

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



Regular Meeting

April 16, 2025

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 6:33 PM by President Tim Badal

2) Roll Call

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

Also Present: Dr. Jessica Sonntag and Student Representatives: Savannah McMurtrie

Absent: Student Representatives: Matthew Badal and Alex Casanas

3) Approval of the Agenda

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Motion to approve the agenda was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Darrin Gengler, passed 7-0,

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

4) 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 Deb Winkle and seconded by Jack Haines, passed 7-0,

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

5) Presentation

A. FFA Annual Update

Hinckley-Big Rock Agricultural Instructors, Tracey Sanderson and Zoey Dye presented the FFA Annual Update to the Board.

6) Committee Updates

A. IBCC - The next scheduled meeting will be May 14th, 2025.

B. IVVC - The vocational center held an Open House on April 16th to showcase the great work our students are completing. Recently over 700 8th-grade students spent the day at IVVC to learn more about the coursework offered there. Teacher negotiations have begun for IVVC staff. Dr. Sonntag is serving on the negotiations committee along with superintendents from Somonauk and Newark.

C. Buildings, Grounds & Transportation - The Building, Grounds, and Transportation Committee met on April 2nd, 2025. A new transportation replacement schedule was discussed. Previously limited by our facilities, the new building at 540 W Lincoln Hwy allows for an extended vehicle use and maintenance of up to 8+ years (up from 5). They also discussed summer projects which include: Installing air handler units, a glycol flush at the middle school, and district-wide technology updates. A discussion on the potential for a new track at the middle school also took place. More information is needed from the Athletic department regarding the purpose of the

track (for practice use, dual meets, or multi-team meets) and from the Village regarding drainage of the area in the back of the middle school. It is much more cost-effective to utilize the middle school footprint than to place the track at the high school, where the soccer field and lights would need to be moved. We will continue to discuss this topic.

7) **Student Representative Update**

Student Representative, Savannah McMurtrie gave the Board an update on various topics. Operation Prom Night preparation is still underway for the April 30th mock crash. Dr. Sonntag would like everyone to not be alarmed with the mock crash as there will be a helicopter and emergency response team to show the reality of being under the influence while driving. Savannah spoke about Prom and Prom walk on May 2nd with the highest student attendance at 135 students signed up to go. She also gave a shout out to Nathan Schlachter for winning 1st place in the state Academic Challenge competition in Math. Chess Club at the elementary school kicked off with 29 kids. Austin McMurtrie, the volunteer chess coach, applied for the Chess Kid grant and was chosen as the recipient for a 3 month membership. This website teaches kids how to play chess by offering lessons in chess and fun puzzles. Royal Rumble winners that headed to Funway was the Junior Class. This upcoming school year, 25/26, there will be one extended lunch period for all students to meet and eat with friends, clubs and socialize and provide student support where needed.

8) **Administrative Update**

A. 3rd Quarter Financial Update

Dr. Sonntag presented the third quarter financial update to the Board. She explained that the HBR teachers' payroll cycle typically runs from September 10 through August 25. However, for Fiscal Year 2025, teachers will receive 28 paychecks instead of the usual 24. This adjustment is due to new TRS guidance requiring that all paychecks be issued within the actual period of employment—excluding the month of July. As a result, approximately \$900,000 in payroll expenses will shift from next fiscal year into the current one.

This shift was anticipated and accounted for in the current budget. However, what was not planned was the unbudgeted cost associated with seven additional special education students who required outplacement this school year.

Dr. Sonntag also noted that the district ended the previous school year with a \$3.2 million surplus. Several planned projects in the current fiscal year are being paid from that surplus, contributing to a projected variance of about \$3.4 million.

The amended projected budget will be posted for public review prior to the May Board meeting. A formal budget hearing is scheduled to take place before the June Board meeting.

9) **Action**

A. Motion to approve the Consolidated District Plan for Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, IDEA Part B Flow-through, IDEA Part B Preschool and ARP--ESSER III Federal grants as submitted

Motion to approve the Consolidated District Plan for Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, IDEA Part B Flow-through and, IDEA Part B Preschool Federal grants as submitted was made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Darrin Gengler, passed 7-0,

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

B. Motion to fill the anticipated Board vacancy by appointing Myia Sittig to the 2 year term seat

Motion to fill the anticipated Board vacancy by appointing Myia Sittig to the 2 year term seat was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Darrin Gengler, passed 7-0,

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

10) **Royal Shout Out**

This month, we recognize Board Member Deb Winkle for her dedicated service. April 16th will mark her final Board Meeting. Ms. Winkle was elected to the Board in 2025, serving 12 years and then again in 2021. She previously served as President from April 2011 to April 2014 and as Vice President from April 2010 to April 2011. We thank her for her years of commitment and service to the Hinckley-Big Rock School District.

11) **Citizens Request to Address the Board**

Trasvis McGuire, Hinckley-Big Rock's previous Superintendent addressed the Board to thank Deb Winkle for the dedication and service to the Board of Education.

12) **Conclusion of Old Business**

Motion for Conclusion of Old Business was made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Debi White, passed 7-0

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

13) **Adjournment of Board Meeting sine die**

Motion to adjourn the Board Meeting sine die was made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Greg Pritchard, passed 7-0

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

Reception took place 7:43 pm - 8:00 pm

14) **Seating of Appointed and Elected Board Members- Oath and Conduct**

Jack Haines, Abigail Barrett, Darrin Gengler and Greg Pritchard took the oath of office and were seated.

15) **Motion to establish Chairman PRO TEM**

Dr. Jessica Sonntag was nominated as Chairman PRO TEM. This motion was made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Darrin Gengler, passed 6-0

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

16) **Motion to establish Secretary PRO TEM**

Megan Sheffer was nominated as Secretary PRO TEM. This motion was made by Darrin Gengler and seconded by Greg Pritchard, passed 6-0

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

17) **Call to Order- Chairman PRO TEM**

Dr. Sonntag called the meeting to order

18) **Roll Call-Secretary PRO TEM**

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Present: Abigail Barrett, Jack Haines, Darrin Gengler, Tim Badal, Debi White and Greg Pritchard

19) **Nominations for Office of President for 1-year term**

Motion to nominate Greg Pritchard as President for a 1-year term was made by Debi White and seconded by Darrin Gengler.

This motion passed with a unanimous thumbs up from Tim Badal, Debi White, Darrin Gengler, Abigail Barrett, Jack Haines. Greg Pritchard: Abstained

20) **Nominations for Office of Vice-President for 1-year term**

Motion to nominate Darrin Gengler was made by Debi White and seconded by Jack Haines.

Motion to nominate Tim Badal was made by Darrin Gengler and seconded by Abigail Barrett.

A vote for Darrin Gengler and Tim Badal was made by a show of hands with Darrin Gengler getting 2 votes from Debi White and Jack Haines and Tim Badal getting 3 votes from Abigail Barrett, Greg Pritchard and Darrin Gengler. Tim Badal: Abstained. Tim Badal is the Vice-President for a 1-year term.

21) **Nominations for Office of Secretary for 1-year term at -0-salary**

Motion to nominate Jack Haines was made by Tim Badal and seconded by Darrin Gengler

This motion passed with a show of hands from Tim Badal, Debi White, Darrin Gengler, Abigail Barrett, and Greg Pritchard. Jack Haines: Abstained

22) **Discussion**

A. Board Retreat June 11th, 2025

Date has been reconfirmed that this meeting date at Big Rock community building will still work at 6:15pm. BGT scheduled just before the retreat at the same location 5-6pm.

B. Board Meeting Dates 25/26 School Year

Dates reviewed and discussed any potential conflicts.

C. Food Management Service Company

Dr Sonntag would like to take time to see if there is another food management company willing to give us a bid to compare rates. Arbor-now operating under the name Whitsons, is the only one who gave us a bid for the upcoming school year and will be increasing their rates. The district is currently covering the cost difference between what we charge families and what we are billed, \$1.26 per meal served.. Whitsons' new lunch rate will be around \$5.76 and we are looking to increase our lunch price to 3.50. Adult lunches will be at cost. This pricing adjustment is aimed at ensuring we make fiscally responsible decisions while continuing to prioritize the needs of our students and district.

The Food Service Director will be joining the Student Advisory Committee to gather student feedback on the types of lunches being served, ensuring meals align with student preferences. Badal asked about a COOP with surrounding schools. With The National School Lunch Program, Dr. Sonntag explained there are specific guidelines the district needs to follow and will look into this option as well. Dr. Sonntag is also looking into free breakfast and lunch for all students to see if HBR would qualify.

D. Coordinator of Athletics and Student Engagement

Dr. Sonntag shared the need for an additional leadership position focused on enhancing student engagement through athletics, activities, and fostering a stronger sense of school spirit and belonging.

Board members reviewed a draft job description and engaged in discussion. Both Haines and Gengler expressed interest in continuing the conversation further.

23) **Action**

A. Motion to approve the proposed 25/26 Board meeting dates

Motion to approve the proposed 25/26 Board meeting dates was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Debi White, passed 6-0

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

B. Motion to approve the Food Management Service Contract with Whitsons Food Service (Formerly Arbor Management, Inc)

Motion to approve the Food Management Service Contract with Whitsons Food Service (Formerly Arbor Management, Inc) was made by Tim Badal and seconded by Abigail Barrett, passed 6-0
Abigail Barrett: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea

C. Motion to approve the resolution with Highland Community College to offer dual credit coursework

Motion to approve the resolution with Highland Community College to offer dual credit coursework was made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Debi White, passed 6-0

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

24) **FOIA**

A. ACB electronic financial records 10 requests to date; responded by providing the link to historical financial information on ISBE site

B. David Arvayo, Painters District Council No. 30. Request receipts for any recent painting projects and contracts for upcoming ones.

25) **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

26) **Adjournment**

The Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 9:20pm

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Jack Haines, passed 6-0 with a unanimous voice vote.

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

The next regular meeting of the Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 Board of Education will be May 21st, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the Hinckley-Big Rock High School Library.