FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
held on September 8, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Forest Hills Board of Education met in regular session on September 8, 2025, at the Administration Building. President Fauson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Fauson, Michaud, Terryn, DeBoer, Ninemeier, Kermode, Colley

Members Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Member DeBoer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHT

Cory Anderson, Director of Operations, shared some highlights of the work accomplished throughout the district by the maintenance, grounds, and custodial staff.

CONSENT GROUPING ITEMS

Motion made by Member Kermode, second by Member DeBoer, that the Forest Hills Board of Education approve consent grouping items IV.A.1.-IV.C.1.

Member Terryn, Curriculum Committee Chair, and Member Michaud, Finance Committee Chair, gave their respective committee reports.

AYES: Michaud, Kermode, DeBoer, Colley, Terryn, Fauson, Ninemeier

NAYS: None

Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved the minutes of the July 10, 2025, Special Meeting.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Approved expenditures for the payment of bills for July 2025, as presented.

GENERAL FUND	$11,832,236.10
DEBT FUND	754.76
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND 2023	2,223,083.42
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND 2025	2,145,164.70
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	
1. Food Service Fund	16,810.14
2. Child Care Fund	18,759.60
3. Student/School Activity	96,039.91
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**$16,332,848.63**

PINE RIDGE FURNITURE

Approved the purchase of furniture for Pine Ridge from Custer Inc., Dew-El Corporation, Interphase Interiors, and VS America for an amount not to exceed $251,815.

REFUNDED PROPERTY TAXES

Authorized reimbursement of $28,393.08 to Kent County for refunded property taxes.

EMPLOYMENT OF NEW PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Approved the hire and issue of contracts to the following new professional staff for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Brandi Alpizar, Teacher, Northern Trails 5/6 School
- Stephanie Ebright, Teacher, Meadow Brook Elementary School
- Yohaina Haaz Melgarejo, Teacher, Ada Vista Elementary School
- Lana Nauta, Teacher, Knapp Forest Elementary School
- Kennedy Southland, Teacher, Various Buildings
- Tara Steele, Instructional Coach & MLL Teacher, Admin. Building
- Olivia Waalkes, Teacher, Ada Elementary School
- Bryce Wilker, Teacher, Ada Elementary School

SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES REQUEST

Motion by Member Terryn, second by Member Kermode, to approve the supplemental instructional resources request, *Kids Have Rights* by the Children's Advocacy Center, for grades K-4 at all of the elementary schools. Board discussion followed.

AYES: Michaud, Kermode, Colley, Terryn, Fauson, Ninemeier

NAYS: DeBoer

Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

MASB DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

The 2025 MASB Delegate Assembly was discussed.

Motion by Member DeBoer, second by Member Colley, that the Forest Hills Board of Education certify Member Michaud as the voting delegate and President Fauson as the alternate voting delegate at the MASB Annual Leadership Conference Delegate Assembly on October 23, 2025.

Motion carried by a 7-0 voice vote.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Kirby shared the following:

- He thanked Mr. Anderson for the presentation and his exceptional leadership of the operations department.
- It has been a great start to the school year. The staff kick-off event was successful. He expressed appreciation for all of those involved.
- Enrollment is trending upward. October 1 is the official count day. The additional sections of GSRP and Junior Kindergarten will have a positive impact with long-term enrollment
- The administration is continuing to work on sustainable transportation solutions.
- An update was provided on the state budget.
- An update was provided on the Kent ISD enhancement millage proposal that will be on the November 2025 ballot.
- The Pride Pups were recently featured on Fox 17.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

President Fauson thanked Superintendent Kirby for restoring the all-staff kick-off. She also shared that four board members will be attending the MASB leadership conference and that she appreciates the board's commitment to continued learning.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Fauson shared the format for the public comment portion of the meeting. Students will be given the opportunity to address the board first, followed by staff, and concluding with community members.

The board received comments from one member of the audience regarding the importance of keeping parents informed and in communication with teachers.

ADJOURNMENT

President Fauson inquired if there was other business of the board. Hearing none, she adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Malorie Ninemeier, Secretary
Forest Hills Board of Education