This is a teacher evaluation process which includes professional teaching practices and student learning outcome data to determine areas of strength and improvement for teachers.

The committee has been meeting to discuss our current evaluation plan and how to make it more meaningful, less overwhelming, and more collaborative. A cloud based warehouse that teachers and administrators can access is being explored.

- B. BGT Committee Update**

Greg Pritchard updated the board on bus replacement. Andy Lien, HBR bus mechanic, recommends that two buses should be replaced in the upcoming school year based on their age, buses #6 and #12. Moving forward, Andy recommends a longer period of time between replacements since he is able to service and maintain the buses in house. He is putting together a recommended replacement schedule to share with the committee at the June meeting. Also the need for a 2nd activity bus was discussed.

The committee discussed pros and cons of naming district facilities.

A preconstruction meeting was held on May 2 with Engie and associated subcontractors. Mr. Kriesch is working with the B&G crew to support movement within the district and within the buildings. The high school will be used as the command post for construction. Engie has appointed a project manager who will be on site daily during the construction to ensure smooth communication. Construction is to start the last day of school and will be ongoing until August 14th. Permits at all 3 buildings have been posted.

The Village is still looking for options to move forward with the joint solar project. Additionally, the B&G committee will hear about options from Progressive for our elementary and middle

schools to gain potential benefit from solar incentives. . June 13th and July 10th are the next BGT meetings

**C. Special Committee Update**

Tim Badal formed a committee to name a facility after a former teacher/coach. Jack Haines, Jessica Sonntag are also on the committee along with the district Athletic Director, a current coach, and three community members. This committee met on May 9th. There is nothing specifically stated in our policy about how to determine criteria for naming a district facility. The second meeting was postponed so the whole board can discuss this process and criteria on naming any facility or field in the district. Committee members are also reaching out to other districts to inquire what their processes are.

**D. Student Board Representatives Update**

Darrin Gengler, Jack Haines and Dr. Jessica Sonntag met and interviewed with four students for the Board representative positions. Two students will be selected with one alternate. Having the alternative is recommended since most HBR students have sports or after school activities. Students came prepared for the interviews and were excited to share their voice.

Dr. Sonntag envisions that these students will have a voice at the board meetings and be able to have discussions with the board members.

● **Administrative Update**

**A. Teacher Apprenticeship**

Bloomboard partners with universities that allow our teachers to complete their Master's Degrees while working full time in a self-paced online program. Now they are working with Paraprofessionals to become classroom teachers. This is a pathway that will allow paraprofessionals to obtain their Bachelors Degree while working. HBR currently has seven vacant Para positions coming to the 24/25 school year. Bloomboard not only benefits the educator with furthering their education but acts as an incentive plan that would benefit us to be able to hire and retain paras with HBR.

Jack Haines asked if those credentials are transferable. Dr. Sonntag confirms they are. They are credits and degrees from universities, it's just a different process.

Board members think this is a great opportunity.

**B. County Facilities Sales Tax**

DeKalb County ROE is putting on another informational session about the County Facilities Sales Tax (the "penny tax") on June 6th at 3pm. DeKalb County school districts are continuing to discuss their interest in putting this on the ballot. If school boards representing more than 50% of the student population in Dekalb County vote to put this item on the ballot, then the voters can determine if they are in favor of this additional sales tax that can be used by school districts to fund facilities improvements. Abigail Barrett volunteered to go to this meeting to collect more information. Either Darren Gengler or Deb Winkle will also attend.

● **Discussion**

**A. Coach Training and Support**

In order to provide a successful experience for our students and our coaches/advisors, the Board discussed themes and trends that have occurred and need more support around. Communication between coaches and athletes and coaches and parents is an area of targeted improvement. Additionally, recruiting and retaining coaches through increased training opportunities, mentoring and feedback was discussed. The Board desires some standardization of processes and procedures across the district. Discussion occurred related to the athletic arena being the "classroom" and the coaches "teachers". There is a collective feeling that we need to lean into our coaches and provide them similar training, mentoring, and evaluation as our classroom instructional staff. Dr. Sonntag will meet with the athletic director(s) and invite them back to the June meeting to present on next steps.

**B. Phone Free Schools**

Dr. Sonntag and Jack Haines presented research on the impact of cell phone use on student well-being and academic performance. Globally, data indicates that there has been a significant increase in anxiety and depression in teens as well as a major decline in academic performance. Locally, in HBR schools major discipline problems stemming from cell phone use:

Middle School: Over half of students (78 out of 141) have been involved in a cell phone related disciplinary situation (inappropriate photos/video including in the bathroom and/or filming teachers, , harassment, misrepresentation of information). At the High School: 80% of disciplinary actions involved cell phones (fake messages, harassment, cheating, inappropriate photos/videos).

Additionally, we are seeing a significant impact on student performance in the classroom. Grades 6-12: Increase in failing grades (D's and F's) from 2019 to 2024.

Dr. Sonntag proposed a bell to bell policy in which students will power down and store their devices from the first bell to the last bell. One solution posed is the use of a Yondr bag which are being used in schools across the nation and in concerts and performances. Bags are locked and opened at the end of the day with specialized magnets. Students could have their phones before and after school hours. Cited success stories from other districts with similar policies (increased student engagement, reduced tardiness and fights).

A community meeting will be held on June 13th at 6:30 pm at the Elementary School to discuss this information and gather feedback.

The Board discussed the proposed policy with a focus on:

- Implementation timeline: When to launch the policy if approved.
- Parental communication: Strategies to ensure understanding and support from parents.
- Potential challenges: Identifying potential issues and how to address them effectively.

**Next Steps:**

The Board will make a decision regarding the cell phone policy after considering: Dr. Sonntag's presentation, community feedback from the June 13th meeting, and their own discussion points.

**B. Joint Annual Conference**

Joint Annual Conference is November 22-24th 2024 in Chicago. Board discussed board retreats are a better setting for administrators and board members to get together but the conference will be open and optional for all to attend.

● **Action**

**A. Motion to approve the 2024-2025 Board meeting calendar as submitted**

This motion, made by Jack Haines and seconded by Darrin Abigail Barrett, passed 7-0  
Abigail Barrett: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Deb Winkle: Yea, Greg Pritchard: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea

**B. Motion to approve for Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 to pay for up to 2 (two) dual credit courses per fall and spring semester, per full-time qualifying HBRHS student, for the 2024-2025 school year, pending Administrative course approval**

This motion, made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Debi White, passed 7-0  
Abigail Barrett: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Deb Winkle: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea

**C. Motion to approve for Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 to pay for up to 1 (one) online (eg. Edgenuity) course per fall and spring semester, per full-time qualifying HBR student, for the 2024-2025 school year, pending Administrative course approval**

This motion, made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Deb Winkle, passed 7-0  
Abigail Barrett: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Deb Winkle: Yea, Greg Pritchard: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea

**D. Motion to approve Arbor Management, Inc as our Food Service Management Company (FSMC) for the 2024-2025 school year**

This motion, made by Jack Haines and seconded by Abigail Barrett, passed 7-0

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

**E. Motion to approve the adoption of Press Plus Issue 114**

This motion, made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Greg Pritchard, passed 7-0

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

**F. Motion to approve Zachary Stokes as Treasurer for the 2024-2025 school year**

This motion, made by Deb Winkle and seconded by Darrin Gengler, passed 7-0

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

- **FOIA**

None

- **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- **Motion to Enter Executive Session at 8:56pm**

This motion, made by Jack Haines and seconded by Darrin Gengler, passed 7-0

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

- **Executive Session**

A. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

B. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).

C. Student Disciplinary Cases, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9)

- **Motion to Exit Executive Session at 10:18pm**

This motion, made by Jack Haines and seconded by Debi White, passed 7-0

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

- **Adjournment**

The Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 8:56pm

The next regular meeting of the Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 Board of Education will be June 26th, 2024 at 6:30 PM in the Hinckley-Big Rock High School Library.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Darrin Gengler, passed 7-0

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