

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



Regular Meeting
October 15, 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 6:30 PM by President Greg Pritchard

2) Roll Call

Policy 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure

Present: Greg Pritchard, Darrin Gengler, Tim Badal, Myia Sittig, Debi White and Jack Haines

Also Present: Dr. Jessica Sonntag and Student Representatives: Alex Casanas, Savannah McMurtrie and Matthew Badal

Absent: Abigail Barrett

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 Tim Badal, passed 6-0, Debi White: Yea, Darrin Gengler: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea, Greg Pritchard: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, and Myia Sittig: 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 Jack Haines and seconded by Debi White, passed 6-0,

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

5) Royal Shout Out

Amy Decker, HBR High School Art Teacher was recognized for her incredible leadership and creativity. Over the summer, she was selected as a finalist in the Good Energy Mural Competition in Batavia, where her design, now the Gateway Mural, was chosen and brought to life with the help of over 70 volunteers, including HBRHS senior Zoe Bonior. Her mural, now displayed in downtown Batavia, beautifully symbolizes the connection between people and nature and stands as a testament to community and collaboration.

6) Citizens Request to Address the Board-None

7) Presentation

A. Student Services Update: Bonnie Osborne & Susan Clark

Bonnie Osborne, HBR Director of Student Services, updated the Board on support for diverse learners, noting growing academic and social emotional needs. She and her team developed a learning framework to address these areas. Enrollment has increased over the past four years, including outplaced students, prompting staff adjustments based on needs and limited applicants. Moving forward, the focus will be on improving family communication and sharing available community resources.

Susan Clark reported that HBR currently has 77 multilingual learners. Languages including Spanish, Arabic, Gujarati, Mandarin, Ukrainian, Tagalog/Bisaya, Korean, and English have all been in the HBR District. MLLs are identified through a registration survey followed by a WIDA

screening to assess English proficiency in listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Results entered into the state system determine whether students require annual assessments or monitoring. Those needing annual testing take the ACCESS exam, with a proficiency score of 4.8 out of 6. This year, 50 students will take the ACCESS test in February, 21 have already achieved proficiency, and 6 early childhood students will be screened.

8) Committee Updates

A. Buildings, Grounds & Transportation

The next scheduled meeting is October 29th.

Greg Pritchard provided an update on the right of way easement discussion that has been ongoing since the district acquired the former Hinckley Concrete property. The Legal Council has informed the district that "*The School Code does not contemplate an easement on school property for any other purposes {municipal eg water, sewer}. See 105 ILCS 5/5-30.*"

B. IBCC

IBCC met on October 6th. The main focus at this meeting was the 26/27 and 27/28 school year calendars. Discussion took place regarding the start and end of the school year, early dismissal days, select holidays, and the timing of high school graduation. HBR families and staff will receive a survey to help plan the next two years' school calendars. A calendar for the next two school years will be presented to the Board for review in November.

C. IVVC

The IVVC Board of Controls met on October 1, 2025. The financial audit was reviewed. The Joint Agreement amended language was reviewed and will be presented for approval at the December meeting. Proposed changes to the agreement name IVVC as its own fiscal and administrative agent and clearly delineate a funding formula for tuition.

9) Student Representative Update

Student Representatives Savannah McMurtrie and Matthew Badal shared updates on Homecoming, the Senior Feed My Starving Children trip, and the first Student Advisory Committee meeting of the 2025-26 school year.

McMurtrie highlighted the Homecoming parade and noted the strong turnout at the Taste event. On October 3, seniors participated in the Feed My Starving Children service project, packing 96 boxes of meals. Totaling 20,736 individual meals that were shipped to the Dominican Republic. Badal reported on recent athletic achievements, including the Boys' Soccer team's Little 10 Conference championship and the Middle School Soccer team's Jr. 10 Conference victory, with both teams defeating Somonauk for the Championship.

The Board was also informed about a new Student Board Representative application process. This will be a two-year position, with 3 selected representatives beginning their term in March 2026. Applications are expected to be collected before winter break.

10) Administrative Update

A. Preliminary Tax Levy

Dr. Sonntag presented the preliminary tax levy. To ensure the district captures new property growth from the expired TIF (Tax Increment Financing) district in Sugar Grove, the levy request exceeds the 5% limit. This does not mean a 5% tax increase for homeowners, but rather allows the district to access all available tax revenue tied to new growth. A Truth in Taxation Hearing will be held on November 19, 2025, at 6:15 p.m. before the regular Board of Education meeting.

B. Q1 Financial Review

Dr. Sonntag presented the Q1 Financial Review to the Board. Currently we have received about $\frac{1}{3}$ of our revenue and we have spent about 20% of the budgeted expenditures. Most funds are pacing as expected in this first quarter. Transportation revenue collection remains behind schedule, while educational operational funds are progressing normally. Spending through Q1 remains well within budget. The Educational and O&M funds are on pace, while Transportation shows higher early expenditures, likely due to upfront contracts or service costs. The Tort Fund is nearly fully expended, likely reflecting insurance or liability payments made early in the fiscal year. The district remains in a strong cash position, with revenues outpacing expenditures by roughly 10% of the annual budget early in the fiscal year.

C. Q1 Goal Update

Teachers have completed first-quarter curriculum mapping, documenting the standards addressed in each unit. All students in grades K-11 have also finished the first round of benchmark assessments. MAP for grades K-8 and Progress Learning for grades 9-11, give us an initial snapshot of student performance. The results highlight targeted areas for intervention, skill development, and enrichment for every student, supporting teachers in planning effective instruction. In addition, the benchmark data helps identify any areas in which instructional delivery may need increased focus.

D. School Lunch Food Service Survey

A total of 91 parents and 97 students participated in the recent food service surveys, offering valuable feedback on lunch pricing and preferred menu options. Both the surveys and the Board expressed appreciation for our food service staff's dedication to creating healthy and appealing meals within the budgetary constraints of the program. Our primary focus continues to be providing nutritious meals to students in a fiscally responsible way.

11) Discussion

A. Policy Review: Continue Section 2 (Parts 2:100-2:260)

The Board began the multi-year policy review. This month, the focus was on Section 2 of the policy, Board Operations. Next month, the Board will review Section 1 of the policy.

B. Delegate Nomination for the IASB Resolutions Committee

The Board discussed the Delegate Assembly and Myia Sittig volunteered to be the Delegate this year at the Triple I conference next month.

12) Action-No action items

13) FOIA

A. Michael Rost: Allium Data - property and casualty insurance policies

Sheri Reid: Smart Procure - any and all purchasing records from 7/7/2025 to the current

Steve Watt: Searching for personnel names, title and salaries

14) Agenda Items for Next Meeting

15) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Tim Badal and seconded by Jack Haines, passed 6-0 with a unanimous voice vote, Aye at 8:40pm

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

The next regular meeting of the Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 Board of Education will be November 19th, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the Hinckley-Big Rock High School Library.