

## **MINUTES**

1. Call to Order of Regular Board meeting at 6:00 p.m. by Vice President Thompson

2. Roll Call

Mike Sterling – absent at roll call joined at 6:20 p.m., Kurt Thompson, Aaron McKnight, Rebecca Carlson, Larry Smith, Megan Hastings, Evelyn Meeks

Others:

Kris Arduino, Recording Secretary

Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent

Dr. Shelley Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Jason Blume, Assistant Superintendent for Communications & Community Relations

Josh Aurand, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations

3. Pledge of Allegiance: Marquette Elementary School

**Presenter:** Brock Morlan, Marquette Principal

*A Moment of Silence for Gary Jury, Harlem Township Supervisor was held*

4. **Approval of Agenda**

**1<sup>st</sup> Carlson 2<sup>nd</sup> McKnight**

**Thompson, McKnight Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Meeks – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

5. The Mission of the Harlem Consolidated School District, as a vital part of the community, is to help diverse learners realize their unlimited potential by providing an educational program dedicated to academic excellence and the development of strong character in a safe and respectful learning environment.

**Presenter:** Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent

6. **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: Regular & Closed Minutes of April 14, 2025**

**1<sup>st</sup> Carlson 2<sup>nd</sup> Hastings**

**McKnight, Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Meeks, Thompson – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

7. Jason Blume, Assistant Superintendent for Communications & Community Relations

#### 7.A. Awards and Recognitions

Ms. Gupta and students that participated in the State Math Competition, 8 person team on Calculator Team, with students noting their specific medals

Students from Educator's Rising that are exploring the teaching careers. Three of eight students competed at State Competition placing very high in the State, Monica earning 2<sup>nd</sup> place, two students placed high as well in their book, and we are proud of all of them.

**Presenter:** Jason Blume, Assistant Superintendent for Communications & Community Relations

#### 8. Comments from the Community - none

#### 9. Approval of Bills

9.A. Payables Summary \$566,032.79

9.B. Voided Checks

9.C. Payroll Voucher(s)

9.D. Accounts Payable Warrants \$4,044,297.26

Mr. Aurand reviewed expenditure amounts by fund totaling \$4,044,297.26

**Motion to approve bills as reviewed**

**1<sup>st</sup> Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup> McKnight**

**Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight – 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**

#### 10. Communications and Committee Reports

##### 10.A. Michael Sterling, President

- Apologized or being late but with met with Boy Scout Troop 411 to talk about elections and the importance of voting and how it can come down to a small number of votes and every vote counts, they would like to see some items on the hot lunches and Mike will send it over to Josh

10.A.1. Next Regular Board meeting: May 19, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

10.A.2. Next Policy Committee Meeting: May 14, 2025 @ 4:30 p.m.

10.A.3. Organizational Meeting: May 12, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. (Seating of new Board members, Election of Officers and Approval of Committee and Board Meetings for 2025-2026)

##### 10.B. Kurt Thompson, Vice President

- Thanked Mr. Morlan for bringing the Pledge students

- Great seeing such great teams being brought to us both sports and academics and asked Jason to continue to do this and congratulated all of the students and hopefully these great educators will stay with Harlem

- Attended and celebrated the Kindergarten teacher, for her Golden Apple Win and the teachers honored through the grant program for injection molding as well
- Noted the great artwork and State winner Dessa Farr 7<sup>th</sup> grade student at the Middle School
- Wished the new student literacy programs

10.B.1. Next Business Services Committee meeting: May 14, 2025 @ 4:30 p.m.

10.C. Evelyn Meeks, Secretary

- welcomed everyone
- Thanked Mr. Morlan and the Marquette students for leading the Pledge
- Congratulated all of the students recognized tonight especially the Math team
- Congratulated all teachers of the students and hope that we see the students back after college
- Attended the Golden Apple Banquet and congratulated Alyson Reiner for her win and she appreciates all teachers
- Sending her condolences to Gary Jury's family as he will be missed
- Congratulated Dessa Farr for the poster she drew and won the contest and placed at the State Office

10.C.1. Next Equity & Social Justice Meeting: May 14, 2025 @ 4:30 p.m.

10.D. Aaron McKnight, Board member

- Noted he loves seeing the student excel and make attempt to accomplish things and wants to encourage students to go out of their comfort zone and try something new and he appreciates the success stories, and his theme to students is to try something new

10.E. Rebecca Carlson, Board member

- Congratulated people for winning the election and has high expectations that we will work well together and that we need to press on for the calling of our students
- Thanked Brock for bringing the Pledge students
- Thanked Ms. Farr for bringing the award to our attention and would love to see it posted at the middle school
- Thanked Jason for the District calendar that Board members now have
- Noted for the record for the last meeting minutes I inadvertently voted yes and want to have it noted I wanted to vote no on the disciplinary item we are planning on and calling out certain groups and she didn't vote that way
- Congratulated the Math team

10.F. Larry Smith, Board member

- Thanked Mr. Morlan for bringing in the students to lead the Pledge and the meaning behind students that are selected
- Thanked you to the Math students and Ms. Gupta
- Noted we appreciate future teachers everywhere and kudos for that club and to Harlem for having the club
- The student artwork is beautiful that is on display, noting the Pink Floyd
- Thanked Mr. Sterling for talking to the boy scouts about elections
- Congratulated all that won the election and would love to recognize all in the district that participate in the process as it takes everyone to make sure our democracy remains strong and thanked everyone

#### 10.G. Megan Hastings, Board Member

- Noted that this is the last meeting in which she will participate in and has some words to say:

*Over the past two years she has had the most incredible time celebrating everything Harlem has to offer and helping make decision that keep our district moving forward. It is amazing to think about how much we have accomplished together in such a short time. From moving 6<sup>th</sup> grade to the middle school, replacing chillers and roofs, creating murals, updating curriculums, supporting water and solar projects to completing the finishing touches on the CTE building – we've done so much. She is incredibly proud of where Harlem is today and even more excited about what the future holds.*

*To our Educators – thank you for dedication and hard work, Harlem is a better place because of you. It has been her pleasure getting to know many of you, thank you for the conversations, invitations, warmth and kindness. A special thank you to the teachers who supported her not only as a board member but as a parent: Mrs. Merrick, Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Rednar, Mrs. Larson, Mrs. Fricella, Mrs. Guthrie, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Miller, and Team 61 at the Middle School.*

*A special shoutout to Kyra and Nick for helping our kids make good trouble, Erin for showing love to our students through food, Caitlyn for your advocacy allyship and most importantly, your willingness to have touch conversations, and Stacey for teaching our next generation of amazing educators.*

*To our Administrators – both at the school level and at HAC:*

*Thank you for welcoming my questions, for your transparency, and for your accountability. She often thinks about the word you do and can only imagine how challenging it must be to walk into room as the experts and still need approval from the Board. Your work often goes unseen but it is deeply valued. You've taught me so much about leadership and compassion. The care you have for our staff and students does not go unnoticed.*

*To our Support Staff:*

*Thank you for the rides you provide, the warm meals, the book recommendations, the messes you clean, the needs you anticipate, the calls you answer, the smiles, the waves and the unconditional care you provide to our kids every day. You are the heartbeat of Harlem.*

*To My Fellow Board Members:*

*What a ride it's been, a privilege serving with you, these years I won't easily forget.*

*Mike – You've become a touchstone – someone I can count on for both listening and offering real solutions. You are Harlem in so many ways and I'm grateful we got to work together.*

*Kurt – You are my fellow question-asker – you have an incredible ability to see all sides, be thorough with budgets, and still generous with solutions. Your connection to this community runs deep and it shows.*

*Mrs. Meeks – You’ve taught me so much more than I can measure. Thank you for always answering the call and sharing your story. Please keep calling, always.*

*Aaron – If we are ever in the same room again, we definitely can’t sit next to each other. We’d get kicked out for talking and laughing. On paper, we shouldn’t have worked – but we did. Thank you for showing that compromise is possible.*

*Larry – Never thought I’d serve on a board with my freshman assistant principal, but I’m glad we had that full-circle moment.*

*Rebecca – I know I gave you a lot at times, I hope I helped you learn something along the way.*

*Dr. Yarbrough – I don’t know where to begin, you have never been afraid to care out loud. I have often joked about displaying your accomplishments on a t-shirt and even I say it in jest what isn’t a joke is how accomplished you are. I will always have your back. I will always say your name in rooms you are not in and I will always remember the kindness you have shown me. You leave it all on the court for Harlem every single day. MVP in my book. Call anytime.*

*My family – none of us truly knew what we were getting into when I embarked on this journey. You’ve jumped in and supported me every step of the way and I’ll never forget that. Thank you for believing in me and allowing me to share my time with the district. You have sacrificed the most.*

*Lastly, Meghan and Elana – You’ve changed my life. Thank you for everything.*

*I hope that I leave behind something of value in Harlem – a spark, a shift, a moment of progress. Please continue the incredible work, and always, never stop reding.*

*Thank you, Harlem, for allowing me to be part of this community’s journey. It has been a privilege.*

10.G.1. Next Education Committee meeting: May 14, 2025 @ 4:30 p.m.

## 11. Administrative Reports

### 11.A. Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

#### 11.A.1. Recommendation to approve Student Travel Requests:

none

#### 11.A.2. Illinois Coal Workers and Communities in Transition Project Grant Discussion

Mr. Nick Stange noted a student, Emily Guske, reached out to him and brought an opportunity for Harlem and we could obtain some items and opportunities for students to do research, As a former student she came up through the documentary program and is part of the Climate Jobs Institute at U of I to help Illinois transition into clean energy for communities. So as we are seeing many closures of coal and power plants as they need to be closed by 2030 this will impact coalmines and impacts a rich history in coal for Illinois. To this day Illinois has the most recoverable coal reserves East of the Mississippi. We are talking about identifying many communities. This program is designed to go to these communities, listen and learn and then take the stories and use them through documentaries to help inform future communities that will see a similar thing. We can’t revert back but change is happening. Coal has no demand. This group wants to look into this and help communities to transition and educate future generations. Kyra and myself and two students will go through the internship program to conduct this research, gather and make a documentary video about this. We need to take the documentaries to the people. The current timeline is from now to the end of June to purchase gear, starting to go with members of the team to visit different sites in the State and research and July through June

of next year start conducting and showing documentaries, we want to do the interviews. This will be a two year project choosing a senior and junior so there is a rollover over two years possibly which could turn into a three year project. The grant finances are paid up front for approximately \$20,000 after signing the agreements which will pay for gear and pay for travel so a lot of this is conducted on the weekends. Labor for our students that are participating in this will be paid to them. The second payment is \$84,000 for the calendar year after a progress report is put together for the first three months. This will be budgeted out for costs. Right now it is expected two female students so they can share a room. It is a great opportunity and a huge opportunity to be a part of the best school in Illinois U of I.

Mike asked about students being involved on weekends for interviews and the process of getting the students or criteria, and is there a chance it could be different genders. Nick noticed that we have made no final decisions but the ones we are considering want to pursue journalism. He is open to an applicant process as well. This would be a paid internship as well. The amount for the grant was done by Nick putting a budget together. Micki noted per Board approval her department will oversee all of the funding.

Kurt noted that this is fantastic and a former student bringing it back to the District is great.

Mr. Stange and Kyra Newnam noted if you come out May 17 Saturday, we will be doing screening of 10 student films in one day. There will be multiple screenings. This is top notch journalism.

#### 11.B. Josh Aurand, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations, Chief School Business Official

##### 11.B.1. Recommendation to approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property:

Harlem Administration center

##### 11.B.2. Recommendation to approve Facility Requests: none

11.B.3. Recommendation to accept Alternate 1A (masonry wall flashing) for the Hoffman Campus Re-Roofing Project for a cost of \$84,065 – so much brick needs to be removed for the roof and this was an extra but we are still almost \$3,000,000 under budget

11.B.4. Recommendation to award baseball backstop bid at Harlem High School to Midwest Field Solutions for a base bid of \$114,000, Alternate #2A (asphalt path) at a cost of \$10,000 and Alternate #3 (backstop wall) at a cost of \$8,500 for a total bid of \$132,500 which also gives six more feet in height on the black fencing, and was asphalt path, the North East is what we are talking about. There was a lower bid at \$54,000 but did not include anything but for fencing. Rebecca asked if we could put handicapped area as well.

11.B.5. Recommendation to accept Alternate #2 (HMS basketball court) with Stenstrom Excavating and Blacktop for Harlem Middle School at a cost of \$42,162. This piggybacks off the parking lot repaving. Mr. Harris and the Fan's Club will cover about half of this and it will give an extra station to locate the basketball hoops.

11.B.6. Recommendation to approve an agreement with University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for the Illinois Coal Workers and Communities in Transition Project Grant and thanked Nick and Kyra talk through this

11.C. Dr. Shelley Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

11.C.1. Recommendation to approve Personnel Agenda & Addendum

No Addendum

9 Transfers after deleting Lindsey Hays, and 5 Employments

1 Classified staff sick bank request

11.C.2. Resignations

10 since last meeting

11.D. Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent

11.D.1. District Equity Report – Reflection

Video was shown of what is going on in the schools

The next Equity meeting is May 14, 2025 at 4:30 and you can hear what we do at that meeting and then we bring this one time per month to the Board meeting

Thanked Mr. Smith and Megan for all they have done on the Board and the relationships go further than that. Congratulations to the new Board members coming on as well.

11.D.2. Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) received April 8, 2025 from Sheri Reid of Smart Procure requesting purchasing records from 10-9-24 to current date and the District's Response dated April 10, 2025 with inclusive documents.

11.D.3. Freedom of Information Act Request received on 4-15-25 from Michael A. Ayele regarding National Child Abuse Month and the District's five day extension request on 4-23-25

11.D.4. Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) submitted by Jennifer Kaiser on April 16, 2025 requesting information about her employment with Harlem and the Regional Office of Education

11.D.5. Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) submitted on April 18, 2025 (due to holiday first date would be April 22, 2025) by B. Kim requesting 4/16/25 bid information on the Harlem High School Baseball Backstop

11.D.6. Freedom of Information Act request (FOIA) submitted on April 21, 2025 from Sharmayne Soliman, requesting current employee listing information and the District's inclusive response dated April 23, 2025

11.D.7. Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) submitted on April 8, 2025, from David Arvayo of Painters District Council No. 30 requesting purchasing invoices for recent paint purchases and a list of painting, drywall finishing, taping, or glazing projects scheduled to start within the next 12 months

12. Consent Agenda

**12.A. Approve Personnel Agenda & Addendum**

**1<sup>st</sup> McKnight 2<sup>nd</sup> Thompson**

**Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight – 7 ayes**  
**Motion carried**

12.B. Approve Student Travel Request(s)

12.C. Approve Facility Request(s)

**13. ACTION ITEMS**

**13.A. Approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property**

**1<sup>st</sup> McKnight 2<sup>nd</sup> Thompson**

**Smith, Hastings, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, Carlson – 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**13.B. Approve Alternate 1A (masonry wall flashing) for the Hoffman Campus Re-Roofing Project for a cost of \$84,065**

**1<sup>st</sup> McKnight 2<sup>nd</sup> Thompson**

**Hastings, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, Carlson, Smith – 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**13.C. Approve baseball backstop bid at Harlem High School to Midwest Field Solutions for a base bid of \$114,000, Alternate #2A (asphalt path) at a cost of \$10,000 and**

**Alternate #3 (backstop wall) at a cost of \$8,500 for a total bid of \$132,500**

**1<sup>st</sup> Carlson 2<sup>nd</sup> McKnight**

**Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Meeks, - 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**13.D. Approve Alternate #2 (HMS basketball court) with Stenstrom Excavating and Blacktop for Harlem Middle School at a cost of \$42,162.**

**em Middle School at a cost of \$42,162**

**1<sup>st</sup> Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeks**

**Thompson, McKnight, Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Meeks, Sterling – 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**13.E. Approve an agreement with University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for the Illinois Coal Workers and Communities in Transition Project Grant**

**1<sup>st</sup> Carlson 2<sup>nd</sup> Sterling**

**McKnight, Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson – 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**14. Announcements and Discussion:**

Mike noted that he wanted to say to Larry thank you for keeping me on my toes, your years in the education field will still be good advice and a different perspective, and to have you on the Board. Your wisdom will be missed.

Megan rolling for two years, phone calls, chats and being able to hear conversations of things that I never thought I would have, and I appreciate that so much. My door is open.



To New Board members I will be here and will reach out and talk to every one of you. Communication lines are important to hear our concerns and your wisdom.

Evelyn – Welcome back and bringing your perspectives into a story

Kurt – Welcome back and having another advocate looking at the other side of the coin is appreciated.

Evelyn – To both Megan and Larry she appreciates both of you for your advice

Aaron – Thank you Larry for spelling my name right on the plate

Megan – Thank you Larry

Kurt – Thank you for knowing policy inside and out and questioning things even though we didn't always agree there was respect involved and it will be missed

Megan – We had two years and the impact and change of perspective and sharing music tastes was great as well as the way all differences came together and expect we will have another great Board.

You summed it up so well.

To both of you thanks to you as we are like a family. I am going to miss Megan most of your capturing what I want to say but can't get it out just the same.

Evelyn thanked Larry for the jokes.

**Motion to go into closed session to discuss Employment of Personnel (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) at 7:30 p.m.**

**1<sup>st</sup> McKnight 2<sup>nd</sup> Thompson**

**Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight – 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**

A five minute recess at 7:31 p.m.

15. Executive Session to discuss Employment of Personnel (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Negotiations (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), Selection of a Person to Fill a Public Office (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3), Pending Litigation (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11), Student Discipline (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9), Placement of Individual Students in Special Education Programs and Other Matters Relating to Individual Students (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10), Purchase or Lease of Real Property for the Use of the District (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), Setting of a Price for Sale or Lease of Property Owned by the District (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6), Self-Evaluation, Practices and Procedures or Professional Ethics (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16), Sale or Purchase of Securities, Investments or Investment Contracts (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7), Security Procedures (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8), Establishment of Reserves or Settlement of Claims as provided in Local Government and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(12), and Discussion of Lawfully Closed Meeting Minutes (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).

16. ACTION ITEMS AFTER CLOSED SESSION

17. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn**

**1<sup>st</sup> McKnight 2<sup>nd</sup> Sterling**  
**All voted aye, Motion carried**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Kris Arduino,*  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_