



BRIDGE TO SUCCESS

Hastings Public Schools

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
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Joint Powers Meeting

Date: September 30, 2026

Time: 7:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Location: Tilden, Room 117

Attendees:

Dr. Wehrkamp Herman, LynDee Humble, Jen Seubert, Carrie Tate, Phil Biermaier, Melissa Millner, Dan Wietecha, Chris Jenkins, DawnMarie Vihrachoff, Tim Lawrence, Geno Mazzali

Joint Powers Meeting Minutes

1. Hockey Arena Updates

Varsity Locker Room Agreement

- It was noted that the locker room rental fee for next year will increase by the contractually approved 2.5%.

Arena Roof and Facility Discussion

- Members discussed roofing options for the arena and reviewed information regarding potential construction management companies.
- Director Geno Mazzali shared familiarity with the companies and available roofing options.
- Discussion also included the arena rooftop heating unit and replacement alternatives:
 - Replace heater and exhaust system only: approximately \$48,000.
 - Replace heater, exhaust system, and add cooling: approximately \$78,000.
- The committee was informed that the East Rink boards are expected to have several years of useful life remaining before replacement is necessary.
- Director Biermaier suggested exploring corporate sponsorship opportunities to help offset future repair and maintenance costs.

Booster Discussion

- The District reported on a recent meeting with Boys Varsity Booster representatives.
- Booster representatives were informed that the District currently pays an additional \$55 premium above the contractual ice fees paid by other arena users.
- The District discussed evaluating alternative facilities for some ice usage opportunities in an effort to maintain fiscal responsibility, noting that current ice fees are among the highest in the state.
- The City indicated that ice rental rates will remain unchanged for the current year.

2. Ten-Year Maintenance Facility Plan Update

- Chris Jenkins and Director Geno Mazzali will work together to ensure any District responsibilities related to the shared maintenance facility are included in the District's ten-year financial planning process.

3. City and School District Updates

The District provided updates regarding recent discussions with local township leaders and Mayor Mary.

Community Growth and Transportation

- Discussion included current and future housing developments.
- Potential impacts of construction projects on school transportation routes were reviewed.
- The District reported that initial transportation challenges experienced at the beginning of the school year have largely been resolved.
- Some transportation adjustments were attributed to leadership changes within the transportation service provider.

Financial and Tax Matters

- The District is considering a repeal-and-replace levy proposal.
- District officials noted that voter approval is required for district levy changes, unlike some municipal funding mechanisms.
- The City was informed of the constitutional amendment appearing on the November ballot regarding proposed changes to the School Land Trust.

Student and School Updates

- Homecoming activities were highlighted, along with the football team's 4-0 start to the season.
- The District discussed consideration of a high school block schedule model and how it could support Pathways programming, internships, and business partnerships.
- District leaders shared ongoing advocacy efforts aimed at reducing unfunded state mandates placed on school districts.
- As an example, the District cited concerns regarding unemployment-related costs associated with seasonal or hourly employees, noting the impact on the District's General Fund.
- The District reported that both paraprofessional and food service positions are fully staffed for the current school year.

4. Other Business

Highway 61 Construction

- Members discussed traffic concerns related to the upcoming Highway 61 construction project.
- It was suggested that traffic routing plans be evaluated to avoid directing the majority of traffic onto Pine Street, Pleasant Drive, and General Sieben Drive, due to the presence of school facilities along those routes.

Future Meeting

- The next Joint Powers meeting will be scheduled following the organizational meeting in January, once committee membership for the coming year has been determined.