

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



**Regular Meeting
September 16, 2026**

The meeting begins at 6:00 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**
- 2) Policy 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedures
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Pritchard.
- 3) **Roll Call**
Policy 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure
Present: Jack Haines, Myia Sittig, Greg Pritchard, Darrin Gengler, Debi White and Abigail Barrett
Absent: Tim Badal
Also present: Superintendent Dr. Jessica Sonntag and Student Representatives Beckett Neibert, Katarina Gengler and Meegan Kubinski
- 4) **Board President announces the purpose of the hearing is to receive public comment concerning the intent of the Board of Education to adopt the budget for FY27 as submitted. Dr. Sonntag**
- 5) **Comments by Board of Education Members**
Board President Pritchard praised Dr. Sonntag for her time and attention to preparing the FY27 budget.
- 6) **Any written comments by the public**-None
- 7) **Any oral comments by the public**-None
- 8) **Motion to close Public Hearing**
Motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Abigail Barrett, Passed 6-0.
Abigail Barrett: Aye, Jack Haines: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Greg Pritchard: Yea, Debi White: Yea
- 9) **Adjournment**
Adjournment was at 6:06pm with a unanimous voice vote, Aye
Abigail Barrett: Aye, Debi White: Aye,, Myia Sittig: Aye, Jack Haines: Aye, Darrin Gengler: Aye and Greg Pritchard: Aye
- 10) **Call to Order - Regular Meeting of the Hinckley-Big Rock Board of Education**
The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM by President Greg Pritchard
- 11) **Roll Call**
Policy 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure
Present: Jack Haines, Myia Sittig, Greg Pritchard, Darrin Gengler, Debi White and Abigail Barrett
Absent: Tim Badal
Also present: Superintendent Dr. Jessica Sonntag and Student Representatives Beckett Neibert, Katarina Gengler and Meegan Kubinski
Tim Badal entered the meeting at 6:16pm
- 12) **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 13) **Approval of the Agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Debi White, passed 6-0,

Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea

14) **Consent Agenda**

- A. **Minutes** - Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes
- B. **Treasurer's Report**
- C. **Bills and Payroll**
- D. **Personnel Report**

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Darrin Gengler and seconded by Abigail Barrett, passed 6-0,

Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea

15) **Royal Shout Out-**

This month's Royal Shout Out went to Marikay Slosar! Since retiring as Board Secretary, Marikay has brought that same dedication to the middle school library. Since Ms. Slosar began her time in the middle school library, checkout volume in the library has grown significantly. Marikay has expanded the collection with books across every genre, always with student interest in mind, and has found creative ways to get kids excited about reading — from reading competitions to book clubs, book talks, and eye-catching displays throughout the library.

16) **Citizens Request to Address the Board-** None

17) **Committee Updates**

- A. **IVVC**
IVVC did not meet this month. The next meeting for IVVC is scheduled on October 7th, 2026
- B. **BGT**
BG&T did not meet this month. The next meeting for the Buildings, Grounds and Transportation Committee is scheduled for October 7th, 2026
- C. **IBCC**
IBCC did not meet this month. The next meeting for IBCC is scheduled for October 14th, 2026

18) **Presentation: Andrea Meyer, Newkirk, Inc. FY26 Audit Review**

Andrea Meyer with Newkirk & Associates presented the FY26 audit to the Board. After reviewing finances, processes, and controls, it was concluded with a “clean” audit. No disagreements or difficulties were presented. There were no areas for concern, no material weaknesses or deficiencies. The district received an unmodified opinion which means it was a clean audit and this is the best audit opinion a district can receive. Also the district received a score of 3.65 out of 4 which is a recognition status, the highest financial rank by ISBE.

19) **Student Representative Update**

Neibert, Kubinski and Gengler gave the Board updates about Homecoming activities, Sports, and student perspectives on Chromebook carts vs 1:1 devices.

Neibert announced that the student council is looking for community businesses to participate in the Homecoming parade. Lunch and breakfast has been a huge hit however the lunch line is a concern with the time it takes to get through the line.

The student representatives also informed the board that athletes who leave during the seventh hour for meets or games miss part of their advanced classes. Some teachers record their lessons so students can watch them at home later and catch up on the material they missed.

20) **Administrative Update**

Dr. Sonntag informed the Board that enrollment has gone up to 744, 8 new students since the August Board meeting.

Dr. Sonntag explained that there is no treasurer's report this month due to our transition to the new Skyward Software. The payroll team has not gotten the support they needed from Skyward in order to pull that report for this meeting but we should be all set for the next board meeting.

Our Food Service team is looking at ways to make the lunch line go faster. We have chefs in the kitchen making fresh food daily and more students purchasing lunch. We are encouraging our students that if they are doing the grab and go items to move around those students who are purchasing a build your own lunch and not wait. The district and our FSMC are looking into different ways to help with this.

The HBR website is still a work in progress. Dr Sonntag would like to know what the community and Board Members are looking for on the site and what would make this more clear. The district will be looking at surrounding district sites and compare as well as talk to our website company, Apptegy. Kane County had two confirmed cases of measles. Dr. Sonntag is monitoring this situation and notified staff to possibly locate their vaccine records just in case this enters Hinckley. TC Energy is leasing the land west of the middle school soccer field for a natural gas pipeline going north to store pipe and be the base camp. They should be there for about a year. The emergency learning plan is a 3 year plan and HBR will need to review, apply for and adopt a new plan in October. The Board agreed to review and adopt a new e-learning plan.

21) **Discussion**

A. **Section 5: Personnel (Parts 5:10–5:60)**

Bonnie Osborne was still listed as the Non-Discrimination Coordinator and Dr. Sonntag would like to revise this to be Brandon Kriesch since he is not tied to any one particular building. Dr. Sonntag and The Board discussed the hiring of a person without the board approval. Dr. Sonntag explained that this would only be in emergency situations in between board meetings. The Board agreed that they should be notified in these situations.

B. **PRESS ISSUE 122 - 2nd Read**

The Board did not have any new comments for this 2nd read of the PRESS ISSUE 122

C. **Delegate Assembly**

Jack Haines volunteered to be the Delegate this year at the 2026 Joint Annual Conference and Tim Badal will be the alternate if Jack can not make it.

22) **Action**

A. **Motion to approve the FY27 Budget as submitted**

Motion to approve the FY27 Budget as submitted was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Abigail Barrett, passed 7-0

Abigail Barrett: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea

B. **Motion to approve the sale of the Driver's Ed car to Green Light Driving School**

Motion to approve the sale of the Driver's Ed car to Green Light Driving School was made by Tim Badal and seconded by Myia Sittig, passed 7-0

Abigail Barrett: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea

C. **Motion to approve the FY26 audit as submitted**

Motion to approve the FY26 audit as submitted was made by Tim Badal and seconded by Abigail Barrett, passed 7-0

Abigail Barrett: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea

D. **Motion to approve the HBRHS overnight Leadership Retreat on December 5th, 2026**

Motion to approve the HBRHS overnight Leadership Retreat on December 5th, 2026 was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Abigail Barrett, passed 7-0

Abigail Barrett: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea

23) **FOIA**

A. SmartProcure is submitting a public records request to the Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 for all current employee/staff contact information.

B. CT Mills requested district-issued direct work telephone numbers, direct dial lines, or work extensions for employees currently serving in the district's Central Office / District Administration Office.

C. Catatina Mascarenhas with Lake County Gazette requested existing records showing teachers who retired from the district during or at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Also requested, existing records showing teachers newly hired by the district for the 2026-2027 school year.

24) **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

25) **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Tim Badal, passed 7-0 at 7:20pm with a unanimous voice vote, Aye

Abigail Barrett: Aye, Debi White: Aye, Tim Badal: Aye, Myia Sittig: Aye, Jack Haines: Aye, Darrin Gengler: Aye and Greg Pritchard: Aye

The next regular meeting of the Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 Board of Education will be October 21st, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the Hinckley-Big Rock High School Library.