

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting

The Board of Education

Harlem Consolidated School District # 122

A Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Harlem Consolidated School District was held Monday, September 14, 2026, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Harlem Administration Center - Board Room 8605 North Second St Machesney Park, Illinois 61115.

1. Call to Order of Regular Board meeting at 5:30 p.m. by Mike Sterling
2. Roll Call
Mike Sterling, Kurt Thompson, Aaron McKnight, Diane McKinney, Rebecca Carlson, Diana Johnson, Evelyn Meeks
Other Attendees:
Pam Cook, Recording Secretary
Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent
Dr. Shelley Wagner, Asst. Superintendent for Human Resources
Dr. Michelle Erb, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. Jason Blume, Asst. Superintendent for Communication & Community Relations
Josh Aurand, Asst. Superintendent for Business & Operations
3. Pledge of Allegiance: **Ralston students** (six students were selected who attended Ralston last school, these students picked a friend that they made this year from another school. This is way to build a sense of community).
4. **Approval of Agenda**
1st McKnight 2nd Carlson
Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling- 7 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.
6. **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for August 17, 2026**
1st Thompson 2nd McKinney
McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson- 7 ayes
Motion Carried
7. Jason Blume, Assistant Superintendent for Communications & Community Relations
- A. Awards and Recognitions- none
8. Comments from the Community-
 - Bill Dredge wanted to thank Dr. Bois at the high school for the work in organizing the 9/11 salute to service event, which brought the Harlem and Hononegah communities together. The event raised more than \$15,000 for veterans, including \$600 contributions from each Booster club, with additional t-shirt proceed expected.
 - Amanda Gazinski raised a concern about AI generated artwork in District material and proposed student-created designs.

9. Approval of Bills

1st Johnson 2nd Carlson

McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson- 7 ayes

Motion Carried

- A. Payables Summary- \$1,761,477.93
- B. Voided Checks- \$219,126.07
- C. Payroll Voucher(s)-\$3,357,298.70
- D. Accounts Payable Warrants- \$5,118,776.03
- 10. Administrative Reports
 - A. Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
 - 1. Recommendation to approve Student Travel Requests:
Coal Project Oral History Interviews Oct. 9-12
 - B. Josh Aurand, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations
 - 1. Recommendation to approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property:
Surplus is from HMS, HAC, Parker, Machesney, Loves Park, & Windsor
 - 2. Recommendation to approve a five-year lease with Quadient Leasing for a postage machine and equipment updates for a monthly payment of \$275.00
 - 3. Recommendation to approve an agreement with Adelante Educational Specialists for 3 (three) Biliteracy Professional Development days for bilingual and ESL staff for a cost of \$10,500, funded by Title III
 - 4. Recommendation to approve an agreement with ExploreK12, Inc. for Reflex Math subscription for Rock Cut Elementary at a cost of \$2,965.00, funded by School Improvement Grant
 - 5. Recommendation to approve Memorandum of Understanding with Hagney Architects for partial roof replacements at Harlem High School, Olson Park, Parker Center, and Loves Park
 - 6. Recommendation to approve an agreement with Client First Technology Consulting for E-rate consulting services at a cost not to exceed \$4,500.00.
 - 7. Recommendation to approve Engagement Letter with Chapman and Cutler LLP for bond counsel and disclosure counsel services related to the issuance of Life Safety and Working Cash Bonds, Series 2026
 - C. Dr. Shelley Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
 - 1. Recommendation to approve Personnel Agenda & Addendum
10 Transfers; 38 Employments; 6 Resignations; 1 Retirement; 6 new para professionals positions and 1 Leave of Absence
 - 2. Recommendation to approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's) between the District and Harlem Federation of Teachers (HFT) regarding HMS Student Support Structure
 - D. Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent
 - 1. Freedom of Information Act request dated August 19, 2026, was submitted by Bruce Thomas from Ryan and Jacobs Financial Services requesting a copy of checks/invoices for payment to Midwest Field Solutions. The District responded to the requestor on August 19, 2026, with the inclusive document.
 - 2. Freedom of Information Act request dated August 21, 2026 was submitted by Emma Brown at Energy RFPS requesting copies of the most recent electric utility bills (ideally between May 1–August 1, 2026) for the elementary and middle school facilities. The District responded to the requestor on August 28, 2026, with the inclusive documents.

3. Freedom of Information Act request dated July 31, 2026 was submitted by Robert at DataBranch USA requesting records from 2022 to current that capture pricing details of any engagement, which may include subscription terms, licensing fees, and per-unit costs, and implementation charges from National Time & Signal and Pyramid Systems. The District responded to the requestor on August 31, 2026, with the no responsive documents.
4. Freedom of Information Act request dated August 6, 2026 was submitted by Chelsea Barrett from DataBranch USA requesting records from 2022 to now that capture the pricing details of any engagement, which may include subscription terms, licensing fees, per-unit costs, and implementation charges from Brandon Industries, Capital StreetScapes, Custom Products Corporation, Hall Signs, and Signature Streetscapes. The District responded to the requestor on Sept. 4, 2026, with no responsive documents.

11. Consent Agenda

A. Approve Personnel Agenda & Addendum

Motion to pull Leave of Absence from the Addendum

1st McKnight 2nd Carlson

Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney- 7 ayes

Motion Carried

Motion to approve the Personnel agenda and addendum

1st Carlson 2nd McKnight

Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Carlson – 7 ayes

Motion Carried

Motion to deny Leave of Absence

1st McKnight 2nd McKinney

Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson- 7 ayes

Motion Carried

B. Approve Student Travel Request(s)

1st Johnson 2nd Carlson

Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks- 7 ayes

Motion Carried

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property

1st Johnson 2nd Carlson

Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling- 7 ayes

Motion Carried

B. Approve a five-year lease with Quadient Leasing for a postage machine and equipment updates for a monthly payment of \$275.00

1st McKnight 2nd Carlson

McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson- 7 ayes

Motion Carried

C. Approve an agreement with Adelante Educational Specialists for 3 (three) Bilingual Professional Development days for bilingual and ESL staff for a cost of \$10,500, funded by Title III

1st McKinney 2nd Johnson

McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight – 7 ayes
Motion Carried

- D. Approve an agreement with ExploreK12, Inc. for Reflex Math subscription for Rock Cut Elementary at a cost of \$2,965.00, funded by School Improvement Grant**

1st McKnight 2nd McKinney

Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney- 7 ayes

Motion Carried

- E. Approve Memorandum of Understanding with Hagney Architects for partial roof replacements at Harlem High School, Olson Park, Parker Center, and Loves Park**

1st Carlson 2nd McKnight

Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Carlson – 7 ayes

Motion Carried

- F. Approve an agreement with Client First Technology Consulting for E-rate consulting services at a cost not to exceed \$4,500.00**

1st McKnight 2nd McKinney

Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson – 7 ayes

Motion Carried

- G. Approve Engagement Letter with Chapman and Cutler LLP for bond counsel and disclosure counsel services related to the issuance of Life Safety and Working Cash Bonds, Series 2026**

1st McKnight 2nd McKinney

Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks – 7 ayes

Motion Carried

- H. Approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's) between the District and Harlem Federation of Teachers (HFT) regarding HMS Student Structure**

1st Carlson 2nd Sterling

Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling – 7 ayes

Motion Carried

- 13. Announcements and Discussion:**

-Dr. Yarbrough provided an updated on the District Monthly Equity & Social Justice Committee Meeting that was held on Sept. 10 at the middle school. Thank you to Ms. Kasie Kosinski for taking notes in the meeting and everyone for staying engaged.

Approximately 25 participants attend the meeting. The theme for this month is Diversity and Inclusion and Barriers to Inclusion. Some of the focus areas are creating environment where all students, families, and staff feel valued, respected and included. Identifying barriers to inclusion and improving communication across the District. Increasing awareness of special programs and services.

-Aaron McKnight commented that the Committee of the Whole is where the conversations happen and Board Meeting are just for formal actions. However, Mike Sterling replied, not every item is guarantee to be approved, the Board is still attentive when items are being presented for approval.

-Rebecca Carlson gave a shout out to Mr. Rollinson for his creative effort in putting together the students for the pledge.

-Kurt Thompson gave a shout out for the Harlempalooza this past weekend.

14. Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Employment of Personnel (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1))
1st McKnight 2nd Thompson
McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney – 7 ayes
Motion Carried

The Board went into Executive Session at 5:56 PM and returned to Open Session at 6:18 PM

15. ACTION ITEMS AFTER CLOSED SESSION
None

16. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn at 6:32 PM
1st Johnson 2nd Thompson
All aye; Motion Carried

Meeting was adjourned at 6:32PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Cook
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

President

Date: _____

Secretary