

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



**Regular Meeting
September 18, 2024**

The meeting begins at 6:30 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**
The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Tim Badal
- 2) **Roll Call**
Policy 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure
Present: Jack Haines, Debi White, Abigail Barrett, Deb Winkle, Tim Badal, Greg Pritchard, Darrin Gengler
Also Present: Dr. Jessica Sonntag and Student Representatives Savannah McMurtrie & Matthew Badal
Absent: Student Representative: Alex Casanas
- 3) **Approval of the Agenda**
Policy 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure
Motion to approve the agenda was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Abigail Barrett, passed 7-0
Abigail Barrett: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Deb Winkle: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Greg Pritchard: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea
- 4) **Consent Agenda**
 - A. **Minutes** - Regular Meeting and Special Meeting Minutes
 - B. **Treasurer's Report**
 - C. **Bills and Payroll**
 - D. **Personnel Report**Motion to approve the agenda was made by Greg Pritchard and seconded by Jack Haines, passed 7-0
Abigail Barrett: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Deb Winkle: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Greg Pritchard: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea
- 5) **Royal Shout Out**
Sharon Isola was recognized by the Board for her continued dedication and commitment to live streaming our meetings and supporting the integration of technology into the classrooms.
- 6) **Citizens Request to Address the Board**
None
- 7) **Presentation**
 - A. **PTO Update**
Dr. Sonntag presented upcoming PTO activities. Special note that the Fall Fest will be held at the high school this year due to some construction work at the elementary school taking place that weekend.
- 8) **Committee Updates**
 - A. **Interest-Based Communication Committee (IBCC)**
The Interest-Based Communication Committee (IBCC) met on September 11, 2024. The IBCC is comprised of 2 Board of Education members, 2 Administrators, 2 Support Staff, and 2 teachers from each building. The committee discussed the beginning of the year institute days, elementary supply drop off, and the teacher's perspective of the phone free school environment. Teachers report positive feedback regarding the students' compliance with the phone free schools, the increased engagement, and the decrease in behavior related to the devices. There have been far less office referrals and tardies this year. Students are more socially engaged with one another in the school setting and they are less emotionally exhausted at the end of the day.

9) **Student Representative Update**

Student representatives Badal and McMurtrie presented information about the students' view on phones, Homecoming, and the new staff. Students report that while they still don't like having their phones away during the day they are seeing positives of doing so. They really like the new round lunch tables at the high school which promote conversation. Additionally, the ability to go outside during lunch is something that they really enjoy. Passing periods are 1 minute shorter this year which took some getting used to, but they got the time added to their lunch period which they love.

10) **Administrative Update**

Dr. Sonntag updates the board on enrollment at HBR with a total of 730 students. Of those, 50 are new to the district this year. The 5th graders are bringing energy and excitement to the middle school. No negative feedback from students, parents or the staff.

Some community connections that are going on this year. *2nd Cup of Coffee* happened this week and the topic was the drinking water at the middle school. Some solutions were brainstormed and will be discussed at our next buildings and grounds meeting.

The Anxious Generation Community Book Discussion is October 9th at the high school to discuss our students and how we can continue to grow and support their mental health.

New this year is the *429 Cares Fund*, an opportunity to make a monetary donation to the student activity. Can be for a specific person or student or can just donate overall on the webstore.

REACH 6-5 kids in the morning 7-10 in the afternoon. We are currently using a punch card system since parents have asked for more flexibility and only need certain days of the week.

Dr. Sonntag wanted to give a shout out to Mrs. Magden, our new English teacher at HBRHS. She is the producer behind *Alice in Wonderland* and is being assisted by Jeri-Ann Day, our new Music teacher. We have 36 students in the cast, 5th grade through 12th grade.

11) **Discussion**

A. Press Plus Issue 116

Part of Press 116 is staff development policy. They would like to make this more general with a rephrase on the list of training for staff. The other part is the state adopted the policy change which is a definition change that broadens the scope of sex harassment and sex based discrimination. The policy change just addresses the definition change. Administrative procedure for policy implementation remains at the discretion of the district, so long as it meets the legal requirements.

B. Delegate Nomination for the IASB Resolutions Committee

The delegate will vote on items at the Triple I conference in November. The board discusses who has previously been the HBR delegate and this year who would like to volunteer. Debi White would like to be our representative on Saturday of the Triple I conference and all board members agree.

C. School Board Member Elections

At the April 1 consolidated election, HBR Board of Education will have 5 seats open. This is uncommon and the result of an appointment happening mid term. Out of the 5 seats, 4 of them are 4 year terms, 1 is a 2 year term. Due to the various townships, so that no township represents a "super majority", the vacant seats can be filled by one Squaw Grove candidate. The other 4 seats can be filled by a combination of Pierce and Big Rock residents. Any questions, candidates should contact the Dekalb County Elections office.

Note: Abigail Barrett left meeting at 7:28pm

12) **Action**

A. **Motion to approve Press Plus Issue 115**

Motion to approve Press Plus Issue 115 was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Deb Winkle, passed 7-0

Abigail Barrett: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Deb Winkle: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Greg Pritchard: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea

B. **Motion to approve the FY25 Final Budget as submitted**

Motion to approve the the FY25 Final Budget as submitted was made by Darrin Gengler and seconded by Jack Haines, passed 7-0
Abigail Barrett: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Deb Winkle: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Greg Pritchard: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea

Note: Abigail Barrett returned to the meeting at 7:30pm. Upon her return, President Badal paused the meeting and asked if she would like to vote on the action items A and B, and she attested to her support of both issues.

C. Motion to approve the overnight field trip for the HBRHS Leadership Retreat

Motion to approve the overnight field trip for the HBRHS Leadership Retreat was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Abigail Barrett, passed 7-0
Abigail Barrett: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Deb Winkle: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Greg Pritchard: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea

D. Motion to approve the FY25 School Maintenance Grant application

Motion to approve the FY25 School Maintenance Grant application was made by Greg Pritchard and seconded by Debi White, passed 7-0
Abigail Barrett: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Deb Winkle: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Greg Pritchard: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea

13) **FOIA**

A. Private Citizen: DJ and Entertainment Contracts from 2017-Current

14) **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

15) **Adjournment**

The Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 7:33pm
Motion to adjourn the agenda was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Debi White, passed 7-0
Abigail Barrett: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Deb Winkle: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Greg Pritchard: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea

The next regular meeting of the Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 Board of Education will be October 16th, 2024 at 6:30 PM in the Hinckley-Big Rock High School Library.