

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



**Regular Meeting
May 21, 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: Abigail Barrett, Greg Pritchard, Debi White and Tim Badal
Also Present: Dr. Jessica Sonntag and Student Representatives: Savannah McMurtrie, Matthew Badal and Alex Casanas
Absent: Darrin Gengler and Jack Haines
- 3) **Approval of the Agenda**
Policy 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure
Motion to approve the agenda was made by Tim Badal and seconded by Abigail Barrett, passed 4-0,
Abigail Barrett: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea
- 4) **Seating of New Board Member**
Myia Sittig was seated and read the School Board Member Oath of Office
- 5) **Consent Agenda**
 - A. Minutes - Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes
 - B. Treasurer's Report
 - C. Bills and Payroll
 - D. Personnel Report
 - E. Non-certified Staff Renewals
 - F. Approve Zachary Stokes as Treasurer for 2025-2026 school year
 - G. Summer School PersonnelMotion to approve the consent agenda was made by Debi White and seconded by Abigail Barrett,
passed 5-0,
Abigail Barrett: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea
- 6) **Royal Shout Out**
This month the Royal Shout Out is for Savannah McMurtrie, student actors and helpers and our dedicated first responders for their hard work in organizing the mock car crash on April 30th. Savannah McMurtrie was recognized for her leadership and communication on Operation Prom Night. This was a very impactful presentation from our first responders, student actors and guest speakers. Thank you to everyone for your hard work and organization on this event.
The Board also recognized Dr. Sonntag for her commitment and leadership to students and staff.
- 7) **Citizens Request to Address the Board-None**
- 8) **Presentation**
 - A. Burr Oak Solar Presentation
Chase Lyon, Sr. Development Associate and Ben Lenet, Public Affairs Manager from Leeward Renewable Energy shared a presentation on the proposed Burr Oak Solar project to be located in DeKalb County. This is a 300-megawatt solar facility enough to power more than 80,000 homes per year. Targeted project timeline would be as follows: Permitting in 2025, Start construction in 2027 and being operational in 2028 and the estimated lifespan is to be 30 years. The average annual total that Hinckley-Big Rock School District would receive from this project

would be about \$917,116. The company will be holding a community forum on Monday, June 9th at 5:00pm at the Hinckley Community Building. This is an open forum where the community can ask questions.

9) **Committee Updates**

- A. The Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation committee did not meet this month. The next scheduled meeting is June 11. The meeting will take place at the Big Rock Community Building from 5:00-6:00 pm.
- B. IVVC
The IVVC Board of Controls met on May 7. At that meeting, they unanimously approved a 6% tuition increase to help cover the educational expenses for students in the program. The Joint Agreement will be reviewed this summer and discussed during the fall semester.
- C. IBCC
The committee met for the final time this school year on May 14. Discussion about the purpose of mental health days for staff was discussed and language drafted for guidelines for use. The committee will meet again on September 10.

10) **Student Representative Update**

Student representatives Matthew Badal, Savannah McMurtrie and Alex Casanas addressed the Board presenting a range of topics, including Prom and the success of Operation Prom Night, sports and senior send-off/Graduation.

Prom was May 2nd at White Stone Events and a thank you to Mrs. Decker and Mrs. Carver for making it such a success. Operation Prom Night was presented on April 30th and was an impactful event. With first responders, student actors and a superior helicopter it was a huge success. Senior send-off was Friday May 9th, with a hotdog lunch and time to hang out outside with fellow classmates.

The boys' varsity baseball team tied conference, earning the Little Ten Conference Champs. This is the 3rd spot this year that has won the Little Ten Conference. They start their regional play May 22nd against Aurora Christian. The girls track team competed on May 15th at Seneca High School and unfortunately we had no stat qualifier. Boy's track has sectionals this Friday at Oregon High School.

At the May Student Advisory Committee, they met with Liz Simms, General Manager of Whitsons' Culinary Group, to discuss the lunch options for next year. They found that most students opted to bring a home lunch instead of buying school lunch.

Matthew, Savannah, and Alex shared their reflections on the past school year as a student representative for the board, emphasizing the importance of their roles and truly enjoying their opportunity to give a voice to the student body.

11) **Administrative Update**

A. Summer School Planning

Dr. Sonntag presented information about summer programming for students. There was discussion about charging students who are in need of recovering high school credit \$100 per course. Prior to 2020, students were charged a fee of \$95 to recover failed courses. A recovery course costs the district between \$150-\$250 depending on the course and platform. The Board will vote on this at the June 18 meeting.

Summer Programming will be offered as follows:

High School will offer credit recovery courses only. Students can recover a maximum of 2 courses.

Session 1: July 21- Aug 7, M-Th 8:00-11:30

Session 2: July 21-Aug 7, M-Th 12:00-3:30

Early Childhood Special Education Program

July 21-Aug 7, M-Th 9:00-11:00 am

Elementary & Middle School "Jump Start"

Aug 4-8, 8:30-11:30

B. Proposed Amended Budget

The FY25 proposed amended budget lines were discussed. Dr. Sonntag explained about the variance due to shifting the timing of the teacher's payroll, the timing of the bond proceeds and expenses, and the purchase of the land, resulting in a need for an amended budget. The

amended budget hearing will be held on June 18, 2025, at 6:15 pm, and the Board will act on the proposed amended budget that same day during the regular meeting.

12) Discussion

A. Board Committee Representation

The Board members discussed committee representation. The committees will be represented as follows:

Buildings, Grounds and Transportation: Greg Pritchard and Darrin Gengler

IVVC: Debi White

IBCC: Abigail Barrett and Myia Sittig

B. Coordinator for Student Engagement

There was continued discussion about the need for additional administrative and leadership support in the area of Student Engagement, including attendance, behavior, school culture, and participation in athletics and activities. The Board was in consensus to post this position as a Coordinator for Student Engagement. President Greg Pritchard read emails from Jack Haines and Greg Pritchard who were absent from this meeting, agreeing to this new position. This individual will also serve as the Athletic Director.

13) Action

A. Motion to approve for Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 to pay for up to 2 (two) dual credit courses per fall and spring semester, per full-time qualifying HBRHS student, for the 2025-2026 school year, pending Administrative course approval

Motion to approve for Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 to pay for up to 2 (two) dual credit courses per fall and spring semester, per full-time qualifying HBRHS student, for the 2025-2026 school year, pending Administrative course approval was made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Tim Badal, passed 5-0, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea

B. Motion to approve for Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 to pay for up to 1 (one) online (eg. Edgenuity) course per fall and spring semester, per full-time qualifying HBR student, for the 2025-2026 school year, pending Administrative course approval

Motion to approve for Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 to pay for up to 1 (one) online (eg. Edgenuity) course per fall and spring semester, per full-time qualifying HBR student, for the 2025-2026 school year, pending Administrative course approval was made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Debi White, passed 5-0, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea

C. Motion to approve the overnight HBRHS varsity boys basketball trip

Motion to approve the overnight HBRHS varsity boys basketball trip was made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Tim Badal, passed 5-0, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea

14) FOIA

A. Inovo AI Solutions LLC purchasing records from 01/01/2022 to date

B. Smart Procure Quarterly Expenditures

15) Agenda Items for Next Meeting

16) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Tim Badal and seconded by Abigail Barrett, passed 5-0 with a unanimous voice vote, Aye

Abigail Barrett: Aye, Debi White: Aye, Tim Badal: Aye, Myia Sittig: Aye and Greg Pritchard: Aye

The next regular meeting of the Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 Board of Education will be June 18th, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the Hinckley-Big Rock High School Library.